

# St. Mark Connection



St. Mark Presbyterian Church

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## Pastor's Corner

### this issue

<b>BULLETIN BOARD</b>	P. 2
<b>MAY CALENDAR</b>	P. 3
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>	P. 4
<b>RANDALL'S PEN</b>	P. 5
<b>SESSION HIGHLIGHTS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</b>	P. 6

### reminders

- May 3** -Volunteers to the Bridge
- May 5** – 8:00 am  
Men's Breakfast
- May 6** - Legacy Sunday
- May 13** – Mother's Day
- May 19** – 6:00 pm  
Game Night
- May 20** – Pentecost Sunday  
Salad Bar Luncheon
- May 29** – Memorial Day –  
Church Office Closed

There's probably no word that terrifies contemporary Presbyterians more than "evangelism." Interestingly enough, that word wasn't used much within the Christian faith until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Prior to that, sharing with others the good news of Jesus Christ was simply intrinsic to Christian conduct. The term "evangelism" has been hijacked today. It can be applied to business, politics, sports, or anything else where people enthusiastically promote an idea. It is not exclusive to Christianity.

I recently participated in a seminar with the Foundation for Reformed Theology. My presentation to this gathering was based on the work of a former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, who defined Christian evangelism this way:

"Evangelism is to present Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, that people may come to put their trust in God through Him; to accept Him as their Savior and serve Him as their King in the fellowship of the church."

That's a mouthful but I really like this shorthand version from Daniel Thambyrajah Niles:



"Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to find food."

Evangelism isn't an option for Christians in a world starving for the Good News. Evangelism is a direct commission from Jesus to his followers (Matthew 29:18-20). The universal church has received marching orders that are still in full force and effect. Unfortunately, many Christians believe the practice of evangelism goes something like this: Knock on a stranger's door and ask a question like: "If you died tonight, would you go to heaven?"

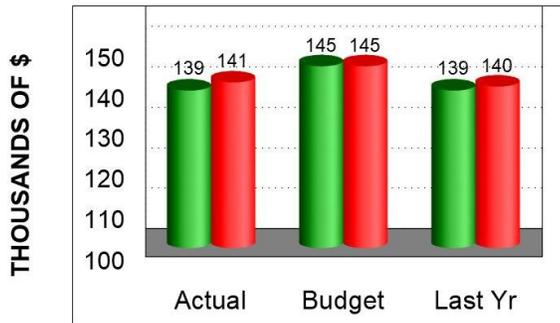
Let me make a confession: I don't do that. And, I'm not about to ask you to do something I either haven't done or won't do. I *have* gone door to door – with some of you - in passing out gifts, inviting strangers to worship with the church.

Another point about the purpose of evangelism. It is not about adding people to church rolls out of fear that the church will die. That's survivalist thinking of the worst order. Such mentality demeans Christ's commission to the church and devalues those who are not Christian. Instead, I'm suggesting that we don't practice evangelism because we don't love the lost. That may sound harsh, but if we *truly* love others, we will share the greatest story ever told. It is my prayer, not only for myself, but also for St. Mark Presbyterian Church that God will break our hearts over our neighbors who don't know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Let's share the bread of heaven with the hungry. *Blessings, Pastor Rick*

# Bulletin Board

## Treasurer's Report

Nine Months Ending March 31, 2018



## OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund YTD income was \$6,300 below budget and YTD expenses were \$3,700 below budget.

Capital and Facilities Fund YTD income was \$1,000 below budget and YTD expenses were \$200 above budget.

Our Combined Fund Balance is down \$4,400 from the previous month and up \$1,200 from the beginning of our fiscal year.

## Special Easter Offering Update

The total for the Special Easter Offering was \$4550. Your gifts have been divided between One Great Hour of Sharing and five local mission partners –



White Rock Center of Hope, Austin Street Center, Wilkinson Center, Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services, and St. Mark Camps & Conferences Fund.

Thank you once again for your gracious generosity.

## Directory Updates

Call the church office for recent updates.

## St. Mark Easter Egg Hunt

The sun was shining, and the weather was perfect as the children of St. Mark Church eagerly gathered for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 31. Approximately 25 children participated in frosting cookies, coloring pictures, and making Easter crafts. They divided into three age groups



for the egg hunt, held in three different areas. A big thank you goes to Charles Miller, Ann Gordon, and Valerie Briseno who were at church at "the crack of dawn" to organize the

classroom, and to hide the eggs. Another thank you goes to Allison Curry, Lorraine Stephen, and Norma Murray who helped group the children, and assisted during the hunt.

Joanne Szalay

## Communion

Beginning in May, we will begin serving communion by intinction on a regular basis. We have used intinction at special services over the years, and the process has gone smoothly. It is an intimate and interactive way to receive communion, and it is a simplified and cohesive way to prepare and serve the elements. As always, communion will be served directly to those in pews who may be unable to come forward. We believe this approach should work well for our congregation.



Sunday, May 6th, the Reverend Jim Greene will be presiding at worship for Saint Mark. Allison Curry will be Liturgist. Elders John and Sharon Curry will serve the Lord's Supper by intinction. Thank you for your support as we make this transition with the sacrament of communion.

From the Worship and Music Committee

# May 2018 - St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:15a Sunday School  <b>10:30a Worship Service</b>                      12:00p AA Group                      12:00p Yoga                      5:00p Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group  <b>4:45p OASIS at St. Mark</b>                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      6:30p Fellowship Com.                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>8:00a Bryan Adams - ROTC use of back parking lot                      12:00p AA Group                      5:15p Yoga                      6:30p Handbell Rehearsal                      7:30p AA Group                      7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group  <b>4:45p OASIS at St. Mark</b>                      5:00p Volunteers to The Bridge                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>8:00a Men's Breakfast                      12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group</p> 
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9:15a Sunday School  <b>10:30a Worship Service</b>                      12:00p AA Group                      12:00p Yoga                      12:00p Membership &amp; Evangelism Com.                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group  <b>4:45p OASIS at St. Mark</b>                      7:00p Worship &amp; Music Com.                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      6:30p CE Committee Mtg.                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>10:30a Wednesday Bible Study (WBS)                      12:00p AA Group                      5:15p Yoga                      6:00p Stewardship &amp; Finance Comm                      6:30p Handbell Rehearsal                      7:30p AA Group                      7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group  <b>4:45p OASIS at St. Mark</b>                      6:00p GriefShare Support Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9:15a Sunday School  <b>10:30a Worship Service</b>                      12:00p AA Group                      12:00p Yoga                      12:00p Mission &amp; Outreach Com.                      7:30p AA Group  <b>Mother's Day</b></p> 	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group  <b>4:45p OASIS at St. Mark</b>                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      6:30p Emmaus I                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>10:30a WBS                      12:00p AA Group                      5:15p Yoga                      6:30p Property Committee Mtg.                      6:30p Handbell Rehearsal                      7:30p AA Group                      7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group  <b>4:45p OASIS at St. Mark</b>                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9:00a Grace Presbytery Meeting at FPC Richardson                      10:30a Set-up for lunch                      12:00p AA Group                      6:00p Game Night                      7:30p AA Group</p> 
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9:15a Sunday School  <b>10:30a Worship Service</b>                      12:00p AA Group                      12:00p Yoga                      12:00p Salad Bar Lunch                      7:30p AA Group  <b>Day of Pentecost</b></p> 	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group  <b>4:45p OASIS at St. Mark</b>                      6:30p Session Meeting                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>10:30a WBS                      12:00p AA Group                      5:15p Yoga                      6:30p Handbell Rehearsal                      7:30p AA Group                      7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group  <b>4:45p OASIS at St. Mark</b>                      6:00p GriefShare Support Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9:15a Sunday School  <b>10:30a Worship Service</b>                      12:00p AA Group                      12:00p Yoga                      7:30p AA Group  <b>Trinity Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group  <b>Memorial Day - Church Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>10:30a WBS                      12:00p AA Group                      5:15p Yoga                      6:30p Handbell Rehearsal                      7:30p AA Group                      7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group  <b>4:45p OASIS at St. Mark</b>                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>8:00a Men's Breakfast                      12:00p AA Group                      7:30p AA Group</p>

# Upcoming Events

## Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

May 6 – “God’s Spirit in You”  
Zechariah 8:20-23; Acts 2:14-24  
Rev. Jim Greene  
Celebration of The Lord’s Supper



May 13 – “Testimony”  
Psalm 1:1-6; 1 John 5:9-13

May 20 – “It’s Five O’clock Somewhere”  
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-12  
Pentecost Sunday

May 27 – “Nic at Night”  
Isaiah 6:1-8; John 3:1-17  
Trinity Sunday

## God Bless You on Your Birthday

**May 1**  
Edna Woods  
**May 2**  
Mike Parsley  
**May 8**  
Kathy Moore  
**May 10**  
Tricia Johnson  
**May 11**  
Martha Gracey  
**May 12**  
Drew Taylor



**May 14**  
Frank Roberson  
Harry Roberts  
**May 19**  
Brian Arthur  
**May 22**  
Travis Moore  
**May 24**  
Megan Knapp  
**May 27**  
Dick Brooks

## Salad Bar Luncheon

Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> after Worship

The Fellowship Committee invites you to enjoy a springtime lunch. We will be offering items from a delicious salad bar. There will be chicken nuggets for the kiddos.



Please plan to attend and enjoy some food, fun, and fellowship with your St. Mark family.



## White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

(for items needed, please check bulletin board outside of parlor)

## St. Mark Combined Choirs

On Palm Sunday, Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup> the St. Mark Children’s Choir, under the direction of Leigh Taylor and Allison Curry, sang with the adult choir, under the direction of Gary O’Neal. The song they performed together was titled “Sing Children, Sing Hosanna”. This was the first joint choir performance in many years. The two choirs will be singing again on Mother’s Day, Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>. They will be singing a song titled “A Family of Love”.



## About GRIEF SHARE

### What to expect

GriefShare is a support group that meets every second and fourth Thursday of each month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the church parlor. You’ll find it to be a warm, caring environment and will come to see your group as an “oasis” on your long journey through grief. There are three key parts to your GriefShare experience:

### Video seminar

Encouraging, information-packed videos featuring leading grief recovery experts

### Support group

Small group discussion about the weekly video content

### Workbook

Journaling and personal study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics. If you would like more information, please contact Willetta Jones, Flo Phillips, or Dee Robinson Huckaba.



This morning I am thinking about two things.

1. The reference in “Hebrews” to the “great cloud of

witnesses” that surrounds all Christians.

2. Summer camp for elementary aged children at Camp Gilmont.

There is a logical connection between these things that are on my mind.

There are four children from St. Mark that will be going to a camp at Gilmont this summer. This is the second year in a row we will have children attending camp after perhaps a decade without any attending. This is a big deal. Studies show that if you survey adults who are faithful Christians you are likely to find that healthy Christian summer camp experiences as a child played a key role in their faith formation. There is just something special about the experiences children have when they are outdoors at a camp. They are surrounded by adults who love them and seek to model the Christian life in a tight knit community. So, I am excited that once again we have children from St. Mark that will be at camp. And doubly excited that the ones who went last summer want to go back this year.

Now about that “great cloud of witnesses.” It is that cloud that helps make it possible for children to have those wonderful experiences. Every child from St. Mark gets some sort of financial aid for camp. Long ago the Session decided that camp experiences were important and that the congregation should support families who want to send their children to camp. So, we have a “Camp and Conference Fund.” Some of the proceeds from the cookbook that is being published to celebrate St. Mark’s 65 years of Christian witness will go into the fund. Previously people made contributions to the fund in honor and memory various St. Mark saints. Our children also have access to something called the “Prairie Valley Legacy Fund.” Perhaps you once went to a camp or event at Prairie Valley down near Whitney. The camp was sold when it was no longer needed. But as the fund name indicates its legacy lives on. The proceeds went into a fund to help future generations of children have great camping experiences.



So today I am thankful for that great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us all. I am thankful for the opportunity for our children to have a great camp experience at Gilmont this summer. I am also thankful for the connection between the two.



## Vacation Bible School

**Babylon – Daniel’s Courage in Captivity  
Vacation Bible School**

**June 18-21 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm**

**Daniel was way more than the guy who survived a den of hungry lions.**

Experience the Thrill of Visiting Ancient Babylon! Join Daniel—torn from his home and forced into the king’s service. Explore exotic sights and smells in a Babylonian bazaar! Kids and adults will find that they’re not much different from Daniel and his friends, who kept their faith in a faithless culture.

Four days of fun—and lasting Bible learning! Kids and adults experience what daily life was like in Babylon! Explore a crowded marketplace and visit Daniel for daily discoveries about God’s love.

Cool craft projects in the marketplace include the Mosaic shop, the Music shop, and the Metalworking shop.

One of the best parts about VBS are fun faith-filled songs your kids will want to sing again and again!

At Babylon VBS, you’ll reinforce Bible truth in a big way because the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each activity. God’s Word comes alive through engaging interaction with Bible history!

Please call the church office, 214-321-6437 or email Marilyn Jackson to preregister.



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Stated Meeting of the Session, March 19, 2018

- Motion passed to accept the Annual Financial Report.
- Motion passed that the New Life Assessment Task Force be dissolved, and their projects be delegated to the Membership & Evangelism Committee. The Task Force was dismissed with thanks.
- Motion passed for Special Easter Offering to be divided one half (50%) to One Great Hour of Sharing, and 10% each to White Rock center of Hope, Austin Street Center, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, Wilkinson Center, and the St. Mark Camps and Conferences Fund.
- Motion passed that up to \$4,000 be made available from the Contingency Fund for the Family Center Classroom HVAC Project as proposed by the Property Committee, with the balance to come from their current year HVAC budget, and donations from individuals.

A full set of Session minutes are available to read on the Session bulletin board.

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The Wednesday Bible Study class, led by Rev. Rick Brooks, is currently using *The Wired Word*. The WW relates current events to relevant Scripture passages. We would love to have you join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 in the Parlor, to study the Bible and enjoy some coffee and thought provoking spiritual conversation.

