



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

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saintmarkchurch.org

October 2014

Annual Rummage Sale, Bake Sale, Craft Sale & Quilt Raffle

Saturday, October 4th - 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Presale - Friday, October 3rd - 7:00 p.m.

For Friends and Family



The St. Mark Rummage Sale is this Saturday, October 4th. We have many exciting items for sale and some clever crafts. The Baked Goods always speak for themselves. We hope you have seen the beautiful quilt and have purchased and/or sold raffle tickets. Some reminders:

- Bring your raffle tickets to the office or give them to Jerri, Donna or Cecilia.
- Clean priced items can be brought to the Family Center to be put on tables.
- The Boy Scout Troop will be offering lunch at the sale.
- And, of course, we need shoppers!



There will be a **Preview Sale Friday night October 3rd**, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Center.

Tell all your friends and neighbors. Bring them with you. We welcome one and all. Come out and help us with another great event for St. Mark. Last year we garnered close to \$3,000 and that was without a beautiful quilt to raffle. Let's strive for \$5,000 this year.

Quilt Raffle — "Indian Summer"

Tickets are \$2. — Buy or Sell 10 tickets and get one free for yourself.

Movie on the Lawn

Saturday October 11th



"God's Not Dead" will be shown on the lawn between Austin Hall (main church building) and the Family Center. The Disney movie "Planes" will be playing in the parlor for the children.

We will have popcorn and nachos, tea and canned drinks, and candy to snack on during the movie. Bring lawn chairs and blankets for the movie outside. Kids are welcome to bring blankets and pillows to stretch out on the parlor floor.

The movies will start about 7:00 pm. Plan to arrive early to set up and get your snacks!

Movie on the Lawn will take the place of the regular monthly Movie Night.

Inquirer's Class

Wednesday, October 15th - 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 Church Pantry Urgently Needs . . .

Peanut Butter, Jelly,

Canned Pork & Beans, Corn, etc.

Fruit packs and Bottled Water





Even before we open our mail (paper variety, not email), we know what the envelope contains.

For instance, a letter

-size envelope with a small cellophane "window" that shows our name and address is probably a bill—or a check, if we're fortunate. Conversely, a hand-written envelope could contain something more personal—maybe a greeting card.

Reading the Bible is much like interpreting the contents of the mail. Without too much effort, we can quickly tell whether what we are reading is a parable, Psalm, history, wisdom, poetry, theology, etc. Taken as a whole, the Bible is a library of many forms of literature, all based on an overarching theme of God's plan of redemption and our place in His story.

The ending of one of my favorite recounting of God's unfolding plan is the story of happy ending to Joseph's sad story, which can be found in Genesis:

"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today." Genesis 50:20

You may recall, Joseph's brothers, who sold him into slavery in Egypt, told their father in Canaan that an animal had killed him. In God's perfect timing, Joseph was released from prison where he was sent after telling a lie and taken into the Pharaoh's palace,

eventually becoming an Egyptian prime minister. Because of Joseph's leadership, Egypt had plenty of food even when Canaan experienced a famine. When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt seeking food, they went before Joseph, who graciously helped them. He asked his brothers to return with their father, Jacob, to live with him. After Jacob's death, the brothers worried that Joseph would seek revenge. They begged forgiveness. That's when Joseph delivered the nature of God's plan of redemption, as quoted in Genesis 50:20.

Only God can make "all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28). Nothing obstructs God's plan, not even the depths of human sin. Just as Joseph's brothers couldn't slow Providence down, Satan ultimately cannot hamper God's will.

One of the most intriguing parts of Joseph's profound theological statement occurs at the last: "...in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today." God can and will preserve numerous people and He is accomplishing exactly that today—right here, right now.

God is calling St. Mark to be a part of God's redemption plan through mission outreach and in-reach such as worship, Christian education, fellowship, and sharing the Good News of Jesus. That's not just a happy ending. It's a joyous beginning, too.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

October 5

"Forward Focused"

Hebrews 12:1-3; Luke 9:43-56

Celebration of The Lord's Supper



October 12

"Mission Minded"

Jeremiah 17:7-10; Luke 19:1-10

October 19

"What It Is and What It Isn't"

Isaiah 45:5-7; Matthew 26:36-46

October 26

"Freedom in the Fortress"

Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 8:31-36

Reformation Sunday

Newsletter Deadline is October 15th

Congratulations to . . .



Harley Larsen and Aaron Sivess, who were married at St. Mark on August 31, 2014.

Blood Drive Results

A special thanks to Brad, Becca and Selah Novotny for sharing their touching story about how blood donations help save their precious Noelle's life. (Sheila and John Walh's granddaughter) What a testimonial!

Even on late notice, St. Mark rose to the occasion. Thirteen units of whole blood and one unit of double reds. (42 lives). Thank you.

Some have been told at satellite locations that they cannot designate a specific bank. This is not true - please insist that they log your blood donations to SPON022094.

Sue Duncan

Moment for Mission

If ever the Christian generosity and love that the membership of St. Mark Presbyterian Church was in doubt, any sliver of doubt was removed on the 7th of September. On that Communion Sunday:

- ◆ Fifteen St. Mark members gave the gift of life - their blood so that those who will need it will have it; two other members wanted to give but were deferred for medical reasons. Sue Duncan reported that the number of givers were a record for our congregation.
- ◆ Trevor Crawley, son of Ruth and Karl, was recognized for his outstanding work while a high school student by receiving a scholarship from the Church - a scholarship made possible by donations from various members. Trevor is now a freshman at the University of Texas at Dallas, majoring in software engineering. Alice McLean presented Trevor with the scholarship check.
- ◆ Becca and Brad Novotny, and their two beautiful girls, Selah and Noelle, were present to thank the congregation for the love and support that they have received these past several months as daughter Noelle battled Leukemia. The prayers and support they received was so very, very important.

Our mission work is on-going in so many different ways. We should all feel good about what we do for each other and for others!

Directory Update

Patsy Neale
Mesquite, TX 75150

Martha Gracey
Dallas, TX 75228

Vickie Lall
Dallas, TX 75228

(Complete contact details are available from the church office.)



Halloween Carnival

Sunday, October 26th

3:00—5:00 p.m. in the courtyard



Bring your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors for some Halloween fun. Wear your costumes or come as yourselves, whichever is scarier. There will be games, candy, trinkets, face painting, storytelling, and coloring pages.

We hope you will come and join the fun!!!



Worship Bags for Children

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 will include:

- ◆ Words to the Doxology and the Apostles Creed
- ◆ Words to the Nicene Creed and the Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Bookmarks to mark songs in the Hymnal
- ◆ Bookmarks to mark scripture readings in the Bible
- ◆ A bag with crayons and a pencil
- ◆ Blank paper
- ◆ A Worship Brochure to help parents answer questions about the service, with definitions and information

Look for the bags at the back entrance of the

Thank You Men's Sunday School Class

On behalf of the entire congregation, the Property Committee would like to thank the Men's Sunday School class for providing the funds to purchase our new water fountain and the purchasing and installation skills of Mike Parsley. Our old original water fountain played out after decades of service. Thanks to the Men's Class donation, we are once again able to enjoy a "cool drink of water". We very much appreciate you all!

Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilger office@saintmarkchurch.org
Cecilia Grayson

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

LET US COME TOGETHER TO FILL UP THE PEWS

St. Mark Presbyterian is a wonderful church. We have an outstanding pastor, a very good choir directed by a superb director, and most of all - a loving, caring, and generous congregation. Who could ask, or want, for anything more?

Well, apparently a lot of people, including some of our friends, perhaps some of our best friends. These friends - and I use that word with the best of meaning - are not members of our church. They may belong to another church, perhaps even another denomination (we shall not hold that against them, shall we). Then again, perhaps they are not affiliated with any church, may not even go to church (except possibly Easter Sunday and the Sunday before Christmas).

Jesus established the church to be a public, earthly institution that would affirm and those who profess belief in him. Matthew 16: 18 -19 informs us "And ... on this rock I will build my church ... I will give you the gates of heaven ..." This must include St. Mark Presbyterian Church. If it does include us, then do we not have a message that should resonate with our friends, especially our non-churched friends?

If we here at St. Mark have a weakness it is that we are not increasing our membership - even our weekly attendance -- by any significant number. We are "holding our own." Playing for a tie. Not trying to score a touchdown - or even kick a field goal! Can we change that? Should we make an effort to change that? Should we really try to increase church attendance and membership? What say thee!

Scripture tells us that "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) What a powerful message that is! Everlasting life! I know, as do you, that verse is not to be taken literally - at least to our knowledge, but perhaps we should watch the recent Saturday Night Movie, "Heaven is for Real" before we decide the real answer.

So, your Membership and Evangelism Committee is setting a goal - Fill the Pews! Every Member Accept the Challenge to Invite a Friend to Church. We believe that if they come once or twice, they will want to come back again and again and, in time, join our Merry Band of Presbyterians! What Say Thee?

Your St. Mark Presbyterian Membership & Evangelism Committee

God Bless You On Your Birthday

October 1 Gene Woods	October 19 Rose Curry
October 3 Cheryl Simpson	October 20 Karl Crawley
October 4 Mary Beckham	October 22 Breanna Waldrop
October 6 Jo Schlinder	October 25 Lisa Hawes
October 7 Elli Guinnee	October 27 Dean Anderson
October 11 Dick Waters	October 30 Ellen Roberts
October 13 Jeff Taylor	October 31 Dick Arthur
October 14 William Higgins	October 31 Carolyn McInnis
October 18 Emily McIntosh	October 31 Wylie Matthews
October 18 Myrtle Harbaugh	
October 18 Lorraine Stephen	



Save the Date

On Monday, November 3rd, 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.



The Million Penny Fund

A goal of 1,000,000 pennies was set and to date we have received 679,270. All donations are split between the Camps and Conferences Fund and the Landscape Fund. A jar for your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, or bills is located on Pat's desk. Or, you can put your coins in a bag marked "Penny Fund" in the offering plate on Sundays.



Randall's Pen



Last month Jane Ann and I took our annual vacation. As has become our custom, we went to a National Park and did a good bit of hiking. This year the park was Mt Rainier in Washington. Our most challenging hike was on the Skyline trail. It was a bit over 5 miles. During the course of the hike we started at an altitude 5,400 feet ascended and then descended 1,700 feet. We were thankful on our hikes that we had some new gear this year. We each had a set of trekking poles. Trekking poles are essentially a pair of walking sticks made out of a strong but lightweight material plus they have a comfortable handle. They are adjustable so that they can be set at a comfortable length for each hiker. The poles give a hiker a bit of extra leverage on steep climbs and some extra stability on steep descents. They are also very useful in keeping your balance on very rough trails.

I once heard John Williams, the chaplain at Austin College, note something to the effect that God thinks

those who follow Jesus are like grapes. We are better in bunches. That is why we are called into those communities we call congregations. Most of the time we are not called to live our lives as children of God in isolation but we are called to live along side a bunch of others.

So I am thinking being a part of a congregation means we are sometimes called to be each others trekking poles. That is, we provide each other with some stability or leverage as we navigate the various ascents and descents along the trails of our lives.

But not only are we called to be trekking poles for others we are also called to allow others to serve as our trekking poles. Sometimes receiving help can be much more challenging than helping someone else.

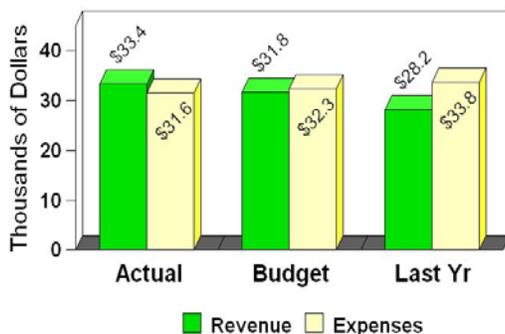
So how have you been a trekking pole for others? And how have others been your trekking poles?

Aren't you thankful that God thinks those who follow Jesus are like grapes? We really are better in bunches.

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education

Operating Fund

2 Months Through Aug 31, 2014



Treasurer's Report

for the two months ending 8/31/2014

- ⇒ Operating Fund income is \$1700 ahead of budget and expenses are \$800 below budget, and both are also much better than the prior year.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund income is \$200 better than budget and expenses are \$100 below budget.
- ⇒ Our Current Fund Balance (all funds combined) is down \$400 from the beginning of the year, but up \$12,500 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.

White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, October 12th

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



Food & Pantry Needs

15 oz. Tomato Products, 15 oz. Canned corn, Canned Tuna, Cereal, Ramen Noodles, Hamburger Helper, Suddenly Salad, Potatoes

Personal Hygiene Items

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)