



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437



Volume 61, Issue 8

saintmarkchurch.org

August 2014

Adult Vacation Bible School "Still Water And Living Water"

2014 East Dallas Cluster
August 4-7th 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Contact Randall McGee for information or
check the bulletin board in the hallway.

Sandwich Sunday - August 31st



Each 5th Sunday we prepare and
serve sandwiches at the **Austin
Street Center**.

Volunteers are asked to prepare **two
or three dozen** sandwiches,
individually bagged with the sack labeled as to the
contents, and bring them to the church on that
Sunday.

Cookies and snack cakes are also welcome.

**Sign-up sheets are on the
glass table in the hallway.**

Volunteers are also needed to help serve the
sandwiches at the Center on that Sunday evening.



Movie Night at St. Mark Saturday, August 16th @ 7:00 p.m.

"Heaven is for Real"

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

White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, August 10th

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



Food & Pantry Needs

Jelly, All Varieties of Canned Vegetables,
Canned corn, Canned beans (not green beans),
Jello, Hamburger Helper, Suddenly Salad, Potatoes

Personal Hygiene Items

Adult Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant,
all sizes of Diapers

Inquirer's Class

Wednesday, August 13th - 6:30 p.m.

If you have been worshipping with us at St. Mark
Presbyterian Church for a while and want a better
understanding of what we're all about, you may have
some questions.

- *Who are the Presbyterians?*
- *What do they believe?*
- *What do they do?*
- *What is their history?*
- *What has their influence been?*



Bring your questions about being Presbyterian to
Pastor Rick's Inquirer's Class.



It's Time for Another "Kitchen Table Talk" Sunday, August 24th

The Session invites you to attend another Kitchen
Table Talk presented by the Stewardship and
Finance Committee.

Please join the committee in the sanctuary for
about 15 minutes after the worship service on
August 24th. The main topic to be discussed will be
our current financial position as we begin our new
fiscal year.

The Church Pantry is Full.

Thanks for all your donations.

Vacation Bible School Fun

There was lots of fun, feasting, and friendship!
Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped to
make another successful VBS. We look forward to
next summer for another week of Vacation Bible
School!

The annual pool party was on Sunday, June 29th at
Town East Pool. There were around 35 members
and friends who enjoyed the pool time.



Abraham and Sarah—
in one of my favorite
Bible narratives—
demonstrated the
strength of their
faith in the face of

seemingly impossible odds. Trusting God, especially when the outcome is not known, is something that every Christian struggles with. Here's what the Apostle Paul has to say (Romans 4:18-21)

"Hoping against hope, he [Abraham] believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised." (NRSV)

This passage is particularly helpful for us as we attempt to respond to crisis to crisis both abroad and here at home. Everything seems to be falling apart. Sometimes it's easy to lose the vision of what God could be up to in the world.

But we can learn from Father Abraham's unshakable conviction in God's promises. His faith did not deny the reality before him — his advancing age and Sarah's barrenness. He knew that faith could only meet challenges that are revealed. In other words, by naming or pointing out the problem, it loses its power to harm. How much better it is to admit something is amiss than to ignore its existence.

Abraham also never loses faith in God making good on His promises. When confronted with a crisis, churches would do well to remember that Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to lead us in God's call. Further, Jesus promised that the Gates of Hell will not overtake the church.

Abraham's long and devoted journey of faith was a direct result of trusting the God who called him to step out into something new. Just like Abraham, the church is continually being called to step out into something new. May we grow in faith as we give glory to God.

Blessings, *Pastor Rick*

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

August 3

"Dirty Work"
Psalm 130:1-8; Romans 5:8-15
Celebration of the Lord's Supper



August 10

"Body Language"
Psalm 33:18-22; 1 Corinthians 15:42-57
White Rock Center of Hope Sunday

August 17

"Forks in Heaven?"
Romans 6:21-23; John 14:1-7

August 24

"Home Schooled"
Proverbs 8:1-9; Luke 2:40-52
Kitchen Table Talk

August 31

"How's That for an Introduction?"
Romans 6:1-4; Matthew 3:7-17
Sandwich Sunday

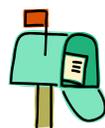
Thank You

To my Loving St. Mark Family,

Thank you for the calls, cards and prayers following the death of my grandson Paul. Your loving and caring thoughts helped to soothe a big hole in my heart.

Pauline Millender

Directory Update



Rusty & Julie Holloway
Winnsboro, TX 75494

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 August 15th**



Women of the Church



St. Mark Women of the Church was organized under the umbrella of the Mission Committee in 2009. The Women come together every other month for a program, to keep up to date on their projects, and to have fun and fellowship together.

Their projects have been varied -- collected items for Holiday Boxes for the Homeless and baked 70 dozen homemade goodies for "Cookies for the Troops." They also arranged a Sunday afternoon with LaDonna Gatlin for her inspirational program. Ms. Gatlin's mission is helping people be their very best!

Many activities have involved Presbyterian Children's Home and Services (PCHAS). For example, assisting with activities for foster children while the parents participated in foster care enrichment classes, collecting items for the graduating PCHAS high school seniors, and raising \$600 in gift cards for PCHAS college freshman. Now, the Women of the Church are mentoring 11 college freshman, sending greeting cards to the children, and providing \$20 gift cards for birthday surprises.

The latest project of this energetic group of St. Mark members is to raise funds for refurbishing the women's restroom in the Family Center -- \$300 was raised from a bake sale this past March. The upcoming rummage sale will help with proceeds gained from the quilt raffle and craft table. Other opportunities will be forthcoming for your support.

These several projects have been successful because of you, St. Mark Presbyterian Church members and your amazing generosity! God must be pleased!

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 17

Stephany Brown

August 18

James Carver

August 19

Charlene Ramsey

August 20

Ben Blair

August 21

Lynn Phillips
Pam Winter

August 22

Jerri Shevlin

August 23

Duncan Guinee

August 27

Karen Ellis
Katie Husted

August 29

Susie Miller

Spanish Camp at St. Mark a Success

Spanish Camp was a lot of fun! There were 9 or 10 students each week, including our own kids, Wylie Matthews, Preston Swift, Hunter Swift, Hannah Moore, Elli Guinee, and Bailey Guinee. Also, Samantha Moore was a teacher's aide one day.

Nikki is working on a class for adults in the fall. More information to come. *Muchas gracias* to all who helped support this endeavor.

Treasurer's Report

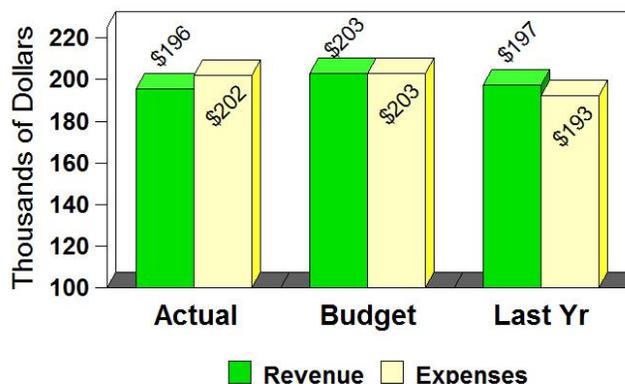
for the twelve months ending 6/30/2014

- ⇒ Operating Fund + Mission Fund income is \$7,000 below budget. Expenses are \$1,000 below budget.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund income is \$1,500 better than budget; expenses are \$1,200 below budget.
- ⇒ Our Current Fund Balance (all funds combined) is up \$8,500 from the beginning of the fiscal year, but the Operating Fund balance is down \$9,000.

Detailed financial statements are available for any member to review. Please contact the Treasurer, John Carver, if you would like to see more information.

Operating & Mission Funds

12 Months Through June 30, 2014





Randall's Pen



I have a handful of odds and ends for which I am thankful to share with you for August.

I am on my way back from the trip I take to Tennessee every summer. I teach "pastors to be" about the theory and practice of Christian education. It is a tiring five days. I live in a dorm and eat college cafeteria food. However I enjoy my time in the classroom and the opportunity to share what I know. And I do appreciate the commitment of my students. They take time off from work and leave their families behind to work their way through this program. Some of them will give up and never complete the program. Most of the ones that do will always be bi-vocational pastors. They will probably never serve a congregation as large and with as many resources as St. Mark. I am thankful for these men and women and their commitment. I am thankful that God calls people to serve in challenging situations. I am thankful I get to play a part in their preparation.

On my way home I am staying one night with some old friends. It is a good thing to have friends that you are completely comfortable around. It is great that there are folks with who you can laugh and share stories from way back. I am thankful for such friends.

While I was away I missed the funeral of my friend Ed in Dallas. I understand it was a great service. Ed was a faithful follower of Christ. I know many of you at St. Mark have lost friends recently. I am thankful for the lives of saints like Ed and the privilege of knowing and working with them. I am also thankful for the knowledge that "in life and death we belong to God."

I was out of town for the storms we had in July. But I am still thankful for any rain we get in July in Dallas.

As you read this we are either getting ready for the Cluster Adult VBS to start or we are right in the middle of it. I am thankful for all of the resources in the Cluster that we can share to make VBS happen. And I am thankful for all the people who participate as leaders and learners.

So what are you thankful for this month?

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education

I'll Be Me

by Marian Hanna

When day is done, the dishes washed,
And the children tucked in bed,
That's my time to sit and think
of what I've done and said.

Did I say yes when someone asked
For a little of my time?
Or was I rude and out of sorts
or just down-right unkind?

So many thoughts can trouble you
In the quiet of the night,
But mending ways and kindness
Could make tomorrow right.

When I woke up this morning
a new me I'd planned to be,
I know that I can do it,
You just wait and see.

I won't lose my temper,
when someone spills their milk,
Or tracks in mud or breaks a lamp,
No, I'll be smooth as silk.

The day is almost over,
I've nearly reached my goal,
And though it wasn't easy,
I never lost control.

Then a small voice from the bedroom
calls out in a worried way,
Mom—are you alright?
You haven't yelled today!

I think I've found the answer
for a sound and restful sleep,
I'll ask for your forgiveness, Lord
Instead of counting sheep!



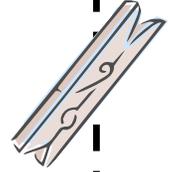
The Million Penny Fund

A goal of 1,000,000 pennies was set and to date we have received 679,270. 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.

Women of the Church Craft Workshop

All women of St. Mark are invited to a Craft Workshop following worship on **Sunday, August 17th**. We will meet in the nursery (crib room) and be making wooden clothespin crosses. Materials and instructions will be provided. These crosses will be for sale at the Women's craft table during the Annual Rummage Sale on October 4th.



It's not too late to suggest a craft project for the sale. And, we would also love to hear about any project that you are doing on your own to donate to the Craft Sale.

We have enough vases and jars. Thanks to all who have donated these items. If you are interested in helping with crafts please call Jerri Shevlin.



St. Mark Annual Rummage Sale Bake Sale, Quilt Raffle, Craft Sale Saturday, October 4, 2014

Look around your house, in your garage or workshop for any items to donate. Here are the kind of things we need: books, kitchen items, furniture, luggage, lamps, yard equipment, toys, jewelry, craft and sewing items, tools, camping gear, shoes, purses, bicycles, sheets, blankets, curtains, infant clothing and baby items, etc.

We do have space in the container behind the Family Center for any large items you might want to donate ahead of time. Call Jerri Shevlin for more information.

The Quilt is finished and you will soon receive in the mail a picture of the quilt along with tickets to sell to all your friends and loved ones. Tickets are \$2. Buy 10 tickets and get one free.



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Non-Profit Organization