



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437



Volume 62, Issue 4

saintmarkchurch.org

April 2015

Schedule of Worship for Holy Week

Maundy Thursday - April 2nd

Communion Service at 7:15 p.m.

Good Friday - April 3rd

Service at 7:15 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 5th

*9:15 a.m. Breakfast in the parlor

No Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

He is Risen!
Hallelujah!



Easter Continental Breakfast

The Fellowship Committee welcomes you and your guests to a Continental Breakfast on Easter morning, from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Breakfast will include a selection of breads and fruit, muffins, little quiches, sausage balls, coffee and orange juice. Please come and enjoy this fellowship time with your family and friends.

Special Easter Offering

The Session has set a goal of \$5,000 for this year's Special Easter Offering. This year, half of the offering will go to the One Great Hour of Sharing and the other half will be used for special support of several local mission agencies, including Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, Austin Street Center and the White Rock Center of Hope, and for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help individuals in need.



St. Mark Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 4th

9:30 am - 11:00 am

It's Easter Bunny time and St. Mark is having an Easter egg hunt. Come on over, bring your kids, grandkids, friends and a basket to gather some eggs. There is a surprise in each one. Enjoy some snacks and crafts.

Infants thru 3 year olds: Little playground
4 year olds thru 2nd graders: Big playground
3rd graders thru 5th graders: Grassy area near playgrounds

Please join us for church services on Easter morning at 10:30 a.m. Childcare is available for children 5 years old and younger.



Our One Great Hour of Sharing contributions are directed to three PC(USA) programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Programs and Self-Development of People.

As of Palm Sunday, approximately \$2,000 has been received toward our goal. We will continue to receive contributions for this special offering through Sunday, April 12th. Please give generously.

Women of St. Mark Meeting

Thursday, April 16th

6:30p.m. in the parlor



Please bring refreshments for six. We will have email information to keep you and your email friends safe from hackers.



The Church Pantry Urgently Needs . . .

Peanut Butter Crackers



"Well done is better than well said." This is one of my favorite quotes from Benjamin Franklin. I saw that quotation recently in Philadelphia on a plate in the first US Post Office. It's a "walk the walk" statement that speaks to the events of Holy Week, at least to me. No matter how many times Jesus told his Disciples that he was on God's mission to redeem people who could not save themselves, they couldn't accept it, especially since it would involve his execution on a Cross. His followers attempted to circumvent this Cross business by talking Jesus out of it. Even after Jesus told them to be at peace because God would raise him from the dead three days later, they didn't want to hear it. Instead, they would need to experience Jesus walking the path that only he could walk. Mere words wouldn't cut it. Jesus put Franklin's words into action long before the first Postmaster General penned them.

The words of Jesus' promise that he would be raised from the sealed, guarded tomb Easter morning were put to the test. God had indeed been faithful to His Word. Jesus appeared to his followers who loved him so deeply. Many others also saw him as well. He had

conversations with them. He prepared a barbeque on the beach for them and ate with them. Thomas famously touched the body of the risen Lord. Someone still in the grave could not have done these things.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ has been called the keystone of the arch of the Christian Faith. Without a proper keystone in place, the arch falls. The Apostle Paul probably produced the best reflection on this centrality in 1 Corinthians 15:13-19:

"If there is no resurrection of the dead then Christ has not been raised;¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished.¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."

Jesus walked the walk. He still calls to us to join him in the Resurrection life. Let's get moving because he lives.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

April 2
Maundy Thursday - 7:15 p.m.
Celebration of The Lord's Supper

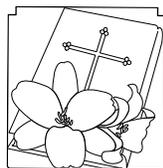
April 3
Good Friday - 7:15 p.m.

April 5
"Peace"
Luke 23: 44-46; Mark 16:1-7
Resurrection Sunday

April 12
"When You Know You Don't Know"
John 11:21-27; Luke 24:25-35

April 19
"Being a Witness"
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
Rev. Paul Andresen

April 26
"You Say 'Goodbye', I Say 'Hello'"
Acts 1:6-11; Luke 24:49-53



Thank You

Dear St. Mark members,

I would like to thank you all for your prayers and support during my surgery and radiation. I am done now and happy to be moving forward.

Marilyn Jackson

**Movie Night at St. Mark
Saturday, April 18th @ 7:00 p.m.**



Bring snacks to share and join your friends in the cozy confines of the Gleaners Cinema.

Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilger office@saintmarkchurch.org
Cecilia Grayson

*Articles and information for the newsletter
can be e-mailed to these addresses.*

Newsletter Deadline is April 15th

God Bless You On Your Birthday

April 1
Ann O'Neal
April 3
Kim Price
Donna Simes
April 4
Lindsay O'Leary
April 6
Pat Cannon
Souvenir Swift
April 8
Noylene Howard
April 9
Kathleen Arthur
Don McGowan
April 10
Nikki Guinnee
April 12
Joseph Brown
Valerie Robinson

April 13
Mason Brown
Doug Duncan
April 15
Alice McLean
April 20
Sandra Knapp
April 21
Ann Carlson
April 22
Patti Aulenbach
John Carver
April 27
Sherri Curry
Jan Pinnell
April 30
Bill Grayson

From the Women of the Church . . .

We want to thank our church for all your support in the refurbishing of the women's restroom in the Family Center. You supported our bake sales, quilt raffle, craft sale, and soup lunch and we sincerely thank you!

Rick and Teri Brooks were most generous in allowing us to use their credit balance from a tile company, and the Property Committee also helped out with some remodeling funds (especially for the men's restroom). Thanks to Kim Price and her group for chairing the project. The bulk of the restroom was completed in 3 weeks!

Please come and view the women and men's restrooms whenever you have a chance. We think you will be pleased!

The Holy Spirit in Hindsight Part 2, Jeff Taylor

Adulthood, Marriage, Children, and 40 years at St. Mark - Faith Tested and Nurtured

After 1 year of acclimating to Texas, which dad & I accomplished much faster than Mom or my sisters, I put my guardian angel back to work. I figured if God's plan was for me to be a Texan, I would find new experiences. I spent my time riding dirt bikes, building fast cars, learning to shoot a gun, and flying a Cessna 150, even though I hated heights. We found a new church near our house in Lake Highlands, but didn't stay long. We joined St. Mark around 1970.

I wasn't very active at St. Mark through most of high school but still felt connected with God. I headed off to college with no real plan for a vocation. I really felt lost, but the one constant was that I loved taking things apart and building things. Later, I realized what a gift this was and how I could use it to make a living and do something I really loved.

Mid-way through my junior year of college it occurred to me that I hadn't spent any time working on a relationship with the opposite sex. Shortly after that Charlene came into my life. I have no doubt this was not just a random coincidence. She was an easy going girl with a heart of forgiveness, raised as a Christian and a dad who was a builder. God didn't have to knock me over the head. This was the girl for me. About a

year later, we pulled into Keller's hamburgers; and I proposed over a long neck and a #5 special. It was magical.

After graduating and getting married, we started life together knowing down the road a little we would probably start a family. Three years went by and we were enjoying life, thinking maybe we had a couple more years before we would start our family. God had a different plan. Both times Charlene got pregnant while on a 99.9% effective contraceptive. We were blessed with two boys that the doctor swore would be girls.

Meanwhile back at St. Mark our youth and Christian Education minister saw something in me or maybe just got desperate. She asked if I would consider being a youth leader. I accepted and once again was blessed by God to be involved with youth and mission work - who would have guessed?

My faith has been built brick by brick through my life experiences and a recognition of God's action through the Holy Spirit in my life. This faith was put to its greatest test when we received a call that our son Clint had been in a bad accident. We were told we needed to get to Parkland Hospital right away. All I could do was pray that we could handle whatever the outcome would be as well as the obvious prayer that God would be with and heal Clint. We all pulled through with the help of faith, family, friends, and the mercy of God.



Randall's Pen



The Season of Easter is upon us. Sometimes we forget that Easter is not just one day but an entire season in the church year. It's the 50 day season that begins on Easter Sunday and continues until Pentecost.

That's what I am thinking about today.

I got to wondering about the "Holy Week" lines from our *Brief Statement of Faith*. I looked them up and here they are:

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

I also got to wondering about the lines that describe how we are to respond to all of God's mighty acts. Here are those lines:

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

So how are you celebrating this Easter season? How are you expressing gratitude to God? How are you being holy and joyful? What opportunities are you finding to serve Christ in your daily lives? Have you found any activity that makes these fifty days more meaningful?

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education

Hot Diggity Dog Day

Saturday May 16th

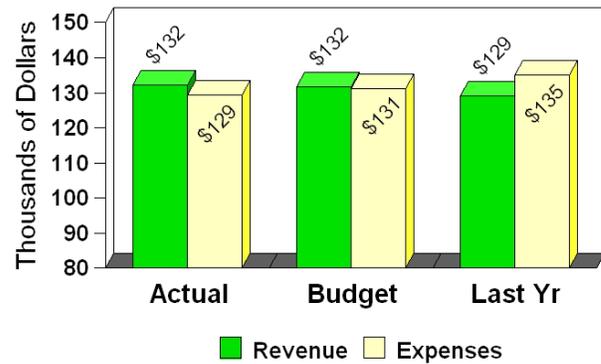
11:00 a. m. - 2:00 p. m.



Bring your dog(s) for a play date at St. Mark on Saturday, May 16th. While the doggies play, the pet parents can enjoy hot dogs and the fixings on the lawn. Pastor Rick will perform pet blessings for all types of pets at 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Prayer Garden.

Operating Fund

8 Months Through Feb 28, 2015



Treasurer's Report

for the eight months ending 2/28/2015

- ⇒ Operating Fund income is \$400 above budget and expenses are \$1,900 below budget.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund income is \$400 below budget and expenses are \$1,000 below budget.
- ⇒ Our Combined Fund Balance (excluding insurance proceeds) is up \$4,100 from the beginning of year.

Detailed financial statements are available for any member to review. Please contact John Carver or Bill Grayson if you would like to see more information.



The Million Penny Fund

A goal of 1,000,000 pennies (\$10,000) was set and to date we have received \$6,857.20. All donations are split between the Camps and Conferences Fund and the Landscape Fund. A jar for your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, or bills is located on Pat's desk. Or, you can put your coins in a bag marked "Penny Fund" in the offering plate on Sundays.

White Rock Center of Hope

Sunday, April 12th

Bring your donations and place them in the baskets in the hallway.



Food Needs

Canned Meat Products

Shelf Items

Mashed Potatoes, Rice & Pasta side dish packages

Personal Hygiene Items

Adult toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant, all sizes of Diapers & Feminine Hygiene products, soap, etc.