



St. Mark Connection

Volume 70

Issue 3

March
2023

St. Mark Presbyterian Church

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Pause
and
Reflect

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March 12 th – Daylight Saving Time Begins	

As you stroll through the local stores, you'll see an abundance of bunnies, baskets, and candy for sale, and those may be the only signs of Easter you'll find outside of church. Unlike its Christmas counterpart, Easter is mostly uncommercialized, which is pretty remarkable: the day that we celebrate the glory of Christ's resurrection remains untainted by retailers.

However, just because we're not receiving Easter ad upon Easter ad in our newspapers and inboxes doesn't mean we should pigeonhole the holiday as a minor celebration. Easter is perhaps the most crucial holiday on the Christian calendar – even the word crucial has its roots in Christianity, stemming from the term for crucify.

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
– Mark 1:12-15

The season we call Lent, the forty days before Easter, represents the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, continually tempted by Satan. When He emerged from the wilderness, He knew it was time for the prophecy of His death and resurrection to be fulfilled.

As believers, we remember this. We look to this time of Lent as a way to go into our own 'wilderness' of sorts; we pray, we fast, we meditate, we worship, we focus on God. We ready ourselves for the grief of Christ's death, and we take joy in the gospel of His rising again. We are granted eternal life through Christ; the Messiah lifted up.

Blessings, grace and peace to you as we embark on a journey of reflection, meditation, worship, and service over the course of the next several weeks.



Sunday Sermons and Events

March 5
2nd Sunday in Lent
Celebration of The Lord's Supper
Guest Preacher Rev. Bev Hughes



March 12
3rd Sunday in Lent
Guest Preacher – Rev. David Fletcher

March 19
4th Sunday in Lent
Guest Preacher – Traci Truly

March 26
5th Sunday in Lent
Rev. (Dr.) Richard W. Selby

God Bless You on Your Birthday

March 5
Jacie Minick

March 10
Kat Hutchings

March 15
Cathy Schingle

March 16
Phyllis Speck



March 19
Pauline Millender

March 25
Sabrina King

March 31
Bunty Taylor

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session, January 17, 2023.

- Motion passed to accept the 2022 Church Statistical Report.
- Motion passed to set January 22, 2023 as Commitment Sunday.
- Motion passed to approve changing property and liability Insurance carrier to CM Select.
- Motion passed to accept Kathleen Hale and Marilyn Jackson as commissioners to the called meeting of Grace Presbytery on January 21, 2023.

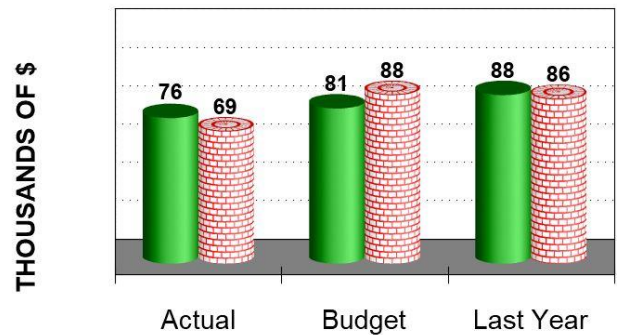
With Deepest Sympathy

Long-time and dedicated St. Mark member, Pelham Swift, was promoted to Glory on February 2nd. The funeral service was held at St. Mark on Thursday, Feb 9th, followed by interment at Rest Haven Cemetery in Rockwall, TX. Please keep Pelham's wife, Souvenir, his sons Hunter and Preston, his daughters Christina, Victoria and Rebecca, and all of Pelham's extended family in your prayers for the loss of someone so dear.



Treasurer's Report

7 MONTHS THROUGH 1-31-2023



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are \$5,000 below budget, and \$16,000 below last year. YTD expenses are \$19,000 below budget, and \$17,000 below last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$7,000 cash positive YTD which is \$14,000 better than budget and \$5,000 better than last year.





Thank you all for your help in feeding the homeless at the Austin Street Center on Sunday, January 29th. We were able to provide plenty of sandwiches with the help of El Divino

Salvador Presbyterian and Casa Emanuel Methodist Churches.

The folks at Austin Street were very appreciative and offer God's blessings to you all! Thanks again Our next Sandwich Sunday will be April 30th.

Your Sandwich Lady,
Dee Huckaba

Thank You

We want to thank our St. Mark family for your condolences, for the beautiful flowers we received, the cards, the private messages, emails and for all your prayers during this difficult time.

And please continue to pray for us as we heal and move forward. Your kind words of sympathy will always be remembered by the Swift family.

Love,
Souvenir, Hunter, Preston,
Rebecca, Christina, and Victoria



By the time you read this, we will be about a week into the season of Lent. It's not too late to think about Lent. It is ok to get a late start on it. In order to help you a bit, I am going to repeat some things I have shared in the past.

- A reminder that Lent is the 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter. This year that is February 22 through April 9.
- The 40 days comes from the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness as he began his ministry.
- It is a time of preparation for celebrating Easter. The idea is that if we spend some time preparing for Easter, the celebration will be more meaningful.
- You may be like me and grew up in a church that didn't talk about Lent. A lot of Protestants didn't. But over the last 50 years, many have found that observing Lent is a meaningful experience.
- The finding it meaningful bit is important. For Presbyterians, observing Lent is not an obligation or requirement. It is something that some Presbyterians do because they find it helpful as they seek to live a faithful life. It's an option. An option you may want to think about.
- The traditional way of observing Lent has been to give up or fast from something for the 40 days. A food, a bad habit, etc.
- In recent years, I know some folks who have chosen to take on something during Lent instead of fasting. A daily act of kindness, a new prayer practice, etc.
- Both ways of observing Lent might be meaningful to you. The important thing is to choose something that is a bit challenging but not impossible. It probably isn't meaningful if you choose something that you are bound to fail. For example, it's not a good idea to go out and try to run a marathon if you have not done more than walk around the block the last year. Same thing applies to Lent. You are not looking for perfection. How about good enough?

I hope you have a meaningful Lent and Easter season however you decide to observe it.



Time Change Reminder Sunday, March 12th

Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, March 11th!



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







St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas



March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga	27	28	1 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	2 6:00p Zoom Yoga	3	4
5 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Mission & Membership Com Mtg	6 6:00p Worship & Music Com Mtg	7 6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg 6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com Mtg	8 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	9 6:00p Zoom Yoga	10	11 8:00a Property Com Mtg 9:00a Mini Workday 
12 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga Daylight Saving Time Begins 	13 6:00p Admin & Personnel Com Mtg	14 6:00p Christian Educ Com Mtg	15 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	16 10:30a Book Club Meeting 6:00p Zoom Yoga	17	18
19 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga	20 6:30p Session Meeting	21	22 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	23 6:00p Zoom Yoga	24	25
26 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga	27	28	29 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	30 6:00p Zoom Yoga	31	1