



# St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church

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Dear St. Mark Members and Friends,

As I write this, we have just shared two Sundays together. It has been pure joy! I feel a spirit of hope in you. There is a beautiful sense of community at St. Mark, which means you have much to offer the Casa View neighborhood and beyond. As I talked about in the last sermon, we are called to walk out of the boat into the community.

I want to divide our calling as a church of Jesus Christ into two parts, though definitely not unrelated. In Matthew, Jesus gives us two missions. In Matthew 25 we learn that we are to take care of the least of these as if we are taking care of Jesus himself, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." There are many needs to meet in the Casa View neighborhood. I want to challenge us to learn what they are and begin to discern how we can help.

The second mission that Jesus gives the church is found in Matthew 28. It is the Great Commission, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." Certainly, discipleship happens within the church for its members through Sunday school and sermons. I think where we have room to grow is in the "Go therefore" part. We need to go out into the world around us and make disciples. Age, race, sexual orientation, gender, and even religion or lack of religion do not matter. All nations equals all people. Every person is valuable to God and therefore to us as well.

A church that does one mission without doing the others is like a plane trying to fly with one wing. We need to be both a Matthew 25 Church and a Matthew 28 Church. I will do my part. I am already getting to know our neighbors and will find ways to be active in the neighborhood. I invite you to do the same whether you live in Casa View or not. Of course, our ministry reach can go well beyond our neighborhood, but I want us to really focus on Casa View. This is where God placed us to serve.

Wouldn't it be amazing if at least 50% of our membership lived in the neighborhood? Growing the church will fulfill both of our missions. As more neighbors join, we will be able to join Christ in making more disciples. As more neighbors join, we will have more partners to do the work of caring for the most vulnerable in our community. We will be flying strong and high with both wings of the church in the air.

Perhaps not all of you are called to do both missions. Pray for discernment about how God is calling you to help St. Mark care for its neighbors and to bring more disciples into the fold. I will continue to preach and teach about how we can do this.

One more thing, God also calls his people to rest. We cannot *only* serve. We must allow God to serve us as well. This is what the Sabbath is about. It's not self-care. It's letting God take care of you. Whether it's Saturday or Sunday, I want you to take a day of rest every week. Get your chores and work done before that day. And then just enjoy and celebrate life with God and his people.

With much love and excitement,  
Pastor Paul

**Sunday Sermons and Events**

September 3  
 Celebration of The Lord’s Supper  
 Guest Preacher – Rev. Julie Riley

September 10  
 Guest Preacher – Traci Truly

September 17 – “Debts and Debtors”  
 Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 24 – “Working for God”  
 Exodus 16:2-15; Matthew 20:1-16



**Sandwich Sunday News**

Thanks for another successful Sandwich Sunday on July 31<sup>st</sup>! Once again, the congregations of St. Mark and El Divino Salvador, stepped up to feed the clients at Austin Street Center. Through your loving contributions and hard work, we provided food for many thankful residents.



The next Sandwich Sunday is October 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you all for your faithfulness to this vital mission.

Your “Sandwich Lady” – Charlene Taylor



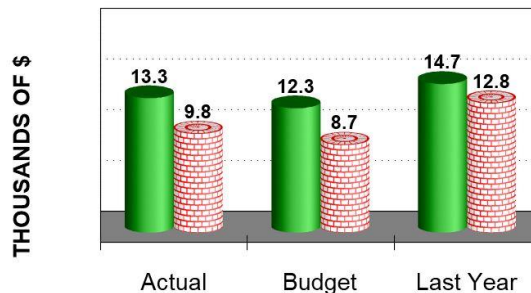
**Celebrating American workers and their achievements.**

**Monday, September 4, 2023**  
**The church office will be closed.**

**Mini Church Workday**  
**Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Treasurer's Report**  
**One Month Ending July 31, 2023**

1 MONTH THROUGH 7-31-2023



**OPERATING FUND**

■ +INCOME    ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are \$1,000 above budget, and \$3,600 below last year. YTD expenses are \$1,100 above budget, and \$3,000 below last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$3,600 cash positive, which is \$100 below budget and \$1,700 better than last year.

**God Bless You on Your Birthday**

**September 2**  
 Shelly Manriquez  
 Joanne Szalay

**September 4**  
 Ben Taylor

**September 8**  
 Susan Bell

**September 9**  
 Bailey Guinnée  
 Christi Malouf

**September 11**  
 Ruth Crawley

**September 12**  
 Diana Kettle

**September 15**  
 Neill Howard

**September 21**  
 Melba Hale

**September 24**  
 Charley Taylor

**September 26**  
 Rebecca Moore

**September 28**  
 Maureen McMahon



Our deepest sympathy to the family of long-time member, Dick Waters, who was promoted to Glory on August 8, 2023. A service to celebrate Dick's life will be held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, September 14, 2023, at J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 7th Floor O'Hara Hall, 1515 Young Street, Dallas, TX 75208. Rev. Burns will serve as the officiant. Donations may be made to Friends of the Preston Royal Library, 5626 Royal Lane, Dallas, TX 75229; Greening Youth Foundation, 50 Hurt Plaza SE, Suite 980, Atlanta, GA 30303; or The Bridge Homeless Recovery Center, 1818 Corsicana Street, Dallas, TX 75201. Please keep all those who loved Dick in your prayers.



### Stated Meeting of the Session July 17, 2023

- Motion passed to elect Diane Llywelyn as Clerk of Session for the term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- Motion passed to elect John Carver as Treasurer and Bill Grayson as Assistant Treasurer for the term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.



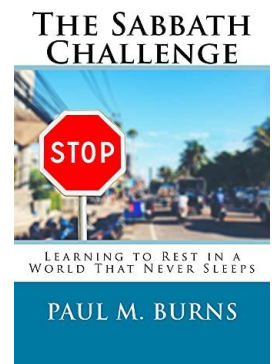
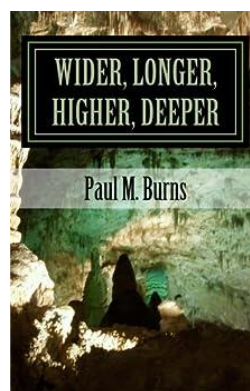
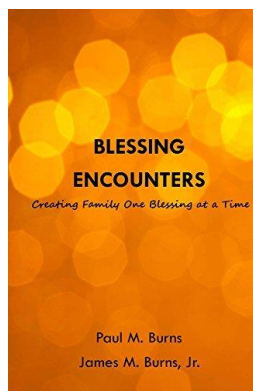
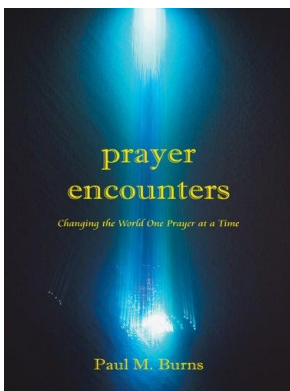
### Thank You!

Thank you to all who contributed to the food pantry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



## PASTOR PAUL'S BOOKS

We are excited to announce that books authored by our very own Pastor Paul are now available for check out in the St. Mark Library, located on the bookcase in the Parlor! The books can also be purchased on Amazon by following the link: <https://www.amazon.com/stores/Paul-M.-Burns/author/B008CUJQWI>





I've been writing a regular newsletter article for a long time. And if you have been a regular reader, you know there are a handful of things I circle back to every couple of years. I'm going to do that again this month. I'll return to an old favorite in a few moments.

I was thinking about St. Mark being on the other side of our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I mentioned that in my last anniversary in some of my recent newsletter articles. We're now over a month into our 71<sup>st</sup> year. And we are trying some new things as we ponder what God might have in store for us. We're trying a "new for us" model of pastoral leadership. We've got a new Sunday morning schedule.



So, what does God have in store for us?

The answer is I don't know.

But I will share with you what I do know. And this is where I repeat one of my old favorites.

It's the opening questions and answers from the "Belonging to God" catechism. It's designed for children but as an adult I love these questions and answers so much.

**Question 1.** *Who are you?*

I am a child of God.

**Question 2.** *What does it mean to be a child of God?*

That I belong to God, who loves me.

**Question 3.** *What makes you a child of God?*

Grace — God's free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn.

**Question 4.** *Don't you have to be good for God to love you?*

No. God loves me in spite of all I do wrong.

**Question 5.** *How do you thank God for this gift of love?*

I promise to love and trust God with all my heart.

**Question 6.** *How do you love God?*

By worshipping God, by loving others, and by respecting what God has created.

So, I know that we are all children of God, and that God loves us all no matter what. And that we are called to share that good news in some way with all the people around us.

And I wonder how God plans for us to do that in the coming days.

What are your thoughts?

(By the way you can find the whole catechism at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/catechism1.pdf>)








# St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

## September 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> 9:45a Worship Service	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b> 6:00p Zoom Yoga	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:45a Worship Service Communion 	<b>4</b> Labor Day - Church Office Closed 	<b>5</b> 6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg 6:00p Mission & Membership Com Mtg	<b>6</b> 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 6:00p Zoom Yoga	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00a Property Com Mtg 9:00a Mini Workday 
<b>10</b> 9:45a Worship Service	<b>11</b> 6:00p Admin & Personnel Com Mtg 6:00p Worship & Music Com Mtg	<b>12</b> 6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com Mtg 6:00p Christian Educ Com Mtg	<b>13</b> 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 6:00p Zoom Yoga	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:45a Worship Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <span style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;">6:30p Session Meeting</span>	<b>20</b> 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:00p Zoom Yoga	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:45a Worship Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 6:00p Zoom Yoga	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>