



# St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

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saintmarkchurch.org

September 2014

## New Member Picnic Potluck Lunch

### Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

### In the Family Center, following Worship



The Fellowship Committee invites you to celebrate our new and returning members with a potluck lunch. The committee will provide hotdogs and the fixins'. We ask that you bring picnic side dishes such as potato salad, coleslaw, deviled eggs, baked beans, macaroni or noodle or carrot salad, or your family favorite! We will have a special cake for dessert.

#### Our New Members are:

Mason & Stephany Brown  
Colin Boring  
Karen Ellis  
Florene Jeffrey  
Noylene Howard  
Harley Larson  
Terri Shevlin  
Lisa Washburne

#### Our Returning Members:

Nikki Guinee  
Arthur & Willetta Jones  
Roberts Mounts  
Norma Murray  
Richard Waters



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



For the past 20 years St. Mark Presbyterian Church has organized and held - with hundreds of wonderful volunteers - an Annual Rummage Sale.

This year there will also be a Bake Sale, Quilt Raffle, and Craft Sale. So, mark your calendars for Saturday, October 4, 2014, starting at 8:00 a.m. and concluding at 3:00 p.m. There will be a **Sale Preview Friday night October 3<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Center.** Your Mission Committee is the organizing host, with Terri Shevlin taking the lead and Marie Chambers as Bake Sale leader. On Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, as part of the "Moment for Mission", we will show the quilt to be raffled at the sale.

This is not, however, a Committee only event. There remains a need for items to sell, more volunteers to help sort and arrange the wonderful items to be sold. Volunteer Sign up sheets are found in the hallway across from Pat's office.

Items for the sale can be brought to the Family

Center after Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Please be sure everything is clean and shiny and priced to sell. Pat Bilger will be in the church office starting September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 to 4:00 Tuesday - Thursday. She can open the Family Center for you. Also, someone will be in the Family Center most of the week before the sale. If you need to bring your items in the evening please call Terri Shevlin and make an appointment for someone to meet you there.

Strong backs will be needed to help for an hour or so on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10:00 a.m. to bring items placed in the outside container into the Family Center. Please let Terri or Donna Simes know if you can help with this.

And, of course, we need shoppers! 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.



There's a sentiment that I've frequently heard over the years, but lately it has begun to really bother me. I usually

hear it when someone who has just learned that I am a pastor and will share that he or she is "spiritual but not religious." Evidently this is a common enough phrase to have even earned its own entry online in Wikipedia, complete with its own acronym -SBNR.

At a time in the not-too-distant past, the words "religious" and "spiritual" were practically synonyms, with "religious" indicating an outward, organized fellowship of a faith and "spiritual" describing the inner, more private life of devotion to one's religious faith. I'll quote a piece from a pastor, Lillian Daniel, who wrote in *Huffington Post* almost two years ago, of her in flight encounter with a proud proclaimer of SBNR.

*"Next thing you know, he's telling me that he finds God in the sunsets. These people always find God in the sunsets. And in walks on the beach. Sometimes I think these people never leave the beach or the mountains, what with all the communing with God they do on hilltops, hiking trails and ... did I mention the beach at sunset yet? Like people who go to church don't see God in the sunset! Like we are these monastic little hermits who never leave the church*

*building. How lucky we are to have these geniuses inform us that God is in nature. As if we don't hear that in the Psalms, the creation stories, and throughout our deep tradition.... Thank you for sharing, spiritual-but-not-religious sunset person. You are now comfortably in the norm for self-centered American culture, right smack in the bland majority of people who find ancient religions dull but find themselves uniquely fascinating. Can I switch seats now and sit next to someone who has been shaped by a mighty cloud of witnesses instead? Can I spend my time talking to someone brave enough to encounter God in a real human community? Because when this flight gets choppy, that's who I want by my side, holding my hand, saying a prayer and simply putting up with me, just like we try to do in church."*

Yes, God created the sunsets and beaches. We also know that God's love is amazing. Reverend Daniel points that out in her defense of the imperfect church. We gather as a church because we acknowledge everything that God has done and continues to do - including the forgiveness of our imperfections.

I'm resigned to the fact that I will continue to hear, "I'm spiritual but not religious." But with the help of the Holy Spirit, I can pray that those who express the phrase can come to know the authentic meaning of "spiritual" and "religious."

Blessings, Pastor Rick

## Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

### September 7

"It's Tempting"

Hebrews 4:14-16; Luke 4:1-13

Celebration of The Lord's Supper



### September 14

"Jesus Calling"

John 1:37-42; Matthew 4:18-22

### September 21

"Ministry Summary"

Psalm 23:1-6; Matthew 9:35-38

### September 28

TBA

## Inquirer's Class

Wednesday, September 10<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 . . .



Betty Eaton and Bob Skinner, who were married at St. Mark on August 9, 2014.



Newsletter Deadline  
is September 15<sup>th</sup>

## Women of the Church Meeting

Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 p.m.



We will receive information about the Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services students, finalizing the craft sale for October 4<sup>th</sup> and discussing our next project. Hope to see you there!

## White Rock Center of Hope

Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

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



### Food & Pantry Needs

Jelly, All Varieties of Canned Vegetables, Canned corn, Canned beans (not green beans), Jello, Hamburger Helper, Suddenly Salad, Potatoes

### Personal Hygiene Items

Adult Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant, all sizes of Diapers

## A Temporary Change of Address

Anne Carlson recently fell and broke her ankle. Following surgery, she moved to her daughter Lynn's house in Arkansas to recover. She will be there 6-8 weeks. Cards and get well wishes may be sent to:

Anne Carlson  
Maumelle, AR 72113

## May God Bless You On Your Birthday

September 2

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

September 24

Nicole Corey

Charley Taylor

September 26

Rebecca Moore

September 27

John Hale

Aaron Sivess

September 28

Maureen McMahan



## Adult Spanish Class

Tuesdays in September at 7:00 p.m.



Beginner Spanish classes will begin on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will meet in the "Session Room", the classroom in the patio area next door to the Gleaner's classroom. Classes will be from 7 - 8:00 p.m. A suggested donation of \$5.00 will be collected for each class.

## Treasurer's Report

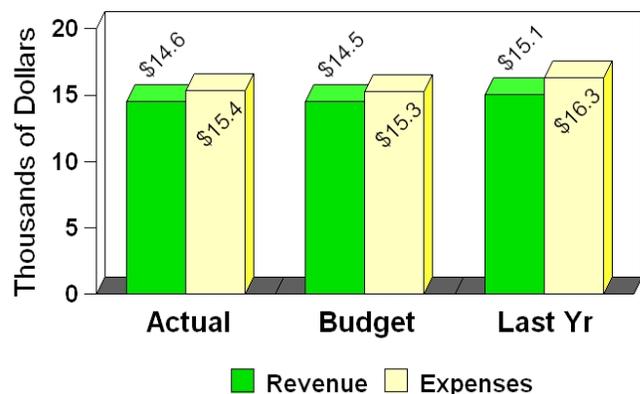
for the one month ending 7/31/2014

- ⇒ Operating Fund income and expenses are both on budget, and about \$400 better overall 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 \$700 from the beginning of the year, but up \$7,000 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.

## Operating Fund

1 Month Through July 31, 2014





# Randall's Pen



## Some September Odds and Ends

\*It was a wonderful time last month at the Cluster Adult VBS as we explored "Still Water and Living Water." St. Mark did a fine job on the day that our folks hosted. The 2015 Adult VBS is now less than a year away. Do you have any ideas for a theme or presenters?

\*It's the time of the year that school starts back. That always reminds me that I need to give thanks for all the teachers, both professionals and volunteers, who made a difference in my life. I have been privileged to have many very good ones through the years. How about you? Do you ever pause to give thanks for that special teacher or teachers that you may have had?

\*This year we are going to have two children's classes during Sunday School for the first time in a few years. We are continuing to use the "Holy Moly" resources. They are pretty cool. You can find some samples of the videos online. Remember to pray for those who are prepared to teach the children who are part of the St. Mark family each week.

\*We have a number of teens connected with our church family. In September the Christian Education Committee will be spending some extra time thinking about ways that we can be in ministry with these young people.

\*While I have teachers and teaching on my mind here is a statement about teaching: "To teach is to share what we know in a way that invites others to explore it as well." Karen Tye, a professor of Christian education, wrote that. Let's give thanks this season for all who are sharing what they know and all that are accepting the invitation to explore.

*Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education*

### Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilger . . . . . office@saintmarkchurch.org  
Cecilia Grayson

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

## To the Parents of Our Youngest Children May We Suggest . . .

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the minister, liturgist, acolyte, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray and voice the creeds. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave church with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me".

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

### To the Members of the Congregation

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our church is growing.

Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

## Movie Night at St. Mark Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.



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

## The Church Pantry Needs . . .

Canned Fruit, Pork & Beans  
and Bottled Water



## Quilt Raffle

Keep selling those raffle tickets. More tickets are available on the glass top table in the hallway. As you sell your tickets turn in your money along with the tickets to Sue Duncan, Cecilia Grayson, Alice McLean, Jerri Shevlin, Donna Simes or to Pat in the office.

**Tickets are \$2.**

**Buy 10 tickets and get one free for yourself.**