



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437



Volume 61, Issue 5

saintmarkchurch.org

May 2014

Women of St. Mark

Thursday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Please bring a finger food for 6 people.

We will be discussing and seeing examples of "crafts" we may be interested in making for the Rummage Sale in the fall. Jerri Shevlin encourages you to bring your ideas and a sample of your crafts.



Also, what would you do to keep you and your family safe in a disaster? Information concerning disaster safety will be available that evening.

Call Donna Simes for more information.

Spanish Camp at St. Mark

Nikki Guinee will lead week-long classes for children ages 3 and older. The children will utilize the stations in the Children's Sunday School room to aid in teaching everyday Spanish. Included are daily arts and crafts, snacks, and playtime to help teach the children.

The kids will learn about food (comida), home (casa), school (escuela), city (ciudad), family (familia), our body (nuestro cuerpo), and clothes (ropa). 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 contact Nikki to register for camp or if you have any questions.

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.

Special Easter Offering Update

The Session set a goal of \$5,000 for this year's Special Easter Offering, and as of April 27th we are within \$100 of reaching the goal!

If you have been meaning to contribute to this special offering, but haven't yet, we will still be accepting contributions through May 4th.

Thank you to all who have contributed so generously.

Congratulations Graduate!



Trevor Crawley will graduate May 25th from John Paul II High School. He has been accepted to University of Texas at Dallas in the Software Engineering Program.

At JP II, Trevor is a member of Tri-M Music Honor Society. He is in the Marching Band that won Second Place at State Competition, in the band's first year to compete. He is also a member of the Symphonic Band.

Trevor tutors and helps underclass members at the school computer center and he has developed game applications in Advanced Placement Software and Graphic classes.

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.



The recent sermon series that I preached on the Lord's Prayer was inspired by visitors to St. Mark who ask why we

pray what we do during worship. Likewise, the Apostles' Creed - particularly the "holy catholic church" affirmation - generates its own set of questions. So I've begun a new series that will look more closely at the Affirmation of Faith that we use most often, the Apostles' Creed. My objective is to address questions of our visitors but our own questions as well as yours, starting with this one from "The Study Catechism: Full Version" of the Presbyterian Church (USA):

Question 5 - What does a Christian believe?

Answer - All that is promised in the gospel. A summary is found in the Apostles' Creed.

Scripture reference - But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31 (NRSV)

Did you catch that answer about what Christians believe? "All that is promised in the gospel." The creed obviously contains important information.

Unfortunately, we are oblivious to the significance of the words we routinely recite.

I remember visiting with a seminary student from Hungary who had grown up under the boot of a Communist government. For him and others in his home country, openly declaring their Christian faith meant that they could have been punished and persecuted. Public displays of Christianity, even in a house of worship, were considered acts of defiance against the official atheism of the state. So when, as an adult, he attended worship services in America, he expressed dismay at how the Apostles' Creed was recited - with half-hearted mumbles and little or no thought to its significance. He had come from a country where worshippers loudly proclaimed the Creed, purposely pausing between each phrase of affirmation. I believe! Indeed.

How do we move beyond our disconnected declaration of what we believe to enthusiastically living out the promise in the Good News of Jesus Christ? I hope that as we learn more about the Apostle's Creed that we can take this ancient, holy tradition that is part of our inheritance as Christians, and make it something that we value for its essential relevance in our daily living. After all, the Apostles' Creed holds "All that is promised in the gospel."

Blessings, *Pastor Rick*

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

May 4

"Where Do You Look For The Risen Christ?"
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Luke 24:13-35
Celebration of The Lord's Supper
Rev. Dr. Chuck Traylor

May 11

"Now I'm a Believer"
Isaiah 46:9-11; Acts 4:23-31



May 18

"Well Whaddaya Know"
Colossians 1:15-20; John 8:19-24

May 25

"Just a Slob Like One of Us"
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 1:31-35



Congratulations to . . .

Susan and Matt Heye upon the birth of their daughter, Ashlyn Mae, on April 12, 2014 in Bellevue, Washington. The proud and delighted grandmother is Linda Marshall.

Mother's Day

May 11th



Newsletter Deadline is May 15th

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

May 1 Edna Woods	May 14 Frank Roberson
May 2 Mike Parsley	Harry Roberts
May 8 Kathy Moore	May 19 Brian Arthur
May 10 Tricia Johnson	May 22 Travis Moore
May 11 Martha Gracey	May 24 Megan Knapp
May 12 Drew Taylor	May 27 Dick Brooks
	May 31 Claire Dawley Yvonne Pierce



White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, May 11th



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

Food Needs

Tuna/Salmon, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Corn and Green Beans, 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

Treasurer's Report

for the nine months ending 03/31/2014

- ⇒ Operating Fund + Mission Fund income is \$2,000 below budget. Expenses are \$1,000 below budget.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund income is \$2,300 better than budget and expenditures are \$200 below budget.
- ⇒ Our Current Fund Balance (all funds combined) is \$8,100 higher than the beginning of the year and \$9,500 above the same month last year.
- ⇒ Our Parking Lot Loan from Grace Presbytery, which started at \$30,000 is now down to \$7,700 and will be paid in full next May.

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

Thank You

Our deepest appreciation and thanks for the kindness and assistance provided for the celebration of my Mother's promotion to glory. The cards, flowers, food, technical assistance, babysitting and especially the hugs and prayers made the Memorial Service a moving experience for her family. It was also a joyful experience for my Mother to know the extent of the care and love of her St. Mark family.

We love you all,

Doug Duncan' and Family

To my loving St. Mark family,

Thanks you for the calls, cards and food provided following the death of my sister.

Pauline Millender

Thanks to everyone for the calls, cards, prayers and visits during my recent leg surgery. All is well now.

St. Mark is an awesome congregation.

Don McGowan

Directory Update

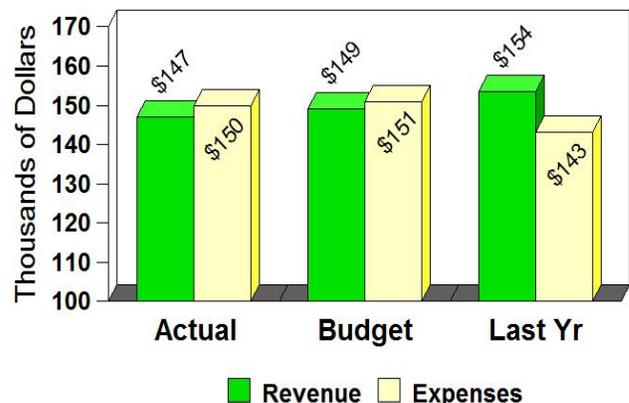
Earlyne Chesser
Irving, TX 75061

Flo Philips
Garland, TX 75043

Natasha Waldrop
Rowlett, TX 75088

(Complete address information is not included in the online newsletter. Please contact the church office.)

Operating & Mission Funds 9 Months Through Mar 31, 2014





Randall's Pen



Did you know that the Christian Education Committee has been "Splashing" around at St. Mark? No, we haven't been having water balloon fights at our meetings. Every month we have been sending something called "Splash" to all the parents of children younger than 3 years old. It is a resource designed to help parents of these very young children as they take on the task of beginning to nurture them in the faith.

"Splash" is a series of 36 monthly four page newsletters along with three annual music CDs. Each month's newsletter is keyed to the age of the child. There a story from the Bible in each newsletter. There is a brief front page article. And there are a handful of short and simple helpful hints each month on a variety of topics.

For example here is part of the item titled "Praying for Your Baby" from the very first newsletter sent out following the birth of the baby:

What a miraculous event the birth of a baby is! Seeing each little finger and toe causes one to pause in wonder at God's creative genius. Along with awe, this little baby may generate in you feelings of overwhelming responsibility. God invites you to share these feelings and concerns through prayer. Throughout the day watch for opportunities to praise God for first smiles, to seek patience during sleepless nights. As you begin caring for this little one take time to pray. Every day you have the privilege of asking God to bless you and your baby.

I'll be posting some samples from "Splash" on my bulletin board at church. Make sure you stop by and check them out.

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education



The Million Penny Fund

A goal of 1,000,000 pennies was set and to date we have received 675,820. 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.

Wilderness Escape Vacation Bible School

June 23 - 26, 6pm - 7:45pm

"Wilderness Escape: Where God Guides and Provides" will be hosted at St. Mark from **June 23 - June 26**. We step back in time wandering with Moses in the desert, experiencing what the Israelites faced. Kids and adults 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.

Spring Church Beautification Day

Thanks to your dedication, there were many tasks that were accomplished.

There was general clean-up in the Prayer Garden & patio areas, trimming of trees & shrubs, trash pick-up all around the church property, and general clean-up in the Sanctuary & parlor. Exit lights in Family Center & main Church facility were repaired. The door knob on the closet in Pat's office was replaced. Cabinets and shelves were cleaned in the Children's Sunday School classroom in Princeton, plus toys and other items were thinned out, many being donated to White Rock Center of Hope or the annual Rummage Sale.

Please notice our new doors across the front of the building, especially the parlor door.

Thanks again to about 20 volunteers who helped with the tasks! You made our church beautiful for our Easter week activities and services.



Movie Night

Saturday, May 17th @ 7:00 p.m.

"The Book Thief"

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

del Norte Presbytery in Guatemala

St. Mark is one of nine Presbyterian churches in the East Dallas County Cluster of Churches (EDCCC). In 1999, a delegation from the EDCCC met with the executive committee of del Norte Presbytery in Guatemala. The people of del Norte expressed the need for more pastors and for the continuing education of existing pastors. Education has been an emphasis in this mission. With the EDCCC, we at St. Mark Presbyterian partner with them to help supplement the education and salaries for pastors and lay workers who serve churches.

We have also provided financial assistance for the women of del Norte who operate an outreach program by providing meals for undernourished children and education for parents in the communities served.

This month, from May 9th through May 19th, a group of six men and two women from del Norte Presbytery will be in the East Dallas area. We at St. Mark will be assisting with lodging and meals, including hosting a breakfast for the group on May 14th. Bill Grayson will provide more information during the Moment for Mission this month.

Space is still available if you would like to participate in the Cluster Mission Retreat at Camp Gilmont on May 15th through May 17th. The cost for St. Mark representatives is \$0! Check last month's newsletter for more details, or contact Bill Grayson if you are interested in attending.



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Non-Profit Organization