

St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church
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Dear St. Mark Members and Friends,

The picture below features me, and a statue of John Knox taken at the St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland (UK). John Knox facilitated the Protestant Reformation in Scotland. In Knox's perspective, one of the keys to reformation was Biblical literacy and education in general. He lobbied to make education free for Scotland. How can you read the Bible if you can't read?



As you can see in this picture, John Knox and I are serious about learning the Bible. Beginning, October 5th, I will lead a study on the Gospel of Matthew called "Making Jesus My Teacher for Life". We will meet on Thursdays at 10:30 am in the Parlor. Matthew contains more teachings of Jesus than any of the other Gospels—such as the Sermon on the Mount. If we are going to follow Jesus, we need to know his teachings.

Something you should know about the way I lead a Bible study is that we will always be focused on concrete application of the scripture. As Presbyterians we love to gain knowledge of the Bible and just about anything having to do with truth.

However, this will not be an academic study of Matthew. It will be a practical study. We will learn how to live the teaching of Jesus. We will have rich discussion not just about the scripture but about our own personal walk with Jesus. Think of me less as a teacher and more as your coach. No pushups or laps! But there will be some challenging assignments to take with you.

Our purpose will be to grow in our discipleship and relationship with Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. I want to encourage you to bring a friend, family member, or neighbor. Nothing we do at St. Mark is only for ourselves.

John Knox and I will be eagerly awaiting your participation!

With a smiling face,

Pastor Paul



Sunday Sermons

October Sermon Series:

Five Questions for Personal Reformation

October 1

World Communion Sunday

“Who Has Authority In Your Life?”

Exodus 17:1-7, Matthew 21:23-32



October 8

“Are You Producing the Fruits of the Kingdom?”

Exodus 20:1-4, Matthew 21:33-46

October 15

“Are You Ready to Party with Jesus?”

Exodus 32:1-14, Matthew 22:1-14

October 22

“To Whom Do You Belong?”

Exodus 33:12-23, Matthew 22:15-22

October 29

Reformation Sunday

“Do You Love the Lord More?”

Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Matthew 22:34-46

God Bless You on Your Birthday



October 3

Cheryl Simpson

October 4

Mary Beckham

October 6

Jo Schindler

October 7

Elli Guinnee

October 11

Jeff Taylor

October 14

Emily McIntosh

October 16

Bill Oney

October 18

Myrtle Harbaugh

Lorraine Stephen

October 19

Rose Curry

Arthur Jones

October 20

Breanna Waldrop

Karl Crawley

October 25

Dean Anderson

October 27

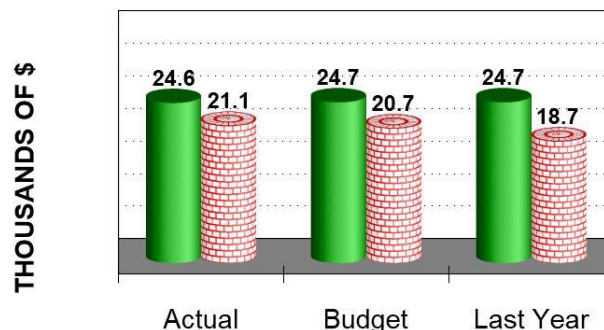
Ellen Roberts

October 31

Wylie Matthews

Treasurer's Report

2 MONTHS THROUGH 8-31-2023



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are on budget, and \$4,600 below last year. YTD expenses are \$400 over budget, and \$2,400 above last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$3,600 cash positive, which is \$500 below budget and \$2,500 behind last year.

Sandwich Sunday

Sandwich Sunday is coming! October 29th will be the FIFTH Sunday in October! That means that we at St. Mark have the opportunity to provide food for our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Christ. Austin Street now houses 450 clients. We ask that each sandwich be individually wrapped, and mark on the outer loaf bag what kind of sandwiches you've provided. A special fund in St. Mark's budget covers the cost of fruit and chips for the meals. Please prayerfully consider helping others by making several loaves of sandwiches. John 21:15-17

Thanks for your help!
Charlene Taylor
Your Sandwich Lady





I got to wondering as I was driving near the church the other day. It's been a while since I shared any of my "wonderings." Pretty sure that I have wondered about some of these things before but here goes.

I wonder who is living in the new houses on the corner of Peavy and Millmar? I think there are now five houses there with room for a couple of more.

I wonder what sort of great things are happening at Bryan Adams? It looks like all the construction is finished or close to it. I seem to recall that the school has added some special programs in the last few years and that young people come from all over Dallas to attend them.

I wonder who is going to live in the homes that will eventually be built on "our" old parking lot? It's closed now but I wonder who used the pool and aquatic center this summer? I wish we had a meter that could measure how much fun they had.

I wonder what's happening with the remodel of the Walmart at Casa View. I haven't been inside. But I am pretty sure big companies don't invest in upgrading their stores unless they think that good things are happening in the neighborhood.

I wonder if there are people thinking about or actually buying the older and smaller homes near the church to remodel? Our area is still pretty affordable by Dallas standards.

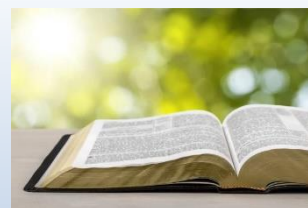
I don't have to wonder about how busy the Starbucks at Casa View is because I am working there now. I have seen a group of well-dressed young adults working on a project together. I have seen a couple of tables of high school students visiting before they head off to school. I have seen lots of people working on projects on their computers. This store certainly met a need in the community.

I wonder how God might be calling St. Mark to connect with some or even all these people? What do you think?

St. Mark Presbyterian Church – Rev. Dr. Paul M. Burns, Pastor

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

The group will meet in the Parlor on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., beginning on October 5, 2023.



Pastor Paul's first bible study will be on the Gospel of Matthew called "Making Jesus My Teacher for Life."

All are invited – we hope you can join us!

St. Mark Presbyterian Church exists to know Jesus and to make Him known.








St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

October 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:45a Worship Service World Communion Sunday 	2 6:00p Worship & Music Com Mtg	3 6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg	4 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	5 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga	6	7
8 9:45a Worship Service	9 6:00p Admin & Personnel Com Mtg	10 6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com Mtg 6:00p Christian Educ Com Mtg	11 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	12 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga	13	14 8:00a Property Com Mtg 9:00a Mini Workday
15 9:45a Worship Service	16	17 6:30p Session Meeting	18 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	19 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga	20	21
22 9:45a Worship Service	23	24 6:00p Mission & Membership Com Mtg	25 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	26 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga	27	28
29 9:45a Worship Service 4:30p Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center Reformation Sunday 	30	31	1 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	2 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga	3	4 8:00a Bryan Adams "Belles" Craft Fair Fundraiser - St. Mark parking lot. 

CRAFT Fair

SAT, 4
NOV



9-2pm

Bryan Adams Belles

St. Mark Presbyterian Church

9999 Ferguson Rd. Dallas, TX 75228

Register Here:

tinyurl.com/BelleCraftFair



Questions:

Email the Belle Booster Club
thebabellesboosterclub@gmail.com

(214) 304-2304

Want to be a vendor?
Come promote your small
Business at our craft fair
\$25 a parking space

Austin College Announces Full-Tuition Scholarships for Presbyterian Students

Austin College announces the largest single gift in the College's history, a \$20 million bequest from the estate of Clifford J. Grum. The gift will fully fund the Westminster Scholarship Program for Presbyterian students to attend Austin College with full tuition paid, beginning in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Austin College was founded in 1849 as a Presbyterian institution, and is the oldest college in Texas operating under its original charter. The gift comes on the eve of the College's 175th year.

Clifford J. Grum, who graduated from Austin College in 1956, was known as a successful businessman and a dedicated civic leader. He also served in leadership roles in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and on the Austin College Board of Trustees. In 1989, Grum created the Westminster Fund for scholarships to benefit the children of Presbyterian Church (USA) clergy and staff, which has provided access to an Austin College education for generations of Presbyterian students.

With this gift, the Westminster Scholarship Program will now cover full tuition for any student on the membership roll of a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation.

The fund will additionally cover room and board for children of PC(USA) clergy and staff.

"In this time of rising costs, this bequest adds to Austin College's robust gift-aid program and is reflective of our unwavering commitment to remove financial barriers for a college education," said President Steven P. O'Day, J.D., L.H.D. "The gift bolsters the College's resources to support young people and deepens the Presbyterian legacy of this campus."

"The College is profoundly grateful for Clifford's remarkable generosity," said Gillian Locke, Vice President for Institutional Advancement. "His foresight and commitment exemplify the unparalleled power of philanthropy to create transformative opportunities for Austin College students, today and for generations to come."



Austin College
900 N. Grand Ave.
Sherman, TX 75090
austincollege.edu

For information, contact
the Office of Admission:
admission@austincollege.edu



Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2023

The Protestant Reformation is observed every year on the last Sunday of October by Protestant churches throughout the world and serves as reminder to St. Mark of our Reformed heritage. From this religious reform movement that spread through Europe in the 1500's, the branch of Christianity called Protestantism was eventually created when many religious groups began separating from the Roman Catholic Church. It is recorded that on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a monk and scholar, nailed the 95 Thesis on the cathedral door in Wittenberg, Germany. These Thesis outlined what he felt needed to change in the church such as the teaching of indulgences, purgatory, and other practices that he believed were inconsistent with the teaching of the Bible. As a result of Luther's teachings, he was considered a threat to the church, labeled a heretic, and then excommunicated. Consequently, he took his beliefs outside of the church and was joined by others in preserving the true teachings of the Bible.

The Reformation movement focused on the following **Five Solas** (sola is Latin for only): **Sola Gratia** - Grace Alone (*salvation is based on the unearned gift of God's grace*); **Sola Fide** - Faith Alone (*through God's Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, we are sustained by faith; our good works come from the right relationship with God*); **Sola Scriptura** - Scripture Alone (*the Bible is the source for what we believe and practice*); **Solus Christus** - Christ Alone (*Christ is the basis and assurance of our salvation*); **Soli Deo Gloria** – To the Glory of God Alone (*it is God and God alone who is to receive the glory for the wonders of His work of our redemption*).

In observance of Reformation Day, we remember not only Martin Luther, but also John Calvin, John Knox and many other Reformers who helped the church find its way back to God's Word. Let us remember to always continue to keep the light of the Gospel at the center of our lives.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session, August 21, 2023.

- Motion passed to name Diane Llywelyn, Chair, and Bill Oney, Assistant Chair, of the 2023 – 2024 Nominating Committee. Congregational members include Becky Page, Jeff Taylor and Sheila Wahl.
- Motion passed to appoint Bill Grayson, Gary O'Neal and Susie Miller to serve on the Eastminster/St. Mark Covenant Committee.
- Motion passed to allow Rebecca Moore the use of the front parking lot on Saturday, November 4, 2023 for a B.A. Belles Drill Team craft fair fundraiser.
- Motion seconded and passed to authorize Bill Oney to proceed with the negotiation of the sale and removal of the container located near the Family Center.

PCHS Annual Luncheon

The Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services Dallas Annual Luncheon will be held on November 9, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel, 8250 North Central Expressway.



This special fundraising event will showcase the life-changing work that is being done in the community. You will hear inspiring stories from the staff and the families they care for. The theme this year is "Hope Grows Here."

Signup sheets are on the bulletin board next to the church office.





Congratulations!

Big things happened at the Stated Meeting of Grace Presbytery on Saturday September 23, 2023 which was held at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church. Pastor Paul was installed as the Moderator for Grace Presbytery's North-East-Central Region of Texas. In Pastor Paul's words, "It's basically like being the Speaker of House except for a group of people that love each other and are working to bring the love and peace of God into the world." Congratulations and God's blessings to Pastor Paul in his ministry. We know Grace Presbytery is in good hands!



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Non-Profit Organization



OCTOBER