



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437



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saintmarkchurch.org

November 2013

"Sing a new song to the Lord!"

Hymnal Dedication

Sunday, November 17th at 3:00 p.m.

"Glory to God" - The new Presbyterian Hymnal has arrived and will be dedicated on November 17th at 3:00 p.m. This Hymn Festival service will feature special music by the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs and include congregational singing. The new hymnal is reflective of the diversity of the Church, incorporating music from other lands and traditions. Also, great care was taken to preserve many old favorites as well as include new songs.

The purchase of a new hymnal is a major event in any church. It is one of the ways that our faith and our understanding of biblical teaching remain relevant in today's world. Come hear and sing old and new songs at this Hymn Festival and Dedication Service of our new hymnal. The service will last about one hour and a reception will follow.

Together, we will sing "Glory to God" using our new hymnal at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 17th.

The Eastern Dallas County Cluster of Presbyterian Churches . . .



is hosting a joint Thanksgiving Service
on Sunday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m.

The service will include the St. Mark Handbell choir
and will be held at Eastminster Presbyterian Church
at 6550 Samuell Blvd., Dallas.

St. Mark Christmas Dinner and Choir Program

Sunday, December 15th at 6:00 p.m.

"Appalachian Winter"

Reservation Deadline is Sunday, December 8th

The cost of the dinner is \$10 for adults, \$7 for
children ages 6 -12 and free for children 5 and
under. Reservations can be made in the parlor on
Sunday, December 1st or you can call Pat in the
church office and make reservations.

Following dinner we will move to the Sanctuary
where the Handbell and Sanctuary Choirs will
present a special Christmas program.

**Childcare will be provided for children 5 and under
during the program.**

Welcome New Members . . .

Norma Murray
Dallas, TX 75218

Mason & Stephany Brown
Mesquite, TX 75150

Arthur & Willetta Jones
Mabank, TX 75147

(Complete contact information available from the church office)

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 1st at 4:00 p.m.



Come join in the fun of getting the church
ready for the Christmas season. On this
first Sunday in Advent, starting at 4:00, we will
begin decorating the outside of the building, the
sanctuary, narthex and parlor. The Fellowship
Committee will be providing cookies, coffee and hot
chocolate. Later we will stop and have a short
worship service with carol singing.



The Church Pantry Urgently Needs:

Peanut butter & jelly (small jars), canned fruit, Vienna sausage & peanut butter
crackers/cookies. Supplies are very low right now.



"Hello my name is church,

I'm sure you've heard a lot about me. I have no shortage of critics. Perhaps you have heard that I am...boring, shallow, cheap, a waste of time. You've heard that I am full of: hypocrites, clowns, greedy people, the self-righteous. Maybe you have visited me before and discovered: horrible music, passionless singing, dry preaching, rude congregants. Maybe you needed me and I was: too busy, too "righteous," too broke, too blind. Maybe you joined me and found I was: distant, demanding, dull, preoccupied.

Maybe you tried to serve in me but were caught off guard by: business meetings, committees, teams, bureaucracy. Maybe you left and were surprised that nobody: called, cared, noticed, invited you back. Perhaps your experience has driven you to: speak negatively of me, swear to never come back to me, proclaim that no one needs me, believe you're better off without me. If this is true, I have something to say to you: I'm sorry. I was wrong. I blew it, I made a huge mistake. But remember, I never said my name was: perfect, flawless, complete, arrived.

My name is church. I welcome the: hypocrite, dry, self-righteous, shallow. I welcome the sincere,

passionate, forgiving, selfless. I cannot shut my doors to the people who make you: angry, uncomfortable, impatient, self-conscious. But I would remind you that we couldn't always worship in the same room. In the Old Testament there was a division between the: Gentile, Jew, man, woman. In order for us to all worship in the same room Jesus Christ was: shamed, beaten, killed, resurrected, which is far worse than being: bored, uncomfortable, embarrassed, ignored.

So why not come back to church and let all of these messed up people: challenge you, sharpen you, strengthen you, humble you? I can't promise you that the people will be great. This is church. It's not: Heaven, Paradise, Beulah Land, the Celestial City. Come back. God wants you here. The body needs you here. The world needs your witness here. You belong here.

Hello, my name is church. I miss you. I love you. I'm sorry. Can't wait to see you."

Pastor Rick here. This open letter was written by an anonymous pastor in the Bible Belt who posted it online, Oct. 20, in the Huffington Post. The vitriolic comments posted immediately after the letter's publication were breathtaking in their sweeping denunciation of the church. "No!" was the overwhelming reply. What would you say to the negative responses to returning to church?

Blessings, *Pastor Rick*



Second Sunday at Six A Service of Wholeness

November 10th at 6:00 in the Gleaner's Classroom. Join us for a time of prayer, scripture meditation, anointing of oil and the Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Pictorial Directory

If you were unable to have your photo made for the directory during our scheduled dates, it is not too late. You may have your picture taken at a local church doing photography for Lifetouch. To be included in our directory, call Marilyn Jackson to make an appointment.



TIME TO FALL BACK Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 3rd

St. Mark T-Shirts

There is still time to order a St. Mark t-shirt. The sign up list is on the bulletin board outside the church office. The cost is \$15.00. The order will be placed on December 2nd. Please pay Pat in the church office or Marilyn Jackson.

Join Us for Movie Night

Saturday, November 16th @ 7:00 p.m.

Bring snacks to share and join your friends in the cozy confines of the "Gleaners Cinema" for a new release or classic movie.



Remember the Million Penny Fund?

A goal of \$1,000,000 pennies was set and to date we have received \$667,870. All donations benefit the Landscape fund and the Camps and Conferences fund.

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

November 3

"Giant Shoulders"

Hebrews 12:1-3; Ephesians 1:11-14

Celebration of the Lord's Supper



November 10

"Deep Knee Bends"

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; Psalm 63:1-8

Service for Wholeness 6:00p.m.

November 17

"Language of the Heart"

Ephesians 5:15-20; 1 Samuel 16:14-23

New Hymnal Dedication 3:00p.m.

November 24

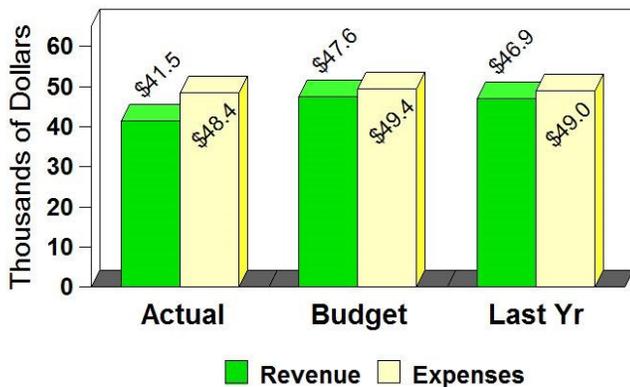
"In All Things"

Psalm 100:1-5; Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Thanksgiving Service, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 7:00 p.m.

Operating & Mission Funds

3 Months Through Sep 30, 2013



Treasurer's Report

for the three months ending 9/30/13

- ⇒ Operating Fund contributions are \$6,100 below budget and \$5,400 less than last year. Expenses are \$900 below budget and \$600 below last year.
- ⇒ Capital and Facilities Fund contributions are \$1,000 below budget and about \$300 more than the previous year. Expenditures are on budget.

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.

Newsletter Deadline is November 15th

On Sunday, **November 10th** we will again honor our St. Mark Veterans by helping the USO at DFW Airport.



The USO is open 24/7 and serves 12,000 service men and women every month. When the "Welcome Home Hero" program ended most of the donations stopped.

The USO has many needs: juice boxes, beef jerky, peanut butter or cheese crackers, peanuts/mixed nuts, variety-pack chips, trail mix, chewing gum, cases of canned sodas and juice, travel size baby powder, shaving cream, deodorant, batteries, paper plates for microwaving, paper towels, books for adults. Some children will be traveling with a parent and the USO can also use coloring books, activity books, tablets, crayons and new books for children.

Please place your donated items on the chancel steps before the worship service on Sunday, November 10th.

If you have questions call or email Donna Simes.

White Rock Center of Hope is Sunday November 10th



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

Food Needs

Tuna, Macaroni & Cheese, Yams & Marshmallows, Stuffing Mixes, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, Chicken Helper, Cake Mixes & Icings, Canned Meats & Fruits, Canned Vegetables & Soups, Suddenly Salad and any other items that would help put together a holiday meal.

Other Needs

Men's jeans & pants, socks & underwear, winter coats & jackets, sweats, pajamas, belts & shoes;

Women's robes, sleepwear, underwear, socks & shoes in all sizes, winter coats & jackets;

Children's clothing (all kinds, all sizes), underwear, shoes, coats & jackets

Linens - blankets, sheets, towels, pillows, comforters

Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilger office@saintmarkchurch.org

Cecilia Grayson

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



Randall's Pen



It is November. So it's natural that when I began thinking about this article the Thanksgiving holiday came to mind. Then I began thinking about the actual acts of giving thanks that we are all called to do in response to God's love and grace.

And since I am a Presbyterian minister/educator type of person as I thought about those acts I thought about the Book of Order. Yes, it's kind of strange but true.

More specifically I thought about a small but powerful section of the Book of Order called "The Great Ends of the Church." There are six Great Ends. You could also call them Great Purposes or Great Tasks of the Church.

Those Ends or Purposes or Tasks are:

- the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
- the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
- the maintenance of divine worship;
- the preservation of the truth;
- the promotion of social righteousness; and
- the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

The Great ends are definitely task of the organized church. But we can also look at them as tasks or purposes for our individual lives. Every one of us is called to proclaim, shelter, nurture, maintain, preserve, promote and exhibit. We are called to do these things in different ways based on the gifts that God has given each of us.

Here's the thanksgiving connection. Every time we proclaim, shelter, nurture, maintain, preserve, promote or exhibit in some way we are actually giving thanks. We are giving thanks because doing these things is an act of gratitude to God. When we embrace a Great End as a part of our daily lives we are thanking God for all God has done for us. We are giving thanks for the fact that God has claimed each of us as one of God's beloved children.

So, Happy Thanksgiving.

May you find great joy in giving thanks as you proclaim, shelter, nurture, maintain, preserve, promote and exhibit the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education

May God Bless You On Your Birthday

November 2

John Wahl

November 3

Mary Scallorn

November 4

Alan Aulenbach

November 7

Dorothy Moore

November 9

Frances Cockrell

November 13

Charles Miller

November 16

Hannah Jones

Shirley Roberson



November 18

Greg Cockrell

November 19

Cheryl Nowlin

Troy Simpson

November 20

Teri Brooks

November 21

Andi Taylor

November 23

Victoria Monroe

November 24

Pelham Swift

Lisa Washburne

November 29

Todd Arthur

Directory Update

Troy & Cheryl Simpson

Dallas, TX 75228-3258

Earlyne Chesser

Dallas, TX 75206

Marie Chambers - (new email)

Sharon Bradford - (new email)

Reggie Bradford - (new email)

(Complete details available from church office)

Sincere Thanks . . .

To ALL who worked so diligently to make the Rummage & Bake Sale a success!! It couldn't be done without the time, efforts and goods YOU provided! Bravo from the Worship and Mission Committees.

Thank You

I'd like to thank my St. Mark family for your cards, visits, phone calls and, above all, your prayer.

Recovery has been slow but positive.

Thanks, Jan Pinnell

On behalf of me and my family, I want to give my heartfelt thanks for all you've done since Mom's passing. Thank you so much for your calls, cards and hugs; for food you provided; and for the generous memorials donated to support the causes and purposes that were important to Mom. Love you all very much.

Jeff Taylor

Saturday, November 2nd - 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



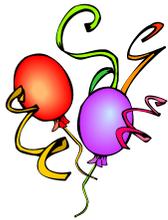
Arrive around 8:30 a.m. and have some breakfast and then stay to help beautify the church inside and out. Some of our projects include:

- General cleanup in the prayer garden & patio area
- cleaning in the sanctuary, parlor & Family Center
- cleaning out gutters
- trimming trees and shrubs
- Picking up trash around the property



Because supplies and equipment at the church are limited, you may want to bring your own cleaning products, brooms, pruners, rakes, etc.

Property & Maintenance Committee



A Birthday Celebration!

Please join the Roberson family in the parlor following worship on Sunday, November 17th for coffee and cake as we celebrate Shirley's 90th birthday.



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Non-Profit Organization