



# St. Mark Connection



St. Mark Presbyterian Church

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Pastor's  
Corner

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## reminders

**July 1** – Blood Drive  
**July 5** – Volunteers to the Bridge  
**July 8** - White Rock Center of Hope Giving Sunday  
**July 29** – Annual Congregational Meeting Sandwich Sunday

While serving as Christian Education Director for First Presbyterian Church in Hollywood, California, Henrietta Mears wrote one of the most popular guides to the Bible ever published titled, "What The Bible Is All About." It's a goldmine of quotations. In referring to the one-hundred twenty-year lifespan of Moses she noted Dwight L. Moody's observation that, "Moses spent his first forty years thinking he was somebody. He spent his second forty years learning he was a nobody. He spent his third forty years discovering what God can do with a nobody." The key, of course, is that God used Moses' circumstances to put His plan into action. Then, as now, God's plan is to set apart a people for Himself to glorify Him in every time and place. Moses is an integral part of that plan.

Genesis ends with God's chosen people on top in Egypt. A little over four hundred years later, they're on the bottom. But God has heard their cries for help and He answered with a man named Moses. Those four hundred plus years didn't erase God's covenant to form a people for Himself. God had noticed the misery of His elect. And when circumstances intersected God's plan, Moses entered the scene to lead God's people out of Egypt. Unlike hard times that don't last, God's care and concern expressed in His covenants lasts forever. He is surprised by nothing. His will is certain.

When examining the life of Moses, we need to remember that while he is "larger than life" in the Christian faith, he is also a fallible human being. That's why Moody's observation is so right on target. We often think we're somebody, particularly when God is left out of the equation. We really believe we're self-made. *Then*, disaster strikes and we realize we're not all that great. We're all alone...or at least that's what we think. Stripped of self-sufficiency, we discover that God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives.

We have reached a vulnerable place where God can actually use us to put His plan into action. Being molded into who God wants us to be can be an uncomfortable process. That's an important truth Moses had to learn. God was not content to leave His people in bondage even though it was a difficult time for them. They were being refined as gold, readied for their journey into the wilderness and into God's covenant. As the people of St. Mark Presbyterian Church we, too, are discovering what God is going to do in, through, and with us. We're not nobodies. We're God's people.

*Blessings, Pastor Rick*

# Upcoming Events

## Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

July 1 – “Healed and Held”  
Psalm 130:1-8; Mark 5:21-43  
Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

July 8 – “Expecting Push Back”  
Psalm 48:9-14; Mark 6:1-13

July 15 – “Cost of The Just”  
2 Samuel 6:1-8; Mark 6:14-29  
Rev. Jim Greene

July 22 – “Living In the Land of Lack”  
Psalm 89:20-29; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 29 – “Ignoring Reason”  
Psalm 14:1-7; John 6:1-21



## God Bless You on Your Birthday

**July 8**  
Ella Arthur

**July 12**  
Lacey Stephen Zuretti

**July 14**  
Alaina Higgins

**July 15**  
Willetta Jones

**July 18**  
Linda Youmans

**July 19**  
Allison Curry

**July 31**  
Trevor Crawley



## Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held July 29<sup>th</sup> immediately after the worship service.

During that meeting, we will approve Reverend Brooks’ Terms of Call, elect 3 members of the congregation to serve on the Nominating Committee, and receive Annual Reports from each committee. Please plan to attend this important meeting.



## Welcome New Elders and Trustee

The newly elected elders, Dick Arthur, Kathy Hale, George Schingle, Joanne Szalay, and Dick Waters were installed on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Hale and George Schingle were also ordained. Commissioned was trustee Mike Parsley. Thank you for your service Class of 2018: Karl Crawley, Lorraine Stephen, Joan Szalay and Dick Waters and Mike Parsley.



During the 13 weeks of the GriefShare program we have stressed the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ as a foundation for healing grief. GriefShare views the Bible as the “Owner’s Manual for Life.”

Three steps to learn and embrace are:

1. It takes time to heal
2. Set proper expectations.
3. Don’t shortchange yourself.

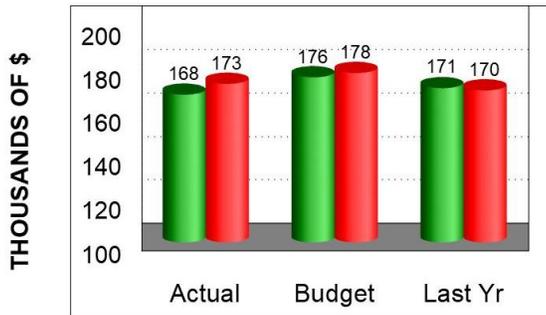
Our church group has drawn people from outside as well as within. We have had people with different kinds of losses and multiple losses in their lives, some in a short time span. All those who have attended regularly have expressed how much they have received from the video lessons and teachings. Group discussions and sharing has been very interesting and helpful as stated by every group member.

Prayer Request – for us as leaders, for God to lead us and that our group will grow: for all our present and past grievers who did not continue to the end, that they have found help and comfort.

Join us on September 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. when we begin our 13-week program in the church parlor. Willetta Jones, Flo Phillips, Dee Huckaba

## Treasurer's Report

Eleven Months Ending May 31, 2018



### OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund income YTD was \$8,500 below budget and \$3,700 below prior year. Expenses were \$5,700 below budget and \$2,300 above prior year.

Capital & Facilities Fund income YTD was \$1,700 above budget. Expenses were \$5,300 above budget (both due to the FC Classroom HVAC project.)

Our Combined Fund Balance is down \$1,500 from the prior month, and down \$6,800 YTD.

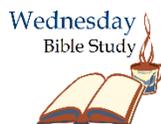
## Directory Updates



Dan and Lacey Zuretti  
Contact church office for more information.

## Wednesday Bible Study

There will be no Wednesday Bible Study in July. You are invited to join Pastor Rick in August for more current topic study and conversation using the Wired Word.



## Summer Meals for Kids

This summer, 19 Dallas Public Library branches are providing free lunches and snacks to children and teens under age 18, in partnership with the nonprofit hunger organization Equal Heart. For times and locations click on the following link:

<http://www.dallascitynews.net/summer-meals-for-kids-now-available-at-11-dallas-public-library-branches>

## Vacation Bible School

Babylon Daniel's Courage in Captivity



Daniel was way more than the guy who survived a den of hungry lions. We joined Daniel—torn from his home and forced into the king's service. We had 14 kids over the week, that explored exotic sights and smells in a Babylonian bazaar!

There were four days of fun, experiencing what daily life was like in Babylon! A typical day at Babylon Vacation Bible School, kids visited the marketplace, sampled unique treats and played high-energy games. Ask one of the kids about the Marshmallow Catapult game.

Cool craft projects in the marketplace included the Mosaic shop, the Music shop, and the Metalworking shop, plus extra crafts to create. One of the best parts about VBS were the songs! Thank you to all of our volunteers! You made the VBS experience wonderful for the participants. We look forward to next year!

## Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to Gary and Ann O'Neal in the death of Gary's mother, Mary K. Hansel.

Mary K. was promoted to Glory on June 25, 2018.

Arrangements for the Memorial Service are being made with Scarpelli Funeral Home in Cumberland, Maryland.

Prayers for the family are greatly appreciated.



# St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:00a <b>Blood Drive</b> 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a <b>Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Membership &amp; Evangelism Com. 7:30p AA Group</p> 	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>9:00a Wedding and Reception Set-up (Sanctuary and FC) 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 2:00p Wedding and Reception (Sanctuary and FC) 7:30p AA Group Church Office Closed</p> 	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 5:00p Volunteers to The Bridge 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>8:00a Men's Breakfast 9:00a Mini Work Day 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p> 
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:15a Sunday School 10:30a <b>Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Mission &amp; Outreach Com. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 6:30p CE Committee Mtg. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 6:30p Property Committee Comm. Mtg. 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>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 2:00p Jackson Bday Party (FC) 7:30p AA Group</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:15a Sunday School 10:30a <b>Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 6:30p Emmaus I 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 6:30p Stewardship &amp; Finance Comm. Mtg. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:15a Sunday School 10:30a <b>Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 6:30p Session Meeting 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>12:00p AA 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>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:15a Sunday School 10:30a <b>Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 12:00p <b>Annual Congregational Meeting</b> 5:00p Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center 7:30p AA Group</p> 	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>10:30a Wednesday Bible Study (WBS) 12:00p AA Group 6:15p Yoga 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 5:00p Volunteers to The Bridge 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>8:00a Men's Breakfast 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>



From time to time I look back at my old newsletter articles. Sometimes they remind me of a great event in the life of St Mark. Others fall into the category of “what was I thinking that month?” But occasionally I find a bit of treasure that I think is worth sharing again. That is the case this month.

A long time ago after Fred left and before Floyd came as our interim I led some sessions of the Wednesday Bible Study group. We read and discussed the book The Armchair John Calvin along with some selections from the work of Calvin. It was a great class. We had some great discussion and reflection. One of the things I found while preparing were some prayers of Calvin in the book John Calvin: Writings on Pastoral Piety. I must have shared some of them with the group because I included three of them in a newsletter article. I think they are worth sharing again.

Here’s a prayer to say before a meal:

*O Lord, from whom flows the fullness of all good things, please extend Your blessing upon us, Your poor servants, and sanctify for us the gifts that we receive from Your bounty, so that we may use them soberly and purely, according to Your good will. By this means we may acknowledge You as Father and Author of all loving kindness, seeking always chiefly the spiritual bread of Your word by which our souls are nourished forever, by Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.*

And here’s a thanksgiving for after a meal:

*O Lord God, we give You thanks for all the benefits we constantly receive from Your hand, that You are pleased to sustain us in this bodily life, giving us all the things we need. And especially we thank You that You have been pleased to regenerate us in the hope of a better life, which You have revealed to us by Your holy gospel. We ask You not to allow our affections to be tangled in these corruptible things, but that we may always raise our eyes above, anticipating our Lord Jesus Christ, until He will come (again) for our redemption.*

And another to be said before doing one’s work:

*May the Lord God and Father be present with us by His Holy Spirit, and so govern and guide us, that all we do, say, or think may be to His honor and glory, in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Perhaps some of you found these prayers helpful over a decade ago. Maybe you might find them useful now as you live out your callings as beloved children of God.



Keynote Speaker  
Paul Maconochie  
3D Movements

## NATURALLY SUPERNATURAL

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington

Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Do you want to see God move supernaturally today, as in the Bible?

Do you want to pray for those who need healing with confidence?

Do you want to move from battle to God’s breakthrough  
in your life and relationships?

Do you want to integrate family, work, and discipleship?

Registration is \$30 per person through July 20<sup>th</sup>

\$40 afterwards

Fee includes lunch on Saturday.

Contact the church office for registration information.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Stated Meeting of the Session, May 21, 2018

- Motion passed to set the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on July 8, 2018.
- Motion passed to set a Called Meeting of Session on June 17, 2018 in order to examine Elder candidates Dick Arthur, Kathleen Hale, and George Schingle.
- Motion passed for Sara Craig, from PCHAS, to speak during worship for Moment for Mission. Date to be determined.

Called Meeting of the Session, June 17, 2018

- Motion was approved that Kathleen Hale and George Schingle be ordained as ruling elders and that Dick Arthur be installed as elder for the class of 2020, Kathleen Hale, George Schingle, Joanne Szalay, and Dick Waters be installed as elders for the class of 2021.

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



**Blood Drive July 1**  
**9:00 – 12:00**



Everybody says, "Let  
Somebody do it."  
Somebody says,  
"Let Anybody do it."  
And, when Anybody  
doesn't do it,  
Nobody does it.

