



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

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Volume 62, Issue 10

saintmarkchurch.org

October 2015

Preparing for the End of Life: A Handful of Things You Can Do Now Sunday, October 18th 12:15 - 2:15 p.m.

Please plan to stay for lunch after the church service on October 18th. The Christian Education Committee will offer a program on "Preparing for the End of Life." This program will inform and assist you in planning for what you can do now to help your family in the future. This material can also be used to help your parents or other family members make plans as well.

Each Participant will receive a copy of the booklet: **"Preparing for the End of Life: Easing the Way for Those You Love"**

Presented by Debbie Reinhardt-Young, LCSW
Director of Senior Adult Ministry
First Presbyterian Church Dallas

The Fellowship Committee will present a variety of soups to choose from for lunch. Bread, drinks, and dessert will also be served.

Please let us know if you plan to attend. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the church office.

Inquirers Class

Wednesday, October 14th - 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.

I'm a NOBODY
Telling EVERYBODY
About SOMEBODY
Who can save ANYBODY
(Jesus Saves)

The Williams Brothers



Hot Diggity Dog Day Saturday October 3 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Bring your dog(s) for a play date at St. Mark's new Dog Park on October 3rd. 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.



From the Property Committee . . .

There have been occasions lately where the church was found unlocked. If you unlock a door, please be sure to lock it when you leave. Don't assume someone else will lock it, especially after church service hours and during the week. Let's all be careful to keep the church property secured!
Charlene Taylor



White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, October 11th

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

Food Needs

Canned Beans, **Canned Green Beans**, Canned Soup, Canned Fruit, Canned tomato products, Peanut Butter & Jelly

Personal Hygiene Items

Small & Medium Toothpaste, Deodorant, and Bar Soap

St. Mark Community Dog Park

The Grand Opening of the Dog Park was enjoyed by many and provided an opportunity to greet our friendly neighbors! Brad Waters' trio (with our Leigh Taylor on double bass) provided great music. Prizes were given out and some twenty dogs enjoyed the cooler weather and freedom to run.

Please spread the word to friends and neighbors! The Dog Park is open (except Wednesdays for maintenance). Call or email Bar Tuinstra with comments or questions.





During a 2005 television interview, author Doris Kearns Goodwin, who was promoting "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln," was asked why she chose to write about Abraham Lincoln when so many authors had already done so. Goodwin, admitting how intimidating it was to add to the 14,000 books in existence about Lincoln, said that her aim was to provide new insights that might increase the understanding of something we think we know everything about.

In the same vein, I have been intrigued by a recent story of a Merino sheep found wandering alone in Australia. Named Chris by his rescuers, the sheep is about seven years old. How he was lost is unknown. Most striking about Chris was his appearance - unshorn for years, he carried the equivalent of 89 pounds of wool on his body, barely able to walk due to the weight. For illustration, 89 pounds of wool could produce 30 wool suits for large men.

The plight of Chris has inspired my thoughts about lost sheep and their shepherds. Like Doris Kearns Goodwin, how can we find something new in the many

tales of sheep and shepherds? In "Sheep Bite" we learn about sheep in toxic churches and in "Sheep Smell," we are told of churches where unworthy sheep are marginalized. Don't forget bad shepherds. They certainly get their due treatment, especially in front page news articles about abusive tactics. Because I felt overwhelmed in pondering the nature of sheep and shepherds, I turned to Dr. Bailey.

Kenneth E. Bailey, who for 40 years has taught in seminaries and institutes in Egypt, Lebanon, Jerusalem and Cyprus, is one of my favorite theologians and Bible scholars. Here is a writer who understands from personal experience all sorts of sheep and shepherd metaphors. Raised from childhood in Southern Egypt, Dr. Bailey observed firsthand how actual flocks of sheep and shepherds function. Fluent in Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Dr. Bailey can drill down deep into ancient cultures and explain them in a way that makes them relevant to the 21st century.

Drawing from the inspiration of Chris the unshorn sheep, I begin a sermon series in October that is centered on "The Good Shepherd" and draws from Dr. Bailey's research.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

October 4

"Building Code Enforcement"
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 7:24-27
Celebration of The Lord's Supper

October 11

"Baaaad Shepherds"
Psalm 23:1-7; Jeremiah 23:1-8



October 18

"From Guilt to Hope"
Ezekiel 34:17-22; Ezekiel 34:23-31

October 25

"The Lost Return"
Isaiah 28:14-18; Zechariah 10:2-12

Newsletter Staff:

Kat Hutchings office@saintmarkchurch.org
Cecilia Grayson

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



**Newsletter Deadline is
October 15th**

Thank You

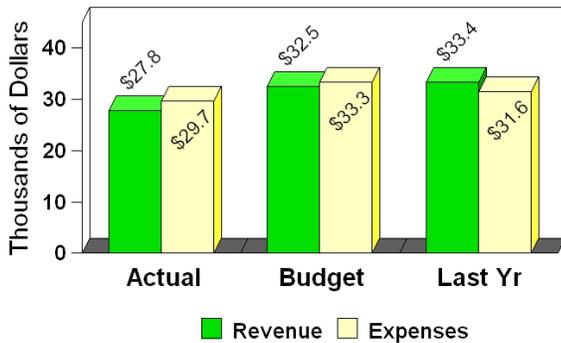
To St. Mark Presbyterian Church Family and Friends,
Thank you for your visits during my hospital stay. Thank you for your kind wishes and heartfelt thoughts. I made it through surgery and I'm on the road to recovery. Your prayers are SINCERELY appreciated!
Love to you ALL,
Souvenir Swift

St. Mark,
Thank you so much for the wonderful reception and lunch and the beautiful flower arrangement. Everyone has been so kind and caring.

The Statue of St. Francis is under my crepe myrtle trees near a birdbath and the Woodstock Chimes are ringing outside my bedroom window. Thank you for the basket of supplies, Visa card and cash.
I will miss being at St. Mark and I am enjoying being at home with my many hobbies.
Love to all,
Pat Bilger

Operating Fund

2 Months Through Aug 31, 2015



Treasurer's Report for the two months ending 8/31/2015

- ⇒ Operating Fund contributions were \$2,100 below budget and expenses were \$3,600 below budget.
- ⇒ Capital & Facilities Fund income was \$200 above budget and expenses were \$200 below budget.
- ⇒ Our Combined Fund Balance is down 2,500 from the beginning of year.

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

God Bless You On Your Birthday

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



Movie Night will not be held in October.



Growing in Grace and Gratitude is a new

PC(USA) produced curriculum resource. I have mentioned it in a couple of previous newsletters. We started using it at St. Mark in with our children's Sunday School last month. However, this resource has some features that mean it is not just for Sunday mornings at church. And it has occurred to me that it doesn't have to be just for children either. It's possible that some adults might find some of these features helpful as they ponder the gift of God's grace and ways that we might live lives of gratitude. Let me explain.

There is a two page free "extra" for each lesson called *Grace Sightings*. What exactly is a *Grace Sightings*? It is two pages of stories and reflection or exploration activities. Each issue of *Grace Sightings* invites us to both recognize and respond to God's grace. It also invites us to celebrate in gratitude. *Grace Sightings* are designed to be used by parents or caregivers with their children. The first issue of *Grace Sightings* invited the participants to look around and take notice of parts of God's creation. There was also an invitation for the participants to think about what it means to be created in God's image. But those activities do not

need to be limited to children. All of God' people can benefit from these activities.

The *Grace Sightings* are available online at www.growinggracegratitude.org/for-the-home.html. They are available for free in a couple of Ebook formats for those of you who have Ereaders like Kindles or tablets. This format includes color pictures and even sound. The *Grace Sightings* are also available in downloadable PDF files.

We may live in an age that has more and more digital resources. However, those can be combined with traditional ways of communication. We use both forms at St. Mark. From time to time *Grace Sightings* will be posted on the Christian Education bulletin board. Stop by and look at them. Take a few minutes and talk about them with a friend as you enjoy the post worship refreshments on Sunday mornings.

I'll close with the prayer from the first issue of *Grace Sightings*. We were encouraged to pray this prayer every day during that first week:

Thank you, God, for creating the world and everything in it. Help us celebrate your good and gracious creation by taking care of all the things you made, including others and ourselves. Amen.

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education