



# St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road Dallas, TX 75228 214-321-6437



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## CHANGE THE GAME Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are

*without a bowl of soup to eat" is inspiring a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.*

This prayer, delivered by Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? Youth could collect donations at their schools and churches in soup pots, and then send every dollar DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

The senior high youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian liked the idea so much they decided to invite other area churches to join the team. Twenty-two Columbia churches participated that first year, reporting their results so a total could be determined, and then sending all \$5,700 they had raised to area non-profits.

That was 1990. Since then, ordinary young people have generated an extraordinary more than \$100 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. In addition, hundreds of thousands of youth have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.

St. Mark is pleased to be a part of this program. All money and food donated will be given to the White Rock Center of Hope. St. Mark children and youth will be collecting donations after the worship service **Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you all for your support over the years.

Leigh Taylor



## Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> 7:15 p.m.

We will observe the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday with worship, communion and the imposition of ashes.

"...for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."  
Genesis 3:19b

## Mini Work Day Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. — 12:00

## White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

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

### Food Needs

Jelly

### Other Needs

Small & Medium toothpastes, deodorant, toilet tissue, bar soap and razors

### Clothing Needs

All sizes of underwear, warm clothing



## Just a Reminder . . .

You are invited to a Women's Retreat  
Hosted by First Presbyterian Church, Garland

February 19-21, 2016  
Camp Gilmont in Gilmer, Texas

Theme for the retreat is "Forgiveness"  
Our speaker is the Reverend Nancy Willet.

Plan on a weekend filled with fun, fellowship, great camp food, relaxation and spiritual renewal.

Please see Kat in the church office for registration information.





Religious life in America has been profoundly influenced by what are generally deemed "awakenings" by

church historians. The first of two "Great Awakenings" occurred in the Colonies from about 1730 lasting about twenty years and the second occurred about one hundred years later in what was then called the Western frontier. These awakenings were marked with fervent preaching resulting in sometimes whole communities being baptized. Conversions to the Christian Faith were only part of the story. Once sinners were saved, they often asked, "what now?" The answer was usually an emphasis on mission. This was particularly true of the Second Great Awakening that is usually credited with the beginnings of the abolitionist movement. A third Great Awakening took place in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and answered the "now what?" question with what is called the Social Gospel, primarily grounded in Matthew 25:31-46.

I've regularly wondered what would happen if churches in America experienced a great awakening in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What would our churches look like? What would St. Mark Presbyterian Church look like? If the Holy Spirit moved in ways we didn't expect, how would we react to the change He brought? What if He made us uncomfortable instead of offering comfort ...for a change? Would the Holy Spirit move us into new ministry opportunities? What is ministry in the first place? I appreciate what Henri Nouen says:

*"Ministry means the ongoing attempt to put one's own search for God, with all the moments of pain and joy, despair and hope, at the disposal of those who want to join this search but do not know how."*

If I know anything about St. Mark Presbyterian Church, it's that we have plenty of experience in pain and joy, despair and hope. So actually, we've already been equipped to reach out to others in this search. All we need now is some directions on where to place our experience at God's disposal so we can join Him in what He is already doing. It's just that now, we may be led by the Holy Spirit into some new places that we've never considered. Our eyes get awakened in the process. It might not be comfortable, but it would be a great awakening.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

## Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

### February 7

"Which One Came First?"

Lamentations 3:19-24; Romans 9:14-18  
Celebration of The Lord's Supper

### February 10

Ash Wednesday Worship Service  
Imposition of Ashes  
7:15 p.m.



### February 14

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

"Waste Management"

Philippians 4:4-7; Psalm 51:1-12

### February 21

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

"Resurrection: Always a New Beginning"

Luke 6:26-37; 1 Corinthians 15:35-50

Rev. Dr. Ronnie Holloman

### February 28

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

"Broken Bonds"

Matthew 5:23-25; 2 Samuel 12:1-7, 13

### The Reverend Dr. Ronnie G. Holloman Guest Preacher - February 21, 2016



Ronnie Holloman is originally from Odessa, Texas. He and his wife Wanda have two children and four grandchildren.

Ronnie's educational background includes a BA in Mathematics from Texas Tech,

MDiv from Austin Seminary and DMin from McCormick Seminary.

He has been a pastor for 36 years in 5 different churches in Louisiana and Texas (two at the same time.) He served Athens and Haynesville, Louisiana from 1976-1979; Central PC in Stamford, Texas from 1979 to 1988; FPC in Garland, Texas from 1988 to 2001 and FPC in Mabank, Texas from 2001 - 2012. Ronnie joined the staff at Grace Presbytery in April 2012 as the Senior Director for Ministry and Church Transitions. He primarily works with congregations in pastoral changes and with transitions of churches.



### Our Sympathy to . . .

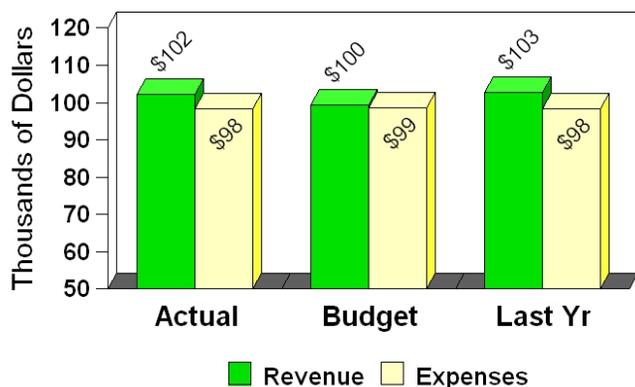
Jerri Shevlin upon the death of her son.

One Christmas wreath earring. Call the church office if this belongs to you.  
Thanks, Kat



## Operating Fund

6 Months Through Dec 31, 2015



### Treasurer's Report for the six months ending 12/31/2015

Operating Fund income was \$2,900 above budget and expenses were \$300 below budget.

Capital & Facilities Fund income was \$2,000 above budget and expenses were \$2,300 above budget, due to timing of the Austin Hall heating system upgrade.

Our Combined Fund Balance is up \$7,000 from the beginning of our fiscal year.

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

### God Bless You On Your Birthday

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



Easter Sunday comes early this year. It's March 27. That means Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on February 10.

I've got a suggestion for a Lenten discipline this year. How about becoming a bit like a child and growing in both grace and gratitude during Lent?

"Growing in Grace and Gratitude" is the curriculum we have been using with our children at St. Mark this year. But it has some features that could be useful for children of God of all ages during Lent.

A part of the curriculum is a free resource called "Grace Sightings." I post these every week on the bulletin board at church. But they are also available online in both E-book and PDF formats. Find them at: [growinggracegratitude.org/for-the-home.html](http://growinggracegratitude.org/for-the-home.html)

Each "Grace Sighting" has an adaptation of a story from the Gospel of Luke. Many of them will be familiar and favorites. You can read the adaptation and then read the "grown up" text from the Bible.

Every "Grace Sighting" has a batch of activities that you can do that may help you to recognize God's grace, respond to God's grace, and celebrate in gratitude. All of the activities are appropriate for children but I think many adults will find them meaningful as well. After all, I have read a couple of articles recently about how popular coloring books have become with adults these days. There are prayers and songs. There are art type activities. There are even activities that offer suggestions about how we might help other experience God's grace.

Here's to hoping that you find or create opportunities to have sightings of grace this year during Lent. And to hoping that gratitude is also a part of your life this season.

Let me know how it goes.  
Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education

#### Newsletter Staff:

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

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>

