



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

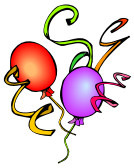
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saintmarkchurch.org

August 2013



A DAY TO REMEMBER!

A DAY TO CELEBRATE!

**RICK & TERI'S FIVE YEAR
ANNIVERSARY!**

It was five years ago, on August 10, 2008, that St. Mark welcomed the Rev. Richard "Rick" Brooks and his wife, Teri, into our St. Mark family.

Please mark your calendar for another day of celebration on August 4, 2013.

Following the worship service, Rick and Teri will join us in the parlor to celebrate their **FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY** at St. Mark. We hope everyone in the St. Mark family will be able to participate!

Canned Fruit Needed



The White Rock Center of Hope is in urgent need of canned fruit. Check the list for other on going needs on page 3.

Let's Fill in the Blanks!

The Flower Calendar has some Sunday dates open if you want to donate flowers for worship services.

Here is what is available:

Sunday, August 11 & 18

Sunday, September 1, 8 & 15

Sunday, October 13

The flower calendar is located on the wall outside of Pat's office.

Movie Night

Saturday, August 17th @ 7:00 p.m.



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

Adult Vacation Bible School

August 5th - 8th from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

"Psalms in the Psummer"

Monday at St. Mark:

"A Fresh Look at the Psalms"

Tuesday at First Presbyterian, Garland:

"Hands on the Psalms"

Wednesday at Eastminster Presbyterian:

"Praying the Psalms"

Thursday at Lake Highlands Presbyterian:

"Singing the Psalms"

Plus refreshments & other activities each day.

Contact the church office for more information

Wednesday Bible Study Returns

The Wednesday Bible Study will begin meeting again on Wednesday August 21st.

Lost & Found

Are you missing a button, an earring, or any other small trinket? The church office has several items that could belong to you. Check with Pat to see if some of those items could be yours.

Community Fair, Rummage Sale,

Bake Sale & Quilt Raffle

Saturday, October 5th

Start cleaning out your closets and saving stuff for the Rummage Sale. More information coming soon.



**Second Sunday at Six
A Service of Wholeness
will not be held in August**



I love anniversaries of all kinds. St. Mark's 60th was certainly special. Frank and Shirley Roberson's 72nd comes to mind. Folks in recovery from addiction make a huge deal out annual anniversaries, though in some groups they're called birthdays. I even have an August anniversary of being the pastor of St. Mark for five years.

Often these milestones are marked with gifts. I want to tell you about several I've received in my time at St. Mark. One gift is surely the freedom to not have an answer to every challenge. That's noteworthy because you've granted me the freedom to fail as well as succeed. Sometimes it's called living in the solution instead of wallowing in the problem. In short, you've helped change my perspective. Part of that perspective is the understanding that St. Mark functions best as a team. Your pastors are part of the community, not lone wolves. As one of the most memorable advertisements in history says: "Thanks for your support." (Bartles & Jaymes if you're not familiar with the source.)

You've also extended the gift of forgiveness. Even though I try as hard as I can, I continually get things wrong on everything from announcements to administration, service to sermons. I'm also not particularly intuitive and you're always gentle in letting me know when some situation needs my attention. You know my flaws and cover them with forgiveness.

You've helped refine my theology as well. Through you I've come to better terms with the intersection of doubt and faith. Not necessarily polar opposites, doubt and faith serve a more defining role. God is not insulted by our questioning at all. In fact, I believe He's pleased we're even searching for answers that might somehow lead us to Him. God is still in the redemption business, after all.

My understanding of God's grace has definitely been shaped by St. Mark. I am inspired by the way you become the voice, hands, and feet of Jesus so consistently through worship, stewardship, mission, fellowship, and outreach. I've discovered new ways to know grace through your incredible generosity in

which you so freely share your gifts of time, energy, talents, and financial resources. You shower God's love everywhere you go.

I'm particularly appreciative of that last gift. You make me feel loved. You allow me to find acceptance in that love by letting me be me, regardless of my shortcomings.

Thank you, St. Mark!
Blessings, Pastor Rick

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

August 4

"Stop! In the Name of Love"
Genesis 12:1-4; Mark 1:1-15
Celebration of the Lord's Supper



August 11

"What Does A Living Faith Look Like?"
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Rev. Dr. Chuck Traylor,
Presbyterian Communities & Services

August 18

"To Forgive Is Divine"
Isaiah 55:6-9; Ephesians 4:25-32

August 25

"What Do You Want First: Good News or Bad News?"
Daniel 7:9-10; John 5:19-30

Our Sympathy to . . .

Roger Siverson and his family upon the death of his father. Services were held in Houston.

Yoga is Back!

For the month of August only the Wednesday class will meet at 6:15 p.m. We will change back to 5:15 p.m. after Labor Day.

Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilger stmarkpc1@sbcglobal.net
Cecilia Grayson
*Articles and information for the newsletter
can be e-mailed to these addresses.*

Marriage of 72 Years Plus

No new records will be set with a number such as this, but it is bewildering to my wife and me. If the minister that married us had asked how long we would like our marriage to last, like any love-struck couple we would have replied "forever". We could not have dreamed that the forever would be 72 years and counting. We did not live together all 72 years. For 2 and 1/2 years the U S Navy allowed me a vacation in the unlvely country of New Guinea – 1943/1945.

The problem with multi -year marriages is life expectancy which at that time was 54 years for a male, 60 for a female - small in comparison to the number of years we have existed. Why the good Lord gave us the extra years is a mystery, as many other couples were more worthy. Some might say a combination of family genes, modest lifestyle, and good medical facilities were contributing factors. The mystery continues when one factors in marriage expectancy. It seems now there is about a 50% failure of marriages. Combining the two makes this seem unbelievable to us.

As a youth, I assumed an old person would have accumulated great wisdom. Now, as a super-senior person, I can say for certain this is not true. The same thing applies to senior married couples. If others are looking for a short and simple solution to long standing marital problems – there isn't, simply one day at a time. I do recall a helpful comment I heard: "being able to remember is interesting, being able to forget is mandatory."

Taking inventory after 72 years I find we are living in a lovely home, great neighborhood, and incredible church affiliations plus a daughter that is helpful and "Director of Transportation". Thank you Lord for all the material things as well as helping to allow our marriage to be ENDEARING and ENDURING. I guess we could say my CUP RUNNETH OVER, surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in our house forever.

Frank Roberson and dear wife Shirley

White Rock Center of Hope is Sunday August 11th



Bring your donations of toys, canned or dried foods, paper products, clothing, etc. and place them in the baskets in the hallway.

Food Needs

Canned Fruit, Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Beans, Canned Vegetables (no green beans or corn) and Tomato Products

Other Needs

Clothing, underwear, socks & shoes in all sizes, Queen & King sheets, pillowcases

Flower Vases

If you were one of the lucky winners who got to take home the table flowers from our 60th Anniversary celebration, please return the glass globe vase. Please put them on the dryer in the mail room.

Thank you, Donna Simes & Jo Farley

May God Bless You On Your Birthday

August 5

Anna Duncan
Charlene Taylor

August 6

Ed Blair
Pat McCloud

August 8

Randi Richards

August 9

Chuck Hathaway
Katie Moore

August 10

Michael Bell
Maylea Higgins

August 14

Elizabeth Cantu

August 15

Cecilia Grayson
Samantha Moore

August 18

James Carver

August 19

Charlene Ramsay

August 20

Ben Blair

August 21

Lynn Phillips

Pam Winter

August 23

Betty Perkins

August 26

William Sinclair

August 27

Karen Ellis

Katherine Husted

August 29

Susie Miller



WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOD'S VISION FOR ST. MARK IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS? ST. MARK MEMBERS SPEAK

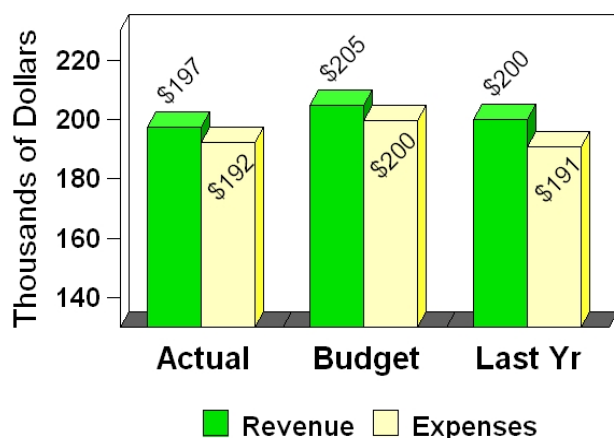


At our recent 60th anniversary celebration, people were asked to reflect on our past 60 years and to contemplate our future. Here's what some had to say concerning the next 10 years and what they thought God might have in store for us.

- Continue to grow in faith
- More youth and more group trips and fellowship
- Reach out to all
- Continue mission and outreach programs and grow our membership
- Increase our membership with more couples with children
- Become more diverse in membership that reflects our community
- Bring more local families to the church
- Be a symbol of God's love to the neighborhood
- Extend love to all who come to our church
- God knows, and I will trust His vision
- Continue its mission of outreach and service to members, neighbors and beyond
- Give God's blessing in the community surrounding St. Mark
- Remain true to the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Sustain the objectives of the founders through worship, service and community
- To be the hands and voice of the church in this part of Dallas
- More children, outreach to our neighbors
- Involve the community more
- Show grace to all who come here for worship
- Continue the ministry
- Further growth in the East Dallas community
- Our church might not grow, but it might be the most Christ-like it's ever been with outreach.

How does all of this strike you? What part do you think you can have in making it happen?
God has said, "Upon THIS rock I will build my church."

Operating & Mission Funds 12 Months Through June 30, 2013



Treasurer's Report

for the twelve months ending 6/30/13

- ⇒ Operating Fund revenue was \$4,600 more than expenditures, which was about \$1,400 below the budgeted surplus.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund revenue was about \$7,000 less than expenditures, which was about \$3,000 below budgeted deficit, due mainly to the Austin Hall A/C replacement project and repairs.
- ⇒ Mission and Outreach Fund revenue was about \$200 more than expenditures, which was about \$900 better than budget.

More detailed financial statements are available for any member to review. Please contact the Treasurer, Bill Grayson, if you would like to see more information.



Randall's Pen

I just got back from my regular trip to Tennessee. Most summers I go to teach in a program for people studying to be pastors. It probably won't surprise you that I teach the Christian Education courses in the program. They have the creative titles of "Christian Education I" and "Christian Education II". We have classes for five days. Then the students have quite a bit of reading that they have to do on their own along with written assignments. We wrap up with a conversation with me about Christian education for their final assignment.

I always enjoy my time teaching.

The students in CE II have a pretty good idea of what to expect when we start the course since they have already completed CE I.

But for the students in CE I it is a whole new adventure. Most do not know what to expect. They have never had me as a teacher. Some are brand new to the program. So they arrive at class a bit anxious. Many of them have never given any serious thought to the questions like "What is Christian Education?" and "What's the purpose of education in the church?" But that won't be true at the end of our five days together. They will have begun to think about the

questions. They also will have begun to formulate some answers to them.

Some of the students will embrace the adventure. They will participate in class. They will do the assignments. We will have a great conversation about Christian education. And I will see them in CE II one summer.

Other students will reject the adventure. They don't do the assignments. I don't get the privilege of being with them in CE II.

I'm still thinking about our celebration of St Mark's 60th anniversary earlier this summer. I have looked at the picture of people gathered in the 1st building that housed St. Mark in the very early days. What an adventure that must have been. I suspect that there were some people who weren't ready for such an experience and wandered off to more established congregations. But I'm glad that there were people who embraced the adventure of starting a new church out in the middle of the fields of far eastern Dallas.

I'm wondering what sort of adventures may be in store for us in the coming years and decades. What might God be calling us to do? And I wonder if we will embrace the challenge of the adventure. What do you think?

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education

Dear St. Mark Family,

Our granddaughter, Noelle, is finally home! She is now seven months old and has some development catching up to do but we are so happy just to have her home again. Brad and Becca plan to bring both girls to church to visit once Noelle's blood counts have all returned to a level that will be safe for her.

Your cards, e-mails, phone calls, food, hugs, encouragement, visits and prayers helped us to get through the past five months-the most difficult time in our lives. Thank you, my dear friends, for being there for us. We will never forget your kindness.

With love,

John & Sheila Wahl

Athens Came to St. Mark in July

St. Mark held its annual Vacation Bible School July 8 - 11. The theme was "Athens: Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth". The Family Center was transformed to recreate a live marketplace during New Testament times. Businesses included the Toy Making Shop, Pottery Studio, Scribe Shop, and the Geometry School. The kids visited Paul, where they learned about Jesus with the help of his friend Dionysius. Each evening they sang songs, visited the marketplace, and played at the Arena Games. Snacks were served, and the Food shop offered samples of items eaten during that time, including bread, olive oil, honey, dried fruits, grapes, feta cheese, hummus, and olives. Our own Reverend Rick was Paul, and Dionysius was portrayed by Trevor Crawley.

Thank you to ALL of our volunteers!!! VBS is always a success because of you.

**Newsletter Deadline
is August 15th**