



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437



Volume 60, Issue 9

saintmarkchurch.org

September 2013



Sunday, September 15th Bring-a-Friend-to-Church and Pot Luck Lunch

Summer is over so it's time to get back to our regular schedules, and that includes church each Sunday.

The Membership & Evangelism Committee invites you to celebrate Bring-a-Friend-to-Church Sunday on September 15. After worship please join the Fellowship Committee in the Family Center for a Pot Luck Lunch.

We hope you will bring friends and family who have not been to church in a while for our Sunday service and stay for lunch.

So get back in the swing of things of church and **bring a dish to share for the pot luck lunch.** The Fellowship Committee will provide beverages and dessert.

Sandwich Sunday - September 29th

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 contents, and bring them to the church on that Sunday. *Cookies and snack cakes are also welcome.*

Sign-up sheets are in the hallway.

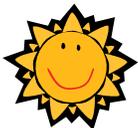
Volunteers are also needed to help serve the sandwiches at the Center on Sunday evening. Austin Street Center has other needs. See page 4.

St. Mark Blood Drive

Sunday, September 29th

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Remember there must be 56 days between your donations. Call Sue Duncan for more information.



St. Mark Annual Trash to Treasure Rummage Sale and Bake Sale

Saturday, October 5th - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This year the Session is sponsoring a Rummage Sale and a Bake Sale. Look around your house, in your garage or workshop for any items to donate. Here are the kind of things we need: books, kitchen utensils, pots and pans, furniture, luggage, lamps, jewelry, glasses, dishes, craft and sewing items, tools, camping gear, shoes, handbags, toys, bicycles, sheets, blankets, curtains, bedding, infant clothing and baby items.

You can start bringing your donations to the Family Center **beginning** Tuesday, September 24th.

The church office is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you need to bring your items in the evening hours call Barb Tuinstra at 214-381-5449 so she can arrange for someone to meet you there.

If you wish to donate baked items for the sale, please call Marie Chambers at 942-681-3783. If you need someone to transport any large items (such as furniture), please call the church office and let Pat know so we can schedule a pick up time.

Volunteers are needed to help work and sell items. Call Marie or Barb to volunteer. There will be a sign-up sheet on the board outside the church office. We would like to see as many volunteers as possible wearing their St. Mark t-shirts on Saturday, October 5th.

The Quilt Raffle will be held at a later date.



September is a time of great expectations in American culture, with back-to-school excitement and the highly anticipated return of football season. Church life gets into the swing of things, too. A new energy emerges, bringing with it a renewal of our common life together. What we experience by being a part of a church is so great that Christians are often compelled to invite others into the communal celebration. In many cases, this contagious enthusiasm spreads to our friends.

At St. Mark, Sept. 15th will be "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday, complete with an after-worship meal. It will be a time set apart to introduce, or in some cases reintroduce, the Good News of Jesus.

September's sermons have been structured around the theme of friendship, designed for us to know Jesus better as the ultimate Friend, and as encouragement to be better friends. I. E. Reynolds wrote a poem about our need to know Jesus as our Friend.

When the sun shines bright and your heart is light,
 Jesus is the Friend you need;
 When the clouds hang low in this world of woe,
 Jesus is the friend you need.
 If you're lost in sin, all is dark within,
 Jesus is the Friend you need;
 God alone can save thro' the Son He gave,
 Jesus is the Friend you need.
 When in the sad hour, when in death's grim pow'r,
 Jesus is the Friend you need;
 If you would prepare 'gainst the tempter's snare,
 Jesus is the Friend you need.
 When the cares of life all around are rife,
 Jesus is the Friend you need;
 Glory to His name, always He's the same,
 Jesus is the Friend you need.

Sadly, football season and back-to-school excitement will eventually end. Being known as a friend of Jesus, though, knows no end.

Blessings, *Pastor Rick*



**Second Sunday at Six
 A Service of Wholeness
 will not be held in September.**

Directory Update

Kathy Key
 Madison, WI

Please remember to call the church office to update any changes in your directory information.

Congratulations to . . .

Nikki and Tim Guinee upon the birth of their son, Duncan Chanford Guinee, who was born on Friday, August 23rd, weighing in at 8lbs. 3.5 ozs, and 20.75 inches long. The proud grandparents are Sue and Doug Duncan.



Flower Vases

If you have any of the large flower vases that belong to St. Mark would you please return them. You can leave them on the dryer in the session mail room.

Thank you, *Donna Simes & Jo Farley*

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

Sept. 1

"The Pause That Refreshes"

Genesis 45:1-11; Philemon 1-7

Celebration of the Lord's Supper



Sept. 8

"Friends Fall"

1 Corinthians 10:12-13; Philemon 8-22

Sept. 15

"A Friend in Deed"

Jeremiah 1:4-10; John 15:9-17

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

Sept. 22

"I Get By...With a Little Help"

2 Samuel 9:1-6; Mark 2:1-12

Sept. 29

"What's Your Picture of Jesus?"

Isaiah 50:4-9, Mark 8:27-30

Rev. Dr. Ron Scates,

Highland Park Presbyterian Church

Sandwich Sunday, Blood Drive

White Rock Center of Hope is Sunday September 8th

Bring your donations of toys, canned or dried foods, paper products, clothing, etc. and place them in the baskets in the hallway.



Food Needs

Canned Fruit, Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Beans, Canned Vegetables (no green beans or corn) and Tomato Products

Other Needs

Clothing, underwear, socks & shoes in all sizes, Queen & King sheets, pillowcases

Hold the Date !



The Women of the Church will meet on Thursday, October 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor. More information to follow.

The Church Pantry Needs:

Small jars of jelly
Canned fruit



Welcome to the New Sunday School Year

September is here and that means school starts . . . including Sunday School! The new children's Sunday School classes will start on September 8th.

The adult classes that have continued through the summer are the *Gleaners Class*, *Bible Connections*, and the *Men's Class*. Each class meets in the patio classrooms of Princeton Hall.

Infants and children up to age 2 years will be cared for in the nursery across from the Parlor. Children 3 years through 5 years will meet in the second classroom on the left in Princeton. Teachers will be Lorraine Stephen and Leigh Taylor.

Marilyn Jackson and Nikki Guinee will teach kids 1st -5th grades and will meet in the first classroom in Princeton. We will use stories, coloring, crafts, DVD's and playtime to help these youngsters come to know and understand Jesus.

Hope to see you all at 9:15 a.m.
on Sunday, September 8th.

Inquirer's Class Wednesday, September 11th 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor

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.

We hope to see you there!

Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilger stmarkpc1@sbcglobal.net
Cecilia Grayson

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

May God Bless You On Your Birthday

September 2

Yvonne Curry
Joanne Szalay

September 4

Ben Taylor

September 8

Susan Bell

September 9

Bailey Guinee
Christi Matthews

September 11

Ruth Crawley
Roger Siverson

September 12

Diana Kettle

September 15

Neill Howard
Anne Thomas



September 19

Jo Farley

September 21

Melba Hale

September 23

Ashley Holloway

August 21

Lynn Phillips
Pam Winter

September 24

Nicole Corey
Charley Taylor

September 26

Rebecca Moore

September 27

John Hale
Aaron Sivess

September 28

Maureen McMahon

Welcome New Members . . .

Noylene Howard
Plano, TX 75075

Rose Marie (Jerri) Shevlin
Dallas, TX 75228

Lisa Michelle Washburne
Dallas, TX 75228

Complete contact information is available
from the church office.

St. Mark Movie Night

Saturday, September 21st @ 7:00 p.m.



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



St. Mark T-Shirts

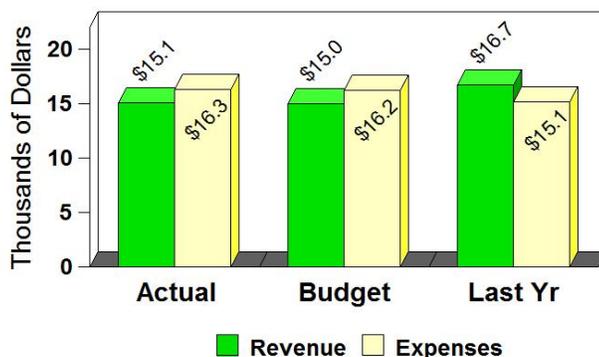
Do you want a St. Mark t-shirt? A new order
of shirts will be placed in the next few weeks.
The cost for the shirt is \$15 and is payable in
advance. A sign-up list is posted on the bulletin board
outside the church office.

Newsletter Deadline
is September 15th



Operating Fund

1 Month Through July 31, 2013



Treasurer's Report

for the one month ending 7/31/13

- ⇒ Operating Fund revenue was on budget and \$1600 below last year. The expenditures were also on budget and about \$1200 more than last year.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund revenue was on budget and about \$1600 more than the previous year. Expenditures were \$200 below budget and \$300 below the previous year.

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

Austin Street Center Has Other Needs

Lysol spray, bleach, tissues, laundry detergent, toilet paper, Band-aids, cough drops, throat lozenges, blankets, disposable razors, toothpaste, hats & socks, umbrellas, hand sanitizer, plastic forks, spoons & knives

Your donations can be sent along with those who will deliver sandwiches on Sunday, September 29th.

Randall's Pen

Every so often in my monthly article I repeat the core content from one of the first articles I wrote for the St Mark newsletter. It's a suggested practice from the book "Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time" by Dorothy Bass. I think it has been several years since I revisited this so it is about time. I continue to repeat it because I need to be reminded to embrace the practice. I hope you find it helpful.

"How was your day?"

The question, asked by someone who cares, is a kind one. Often, though, it throws me. The day has passed in a whirl, and I have to grope for an answer. "Not bad," I reply vaguely. How was my day? Most days I forget to notice.

A mother I know has a different way of asking the same question. As she tucks her children into bed each night ... she asks them a question: "Where did you meet God today?" And they tell her, one by one: a teacher helped me, there was a homeless person in the park, I saw a tree with lots of flowers in it. She tells them where she met God, too. Before the children drop off to sleep, the stuff of this day has become the substance of their prayer.

Where did you meet God today?

It doesn't have to be a question just for children. What might happen if we took up a daily practice of asking ourselves that question? It's something different but it's not incredibly complicated. And it just might be meaningful as we think about all the interesting places where we met God. Here's something else Bass wrote:

Where did you meet God today? The length of a day- a turn from darkness to light and back again- fits our human capacity for taking stock, our ability to be in the present but also to take a larger more reflective view of things. And so activities have arisen that teach us to set aside some time to notice each day, embracing it as one in which God is present. In these activities we receive the day as a gift.

Where did you meet God today?

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education



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Non-Profit Organization