

St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church

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*Pastor's
Corner*

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reminders

August 1 - Volunteers to the Bridge

August 10 – Men's Breakfast/Workday

August 12 – Deadline for PCHAS School Supplies



Happy 11th Anniversary
Pastor Rick

Abraham and Sarah, in one of my favorite Bible narratives, demonstrated the strength of their faith in the face of seemingly impossible odds. Trusting God, especially when the outcome is not known, is something that every Christian confronts at one time or another. Here's what the Apostle Paul has to say (Romans 4:18-21, ESV):

"In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised."

When everything seems to be falling apart – whether right here at home or somewhere else in the world - this passage is particularly helpful as we attempt to respond. Sometimes it's easy to lose the vision of what God could be up to in the world.

We can learn from Abraham's unshakable conviction in God's promises. His faith did not deny the reality before him of his advancing age and Sarah's barrenness. But he knew that faith could only meet challenges that are revealed. In other words, awareness of a problem diminishes its power to harm. How much better it is to admit something is amiss rather than ignore its existence.

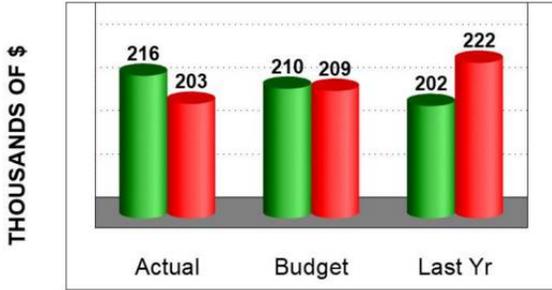
Abraham also never loses faith in God making good on His promises. When facing a challenge, churches would do well to remember that Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would lead us in answering God's call. Jesus also promised that the gates of Hell would not overtake the church.

Abraham's long and devoted journey of faith was a direct result of trusting the God who called him to step out into something new. Just like Abraham, the church (and that includes each of us) is continually being called to step out into something new. To this end I'm instructed by the words that defined the faith of the late Rev. Dr. Eugene Peterson in the title of his 1980 book, "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society." That title helps inform Saint Mark Presbyterian Church of what God expects. May we always grow as disciples in faith while giving glory to God.

Blessings, *Pastor Rick*

Treasurer's Report

Twelve Months Ending June 30, 2019



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund income was \$5,500 above budget and expenses were \$6000 below budget, for a net \$11,500 better than budgeted.

Fund Balances – total fund balances are down \$800 from the previous month and up \$14,400 from the beginning of the fiscal year.

Blood Drive Results

We received credit for 15 units potentially saving 45 lives at a time when there is great need. Thanks to all who donated.



Sue Duncan

Giving Tree



The Giving Tree
We Reached Our Goal

We are pleased to announce the goal has been reached and an Automated External Defibrillator machine has been purchased and received. It is located in the Session Box/Laundry room across from the parlor.

Training sessions for using the AED will be held in August, tentatively on Sunday, August 11th and 25th at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Thank you so much for your generosity.



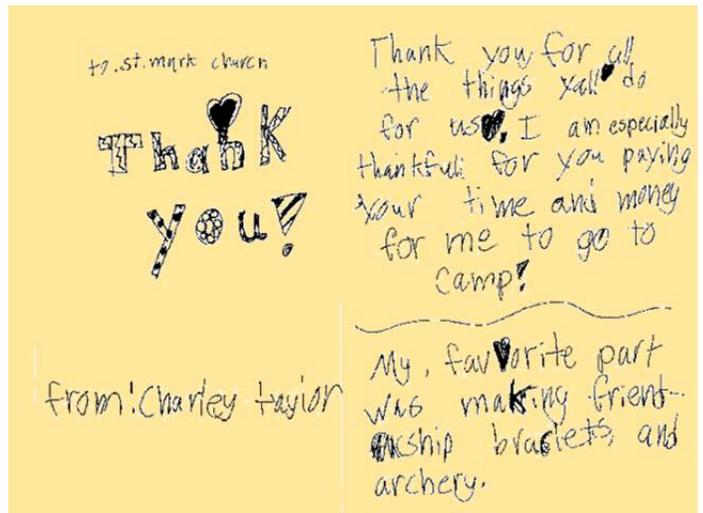
Directory Updates



Please contact the church office for recent updates.

Thank You!

Thanks to the generous giving of this congregation, St. Mark was privileged to scholarship and send 6 kids to Camp Gilmont this past summer. A great time was had by all.



Sympathy and Prayers

Our deepest sympathy to: the family of Flo Philips, Flo was promoted to Glory on Monday, July 29th, and to the family of Floyd Bell, father of Michael Bell, Floyd was promoted to Glory on Sunday, July 28th Services for both are pending.



Upcoming Events

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

August 4 – “Returning with Joy”
Psalm 66:1-9; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Celebration of The Lord’s Supper
Rev. Dr. Randall McGee



August 11 - “Are You Woke?”
Psalm 50:1-8; Luke 12:32-40

August 18 – “Long Obedience Meets Long Division”
Psalm 80:8-19; Luke 12:49-56

August 25 -“Meeting Mulligan”
Psalm 71:1-6; Luke 13:10-17

God Bless You on Your Birthday

August 5
Anna Duncan
Charlene Taylor

August 9
Katie Moore

August 10
Michael Bell

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

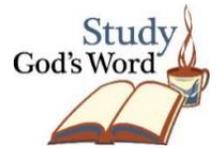
August 23
Duncan Guinee

August 29
Susie Miller



Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, **August 7th** at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor. Please join Pastor Brooks for an always insightful look at scripture and current events.



Men’s Prayer Breakfast and Workday

All men of St. Mark are invited to join together for the monthly Men’s Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, **August 10th** at 8:00 AM. A Mini Church Workday will follow at 9:00 a.m.



PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN’S HOMES AND SERVICE

BACK TO SCHOOL NEEDS

Earbuds*
Flash Drives *
3-subj. Spiral Notebooks*
Poster Board (all colors)
Yellow Highlighters
Wide Rule Notebook Paper
Kleenex
Map Colors
Mechanical Pencils*
Composition Notebooks
Black Pens
Red Pens
Pencils
Pencil Pouches*
3x5 Cards
Folders with Brads*
3-Ring Binders*
Construction Paper

Colored Markers
Teen Size Backpacks
Art Sketch Pads and Pencil Sets*
Pocket Dictionary and Thesaurus*
Stapler, Staples and Remover*
White Erasers*
Geometry Set*
Scientific Calculators
Amazon:
Casio fx-300MS*

*indicates items that are often hard to get for our students.

Baskets for donated items are just outside the parlor.

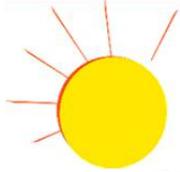
Deadline is **August 12th**



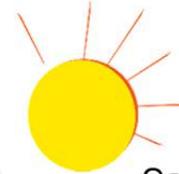
White Rock Center of Hope Giving Sunday - August 11th

Items needed this month are: Canned meat Products, Canned Soup and Canned Veggies (other than corn & beans) Condiments & any shelf products such as Hamburger Helper, Suddenly Salad, Jell-O, Ramen Noodles, etc.
Baskets for donations can be found in the hallway outside the parlor. Thank you.

St. Mark Presbyterian Church exists to know Jesus and to make Him known.



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas



August 2019

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

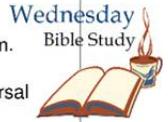
Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

28	29	30	31	1	2	3
9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:45a Annual Congregational Meeting 12:00p AA Group 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	12:00p AA Group 12:00p Cluster Steering Committee Meeting at Eastminster PC 6:15p Yoga 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	12:00p AA Group 5:00p Volunteers to The Bridge 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group
9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Membership & Evangelism Com. 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 6:15p Pilates/Barre Class 7:00p Worship & Music Com. 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 6:30p Fellowship Com. 7:30p AA Group	10:30a Wednesday Bible Study (WBS) 12:00p AA Group 6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com. 6:15p Yoga 6:30p Property Com. 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	12:00p AA Group 6:00p GriefShare Support Group 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	8:00a Men's Breakfast 9:00a Mini Workday 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group
9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Mission & Outreach Com. 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 6:15p Pilates/Barre Class 7:30p AA Group Garland ISD 	12:00p AA Group 6:30p CE Com. 7:30p AA Group	10:30a WBS 12:00p AA Group 5:15p Yoga 6:30p Handbells 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group
9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 6:15p Pilates/Barre Class 6:30p Session Meeting 7:30p AA Group Dallas and Mesquite ISD 	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	10:30a WBS 12:00p AA Group 5:15p Yoga 6:30p Handbells 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	10:00a Grace Presbytery Christian Educators Meeting at St. Mark 12:00p AA Group 6:00p GriefShare Support Group 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group
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How about a batch of Randall's odds and ends for August?

*I am excited about an event coming up on September 14th. It is "Won't Your Be My Neighbor: Spending a Day with Mr. Rogers." This event is sponsored by the East Dallas Presbyterian Cluster and is free to St. Mark folk. It is an opportunity to explore the wisdom of Fred "Mr." Rogers. Watch for posters with more

information and sign up instructions around the church.

*It is that time of year when the "Grace Sightings" return to the CE bulletin board. The Grace Sightings are resources that go along with the "Growing in Grace and Gratitude" curriculum that we use with our younger children. Don't forget to check them out.

*This year we are going to offer a Sunday School option for our older children. These are the folks that are sometimes referred to as "tweeners." They are children navigating that time as they shift from childhood to adolescence. We will be using resources called "ReForm." We'll try to have information about what these folks are exploring on the CE bulletin board on a regular basis.

*We tried something new at St. Mark this summer. We had a one-day Vacation Bible School on a Saturday. All reports are that it went well, and we'll be trying this format again. A special thanks to Marilyn Jackson and all her team for all their work and the willingness to try something new.

*We'll have another special Saturday at the beginning of Advent. The Advent festival will be returning. Watch for information about it later in the year. It should be a fun day and a great opportunity to invite friends and family who may not have a church home.

That's enough for this month.

Sunday School Opportunities



There are three adult classes. The **Men's Bible Class** discusses the application of Bible and Church teachings of ethics as applied to everyday life. The **Bible Discussion Class** focuses on different portions of the Bible for study and discussion. The **Gleaners Class** uses the Present Word Curriculum which is based on the International Sunday School lesson. All these classes meet in Princeton Hall.

The **Pre-K Children's Class** meets in Austin Hall. The children learn various Old and New Testament stories. The **Kindergarten-5th Grade Class** meets in Princeton Hall. They are using the PCUSA curriculum lessons. There will be a new class for middle school (6th-8th grade) students beginning Sunday September 1st (see below.) This class will meet in Austin Hall.

There is information about all the Sunday School classes available on the table in the narthex.

This Fall Christian Education will offer a Middle School Sunday School class for 6th grade – 8th grade. The curriculum is called **re:form**.

Each **re:form** session follows a three-part sequence:

- **Encounter** –Youth gather together to watch a hilarious animated video.
- **Engage** –Creative activities like doodling, constructing, and journaling help dig deeper into faith.
- **Respond** – Share thoughts and ideas about the session's question.



The class will meet in the second classroom in Austin Hall. The Fall semester begins September 1st.

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

Spending a Day with Mr. Rogers

September 14, 2019

8:30 – 3:00 pm

Northridge Presbyterian Church

6920 Bob O Link Drive

Dallas



Featuring Camille LeBron Powell

Sponsored by The East Dallas Presbyterian Cluster and First Presbyterian Church of Dallas
Light Breakfast and Lunch Included
Childcare Available

To register and for information – contact Randall McGee

Come spend the day with your neighbors. Learn from Mr. Rogers through presentations, videos, prayer stations, group activities, and individual reflection. We'll connect scripture with the wisdom of Mr. Rogers and listen for how God is calling us to be good neighbors.

Jesus is Clear in Scripture: we are supposed to love our neighbors. But which neighbors? And how do we love them? How are we called to be a good neighbor? To answer these questions, let's seek insight from America's favorite neighbor, Mr. Rogers.

'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these. Mark 12:28-31

Mr. Rogers was a Presbyterian minister and taught generations of children how to be neighbors with lessons like:

God loves you just as you are
It's okay to be scared or sad or angry,
It's important to say "Thank You"
How to deal with real world problems.

We can still learn from Mr. Rogers' thoughtful compassion today, even as adults.

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes." Fred Rogers (1994)

About Our Neighbor Camille

Camille is the pastor of the St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Tucker, Georgia (suburban Atlanta). She has led congregations and other groups in exploring the wisdom and practical advice of Mr. Rogers through sermons, workshops, and other creative activities. Camille really has been our neighbor here in Dallas. She grew up in Garland and attended Austin College before going to seminary. She was a member of Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church and spent two summers as a counselor in the camping ministry of Grace Presbytery.

Your Session, 2019-2020



Session has 4 newly installed members, ruling elders, Class of 2022, Tricia Johnson, Daniel Robinson, Lorraine Stephen and Pelham Swift who were installed on Sunday, July 14th.

Jacie Minick was commissioned as trustee for the class of 2022 on Sunday, July 28th.

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 2020

Bill Grayson
Charles Miller
Becky Page
Richard Arthur

Class of 2021

Kathleen Hale
George Schingle
Joanne Szalay
Dick Waters

Class of 2022

Tricia Johnson
Daniel Robinson
Lorraine Stephen
Pelham Swift

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 2019; Teri Brooks, Leigh Taylor, Tricia Johnson, Pelham Swift and Sheila Wahl for your hard work and dedicated service on the session.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session, June 17, 2018

- Motion passed to allow the Blood Drive Bus to use the front parking lot for the upcoming Blood Drive.
- Motion passed that John Carver be elected Treasurer and Bill Grayson be elected Assistant Treasurer for the year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020.
- Motion passed that the Session authorize receiving and forwarding contributions from the congregation for the purpose of providing support for Colin Boring's college studies.
- Motion passed to set the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday July 28, 2019, after worship.

Called Meeting of the Session, July 13, 2019

- Motion passed to elect Marilyn Jackson as Clerk of Session for July 2019 – June 2020.
- Motion passed that Tricia Johnson, Daniel Robinson, Lorraine Stephen, and Pelham Swift be installed as elders for the class of 2022.

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

