



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437



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saintmarkchurch.org

May 2015



Hot Diggity Dog Day Saturday, May 23rd 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bring your dog(s) for a play date at St. Mark on May 23rd. While the doggies play, the pet parents can enjoy hot dogs and the fixins' on the lawn.

Pastor Rick will perform pet blessings for all types of pets at 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Prayer Garden.

Special Easter Offering Update

The final total of this year's Special Easter Offering was \$5,370, exceeding our goal and last year's total. Contributions will be forwarded to the PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing, our local ministry partners The White Rock Center of Hope, Presbyterian Village Caring Fund and Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Thank you to all who contributed so generously.



Congratulations Graduate!

Samantha Moore will graduate on June 6th from Bryan Adams High School. Samantha has been a member of the marching band at Bryan Adams all four years of high school, playing the clarinet and bass clarinet, and was a Squad leader her senior year. She competed at State Solo and Ensemble Contest her junior and senior years. Samantha took Advanced Placement classes her junior and senior years, and was a member of the Yearbook staff.

Samantha is planning to attend Sam Houston State University in the fall and study Photography.

She has attended St. Mark since birth, has been a member since 8th grade in 2010, and has been a faithful Acolyte since third grade.

Samantha is the daughter of Rebecca and Robbie Moore and Granddaughter of Martha Gracey.



Sandwich Sunday May 31st

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.

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a congregational meeting for May 17, 2015, following the morning worship service, for the purpose of electing 4 Elders and 1 Trustee to serve for three years beginning July 1, 2015.

Inquirers Class

Wednesday, May 13th - 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.

Our Sympathy to . . .

The family of Cathie Mackle. Cathie, a long time member of St. Mark died on April 10, 2015. Services for will be held at St. Mark on Saturday, May 16th at 2:00





One of the most helpful memorization techniques I use is to build an acrostic. For instance, during my personal prayer time I employ ACTS: Adoration, Confession/Contrition, Thanksgiving and Supplication. Another helpful acrostic comes from one of my favorite authors—Dallas Willard. He generally wrote about Christian formation, and has left a legacy of encouragement for followers of Jesus to, well, live more like Jesus. In his book "Renovation of the Heart" he introduces VIM—Vision, Intention and the Means of spiritual discipline. I'm sure that this acrostic resonated with me because of its harkening to my youth, when advertisements for vitamins and other supplements claimed to restore "vim" to someone suffering from lethargy. "Just take our product and turn back the hands of time!" the ads claimed. Willard's VIM cast a larger net than miracle cures: A Christian with **Vision** and **Intention** should

practice the **Means** of spiritual discipline to lead a truly blessed life.

Willard found encouragement in the longest teaching by Jesus in the Bible—the "Sermon on the Mount," found in chapters five through seven of Matthew's Gospel. To Willard, those passages define what we, as Christians, need to do to become the people God intends us to be. The spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, detachment from misusing of wealth, forgiveness, compassion, and other intentional actions provide a path to this end that pleases God.

As a philosophy professor at the University of Southern California from 1963 until his death in 2013, Willard was exposed to many worldviews. In his estimation, Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" expressed the finest way to know true and lasting peace. Beginning May 10, I will preach a series that explores a better way of living as taught by Jesus through the "Sermon on The Mount". Be courageous as we take this path, because Jesus sets lofty standards for his followers.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

May 3

"Ought"

1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Rev. Paul Andresen



May 10

"The Reverse Kingdom"

Psalms 1:1-6; Matthew 5:1-12

May 17

"The Contrast Kingdom"

Exodus 19:4-6; Matthew 5:13-16

May 24

"The Fire Kingdom"

Romans 8:22-27; John 16:1-15

Pentecost Sunday

May 31

"The Complete Kingdom"

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 5:17-20

Sandwich Sunday



**Newsletter Deadline
is May 15th**

**Movie Night at St. Mark
Saturday, May 16th @ 7:00 p.m.**

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



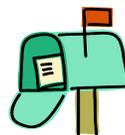
**Spring Beautification Day
Saturday, May 9th**

9:00 a.m.

Volunteers are needed to help in a general clean-up of the church property inside and outside the building.

Directory Update

Earlyne Chesser
Lake Ridge, VA 22192



Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilger office@saintmarkchurch.org
Cecilia Grayson

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

God Bless You On Your Birthday

May 1

Edna Woods

May 2

Mike Parsley

May 8

Kathy Moore

May 10

Tricia Johnson

May 11

Martha Gracey

May 12

Drew Taylor



May 14

Frank Roberson

Harry Roberts

May 19

Brian Arthur

May 22

Travis Moore

May 24

Megan Knapp

May 27

Dick Brooks

May 31

Yvonne Pierce

White Rock Center of Hope

Sunday, May 10th

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



Food Needs

Canned Meat Products:

Chili, Beef Stew, Spam, Chicken, etc.

Boxed Shelf Items

Hamburger Helper, Suddenly Salad, Potatoes, etc.

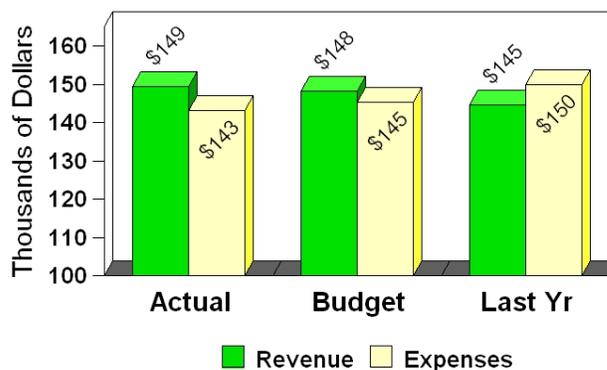
Personal Hygiene Items

Toilet Paper, Toothpaste, Deodorant,

Diapers sizes 4, 5, & 6 & Feminine Hygiene products

Operating Fund

9 Months Through Mar 31, 2015



Treasurer's Report

for the nine months ending 3/31/2015

- ⇒ Operating Fund income is \$1,200 above budget and expenses are \$2,000 below budget.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund income is \$500 below budget and expenses are \$1,500 above budget.
- ⇒ Our Combined Fund Balance is up \$9,200 from the beginning of 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.

Hometown Nazareth Vacation Bible School

June 22 - 25th, 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

"Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid" will be hosted at St. Mark from June 22 - June 25. We will transport kids back to Nazareth where they'll learn firsthand what it was like when Jesus was a kid. Kids and adults will experience what daily life was like in Nazareth, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into Bible-times snacks, 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.

Tribes will visit Mary, the mother of Jesus, at her house where she shares stories about Jesus when he was a kid. They will go to the Synagogue where the Rabbi will teach them about charity and collecting for the poor. The marketplace includes a Shepherd Shop, Olive Oil Shop, Farmers Field, and the Farmers Market where they will taste foods from Jesus' time.

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

Please bring your kids, grandkids, and neighbor kids, ages 3 years through 5th grade, to VBS! There will be lots of fun, feasting, and friendship!

Hometown Nazareth will run Monday - Thursday, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. each day. For more information, call the church office, 214-321-6437 or email Marilyn Jackson.



The Church Pantry Urgently Needs . . .

Vienna Sausage

Another collection of “Randall’s Odds and Ends”

* Later this month Joanne Szalay and I will be attending an introductory workshop on a new curriculum that has been developed by our denomination. I have not seen the material so I do not know if it will meet our needs at St. Mark. But I do love the title. It is called **Growing in Grace and Gratitude**. What do you think of that title? What do you think it means for God’s children of all ages to be growing in grace and gratitude? What are some things that you think we could do at St. Mark to help each other to be growing in grace and gratitude?

* Once again we will have Vacation Bible School for young children at St. Mark. For four evenings June 22-25 the Family Center will be transformed into the town of Nazareth where Jesus grew up. Our Christian Education team always does a great job with VBS. Watch for more details in the next few weeks. And be thinking about children you may know who might benefit from participating in VBS at St. Mark.

* Did you know it looks like we had a larger number of children involved in our Easter activities than we have had in several years? Isn’t that good news?

* We have information about the 2015 Summer Camp offerings at Gilmont. Do you know of a child who would like

to go? There are a number of scholarship resources available. We should be able to make sure that any child who wants or needs to go to camp will have the resources to do so.

* There will be an Adult Vacation Bible School again this year. The theme will be “Fire.” It will in the mornings on August 3-6 and will be sponsored by the East Dallas Cluster. St. Mark will host on Monday. Watch for more details early in the summer.

* I now serve on the Congregational Support Committee of Grace Presbytery. The CSC has a number of responsibilities. But one of the most important is that we administer the Presbytery’s “Mission Initiative Grants.” These grants provide congregations with up to \$3000 in seed money to start new ministries. Can you think of something **NEW** that St. Mark might be able to do if we had \$3000 to help us get started?

* Have you checked out the worship bags for children that we now have available every Sunday in the sanctuary?

* I have been changing the material on my “Odds and Ends” bulletin board on a regular basis. I hope you have been reading it and talking about some of the things I post.

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education



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Non-Profit Organization