



St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church

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Pastor's Corner

Parker Brothers introduced a board game to the United States in 1959 called "Risk." It is a board game in which the players strategically move game pieces to take and defend territory. Those who most consistently move out of their comfort zone and take a "risk" (hence, the game's title) are usually the winners. The game mirrors our realities in life, as in "nothing ventured, nothing gained."

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus says to "GO." That's an imperative, not a suggestion. And just where do we GO? Answer: "to ALL the nations." We are not called to hunker in the bunker, watching from the sidelines. What do we do when we get there? "Make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." How do we make disciples? We teach them to obey the commandments of Jesus.

You may recognize this text as the Great Commission. It is focused on the precept that the Body of Christ does not exist for itself. Instead, we are a lighthouse that shines in the world's darkness and a lifeboat to rescue those who are drowning. To accomplish what we are commissioned to do, we must risk our collective comfort zone. PCUSA Pastor John Ortberg makes this abundantly clear in his book "If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat." Our vessel is named St. Mark Presbyterian Church. It's comfortable, but if we really want to walk with Jesus, we have got to risk getting wet.

Eileen Guder, in her 1971 book, "God, But I'm Bored," wrote the following: "You can live on bland food so as to avoid an ulcer; drink no tea or coffee or other stimulants, in the name of good health; go to bed early and stay away from night life; avoid all controversial subjects so as never to give offense; mind your own business and avoid involvement in other people's problems; spend money only on necessities and save all you can. Yes, and you can break your neck in the bathtub, and it'll serve you right." I pray that St. Mark Presbyterian Church makes decisions that avoid being overly cautious and that God grant us the grace to risk.

Blessings,
Pastor Rick

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reminders

September 5 -

Volunteers to the
Bridge

September 14 – Men's

Prayer Breakfast and
Mini Church Workday

September 14 –

Cluster Event
"Won't You Be My
Neighbor?" at
Northridge PC

September 15 –

Back to the Swing of
Things Reception

September 29 –

Sandwich Sunday (sign
up in the narthex)



Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

September 1 - "Pinkie Out"
Psalm 81:10-16; Luke 14:7-14
Celebration of The Lord's Supper

September 8 - "What's the Cost? Everything"
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Luke 14:25-33

September 15 - "Lost and Least"
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 22 - "Bad Actors All"
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 29 - "Humble Pie"
Isaiah 53:1-12; John 13:1-17
Mr. Colin Boring, Guest Preacher



God Bless You on Your Birthday

September 2
Joanne Szalay

September 4
Ben Taylor

September 8
Susan Bell

September 9
Bailey Guinnee
Christi Malouf

September 11
Ruth Crawley

September 12
Diana Kettle



September 15
Neill Howard

Anne Thomas

September 19
Jo Farley

September 21
Melba Hale

September 24
Charley Taylor

September 26
Rebecca Moore

September 27
John Hale

September 28
Maureen McMahon

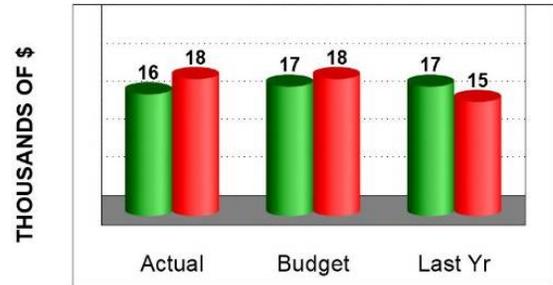
Sympathy and Prayers

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Scallorn, who was promoted to Glory on August 9th. Mary and Tom Scallorn were charter members of St. Mark.



Membership/Evangelism Committee will now meet on the first Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Treasurer's Report One Month Ending July 31, 2019



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund income was \$1,100 below budget, and expenses were \$200 above budget, for a net \$1,300 worse than budgeted

Fund Balances – Total fund balances are down \$3,700 from the previous month and the beginning of the fiscal year.

PCHAS Thanks You

We want to thank everyone for your generosity in helping to gather school supplies for the students at Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services. There were many smiling faces because **of you**.

Another way we can help PCHAS is with our prayers. Last month we were sent an email with the request to pray for a young couple who had adopted two young girls from PCHAS. There will be new prayer requests each month. Thank you for helping!

The PCHAS North Texas Luncheon is on Wednesday, November 6, 2019. We hope you will be able to join us! More information will be coming.



Again, thank you for your loving help to God.

Mission & Outreach Committee

Sunday School Opportunities

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.

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. Please see above for new **Middle School Class**.

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

White Rock Center of Hope Giving Sunday, September 8th

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.

Men's Prayer Breakfast and Workday

September 14th
8:00 AM.



A Mini Church Workday will follow at 9:00 a.m.



Yoga

Fall yoga times
Wednesdays - 5:15 p.m.
Sundays - Noon

Worship/Music Committee



Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, October 6th** when we will be celebrating **World Communion Sunday**. In addition to using ethnic cloths, baskets, and a diverse serving of breads during communion; we would like for members to dress wearing clothing that represents their country of origin. Example: If your family is from Ireland, you might wear a kilt, shamrocks, or anything else that is representative of Ireland. Also, a world map will

be hung near the parlor, and we would like each member to indicate "Where in the World are you from?" by putting their name on their country of origin.

Also, we would like to know if you would be willing to briefly share your St. Mark experiences during the worship service on the third Sunday of the month. If you are interested in sharing with the congregation, please contact Becky Page.



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00a Membership & Evangelism Com. 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Group	2 12:00p AA Group 6:15p Pilates/Barre Class 7:30p AA Group Labor Day Church Office Closed 	3 12:00p AA Group 6:30p Fellowship Com. 7:30p AA Group	4 10:30a Wednesday Bible Study (WBS) 12:00p AA Group 5:15p Yoga 6:30p Handbells 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	5 12:00p AA Group 5:00p Volunteers to The Bridge 7:30p AA Group	6 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	7 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group
8 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Mission & Outreach Com. 7:30p AA Group	9 12:00p AA Group 6:15p Pilates/Barre Class 7:00p Worship & Music Com. 7:30p AA Group	10 12:00p AA Group 6:30p CE Com. 7:30p AA Group	11 10:30a WBS 12:00p AA Group 5:15p Yoga 6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com. 6:30p Property Com. 6:30p Handbells 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	12 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	13 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	14 8:00a Men's Breakfast 8:30a Cluster Event - "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" at Northridge PC 9:00a Mini Workday 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group 
15 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Back to the Swing of Things Reception following worship 7:30p AA Group	16 12:00p AA Group 6:15p Pilates/Barre Class 6:30p Session Meeting 7:30p AA Group	17 12:00p AA Group 6:30p Emmaus I 7:30p AA Group	18 10:30a WBS 12:00p AA Group 5:15p Yoga 6:30p Handbells 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	19 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	20 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	21 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group
22 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 3:00p El Divino Salvador Sanctuary Rededication 7:30p AA Group	23 12:00p AA Group 6:15p Pilates/Barre Class 7:30p AA Group	24 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	25 10:30a WBS 12:00p AA Group 5:15p Yoga 6:30p Handbells 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	26 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	27 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	28 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group Presbytery Meeting - FPC Tyler
29 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 5:00p Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center 7:30p AA Group	30 12:00p AA Group 6:15p Pilates/Barre Class 7:30p AA Group	1 12:00p AA Group 6:30p Fellowship Com. 7:30p AA Group	2 10:30a Wednesday Bible Study (WBS) 12:00p AA Group 5:15p Yoga 6:30p Handbells 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	3 12:00p AA Group 5:00p Volunteers to The Bridge 7:30p AA Group	4 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	5 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group

Back to The Swing of Things

Sunday, September 15th

September means getting back to real life. Vacations are over, school is back in session, the weather is beginning to cool down, and it is time to get back to church!

Bring your friends and family for our Sunday service and then, after worship, gather to celebrate “getting back to the swing of things” with special refreshments in the Parlor.

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 26th from 4:00- 6:00 p.m.

The Christian Education Committee invites you to participate in a Trunk or Treat event. These events have grown in popularity in recent years, as families seek fun and safe alternatives to trick-or-treating door-to-door. During trunk or treat events adults decorate the back of their cars for Halloween, load up on candy and/or trinkets, and come sit in a parking lot for kids to "trick or treat" from car-to-car. Kids come fully dressed in Halloween costumes and holding out bags or plastic pumpkins for treats. The adults get to socialize and be creative while seeing all the cute and scary costumes.



We would like a commitment of at least 10 cars but would love to have 15 – 20. Please let Marilyn Jackson or George Schingle know if you would like to participate, or if you have any questions.



We hear all kinds of complaints and occasional horror stories about social media. But there are also some wonderful things about it. One of the great joys of Facebook is the ability to reconnect with folks from earlier chapters in your life. I am friends on Facebook with a handful of folks from my elementary school days. I have not seen some of these folks in 40 or 50 years. I never engage in political debates or anything controversial with these folks. We mostly share memories of elementary school along with the joys and concerns that go along with having pushed past our 60th birthdays. For example, my friend Lynn shared this story last month about the death of her longtime neighbor and friend Danny:

My dear friend, Danny, passed away Wednesday. My home became the gathering place for his family. There are sweet little handprints all over the lower half of the glass door to my back porch. Those handprints belong to Danny's great grandchildren. I didn't notice them until Saturday morning when the sun streamed in. One's first thought might be to grab a bottle of Windex, but my first thought was, "Oh, how sweet!" And then, I immediately thought of Danny...and his hands. Danny's hands delivered Meals on Wheels, they served food at the Soup Kitchen, they rolled the widowed neighbor's trashcan up her driveway each week, they did yard work, they built bird houses for friends and neighbors, they painted for other people, they cleaned gutters for friends, they flipped burgers at our annual block party, they helped move furniture for others, and they shook hands with members as they arrived at church via the handicap entrance. The list could go on and on. Danny did all these things with love, with kindness, and with humility. I have decided to leave those precious handprints for a little longer. They are a beautiful reminder of a life well lived and an inspiration to me to be more like Danny.

I didn't know Danny. But I wish I had known him. Don't you? Danny seems to have really lived out the words attributed to St Francis: Preach the Gospel at all times! Use words if necessary. I didn't know Danny. But my life has been made richer by knowing folks like him. They are people who put their hands to work in many ways to make this world a bit better. I give thanks for people like Danny. And I am challenged by their example. How about you?

Stated Meeting of the Session, July 15, 2019.

Motion passed the approval of the 2019-2020 Operating Fund Budget in the amount of \$213,000.

Motion passed to budget \$10,000 for tree service and lawn maintenance from the Capital Fund, to be available in August.

Motion passed that Sheila Wahl and Becky Page be appointed to review the 2018-2019 financial records.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation, July 28, 2019

Dee Huckaba, Pauline Millender and Sheila Wahl were elected as congregational representatives to the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee.

The Annual Committee Reports were received.

Motion passed to approve the Reverend Rick Brooks' Terms of Call.

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



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

To register and for information – contact Randall McGee

