



# St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church

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## reminders

**May 2** -Volunteers to the Bridge

**May 4** – Cluster Music Event at FPC Garland

**May 11** – Session Retreat

**May 12** – Mother's Day

**May 18** – Men's Breakfast  
Mini Workday

**May 27** – Memorial Day  
Church Office Closed



William Temple, the archbishop of Canterbury from 1942-1944, once said, "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members."

The members of Saint Mark Presbyterian Church respond time and time again-individually and as a congregation-to help those who probably will never walk across the threshold of 9999 Ferguson Road. We are called not to be complacent in building God's kingdom, but to develop relationships outside the comfort zone of our house of worship. Our challenge is to find a balance between Christian responsibilities outside the church walls and inside the church walls. We rise to meet this challenge by sometimes breaking the bonds that hold us in a place we don't belong.

***Once upon a time, a man noticed a large elephant with a thin rope tied around its leg, coiled loosely at the other end around a flimsy fence post. A young boy told the visitor, "That simple rope tied around the elephant's leg keeps him from running away." "But it's so thin!" replied the visitor. "Why doesn't the elephant just pull away and break free?" The young boy answered, "My father tied that rope around the elephant's leg when he was very little. Even though the elephant has grown very large, he still believes he cannot break the rope."***

The Ministry of Hope (Malawi, Africa), North Guatemala Presbytery, The Bridge, White Rock Center of Hope, Austin Street Center, Presbyterian Homes and Services-all supported by our time, talent, and treasure-allow Saint Mark to exhibit incarnational love. We stand with the desperately needy, those who can never repay the debt. So we will pray for our wonderful teams of volunteers to be the voice, hands, and feet of Jesus as they help build new lives for people here and around the world. Let us also commit to pray for discernment of God's will for Saint Mark and for our responses in serving Him. After all, we do not exist only for ourselves. Archbishop Temple nailed it.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

# Bulletin Board



It has been a long time since I have passed along a handful of "Odds and Ends" in my monthly

newsletter article. So that is what I am passing along this month.

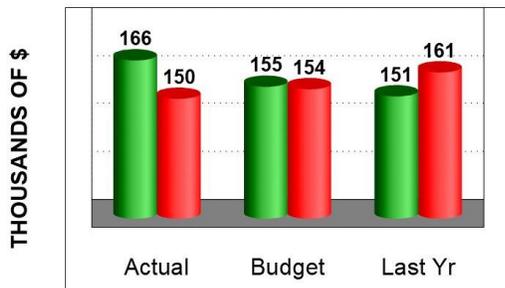
- One of the first things I read most weekday mornings is the blog "A Church for Starving Artists" by Jan Edmiston. Jan has served as a pastor in several congregations and currently serves on the staff of Charlotte Presbytery. She always has brief but thought-provoking things to say about the challenges that congregations face in our day. One of her posts this week was titled "What Are 'They' Looking For." In this post she ponders why the "young folk" don't seem to want to come to church and how congregations might respond. Who knows what she might have posted on the day you read this. Check it out at "achurchforstarvingartists.blog". Perhaps some days you might pass it along to someone else. Let me know what you think.
- A couple of years ago we had children go to summer camp at Gilmont for the first time in over a decade. This year we have even more children going to Gilmont.

I think I have noted to you that studies have shown how important such camps can be for the faith development of young people. I am thankful that we have a "Camp and Conference Fund" at St. Mark that you continually replenish. I am also thankful that when the old Prairie Valley Camp was closed years ago that an endowment was set up to help children from congregations in Grace Presbytery go to camp. These funds mean that we can make sure that every child connected with St. Mark who wants to go to camp can go no matter what their family's financial situation may be.

- This Summer we are doing Vacation Bible School in a different way. Instead of a 4-night VBS we are going to do an all-day event on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm. Other congregations around the country have tried this model as they adjust to changing schedules of both children and volunteers. Watch for more information. Take note of any children you may know in your neighborhood or family that might love to spend a Saturday in June with the wonderful people of St. Mark. Make sure their families get the information. Maybe you can even bring them. That's enough "Odds and Ends" for this month. I hope you have a great May.

## Treasurer's Report

Nine Months through March 31, 2019



### OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund income was \$11,000 above budget and expenses were \$3,800 below budget, for a net \$14,800 better than budgeted.

Fund Balances - Total fund balances are up \$3,000 from the previous month and up \$15,000 from the beginning of the fiscal year.

## Special Easter Offering Update

The total for the Special Easter Offering was \$4789. Your gifts have been divided between One Great

Hour of Sharing and St. Mark Camps & Conferences Fund.

Thank you once again for your gracious generosity.



Sympathy to the family of Florene Jeffrey. Florene was promoted to Glory of Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

A memorial service will be held at St. Mark on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. with a reception following.

Please keep the family in your prayers.

# Upcoming Events

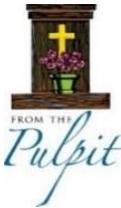
## Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

May 5 - "BBQ Beach"  
Acts 9:1-9; John 21:1-19  
Celebration of The Lord's Supper

May 12 - "Security"  
Acts 9:36-43; John 10:22-30

May 19 - "Glorious Sorrow"  
Psalm 126:1-6; Luke 22:39-46, John 13:31-35  
Colin Boring, Guest Preacher

May 26 - "Hashtag #Because He Lives"  
Acts 16:9-15; John 14:23-31



## God Bless You on Your Birthday

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>May 1</b><br>Edna Woods      | <b>May 14</b><br>Frank Roberson |
| <b>May 2</b><br>Mike Parsley    | Harry Roberts                   |
| <b>May 8</b><br>Kathy Moore     | <b>May 19</b><br>Brian Arthur   |
| <b>May 10</b><br>Tricia Johnson | <b>May 22</b><br>Travis Moore   |
| <b>May 11</b><br>Martha Gracey  | <b>May 24</b><br>Megan Knapp    |
| <b>May 12</b><br>Drew Taylor    | <b>May 27</b><br>Dick Brooks    |



## Vacation Bible School



At Yee-Haw Children's Bible Camp, kids will go on a frontier adventure where they'll discover that God gives good gifts! This

Bible Camp is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch. Team-building games, cool Bible songs, and Bible adventures are just a few of the activities that help faith flow into real life.

Your kids will also participate in an outreach project, called Projects-With-a-Purpose®, that will let the kids show God's love to others.

So, mark this date on your calendar: June 8, 2019. The fun starts at 10am and will end at 2pm. Call the church office, 214-321-6437, to register your children for this life-changing adventure!

## St. Mark Easter Egg Hunt

The sun was shining, the birds were singing, and it was a beautiful day. We had about 15 children participate this year, hunting for eggs, decorating cookies, and doing Easter activities. Thank you to all of you who donated filled eggs for our hunt. Special thanks go to the adult volunteers, teenagers and older children who hid eggs and assisted with the activities.



Joanne Szalay

## White Rock Center of Hope Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>



Macaroni and Cheese  
Peanut Butter and Jelly

## Directory Update

Katie Moore  
Contact the church office.



## The Eastern Dallas County Cluster of Presbyterian Churches

Presents

How Can I Keep from Singing?  
An American Musical Identity



With Joshua Taylor  
Saturday May 4, 2019

11am-1pm followed by lunch  
First Presbyterian Church Garland

There is no charge, but registration is requested.

Recycling helps prevent nearly 86.9 million tons of material from being disposed of in the US each year. Help St. Mark prevent unnecessary waste by recycling empty, clean and dry items in the designated bin with a decorated lid in the kitchen.

#### **YES for recycle bin**

Clean, dry and empty containers to place in the bin:

- Plastic (No Styrofoam)
- Aluminum, steel and tin
- Glass bottles/containers
- Wax-coated paper drink containers
- Pots and Pans

Also, it is ok to place in the recycling bin:

- Newspapers, mixed papers, phone books
- Corrugated cardboard and boxboard

#### **NO for recycle bin**

- Paper towels, napkins, facial tissue and toilet tissue
- Food and wet waste
- Food containers with food waste or that are not clean, dry and empty
- Styrofoam containers or material, chip bags, frozen food bags



### **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Stated Meeting of the Session, March 18, 2019

Motion passed for a Session Retreat on May 11, 2019 from 9am – 1pm in the church parlor.

Motion passed to order new attendance folders, using money from Memorial Fund.





# St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas



May 2019

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

28	29	30	1	2	3	4
9:15a Sunday School <b>10:30a Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 6:15p Pilates/Barre Class 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	10:30a Wednesday Bible Study (WBS) <b>12:00p AA Group</b> 5:15p Yoga <b>6:30p YoungLife</b> 6:30p Handbells <b>7:30p AA Group</b> 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	<b>12:00p AA Group</b> 5:00p Volunteers to The Bridge <b>7:30p AA Group</b>	<b>12:00p AA Group</b> <b>7:30p AA Group</b>	11:00a Cluster Music Event at FPC Garland 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group 
9:15a Sunday School <b>10:30a Worship Service</b> <b>12:00p AA Group</b> 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Membership & Evangelism Com. <b>7:30p AA Group</b>	<b>12:00p AA Group</b> <b>6:15p Pilates/Barre Class</b> 7:00p Worship & Music Com. <b>7:30p AA Group</b>	<b>12:00p AA Group</b> 6:30p Fellowship Com. <b>7:30p AA Group</b>	10:30a WBS <b>12:00p AA Group</b> 5:15p Yoga 6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com. 6:30p Property Com. 6:30p Handbells <b>7:30p AA Group</b> 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	<b>12:00p AA Group</b> 6:00p GriefShare Support Group <b>7:30p AA Group</b>	<b>12:00p AA Group</b> <b>7:30p AA Group</b>	9:00a Session Retreat 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group
9:15a Sunday School <b>10:30a Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Mission & Outreach Com. 7:30p AA Group	<b>12:00p AA Group</b> <b>6:15p Pilates/Barre Class</b> 7:30p AA Group	<b>12:00p AA Group</b> 6:30p CE Com. <b>7:30p AA Group</b>	<b>12:00p AA Group</b> 5:15p Yoga 6:30p Handbells <b>7:30p AA Group</b> 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	<b>12:00p AA Group</b> <b>7:30p AA Group</b>	<b>12:00p AA Group</b> <b>7:30p AA Group</b>	8:00a Men's Breakfast 9:00a Mini Workday 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group
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