



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437



Volume 61, Issue 6

saintmarkchurch.org

June 2014

"Wilderness Escape - Where God Guides and Provides"

Vacation Bible School

June 23 - 26, 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

We step back in time wandering with Moses in the desert, experiencing what the Israelites faced. Kids and adults will participate in memorable Bible-times practices, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into Bible-times snacks, visit Moses, and make fun crafts to remind them of God's Word. Each day begins and concludes at Celebration - a time of upbeat worship that gets everyone involved.

Kids and adults at Wilderness Escape VBS will collect canned and boxed food items to be donated to White Rock Center of Hope.

Bring your kids, grandkids, and neighbor kids to VBS! There will be lots of fun, feasting, and friendship!

For more information, call the church office, 214-321-6437
or email Marilyn Jackson



Movie Night

Saturday, June 21st @ 7:00 p.m.

"Still Mine"

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

Sandwich Sunday - June 29th

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.

(See page 5 for more information about the Austin Street Center.)

**Newsletter Deadline
is June 15th**



St. Mark Annual Swim Party

Sunday, June 29th - 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Town East Pool

We have exclusive use of the pool on this evening. Bring lawn chairs, snacks & drinks in non-glass containers and enjoy swimming and/or visiting in the shade. Only U. S. Coast Guard approved flotation devices are allowed. The pool is located at 2525 John Glen Pkwy off Town East Blvd. between Hwy 80 and Gus Thomason, behind McDonald Middle School.

Inquirer's Class

Wednesday, June 4th - 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.



The Apostle Paul made lists. They might be filled with uplifting content, like that in Romans 8:35-39 or they

might, as in Romans 1:29-32, throw everyone under the bus with an inventory of sins. Among Paul's many lists is one that has guided me with its advice, helping me to keep life's priorities in perspective. It can be found in Romans 12:12: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." It's a short list, but certainly one with much power. One of my favorite living theologians, R. C. Sproul, claims Romans 12:12 as his "life verse." Whether you label it a list or a verse, it stands as sage direction..

What other written words also inspire and support prayer? The Psalms, soaked in prayer, come to mind. What about meaningful prayers from other Christian sources? The famous "Serenity Prayer" by American Lutheran theologian, Reihhold Niebhur, is one of my favorites. Here's another that conveys both inspiration and aspiration.

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is error, truth;
Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

No doubt you've read or heard this wonderful prayer before. Frequently called "The Prayer of Saint Francis," it's been set to music for use in worship services. It's been read responsorially during memorial services. You may have possibly prayed it during private devotional time.

You might be surprised to learn that this prayer was not written by St. Francis. I don't think it matters very much that an anonymous French writer composed this prayer 100 years ago. It beautifully directs us in following the Gospel of Jesus Christ more closely. In its own way, this prayer is much like one of Paul's lists. It encourages us to pause, pray, and consider who we are and what we have been created to do.

Blessings, *Pastor Rick*

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

June 1

"Environmental Impact"
Philippians 3:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Celebration of the Lord's Supper



June 8

"Preaching Under The Influence"
1 Corinthians 12:3-13; Acts 2:14-21
Pentecost Sunday
Rev. Dr. Ron Scates

June 15

"Of Pig Food and Parties"
Psalm 1; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Rev. Dr. Randall McGee

June 22

"Wasting Easter"
Acts 2:22-24; 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

June 29

"Tenses"
1 John 4:17-19; Acts 1:6-11



Received in Baptism . . .

Harley Larson

Our Sympathy to . . .

The family of Yvonne (Bonnie) Curry upon her death May 5, 2014. A Committal Service was held for the immediate family.



Cleaning Out Your Closets or Garage?

St. Mark will have it's annual Rummage Sale this Fall so be sure and save your treasures for the sale. We do have space in the container behind the Family Center for any large items you might want to donate ahead of time.

Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilger office@saintmarkchurch.org
Cecilia Grayson

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

May God Bless You On Your Birthday

June 1 Harriett Anderson	June 16 Earlyne Chesser
June 3 Jacob Price Margie Sivess	June 17 Natasha Waldrop
June 4 Danny Robinson	June 24 Richard Robinson
June 7 Steve Duncan	June 25 Ruth McGowan
June 9 Eric Arthur Tim Guinnee	June 29 Gabe Cantu Dee Robinson
June 14 Marian Hanna Victoria McCaslin	



White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, June 8th

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

Food Needs

Jelly, All Varieties of Canned Vegetables, Canned Meats (chili, beef stew, etc).

Personal Hygiene Items

Toothpaste, Deodorant, all sizes of Diapers

Linen Needs

King, Queen & Full sheet sets, Towels & Washcloths

Clothing Needs

Men, Women, Boys and Girls socks, underwear, pajamas and shoes in all sizes

Spanish Camp at St. Mark

Spanish Camp starts in few days and we hope you can help with some craft supplies. Do you happen to have any of these items lying around not being used?

Large cereal boxes

Cardboard milk or orange juice cartons

Scrap book paper

Fabric, Ribbon

The kids will learn about food, home, school, city, family, our body and clothes. Some of the activities and crafts will include a scavenger hunt and creating a family tree. Each day's theme will include a song, an activity, and a craft. Nikki will use games, puzzles, flash cards, and labels around the classroom, among other teaching tools.

The cost for each week of camp is \$150. The Spanish Camp dates are the weeks of June 2, June 16, June 30, and July 7. The camps will be Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Please visit the website, thespanishcampofdallas.com to register for camp, or contact Nikki if you have questions.

Directory Update

Flo Philips
Garland, TX 75043

Welcome New Member . . .

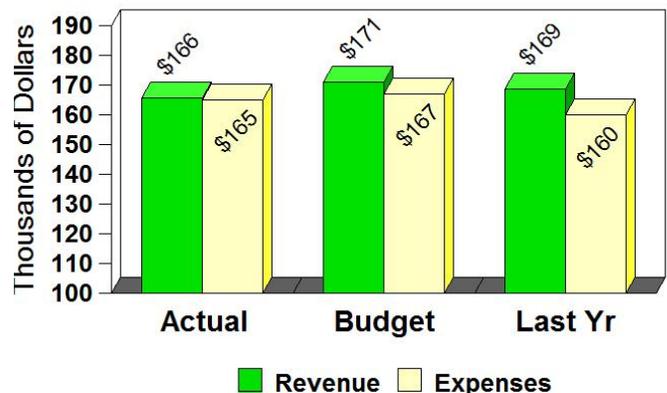
Harley Larson
Dallas, TX 75228

Treasurer's Report for the ten months ending 04/30/2014

- ⇒ Operating Fund + Mission Fund income is \$5,000 below budget. Expenses are \$2,000 below budget.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund income is \$2,100 better than budget and expenses are \$700 below budget.
- ⇒ Our Current Fund Balance (all funds combined) is \$12,000 higher than the beginning of the fiscal year, and \$16,000 above the same month last year.

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

Operating & Mission Funds 10 Months Through Apr 30, 2014



STILL WATER AND LIVING WATER
2014 East Dallas Cluster Adult VBS
August 4-7th

Something exciting is returning to the East Dallas Presbyterian Cluster. The first week of August will be time for the second annual Cluster Vacation Bible School for adults. Yes it is a VBS for Adults. Starting in 2010 St. Mark had an Adult VBS for three summers. Then last year it became a very successful Cluster event.

We will have a chance to gather with old and new friends from across the Cluster as we meet at a different host congregation each of the four days.

Every morning August 4-7th from 9am to Noon a group of adults will gather to do all the traditional VBS activities. But for those four days most of the adults won't be gathering as teachers or leaders but as participants. We will sing and pray. We will have refreshments. There will be special presentations on the theme of **Still Water and Living Water**. Psalm 23 is the source of our "still water." The story of the "Woman at the Well" in the Gospel of John will provide us with "living water." Of course there will be other special activities each day.

Here are the daily locations and theme leaders for each day:

Monday August 4:

Host: St. Mark

Theme Presentation: *Still Water*

Presenter: Phyllis Danhof Speck, Presbyterian Minister and longtime friend of many in the Cluster.

Tuesday August 5:

Host: FPC Garland

Theme Presentation: *Water and Restoration: A Hands-on Experience.*

Presenter: Leah Wyckoff, Director of Grace Presbytery Resource Center

Wednesday August 6

Host: Eastminster

Theme Presentation: *Getting Wet: Me, You, and Mission*

Presenter: Jane Els, Author and Speaker with a Longtime Commitment to Mission

Thursday August 8

Host: St. Andrews

Theme Presentation: *Living Water*

Presenter: Phyllis Danhof Speck

Save the dates and watch for more information.

Have Any Craft Ideas?

The Women of St. Mark have voted to add a craft corner to the upcoming Rummage Sale. We need glass jars (with lids) and plain glass flower vases at least 3" in diameter and about 6" or more in height to hold spring bulbs. If you are interested in helping with crafts please contact Jerri Shevlin.

Pictorial Directories

The new Pictorial Directories have arrived. You will receive a directory if you were photographed. Please see Marilyn Jackson or contact the church office to pick up your directory.



The Million Penny Fund

A goal of 1,000,000 pennies was set and to date we have received 677,270. All donations benefit the Camps and Conferences Fund and the Landscape Fund. A jar for the pennies is located on Pat's desk. Or, you can put your pennies (or any change) in a bag marked Penny Fund in the offering plate on Sundays.



Father's Day

June 15th



Randall's Pen



The season is shifting. Spring is passing and summer is now upon us. For many of us the change of seasons will mean a change in our activities. Some of us who cannot deal with the heat may hide out in the air conditioning until Labor Day. Some of us will become more active because we may have a bit more time. Some of us will travel. Some will dream of travel. Many of us will be involved in our Vacation Bible Schools.

But it is worth remembering as we move into summer that in every season our life has a purpose. I was rummaging through some old articles the other day and found a bit I had written about Presbyterian thoughts about the purpose of life. It is based on the 1998 Presbyterian Study Catechism.

It probably won't surprise you that the very first question of one of that catechism is:

"What is God's purpose for your life?"

The answer is:

God wills that I should live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the love of God, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

If the answer sounds a bit familiar it is because it is the form of a benediction or a blessing. You have

heard these words at the end of worship services. That question is then followed by a couple of others that explore the first question and answer a bit.

How do you live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.

How do you live for the love of God?

I love because God first loved me. God loves me in Christ with a love that never ends. Amazed by grace, I no longer live for myself. I live for the Lord who died and rose again, triumphant over death, for my sake. Therefore, I take those around me to heart; especially those in particular need, knowing that Christ died for them no less than for me.

Is there anything here that you find helpful as you consider God's purpose for you this summer and beyond?

How might you answer the questions?

What does it mean trust yourself completely to Christ's care?

What could it mean for you to live for the Lord and to take those around you to heart?

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education

MOMENT FOR MISSION — THE AUSTIN STREET CENTER

In addition to the preparing and serving sandwiches every month with a 5th Sunday (see page 1), Austin Street Center is one of the ministries that St. Mark supports financially in our Mission and Outreach budget.

Austin Street Center was established in 1983. Over the past 31 years it has developed into a "whole person" therapeutic homeless community, evolving from a basic overnight emergency shelter facility to a full "Care Campus" that includes a transitional living facility for those needing help dealing with employment, substance abuse, and psychological counseling issues. Since its inception, Austin Street has provided shelter for an average of 400 men, women, and children each night at no cost to the individual.

Volunteers from 120 Dallas-area churches and civic organizations - including St. Mark - support the Center. Dee Robinson has been our "Sandwich Lady" since 2005. Since then, Dee and others have fed over 13,000 folks.

The involvement and devotion of these individuals and groups serves as an important metric of Austin Street's success. It is important to realize that our involvement here at St. Mark has meaningful impact on the lives of many. It is also important to know that Austin Street accepts no government or United Way funding, which results in no cost to Dallas taxpayers.

Yoga Classes

Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. and Sundays at 12:00

Talking about "The End"

"Did you like the end of that movie?" "I can't believe how that book ended." We have all talked about the end of something, but we tend to NOT talk about one important end - the end of our lives on earth. We just stay away from that subject, but we shouldn't. Preparing for the end of our lives is one of the most important things we can do.

We all know that the end is coming, hopefully not too soon for us to prepare. We also know the importance of having a will to designate how our estate will be divided among those we love. However, have you considered the importance of also including the church in your will - the church home where you have grown in faith and fellowship over the years with your family of believers? Where you were married? Where you were baptized or where your children were baptized and, in some families, your grandchildren and great grandchildren? Where your friends were always there to provide love and support and share your joys as well as sorrows? We want the church to be here for our children and our children's children.

June 22nd is Wills Emphasis Sunday at St. Mark. Stephanie Marsden from Texas Presbyterian Foundation will speak to us about just that subject. If you have not already provided for St. Mark in your will, please prayerfully consider doing so. You will have the opportunity to add a codicil to your will at no cost to you by coming to the church June 28 where a representative from Texas Presbyterian Foundation will assist you in completing the codicil and notarize the document. A codicil - a supplement or appendix to a will - is legally binding in most states, including Texas.

Through our final bequests, the church can continue to spread the Good News and provide a church home for those growing in faith and seeking fellowship among God's children. We know that no one really enjoys that talk, but it is something we all should think about - Codicils to wills, what you will need, and the experts who can help. Please start thinking about it now - it really is not too soon.



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Non-Profit Organization