



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437



Volume 62, Issue 3

saintmarkchurch.org

March 2015

Schedule of Worship for Holy Week

Palm Sunday — March 29th

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Maundy Thursday - April 2nd

Communion Service at 7:15 p.m.

Good Friday - April 3rd

Service at 7:15 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 5th

*9:15 a.m. Breakfast in the parlor

No Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Renew Your
Faith
This Easter

*The Fellowship Committee welcomes you and your guest to a Continental Breakfast on Easter Morning, from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in the parlor

Holy Week at St. Mark

Please join us in the observance of Holy Week at St. Mark. This journey begins on **Sunday, March 29th** with our **Palm Sunday service at 10:30 a.m.** On this day we join the crowds of Jerusalem crying out "Hosanna", which can be roughly translated "save us." Along with the message from Rick, there will be a procession of the palms by the children and music from the Sanctuary Choir with instrumental accompaniment.

On **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at 7:15 p.m.**, you are invited to meet with us as we share in the Last Supper. The Handbell and Sanctuary Choirs will provide the music. On this night we are reminded of Jesus serving his disciples. Likewise, we should reflect on how we, too, are called to serve. On Maundy Thursday we 'hear' the mandate to love one another as Christ Jesus loves us. The word *Maundy* comes from the Latin *mandatum* that can be translated *mandate*.

At our **Good Friday (Tenebrae) Service, April 3rd at 7:15 p.m.**, we will 'meet' various disciples and acquaintances of Jesus and listen to selections by the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs and vocal, cello and flute soloists. On Good Friday we 'hear' the lament of Jesus as he is crucified and we are drawn to that lament. There are no scheduled services on Holy Saturday, April 4th. This day, however, is a day that we remember the loss, confusion, and grief of Jesus' disciples as they grieve the death of our master, Jesus.

Souper Bowl of Caring Results

Thanks to the generosity of the St. Mark congregation, the White Rock Center of Hope received \$402 in cash donations and 171 food and pantry items. Thanks to all who contributed!

St. Mark Blood Drive Results

We had 19 participants and 16 pints of blood received. Thanks to all who gave, tried to give and supported the givers.

Sue Duncan



Holy Week - Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday - is often the only time when we consider what Jesus said from the Cross. It's not as if Christ's words don't matter. Of course they do. What Jesus said as he was physically dying obviously made an impact on Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in their Gospels. Centuries later, those words were so meaningful that composer Joseph Haydn was commissioned to write an orchestral work titled "The Seven Last Words of Our Savior on The Cross" for a Good Friday worship service. (The work was so well received that an oratorio was added for vocal soloists and choir.)

From the sayings of Jesus during the Crucifixion, we can find these theological themes: forgiveness, salvation, compassion/relationship, anguish/abandonment, suffering/distress, victory/triumph, and contentment/reunion. You can locate these themes in the Gospels:

1. Luke 23:34: Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.
2. Luke 23:43: Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.
3. John 19:26-27: Woman, behold your son. Son Behold your mother.
4. Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34: My God, My God, have you forsaken me?
5. John 19:28: I thirst.
6. John 19:29-30: It is finished.
7. Luke 23:46: Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

The sermons I am preparing during Lent will examine each of these themes. I pray that we can listen closely to the words of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. I propose that we meditate on them. Memorize them. Learn from them. Then live into them until they bind us closer to God and each other. Amen and amen.

Blessings, Pastor Rick



The Church Pantry Urgently Needs . . .

Peanut Butter Crackers & Canned Fruit

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

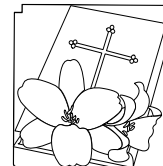
March 1

"Case Closed"

Isaiah 53:7-12; Luke 23:35-43

2nd Sunday in Lent

Celebration of The Lord's Supper



March 8

"Take Care"

Zechariah 12:10; John 19:23-27

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 15

"Beyond Pain"

Isaiah 50:4-6; Matthew 27:39-46

4th Sunday in Lent

March 22

"Beyond Parched"

Psalm 69:19-21; John 19:28

5th Sunday in Lent

March 29

"The Beginning of the End"

John 19:29-30; John 12:12-16

Palm Sunday

Sandwich Sunday

Inquirers Class

Wednesday, March 11th - 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.

Thank You

Dear Women of St. Mark,

Donna Simes and Jacie Minick caught me off guard the day they delivered the large gift bag filled with items which I seem to use almost every day. Thank you so much for your continued thoughtfulness.

Vickie Lall

God Bless You On Your Birthday

March 5
Jacie Minick
March 8
Jacob Curry
Shea Curry
March 16
Phyllis Speck



March 19
Pauline Millender
March 25
Sabrina King
March 31
Bunty Taylor

The Holy Spirit in Hindsight Part 1, Jeff Taylor

I was born in a small New England town in upstate New York. Our house was right across the street from a Presbyterian church. My grandfather was the minister. I have many wonderful memories of my early childhood in that town and church. Looking back, I have no doubt that it was here I developed my love of nature and of an extended family's love. It was also my first memory of a sense of belonging to God.

Now to flash forward through myriad stupid decisions and typical adolescent stunts including pyrotechnics, explosives, underground forts, three-story forts, literally skating on thin ice playing hockey on lakes in New Jersey and experiments with several chemistry sets, I have no doubt I kept God busy. I figure he went ahead and gave me my own guardian angel. Then for some unknown reason God decided the Taylors would move to Texas. I will have to say that other than my dad we weren't entirely sure that we weren't being punished. We came to our new house in the middle of the night in the middle of July. We woke up the next morning to temperatures in the upper 90's. I opened the front door and was immediately hit with oppressive heat and the sound of some obnoxious large chirping insects. I thought I had died and gone to Hell, but I know now God had a plan.

New Jersey, as it turned out, was a rough place to be a teen and young adult. Several of my friends and cousins had started drinking early and experimenting with drugs. A few of my friends never made it to adulthood. God sent us to Texas where he opened me up for a whole new world of experiences and relationships that would continue to be a blessing in my life.

.... Part 2: Adulthood, Marriage, Children, and 40 years at St. Mark - Faith Tested and Nurtured.

Newsletter Deadline is March 15th

Get to Know Your Church Family Luncheon

Sunday, March 22nd following worship



The Membership/Evangelism Committee along with the Fellowship Committee are preparing lasagna & salad. Enjoy getting to know more about your church family. We will use some icebreakers to learn new or little known facts about folks. There may be things you learn about people you have known for years or those you are just meeting. ?

Mark your calendar for
Lasagna & Salad on Sunday, March 22nd



There will be no Movie Night in March.

Would you be interested in being a Greeter?

A greeter is positioned near the entrances to the sanctuary. You welcome members and visitors as they enter the sanctuary. Welcome badges have been purchased and are kept on the table behind the usher chairs at the rear of the church. Please contact Marilyn Jackson if you are interested or have any questions.

Directory Update

Ben & Jennifer Blair
Dallas, TX 75254

Earlyene Chesser
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Randi Richards
New cell phone

Cathie Mackle—new room #

Jim Middleton
Dallas, TX 75218

Complete contact information is available from the church office.

Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilger office@saintmarkchurch.org
Cecilia Grayson

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



Randall's Pen



I started working on this article before Ash Wednesday. By the time you read this all those crosses marked with ashes have long disappeared. We are now at least a couple of weeks into Lent.

I began out this Lenten season thinking about death. No, it was not the death of Jesus on the cross that grabbed my attention.

The mother of one of my friends died just before the season started. A couple of other friends have been spending time at the bedsides of their mothers as they live out their final days. All three of these women died or will die after well lived lives and surrounded by people who love and care for them.

Yes I have reached that season in my life where my friends' parents are dying. They are dying expected deaths. These are not what we might sometimes refer to as tragic deaths when people die "too young" from illness or accident. But it is still the death of a loved one. There is still loss for my friends. They

may give thanks that the suffering of their mothers has ended but they still grieve.

So I have been thinking about death as we move deeper into Lent. Lent is that season of preparation where we get ready to celebrate Easter. We often prepare by embracing a variety of spiritual disciplines from fasting to seeking out opportunities to do acts of kindness.

But . . .

Even as we are in a time of preparation we don't forget or ignore the Good News. There is a time even in the midst of Lent to remember and celebrate the resurrection. Even as my friends grieve the death of their mothers they don't grieve without hope. They and their mothers are beloved children of God.

They are all good Presbyterian folks. In our language they know that **"In life and death we belong to God."**

Amen and thanks be to God!!!

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education

The Big Fix for Big D

From now until March 31st, the **Big Fix for Big D** initiative is including ALL City of Dallas residents. Free spay/neuter surgeries for pets and free-roaming cats (caught in humane traps, available to borrow at Dallas Animal Services) are included. If you, your Dallas resident friends and neighbors already have your pets fixed, please consider humanely trapping wild/feral cats in your area. It's what's known as T-N-R, trap-neuter-return (to the exact location they were trapped in—very important! Relocating stray cats doesn't work and is a very cruel thing to do. 80 plus % won't survive!)

For more info:

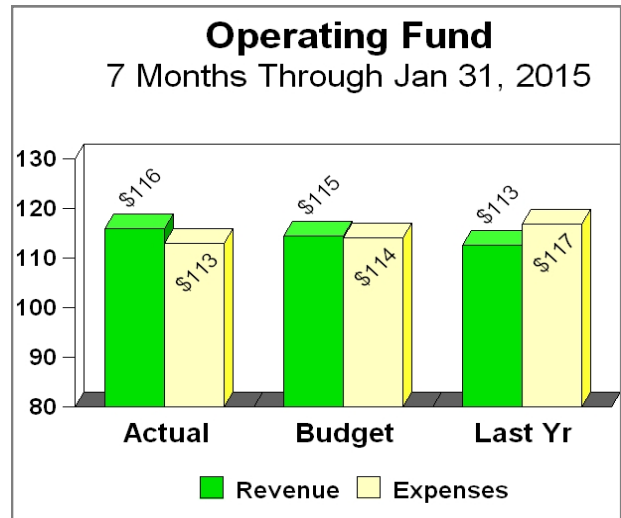
www.bigfixforbigd.com

To make appt.: 214-324-4349



Prayer Chain

The St. Mark Prayer Chain list is being updated and we need your help. Please contact Marilyn Jackson if you are interested in being part of the Prayer Chain and how you would like to be contacted, by phone or email. All you have to do is be willing to pray for those in need. Martha Gracey and Sue Duncan will be the contacts for prayer requests.



Treasurer's Report

for the seven months ending 1/31/2015

- ⇒ Operating Fund income is \$1,400 above budget and expenses are \$1,100 below budget.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund income is on budget and expenses are \$1,200 below budget.
- ⇒ Our Current Fund Balance (all funds combined) is up \$6,100 from the beginning of the fiscal year.

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



St. Mark Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday April 4th
9:30 am - 11:00 am

It's Easter Bunny time and St. Mark is having an Easter egg hunt. Come on over, bring your kids, grandkids, friends and a basket to gather some eggs. There is a surprise in each one. Enjoy some snacks and crafts.

Infants thru 3 year olds: Little playground
 4 year olds thru 2nd graders: Big playground
 3rd graders thru 5th graders: Grassy area near playgrounds

Any contributions of plastic eggs filled with candy or small toys/trinkets will be greatly appreciated. Please bring them to the church office or place them on top of the washer or dryer across from the parlor.

Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins
Sunday, March 8th



Sandwich Sunday
March 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.

White Rock Center of Hope
Sunday, March 8th

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



Food & Pantry Needs

Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Tomato Products, Canned Corn & Green Beans, Jelly, Hamburger Helper, Suddenly Salad, Potatoes, etc.

Personal Hygiene Items

Adult toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant, all sizes of Diapers & Feminine Hygiene products



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 Non-Profit Organization