



St. Mark Connection



9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437

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saintmarkchurch.org

July 2013



St. Mark Presbyterian Church

Invites you to Athens VBS

July 8 - 11, 6:00 - 7:45 p.m.

A summer event called "Athens: Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth" will be hosted at St. Mark from July 8 to July 11. Families step back in time at Athens, exploring some of the adventures the Apostle Paul faced. Kids and adults participate in a memorable Bible-times Marketplace, sing songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into Bible-times snacks, visit Paul, and make fun crafts to remind them of God's Word. Plus, everyone learns to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes at Celebration - a time of upbeat worship that gets everyone involved.

Kids and adults at Athens VBS will collect canned and boxed food items to be donated to **White Rock Center of Hope**.

Athens will run from 6:00 to 7:45 each day. For more information, call the church office, 214-321-6437.

Adult Vacation Bible School

August 5th - 8th from 9:00 a. m. - Noon

"Psalms in the Psummer"

Monday at St. Mark:

"A Fresh Look at the Psalms"

Tuesday at First Presbyterian, Garland:

"Hands on the Psalms"

Wednesday at Eastminster Presbyterian:

"Praying the Psalms"

Thursday at Lake Highlands Presbyterian:

"Singing the Psalms"

Plus refreshments & other activities each day.

Contact St. Mark church office for more information



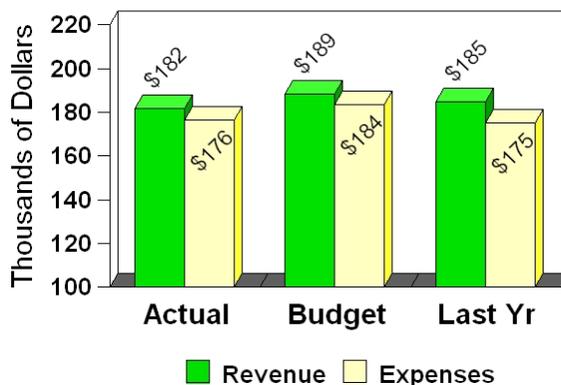
72 Years and Counting

Frank and Shirley Roberson will have been married for 72 years this July. Please join them in the parlor following

worship on Sunday, July 14th to celebrate with cake and punch.

Operating & Mission Funds

11 Months Through May 31, 2013



Treasurer's Report

for the eleven months ending 5/31/13

- ⇒ Operating Fund revenue is \$5,600 below budget and expenditures are \$3,100 below budget.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund revenue is \$13,600 more than budgeted, and expenditures are \$17,800 more than budgeted, both due mainly to the A/C replacement project and repairs.
- ⇒ Mission and Outreach Fund revenue is \$1,200 less than budgeted, and expenditures are \$4,200 less than budgeted.

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.



Until recently, I would tell you that I don't have issues with seeking medical care, other than not making appointments simply because my schedule is too full. My rationale is that taking "me time" means there is less time to be of service to others. (On reflection, my own self-importance is sweeping in its sinfulness. Another definition of EGO—Edging God Out.) So I usually try to self-diagnose via the Internet and self-treat with over-the-counter help from Walgreens.

I'm actually in good physical health, as verified by annual physical checkups. That's why an exceptionally bad tooth ache on a recent Thursday evening surprised me. Knowing that my dentist's office was closed on Friday, I loaded up on Anbesol for the weekend. Early Monday morning, I saw my dentist. He examined the X-ray of my left upper molar, then immediately scheduled me with an oral surgeon.

It was in the oral surgeon's office that I had to confront my ego. With a touch of self-importance, I had advised the accommodating surgeon that this unscheduled procedure had to be done quickly. You

see, I had the responsibility of taking someone to the hospital for an appointment at noon. So I impatiently settled into the chair as the surgeon valiantly attempted to remove the defective molar's three roots with as little anesthetic as possible. Then my formerly normal blood pressure suddenly shot up to 220/120. The surgeon halted surgery on the one remaining root because my much-vaunted healthy heart was nearing what he called a "major cardiac event."

Looking like a chipmunk from all the gauze in my mouth, I left to honor my driving commitment. I questioned myself on the way home about the ego that fuels my self-importance and self-sufficiency. Today I believe that I suffered not only an unexpected case of white coat syndrome (elevated blood pressure occurring only in clinical settings) but also a case of what United Methodist Bishop Will Willimon calls a pastor being a "quivering mass of availability."

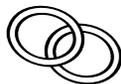
There's nothing wrong with a pastor being available for others. In fact, availability is part of every pastor's calling. The sin arises when the desire to be needed and accept credit Edges God Out. The Christian life is not about me and it's not about you. Rather, it's about giving God the glory due only Him.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

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



Congratulations to . . .



Ben and Jennifer Blair who were united in marriage on June 15, 2013.

Our Sympathy to . . .

Rusty Holloway and his family upon the death of his mother and long-time St. Mark member Sondra Holloway. A Memorial Service for Sondra was held at St. Mark on June 22, 2013

Newsletter Deadline is July 15th

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

July 7

"Dead or Just Napping?"
Matthew 10:28-33; Revelation 3:1-6
Celebration of the Lord's Supper

July 14

"Rush"
John 16:7-11; Revelation 3:14-22

July 21

"Talk About a Revolution"
John 14:6-11; Acts 17:1-9

July 28

"Takin' It to the Streets"
2 Timothy 3:1-5; Mark 16:9-15



Summer Break Schedules

Yoga

The Yoga Class is taking a small break in July and will resume on Sunday, July 28th.

Summer Break for WBS

The Wednesday Bible Study will not meet during July but will return August 21.

Movie Night will not be held in July.

May God Bless You On Your Birthday

July 5

Suzanne Presley

July 10

Lou Duncan

July 12

Lacey Stephen

July 14

Alaina Basher

July 17

Rusty Holloway

July 18

Linda Youmans

July 19

Allison Curry

July 20

Cathie Mackle

July 22

Jeanette Sanders

July 31

Trevor Crawley



St. Mark Annual Swim Party Sunday, July 14th — 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Town East Pool*

We have *exclusive* use of the pool on this evening. Bring lawn chairs, snacks, & drinks in non-glass containers and enjoy swimming and/or visiting in the shade. Only U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation devices are allowed.

*Town East Pool is located at 2525 John Glenn Pkwy off Town East Blvd. between Hwy. 80 and Gus Thomason, behind McDonald Middle School.

White Rock Center of Hope is Sunday June 9th

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



Food Needs

Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese

Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilger stmarkpc1@sbcglobal.net

Cecilia Grayson

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



Thanks to all our church family. Your prayers and support throughout Dorothy's illness and promotion to Glory have been invaluable to all of us.

The cards, letters and food you showered upon us reminded us what the St. Mark family was all about; sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Through each of you, God had blessed us greatly.

The family of Dorothy Robinson

The Church Pantry Needs:

Vienna Sausage & Canned Bean

(Pull-top cans only)



60 Years
St. Mark Presbyterian Church
exists to know Jesus
and make Him known

The Walk to Emmaus
Weekend Retreat - October 10-13th
Briarwood Retreat Center

Emmaus weekends are once in a lifetime experiences open to Christians who want to grow in their spiritual walk with Christ. The mission of these programs is to empower leaders to be the hands and feet of Christ within local churches and reaching out into the world.

The Walk to Emmaus offers today's disciples a parallel opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence in their lives, to gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and to form friendships that foster faith and support spiritual maturity.

A Walk to Emmaus will be held at the Briarwood Retreat Center in Copper Canyon, TX this October 10-13, 2013. The camp is only about 45 minutes from St. Mark, yet in a country setting.

The Walk to Emmaus is open to all Christian adults who desire a deeper relationship with Christ and wish to serve Him more effectively in the church and community.

If you have questions or want to talk to a previous participant, please contact any of the following women:

Kathleen Arthur	Marie Chambers	Sue Duncan
Martha Gracey	Cecilia Grayson	Marilyn Jackson
Diana Kettle	Alice McLean	Pam McGuire
Pauline Millender	Jacie Minick	Jan Pinnell
Flo Philips	Lynn Phillips	Donna Simes
Anne Thomas	Charlene Taylor	Janet Taylor
Barb Tuinstra	Sheila Wahl	Linda Youmans

Randall's Pen As I write this we are just a few days away from celebrating St Mark's 60th anniversary. And as you read this the celebration is 10 days or so behind us.

60 years of ministry is certainly worth celebrating. Six Decades. There have been more than 3000 Sundays where people have gathered to worship. Thousands of classes and other events for all ages have been held. Many people's lives have been touched and forever changed by the ministry of this congregation. Some of those are people have been or were involved with St. Mark for decades. Others may be people who only had a momentary relationship with St. Mark. Perhaps they attended a couple of Vacation Bible School sessions back in the 60's or they attended the funeral of a close friend here.

The 60 years of ministry is worth celebrating. It is worth remembering.

BUT . . .

We need to remember that thriving congregations do not spend a lot of time looking back and thinking about the "good old days." They think about ministry today and in the coming years.

As I thought about the future of St Mark I remembered a book many of us read several years back. It was "Christianity for the Rest of Us" by Diana Butler Bass. She

had done research on a number of healthy or thriving mainline congregations.

One thing she found was that was that all of these congregations had spent time dealing with two key questions. Those questions were:

1. **Who are we?**
2. **What is God calling us to do?**

As they worked with those questions she found that the congregations had "discovered a new sense of identity and a clear purpose in serving the world."

In case pondering those questions seem too overwhelming I'll share the comment of a pastor in one of the congregations she studied that I find very encouraging:

Mainline renewal is not rocket science. You preach the gospel, offer hospitality, and pay attention to worship and people's spiritual lives. Frankly, you take Christianity seriously as a way of life.

SO . . .

1. **Who is St Mark in 2013?**
2. **What is God calling us to do in 2013 and beyond?**

How would you answer those questions?

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education