



# St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

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This year, as in previous years, St. Mark will participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. The Souper Bowl of Caring has become a powerful movement transforming the time around the Super Bowl weekend into the nations largest celebration of giving and serving.

**On Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>** 160 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring.

St. Mark youth will collect money in soup pots following worship as you exit the sanctuary. Please place any non-perishable food items on the chancel area before the service begins.

Our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts. All donations go to support the White Rock Center of Hope.



## Game Day & Lunch Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

Stay and have lunch after church on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and play games with your friends. The Fellowship Committee will provide hot dogs, nachos, chips, and drinks, plus a sweet dessert. We will have cards, dominos, and board games for folks of all ages. Please plan to stay for some food, fun and fellowship



## Join Us for Movie Night Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

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

## St. Mark Blood Drive



**Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
9:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.**

Please consider giving. Your blood donation has the potential to save 3 lives and keep our St. Mark blood bank supplied.

Contact Sue Duncan  
for more information.

## Second Sunday at Six Service A Service of Wholeness



February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the Parlor. Join us for a time of prayer, scripture meditation, anointing of oil and the Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

**SS@6 is now meeting  
in the church parlor.**

## Inquirer's Class

Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> - 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.

We hope to see you there!

## The Church Pantry Needs:

Peanut Butter Crackers





I recently attended a pastor's conference sponsored by Redeemer Seminary in Dallas. The theme was "Missionary God, Missional Church". It provided ways for the church to better grasp our understanding of the manner in which the Body of Christ intersects the surrounding culture. God is always reaching out to redeem His creatures because He loves the work of His hands. To that end, Our Heavenly Father is indeed a missionary and He invites the church to join Him in His missionary work. Conferences like this are important because the nature of society today changed dramatically over the last few decades. We're bewildered by these changes and do not know what to do. It reminds me of the church insider joke: "If 1954 returns, we're ready."

One of the primary things people are seeking is a life that has meaning, moving beyond day to day survival into a life that thrives with purpose. While seekers may not be able to articulate it, they're really desiring a quality relationship with God. That's where the church comes in. Tim Keller, one of the presenters at the conference, put their search this way: "Christianity gives us a meaning in life that suffering can't take away." Let's face it head on. Everybody

lives in a fallen world that includes suffering. It's not imagined. It's everywhere we look. And the church has THE answer in the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If the church accepts the premise that God is indeed a Missionary God, then it must certainly follow that we are called to be a Missional Church reaching out to others as Jesus directed his Disciples in John's Gospel, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (John 20:21b, ESV) Christ's directive is not open to debate about what he's talking about. Matthew's Gospel unpacks our marching orders even further, "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." (28:19-20a, NRSV) Jesus tells his followers to make disciples, not just "decisions." Then he does NOT say "teaching them to obey everything I have suggested as non-essential guidelines". Jesus is sending his body to all nations to demonstrate, not just talk about, the redeeming love of our Missionary God. It is my prayer that St. Mark will obey the commandments of Jesus by truly becoming who God calls us to be, a Missional Church, sent into a world searching for meaning.

Blessings, *Pastor Rick*

### May God Bless You On Your Birthday

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>February 1</b><br>Kathleen Hale<br>Linda Marshall        | <b>February 18</b><br>Colin Boring                 |
| <b>February 2</b><br>Rick Brooks                            | <b>February 19</b><br>Gerald Jones                 |
| <b>February 5</b><br>Preston Swift<br>Hunter Swift          | <b>February 20</b><br>Dot Brooks                   |
| <b>February 8</b><br>Barb Tuinstra                          | <b>February 23</b><br>Cade Curry<br>Hannah Moore   |
| <b>February 12</b><br>Rose Marie Stone                      | <b>February 24</b><br>Flo Philips                  |
| <b>February 15</b><br>Annie Blair                           | <b>February 25</b><br>Joshua Brown<br>Lucy Roberts |
| <b>February 16</b><br>Gary O'Neal<br>JoAnn Parsley          | <b>February 27</b><br>Leonard Esler                |
| <b>February 17</b><br>Makenna Arthur<br>Kenneth Brandenburg |  |



### Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

- February 2**  
"A Long Obedience in the Same Direction"  
2 Timothy 4:1-7; Genesis 6:13-22  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper  
Souper Bowl of Caring
- February 9**  
"Higher Mathematics"  
Exodus 4:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
- February 16**  
"The Scale of Integrity"  
1 Samuel 15:12-17; Daniel 3:16-23  
Game Day
- February 26**  
"Jealousy Jeopardy"  
Matthew 6:19-21; Ezekiel 8:1-10  
Blood Drive



**Newsletter Deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>**



# Randall's Pen



I haven't run the stats but I have a hunch that in all the years I have been writing for the newsletter I have averaged at least one article a year that somehow deals with the weather. Perhaps that is too much space for one topic but the weather is such an easy thing to talk about in this part of the world. And it is usually not a hard stretch to connect North Texas weather with the life of the church. This month is another one of those times.

Winter weather here is always an adventure because it varies so much. And it often changes drastically within a few days or even hours. Yesterday it was over 70 and down near Waco it was almost 80. But by the end of the week the low will be in the teens. Then back to the 60's for the weekend. And who knows what the temperature will be by the time you are reading this.

Folks who live in the northern parts of this country can safely pack all of their spring and summer clothes away for several months each fall. They know it is going to be cold for a long time. So they have closets and drawers full of both warm clothes and really warm clothes. But we can't do that here. If we are going to be comfortable here we have to keep at least some of

our lightweight gear close at hand all winter. Of course since it is winter we also have to keep warm coats, hats and gloves close by as well. We do these things so we can be ready for whatever weather adventures we may encounter.

So I'm thinking about our weather and how we dress for cold days and warm days. And I'm thinking about Christian Education. I'm thinking about why we keep studying scripture through the years as we read and reread those old stories, letters, and poetry. I'm thinking about why we keep discussing what we believe as we look at creeds and sing hymns both ancient and contemporary. I'm thinking about how we continue to ponder what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in a culture where it seems like everything changes but at the same time many things stay the same.

I guess one way of looking at it is that we do all those things and more so we will be at least somewhat prepared for whatever adventure God has in store for us as individuals and as a congregation. Kind of like keeping both our winter gear and some summer gear close at hand in February in Texas. So we will be ready for whatever the weather brings later today as well as tomorrow.

So what sort of things do you do to prepare for what God may have in store for you?

*Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education*

### Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilger . . . . . office@saintmarkchurch.org  
Cecilia Grayson . . . . .

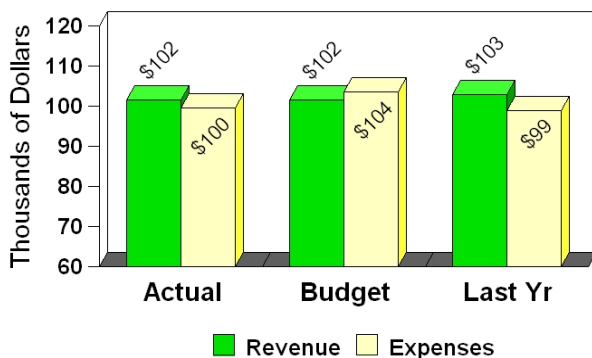
*Articles and information for the newsletter can be e-mailed to these addresses.*

### Welcome (back) New Member . . .

Dick Waters  
Dallas, TX 75230

### Operating Fund

6 Months Through Dec 31, 2013



### Treasurer's Report

for the Six months ending 12/31/13

- ⇒ Operating Fund income is on budget and \$1,000 less than last year. Expenses are \$4,000 below budget and \$1,000 above last year.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund income is \$1,700 above budget and expenditures are \$500 below budget.

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