



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road Dallas, TX 75228 214-321-6437



Volume 62, Issue 9

saintmarkchurch.org

September 2015



It's Time for Another "Kitchen Table Talk" Sunday, September 20th

The Session invites you to attend another Kitchen Table Talk presented by the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Please join the committee in the sanctuary for about 15 minutes after the worship service on August 24th. The main topic to be discussed will be our current financial position as we begin our new fiscal year.

Inquirers Class

Wednesday, September 16th - 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.

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

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.

Pat is Retiring

St. Mark's secretary, Pat Bilger, has decided to retire after 28 years of dedicated, loyal, and excellent service to St. Mark. She began work in February of 1982. Bill Tiemann, Jimmy Lancaster, Ellsworth Caylor, and Mike Smith were the ministers. After almost 3 decades, she has also assisted Charles Fox, Clark Williams, Fred Abney, Floyd Whatley, and Rick Brooks.

Pat said that she has enjoyed working with the office volunteers. Her first volunteer was Estelle Burlew who taught her that you tell the volunteers what you need done and then let them do the work their way. She says, "There have been many volunteers over the years, this job would be impossible without them. Thanks to all the volunteers who have worked in the office or helped in other ways."

Pat's plans for her retirement include working outdoors in her yard and catching up on her hobbies. She will also start teaching piano again in late September.

From Pat: "It has been great to be at St. Mark and everyone has been wonderful! I will miss being here, but I know everyone will like Kat and give her support when needed." Pat will be back at St. Mark in November for the Bell Concert with the First Methodist Mesquite and St. Mark Bell Choirs.

Starting Tuesday, September 1st, we will welcome Kat (Kathleen) Hutchings, our new church secretary. Her work hours will be 9:00am - 2:00pm, Monday through Thursday.

St. Mark Community Dog Park



Work on the St. Mark Community Dog Park has begun and we hope to have the grand opening sometime in the next few weeks. Watch for flyers at the church!

Then come join us! It's a great opportunity to reach out to our neighbors with St. Mark friendship and welcome them—that's what the dog park is all about!

Contact Bar Tuinstra with questions or any offer to help.



Jimmy Carter, whether one agrees or not with his decisions made while serving as our 39th president, is a man

deserving of our admiration. When it comes to adding up the full measure of a man, this 2002 Nobel laureate receives high marks from even his detractors as being "one of the good guys." In other words, his positives far outweigh his negatives.

Jimmy Carter is acknowledged as really coming into his own after leaving office, most notably through his humanitarian efforts. Let's examine a list of what he has tackled over the years since leaving public office: peace making among nations, human rights initiatives, aiding the international political democratic process, helping low income people with long-term housing through Habitat for Humanity (which included personally laboring on some of the projects), and something that few have wanted to take on - eradicating the parasitic guinea worm. Some would say he's been a more effective leader while out of office than in. He's been one very busy man.

But now Jimmy Carter's commitment schedule of service to others is being curtailed by cancer. Liver cancer was diagnosed in May and during a recent news

conference, he announced that the cancer had spread to his brain. What caught my attention was his reaction to the cancer news and pending treatment.

"I'm perfectly at ease with whatever comes," Carter told reporters. "I do have deep religious faith, which I'm grateful for, and I was pleasantly surprised that I didn't go into an attitude of despair or anger or anything like that. I was just completely at ease."

I like to think that Jimmy Carter had the words of the Apostle Paul in mind during that public announcement:

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Jimmy Carter has been a Sunday School teacher for decades. He knows the Bible well, relying on it for comfort and strength. He proves that there is a difference between mastering the Bible and being mastered by the Bible. I want to be like Jimmy Carter.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

September 6

"The Pairs in Prayers"
Jeremiah 29:11-14; Matthew 7:7-11
Celebration of The Lord's Supper



September 13

"The Gold Standard"
Numbers 15:37-41; Matthew 7:12

September 20

"The Two Options"
Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 7:13-14

September 27

"Quilt Makers"
Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 12:1-10
Guest Preacher: Melba Hale

Received in Baptism . . .

on August 23rd
Duncan Guinee

Son of Nikki & Tim Guinee,
Grandson of Sue & Doug Duncan



Thank You

Yes, we are late (as usual) and confused (as usual) but we wanted to thank all you wonderful people for your cards, condolences and well wishes upon the passing of our daughter, Lynn Phillips. Often times I repeat half of an old saying, "SORROW SHARED WITH FRIENDS IS CUT IN HALF." Yes, dear friends you have helped.

Thank You,
Frank & Shirley Roberson

Thank you to everyone for prayers, cards and food. I am so blessed to be a member of such a loving, caring church. I promise to slow down and watch where I walk from now on. I love all of you.

Pauline Millender

Movie Night at St. Mark
Saturday, September 19th @ 7:00 p.m.



Bring snacks to share and join your friends in the cozy confines of the Gleaner's Cinema.

Congratulations!

St. Mark member Flo Philips has longed to go on a cruise for many years. However, she was unable to go without a proper birth certificate and a passport. After years of dogged determination and dealing with a lot of bureaucracy and many rejections, she was finally successful in documenting her identity. To recognize her "never give up" attitude, Flo was awarded "The Wish of a Lifetime" by Brookdale, the community where she lives, and will depart on a cruise on September 26th, accompanied by her daughter-in-law Alexandra.



Directory Update

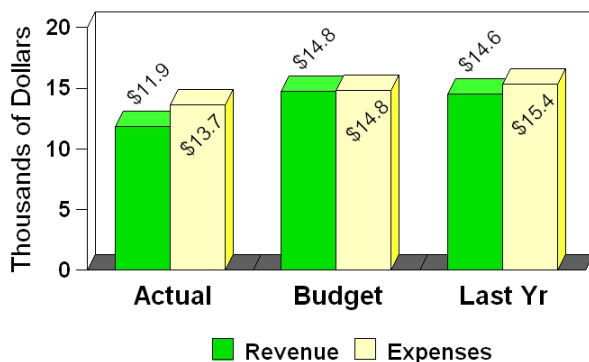
Natasha & Brad Waldrop
Farmersville, TX 75442



Bill & Jo Schindler
Brookdale Club Hill
Garland, TX 75043

Operating Fund

1 Month Through July 31, 2015



Treasurer's Report for the one month ending 7/31/2015

- ⇒ Operating Fund income was \$2,900 below budget and expenses were \$1,100 below budget.
- ⇒ Capital & Facilities Fund income was \$600 below budget and expenses were \$300 above budget.
- ⇒ Our Combined Fund Balance is down \$4,800 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.

Newsletter Staff:

Kat Hutchings office@saintmarkchurch.org
Cecilia Grayson

God Bless You On Your Birthday

September 2
Joanne Szalay

September 4
Ben Taylor

September 8
Susan Bell

September 9
Bailey Guinnee
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

Having a Garage Sale?

St. Mark will not be hosting the annual rummage sale this year, so you may be wondering how to help the church (and get rid of some the treasures you've accumulated).



One suggestion is to hold a garage sale at your residence and donate some or all of the proceeds from the sale to St. Mark. You can even designate the program or area you wish to be supported by your proceeds.

For members who live near each other, you could hold a multi-family sale - more goods and more fun!

You might consider having some information about St. Mark displayed during your sale, like the brochures that we use in the church pews. And, if you let us know the details about your upcoming sale, we can share that via email so that the church family and friends can do some shopping at your place.



White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, September 13th

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

Food Needs

Canned Beans (pinto, kidney, etc.)
Canned Fruit, Canned tomato products,
Canned meat, Peanut Butter & Jelly

Personal Hygiene Items

Small & Medium Toothpaste, Deodorant,
Toilet Paper, Bar Soap

Newsletter Deadline is September 15th

Randall's Pen

Christian Education Updates

The yellow school zone lights are flashing again. That means all the schools around St. Mark are back in session. A new year of teaching and learning has begun. I hope you will continue to pray for all the students and staff all year long.

The Christian Education year has started at St. Mark.

* We have new curriculum resources for our elementary aged children. They are called "Growing in Grace and Gratitude." You can see some samples along with other information on the Christian Education bulletin board. We will start using them in September.

* We are anticipating the delivery of a new set of story books for preschoolers. "God Loves Me Storybooks" are a set of 52 books designed to be used over and over again with preschoolers. This will be an exciting new addition to our collection of resources.

* On September 13th in worship we will be giving Bibles to five children who are entering the third and

fourth grades this year. We have picked an edition of the NRSV translation that has been designed for this age group. When we present the Bibles we will also give the children a bookmark with a list of the favorite Bible passages of some of our leaders.

* Of course Christian Education is not just from children. We always need to be growing in grace and gratitude no matter what our age. We have several Sunday School options, The Wednesday morning Bible Study is open to all adults, and Rick offers inquirers classes throughout the year.

* My "Odds and Ends" bulletin board will once again feature timely items that I think may be of interest to you.

* The CE Committee is always open to offering special seminars on appropriate topics. If you have an idea let us know.

* Speaking of special events, elsewhere in the newsletter you can find information about the special event "**Preparing for the End of Life: A Handful of Things You Can Do Now.**" I hope you will make plans to attend.

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education



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Non-Profit Organization