



# St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

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saintmarkchurch.org

November 2014

## The Mission and Outreach Committee Invites You to a Free Dinner!

On Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm, the Mission and Outreach Committee will host a dinner program featuring **Daniel Moyo** of Malawi, Africa. Daniel is the **Director of Education, Spiritual Development and Volunteer Coordination** for the Ministry of Hope, one of St. Mark's mission partners.



All members and friends are invited and welcome, but we want to make sure we have plenty of food and seating for everyone, so please RSVP to Bill or Cecilia Grayson and let them know you're coming.

This is an information sharing and fellowship event, and a thank you from the committee, not a fundraiser, so you can leave your checkbooks at home.

## St. Mark Christmas Dinner and Choir and Handbell Program

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

**Reservation deadline is Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

The St. Mark Christmas Dinner and Choir program is on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will start taking reservations on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> after church, or you may call the church office.

The Fellowship Committee is preparing a menu of Pork Loin, Grilled Chicken, Roasted Red Potatoes, Pecan Broccoli, Cider Glazed Carrots, Salad, and Kentucky Gingerbread with Whipped Cream for dessert.



Following dinner we will move to the Sanctuary where the Handbell and Sanctuary Choirs will present special Christmas music.

Childcare will be provided during the program.

## The Eastern Dallas County Cluster of Presbyterian Churches . . . . .

is hosting a joint Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, **November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30** at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 6550 Samuell Blvd., Dallas.

## Hanging of the Greens

**Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.**

Come join in the fun of getting the church ready for the Christmas season. On this first Sunday in Advent, starting at 4:00, we will begin decorating the outside of the building, the sanctuary, narthex and parlor. Later we will stop and have a short worship service with carol singing.



## Sandwich Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>

Each 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Thank You

Our thanks to Jeri Shevlin for heading up this year's Rummage Sale and for doing such a great job! Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the sale a success. A lot of hard work went into planning and setting it up. A big "Thank You" to all who were involved. Together the Rummage and Bake Sale raised over \$3,500, the most in 5 years!

*The Mission Committee*



Church posters often ask intriguing theological questions. One of those posters that caught my attention recently

read: "What if you woke up this morning with only the things you thanked God for the day before?"

Now that we've entered November, which brings All Saints Sunday, Thanksgiving, and the first Sunday of Advent, that poster gave me pause as I prepared the liturgy for upcoming All Saints service. What if I did lose relationships I value because of a lack of gratitude? Have I been taking my personal relationships for granted? Have I been neglectful and inattentive? These questions have been on my mind, driven home more fully when making Thanksgiving Day plans with our family. The calendar reminds me of days that are fast approaching, like the first Sunday of Advent. But it also helped remind me of how empty life would be without having so many people in my life.

I was startled by the words of that church poster -- not so much because I wasn't thankful but because I had become complacent. I was guilty of no longer being thankful *enough* to even stop in my business to offer thanks to God *at all* for the people in my life!

That may be a shocking confession from a pastor but that's how much the poster's message affected me. I devote time daily to intercessory prayer for people and with people, but it was chilling to realize that I have neglected thanking God for those very same people.

All gifts come from God and chief among His gifts are the people in our lives. "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:17, NRSV) So, I'm going to echo the poster's question: "What if you woke up this morning with only the things you thanked God for the day before?"

Blessings, Pastor Rick



**Time to Fall Back**  
Daylight Saving Time Ends  
Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

### November 2

"More Than Meets the Eye"  
Hebrews 12:1-3; Revelation 7:9-17  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper  
All Saints Sunday



### November 9

"Thank God for the Flat Line"  
Matthew 27:27-37; Romans 5:1-11

### November 16

"Carbon Copy"  
Matthew 28:1-10; Philippians 3:7-14

### November 23

"Short Sentence, Big Meaning"  
Deuteronomy 26:8-11; Luke 17:11-19  
Thanksgiving Sunday

### November 30

"Promise Maker, Promise Keeper"  
Isaiah 42:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Sandwich Sunday

## Our Sympathy to . . .

Tricia Johnson and her family upon the death of her mother, Patsy Neale. Patsy, a long time member of St. Mark died October 17, 2014. Services were held at St. Mark on October 21<sup>st</sup>.



## Inquirer's Class

**Wednesday, November 5<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.

## Congratulations to . . .



Jacob Price and Kellie Loukanis who were married October 4, 2014,

God Bless You On Your Birthday

**November 2**  
John Wahl  
**November 3**  
Mary Scallorn  
**November 4**  
Alan Aulenbach  
**November 7**  
Dorothy Moore  
**November 9**  
Frances Cockrell  
**November 13**  
Charles Miller  
**November 16**  
Hannah Jones  
Shirley Roberson



**November 19**  
Cheryl Nowlin  
Troy Simpson  
**November 20**  
Teri Brooks  
**November 21**  
Andi Taylor  
**November 23**  
Victoria Monroe  
**November 24**  
Pelham Swift  
Lisa Washburne  
**November 29**  
Todd Arthur



**Congratulations to . . .**

Karen Ellis,  
the winner of this year's Quilt Raffle.

**Movie Night at St. Mark**  
**Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**"Million Dollar Arm"**



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

**Children's Worship Bags**

The Christian Education Committee and the Worship and Music Committee have worked to produce a Worship Bag for children who participate in the Sunday church service.

The bags are for children that **remain** in the sanctuary during the church service. Please pick up a bag for them to use. It includes items to use in the service and to keep them occupied if they get restless.

Look for the bags at the back entrance of the sanctuary, or ask the ushers.

**Directory Update**

Jacob and Kellie Price  
Frisco, TX 75034

Mary Scallorn  
Dallas, TX 75218

Complete contact information is available from the church office.

**Women of the Church Meeting**

**Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 p.m.**



Please bring a finger food for 6 people. Sue Duncan will give our devotional. Nikki Guinnee and Marilyn Jackson will have information for our Christmas project for St. Mark home bound members.

Our annual Christmas party will be Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. More details will be coming soon.

Many of you helped with our quilt raffle and craft items for the rummage sale and your talent and time was so appreciated!

We made around \$1,600 for the Women's Group to use toward remodeling the women's restroom in the Family Center. Please go into the restroom and look around - what is your vision for the remodel?

Questions? Call Donna Simes

**Fall Church Beautification Day**  
**Saturday November 22, 2014**  
**8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**



The Property Committee invites you to take part in the beautification of our church and grounds on Saturday November, 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will serve breakfast starting at 8:30 a.m. and the sprucing and cleaning will begin around 9:00 a.m.

We have a list of projects to work on. Trees & shrubs need to be trimmed all around the church. Repairs to lighting and of course there is always a need for general cleaning of the sanctuary and parlor inside and the Prayer Garden and patio area outside. It is helpful if you can bring your own tools, etc. The church has a limited supply of yard equipment.

Mark this date on your calendar. Come have some breakfast, and enjoy the fellowship with your friends.



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

**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



November is finally here. October was certainly a stressful month in Dallas and around the world. I found that it was a time to turn to some familiar and comforting words. I thought I would share some of those with you.

There are the opening lines of the Presbyterian "Brief Statement of Faith":

In life and in death we belong to God.  
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy  
One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.

Then there are the first two questions and answers of

the Presbyterian "Belonging to God" catechism:

**Who are you?**

I am a child of God.

**What does it mean to be a child of God?**

That I belong to God, who loves me.

There are these words from Paul to the church at Rome:

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Finally there is the promises the risen Jesus made to his followers when he was commissioning them at the end of the Gospel of Matthew:

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

*Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education*

## White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

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



### Food & Pantry Needs

15 oz. Tomato Products, 15 oz. Canned Corn & Green Beans, Macaroni & Cheese, Jelly, Canned Fruit & Soup, All varieties of Canned Vegetables, Hamburger Helper, Suddenly Salad, Potatoes, Holiday food items

### Personal Hygiene Items

Adult toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant, all sizes of Diapers

### Clothing Needs in All Sizes

**Men's** - jeans, pants, socks underwear, belts, shoes, pajamas, jackets

**Women's** - robes, sleepwear, socks, underwear, light jackets, shoes

**Children's (boys & girls)** - winter pajamas, shoes, socks, underwear

### Linens Needed

King & Queen sheets, pillow cases, towels & wash clothes, blankets & pillows (all sizes)

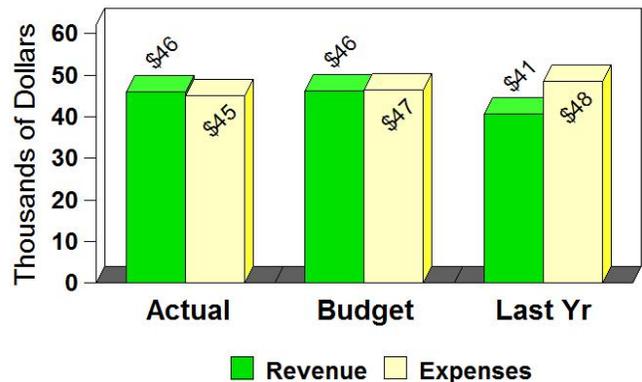
### **The Church Pantry Urgently Needs . . .**

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Pork & Beans, Corn, etc. and Fruit Packs



## Operating Fund

3 Months Through Sep 30, 2014



### Treasurer's Report

for the three months ending 9/30/2014

- ⇒ Operating Fund income is on budget and expenses are \$1,500 below budget, and both are much better than last year after three months.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund income is on budget and expenses are \$800 below budget.
- ⇒ Our Current Fund Balance (all funds combined) is up \$400 from the beginning of the year, and up \$12,000 from the same month last year.

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