



# St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437



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saintmarkchurch.org

July 2015

## Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, July 19, 2015

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> immediately following the worship service for the purpose of receiving reports from Session Committees, electing three members to serve on the 2015-2016 Nominating Committee, and to approve the Pastor's Terms of Call.

## New Elders and Trustee Installed

On Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> Karl Crawley, Lorraine Stephen and Joanne Szalay were installed as Ruling Elders for the Elders Class of 2018. Mike Parsley was installed as Trustee for the Class of 2018.

Dick Waters will be installed as Ruling Elder for the Class of 2018 at the Stated Session meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Family and friends are welcome to attend.



## St. Mark Blood Drive

Sunday, July 26<sup>th</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.

## Inquirers Class

Wednesday, July 8<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.

## Adult Vacation Bible School

August 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. 12:00 noon

See insert for more information.

## Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

### July 5

"Sloppy"

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Mark 6:1-13

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Rev. Paul Andresen



### July 12

"Like A Good Neighbor"

Galatians 5:13-14; Matthew 5:43-48

### July 19

"Above and Beyond"

Leviticus 19:17-18; Matthew 6:1-4

Congregational Meeting

### July 26

"Conscience Contact"

Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Matthew 6:5-6

Blood Drive

## God Bless You On Your Birthday

### July 5

Suzanne Presley

### July 12

Lacey Stephen Zuretti

### July 14

Alaina Higgins

### July 15

Willetta Jones

### July 17

Rusty Holloway

### July 18

Linda Youmans

### July 19

Allison Curry

### July 22

Jeanette Sanders

### July 31

Trevor Crawley



## Movie Night at St. Mark

"Woman in Gold"

Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.

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



On Feb. 15, 2015, a death cult (as our President has called it) — the Islamic State — released a video showing the beheadings of 21 men as they knelt, dressed in orange jump suits. These Egyptian Coptic Christians who worked in Libya had been kidnapped from Sirte, Libya. Following the video's release, the head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Pope Tawadros II, announced that the murdered Copts would be commemorated as martyred saints. However, only 20 names were announced.

Missing from the original list was Matthew Ayainga who was from Ghana. He had been missing since January 2015. A young, single man who had traveled north to Tripoli in search of construction work, Matthew didn't know any of the other captives before the kidnapping. None of Matthew's friends or family noted that he was a particularly dedicated Christian. But at his execution, he demonstrated that he was indeed part of the Christian Faith. He was asked by one of his captors the same question asked of all the other men that day: "Do you reject Christ?" After

witnessing his fellow captives praying, "Lord, Jesus Christ" before their beheadings, Matthew answered, "My God is their God."

What compelled Matthew to die as a Christian, rather than live as a convert to Islam as the captors demanded? I am confident that the immense faith of his fellow Christian captives led him to turn to Jesus in his final moments. The Coptic Christians modeled for Matthew the pastoral words of Paul in his letter to Timothy:

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. (2 Timothy 4:6-8, NRSV)

Paul's words can guide us all in reflecting on the Good News of Jesus, and I want to believe that those 20 men relied on it as their earthly lives were coming to a close. Matthew Ayainga certainly noticed their faith and acted accordingly. The Coptic Church took notice as well and added him to their list of Martyr Saints. May it be the witness of all Christians.  
*Blessings, Pastor Rick*

### Treasurer's Report

#### for the eleven months ending 5/31/2015

- ⇒ Operating Fund income is \$3,500 above budget and expenses are \$3,500 below budget.
- ⇒ Capital & Facilities Fund income is \$2,100 above budget and expenses are \$1,600 above budget.
- ⇒ Our Combined Fund Balance is up \$54,500 from the beginning of 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.*

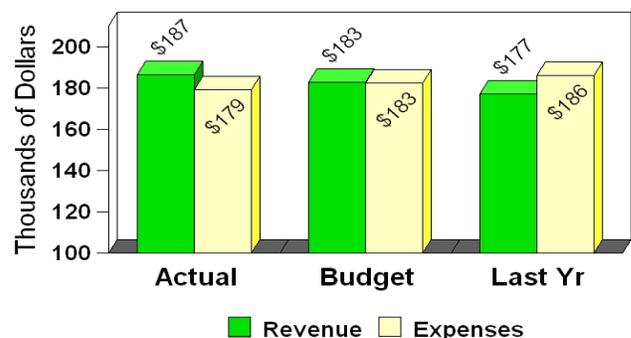
### Vacation Bible School & Pool Party Report

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped to make another successful VBS.

The annual pool party was on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at Town East Pool. There were around 40 members and friends who enjoyed the pool time. We look forward to next summer for another week of Vacation Bible School!

### Operating Fund

11 Months Through May 31, 2015



### Directory Update

Linda Youmans  
Cell: 214 \*\*\* \*\*\*\*

Alaina & William Higgins  
Dallas, TX 75216

(Contact the church office for full information)





I've got nothing original to say this month. I am writing less than 48 hours after the shooting at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. There are still lots of details we do not know yet. But it appears that the people were shot by someone they welcomed into their Bible study session that evening. It is a historic congregation so I imagine that it is not unusual for them to have visitors of all races and nationalities. I am thinking about the shooting. I have read some of the things that others have written in the last couple of days. But I've got nothing original to say.

As often happens in times like this the opening line of the PC(USA) The Brief Statement of Faith popped into my head:

**In life and death we belong to God**

So I went and read the whole Statement again. It's not that long. But I am going to share parts of it with you. These lines from the second section jumped out at me. I have bolded a handful of lines:

We trust in God,  
 whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
**In sovereign love God created the world good  
 and makes everyone equally in God's image  
 male and female, of every race and people,**  
 to live as one community.  
 But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
 Ignoring God's commandments,  
 we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
 accept lies as truth,  
 exploit neighbor and nature,  
 and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.  
**We deserve God's condemnation.**  
**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.**

And then I read these lines from the section on the Holy Spirit. I know I have quoted them several times before. Again I am going to bold a handful of lines:

**In a broken and fearful world  
 the Spirit gives us courage  
 to pray** without ceasing,  
**to witness** among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
**to unmask** idolatries in Church and culture,  
**to hear** the voices of peoples long silenced,  
 and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.  
**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!"

After I started working on this article I read some of the statements made to Dylann Roof by the family and friends of those killed. I hope you will take a chance to find and read some of them. What a powerful testimony they are to the fact that "In Life and death we belong to God."

*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.*



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

# Adult Vacation Bible School

## August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am - Noon



# FIRE

## The Pillar of Fire Fire at Pentecost

Monday at St. Mark:

### “We Didn’t Start the Fire”

Cynthia Logan, Associate Pastor Emeritus,  
First Presbyterian Church, Dallas

Tuesday at First Presbyterian Church, Garland:

### “Transformed by Fire”

Leah Wyckoff, Director of Grace  
Presbytery Resource Center



Wednesday at Eastminster: “Service in Crescent City”,

Alex Pappas, Former PCUSA Young Adult  
Volunteer, Youth Coordinator for Presbytery  
of South Louisiana, & Volunteer Program  
Manager Project for Homecoming New Orleans



Thursday at St. Andrews:

### “We Can’t Stop the Fire”

Cynthia Logan



Plus refreshments & other activities each day



Contact Randall McGee  
for more Information

## "I Am Third"

From Leonard Esler

Those words were over the entrance to the dining hall at Camp Ross Sterling, Jr. in Goose Creek (now Baytown), when I attended a five day Synod Youth Retreat in the summer of 1942. Many years prior, a young man had returned home from his first year in college, and had worked as a counselor at a church youth camp for the summer. Upon his return to college, he put those words on the door of his room in the dormitory. When asked what they meant by fellow students, he said "Come to my room the night before we leave for Christmas Holiday and I will explain."

The room was overflowing. Many students had noticed that this classmate had seemed more content, more at peace. He had changed somewhat. He told them, "These words are the last part of a phrase at the camp where I was counselor the past summer. If you notice a change in my demeanor it was caused by these words." He went on, "The entire phrase is "God is first—the other fellow second — and I am third."

## White Rock Center of Hope

Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

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



### Urgent Food Needs

**Canned Tomato Products — totally out**

### Boxed Shelf Items

Hamburger Helper, Suddenly Salad, Potatoes, etc.

### Personal Hygiene Items

Toilet Paper, Small & Medium Toothpaste, Deodorant, Diapers sizes 4, 5, & 6, Feminine Hygiene products

### The Church Pantry Needs . . .



Peanut Butter & Jelly, Canned corn, beans & fruit (pull-tops only), Peanut Butter crackers & regular size water bottles



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**Non-Profit Organization**