

St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church

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Pastor's Corner

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reminders

August 2 - Volunteers to
the Bridge

August 3-4 – Naturally
Supernatural at FPC
Arlington

August 11 – Men's Prayer
Breakfast

August 11 – Mini Work-
Day

Happy 10th Anniversary

Pastor Rick



His real name was Joseph. But many of the people we meet in the Bible are known by a nickname. Nicknames bore great significance in the early church, given honorifically to distinguish a person for their outstanding characteristics. So, the new name often had an important meaning. Barnabas, which means "Son of Encouragement," was such a nickname, true to the strength of the man's nature. Each time we encounter Barnabas in the New Testament he is assisting someone else to be their best. The earliest mention of Barnabas is at a point when the church is becoming a true community, giving all to serve the needs of the whole.

But it is also a time of tension, as is often the case when there is great change. With a generous and gallant gesture, Barnabas gave a strong lead that got the project to help others off to a good start. (It is natural that, in the Roman Catholic Church, he would become the patron saint of 'giving.')

In every mention of Barnabas, we find a strong, virile, caring person. This is especially evident in his dealings with Paul. A powerful persecutor of the Christians, Paul had been converted on the Damascus Road. The news had not yet reached other Christians, including those whose families had suffered under his orders. Fortunately, Barnabas had the insight, the faith, and the courage to see the possibilities in this man, and to take a risk by standing surety for him. Barnabas turned Christian history inside out with his generous spirit, opening the door for Paul to become the most influential Christian thinker of all time.

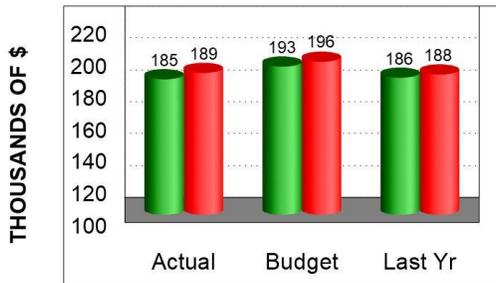
Barnabas was a big man in every way. His powerful build marked him for leadership and, as he and Paul took off to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, it was Barnabas who took the lead, with wiry little Paul trotting beside him. In one rural area, they were mistaken for Zeus and Mercury! Luke, the author of Acts of the Apostles, notably signals a change in leadership by listing the duo as Paul and Barnabas, rather than the earlier reference of Barnabas and Paul. It takes a big person to let such a shift in rank to occur without protest. Barnabas easily stepped aside for the person he had himself sponsored. The mentor takes over from the chief, and the chief is joyously willing.

Barnabas had many strengths: willingness to forgive and offer a second chance, standing firm for the Christian faith, letting others lead the way, demonstrating generosity, and last but certainly not least, encouraging those needing support. As of this month, I have been the pastor of Saint Mark for 10 years. I want to celebrate this anniversary by thanking you for the encouragement you have shown me. In more ways than I can count, you have become my Barnabas.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

Treasurer's Report

Twelve Months Ending June 30, 2018



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund YTD income was \$7,900 below budget and YTD expenses were \$6,700 below budget.

Capital and Facilities Fund YTD income was \$1,400 below budget and YTD expenses were \$6,400 above budget.

Our Combined Fund Balance is down \$600 from the previous month-end, and down \$7,400 from the beginning of our fiscal year.

Blood Drive Results

We had 12 donors and received credit for 14 units because 2 of our fabulous donors could give double reds. There were no deferrals which means that everyone is healthy. Our July 1st Blood Drive potentially saved 42 lives.



Thanks to all who donated, all who encouraged our donors and all who would have donated if they could.

HOORAY FOR OUR TEACHERS!



Congratulations to Bob King on his retirement from Mesquite ISD. Bob taught 11 years. Great job, Bob!



Leslie Moore

Leslie joined the St. Mark family on July 8, 2018, after being a frequent visitor and getting to know us. She moved to the neighborhood near St. Mark a few years ago and found us through a chance meeting with Rick and the use of our dog park. Leslie has fostered dogs until they find their forever homes and volunteers with rescue groups.

Tom and SuzAnne Munoz



Also joining in July were SuzAnne and Tom Munoz. They had been involved with St. Mark in the past but moved from our area. After trying some other churches, they chose to return to SMPC. Their daughter Katy is a new mother. And, in the "small world" category, we learned that Tom graduated from Bryan Adams in the same class as Tricia Johnson and Marilyn Jackson.

We welcome both families with love and praise to God. We are so excited that you have chosen St. Mark as your church home.

White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, August 12th

Canned Soup, Canned Corn, Canned Beans, (other than green beans), Canned Meat Products (chili, stew, spaghetti & meatballs, etc.), Canned Fruit, Canned Veggies, (other than beans & corn), Packaged Pasta



Upcoming Events

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

August 5 - "Together"
Psalm 51:1-12; Ephesians 4:1-16
Celebration of The Lord's Supper
Rev. Dr. Randall McGee



August 12 - "Exit Strategy"
Psalm 130:1-8; John 6:41-51

August 19 - "Confrontation and Challenge"
Psalm 111:1-11; John 6:52-59

August 26 - "Anxiety"
Psalm 84:1-12; John 6:60-71

God Bless You on Your



August 5
Anna Duncan
Charlene Taylor

August 6
Pat McCloud

August 9
Katie Moore

August 10
Michael Bell
Maylea Higgins

August 11
Finn Shea

August 14
Elizabeth Cantu

August 15
Cecilia Grayson
Samantha Moore

August 17
Stephany Brown

August 18
James Carver

August 19
Charlene Ramsay

August 20
Ben Blair

August 23
Duncan Guinee

August 27
Karen Ellis
Katherine Husted

August 29
Susie Miller

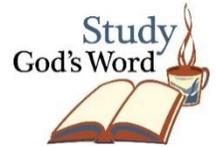
Pantry Needs at St. Mark!

Chicken, Ham or Tuna Salad Kits
Saltine Crackers, Granola Bars
Breakfast Bars
Soups (pop top cans – the meaty variety)



Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, August 15th at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor. Please join Pastor Brooks for an always insightful look at scripture and current events.



GriefShare

Join us on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor when we begin our 13-week program. You will find the program to be a warm, caring environment and will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your long journey through grief.



Willetta Jones, Flo Phillips, Dee Huckaba

Men's Prayer Breakfast



All men of St. Mark are invited to join together for the monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, August 11th at 8:00 AM. The Men's Breakfast meets in the church parlor. After breakfast, all helping hands are needed for the



Mini Church Workday

August 11th at 9:00 a.m.





St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Annual Cong. Mtg. 5:00p Sandwich Sunday 7:30p AA Group	30 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	31 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	1 12:00p AA Group 6:15p Yoga 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	2 12:00p AA Group 5:00p Volunteers to The Bridge 7:30p AA Group	3 12:00p AA Group 7:00p Naturally Supernatural at FPC Arlington 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	4 9:30a Naturally Supernatural at FPC Arlington 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group 
5 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Membership & Evangelism Com. 7:30p AA Group	6 12:00p AA Group 7:00p Worship & Music Com. 7:30p AA Group	7 12:00p AA Group 6:30p Fellowship Com. 7:30p AA Group	8 12:00p AA Group 6:00p Stewardship & Finance Comm. Mtg. 6:15p Yoga 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	9 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	10 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	11 8:00a Men's Breakfast 9:00a Mini Workday 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group 
12 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Birthday Party (Princeton) 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Mission & Outreach Com. 7:30p AA Group	13 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	14 12:00p AA Group 6:30p CE Committee Mtg. 7:30p AA Group	15 10:30a Wednesday Bible Study (WBS) 12:00p AA Group 6:15p Yoga 6:30p Property Committee Mtg. 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal 	16 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	17 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	18 12:00p AA Group 6:00p Game Night 7:30p AA Group
19 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Group	20 12:00p AA Group 6:30p Session Meeting 7:30p AA Group 	21 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	22 10:30a WBS 12:00p AA Group 6:15p Yoga 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	23 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	24 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	25 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group
26 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Group	27 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	28 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	29 10:30a WBS 12:00p AA Group 6:15p Yoga 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	30 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	31 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	1 8:00a Men's Breakfast 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group

Your Session, 2018-2019



Session has 5 newly installed members, ruling elders, Class of 2021, Kathy Hale and George Schingle are new elders who were ordained and installed on Sunday, June 17th. Dick Arthur, Class of 2020, Joanne Szalay, and Dick Waters, Class of 2021, are ruling elders that were installed into active duty on that date.

Mike Parsley was commissioned as trustee for the class of 2021.

Session meets on the third Monday of each month. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact any of the active elders listed below.

Class of 2019

Teri Brooks
Leigh Taylor
Tricia Johnson
Pelham Swift

Class of 2020

Bill Grayson
Charles Miller
Becky Page
Richard Arthur

Class of 2021

Kathleen Hale
George Schingle
Joanne Szalay
Dick Waters

The Session bulletin board is in the hallway across from the parlor and kitchen. Look for approved Session minutes and other Session related information to be posted.

Thank you to the Class of 2018; Karl Crawley, Lorraine Stephen, Joanne Szalay and Dick Waters for your hard work and dedicated service on the session.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session, June 25, 2018

- Motion passed to set a Called Meeting of Session for Sunday July 8 at 10:00 am to receive a new member.
- Motion passed to accept Committee Annual Reports with edits still to come from Stewardship & Finance Committee.
- Motion passed to elect Marilyn Jackson as Clerk of Session for July 2018 – June 2019.
- Motion passed to authorize extending the current budget for one month (through July 31, 2018) for payroll and other non-discretionary expenditures only.
- Motion passed to authorize the Stewardship & Finance Committee to send a letter to the congregation explaining the current financial situation and asking for an increase in their giving to the Operating Fund beginning in July.
- Motion passed to postpone the Annual Congregational Meeting to July 29.

Full sets of the minutes above are available to read on the Session bulletin board.





We are deep into a hot summer. For some reason I got to thinking about "Psalms in the Psummer" an adult Vacation Bible School we did several years ago. So, I decided to review the Psalms in the Sunday lectionary for this month. It is an interesting collection. Here's a quick look at each one.

We start with Psalm 51:1-12. Very much a song or prayer of repentance and a plea for mercy from God. It is also a prayer that God will not just forgive the speaker but transform them. Or in the words of the Psalm, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."

Psalm 130 seems to be another short prayer for mercy from God. But it is also a prayer that acknowledges that God is a forgiving God. So, the psalmist notes that they will "wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope."

We find a different tone or feel when we read Psalm 111. It is a psalm of praise. God's mighty acts are celebrated with lines like "Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them." There is also this bit of advice for those who would seek to grow in wisdom, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding." Remember that fear of the Lord does not mean to be scared of God but to be in awe of who God is and all that God has done.

Finally Psalm 84 is another song of praise. It opens with this line "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!" And goes on to celebrate how wonderful it is to live in the presence of God. It includes the declaration that "a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness."

I hope you will take a few minutes during the month of August to take a look at each of these Psalms. What do you see in each of them? What would it mean for you to pray these prayers or sing these songs? Where do you find good news? How are you challenged?

