



Pastor's Corner

Dear St. Mark Members and Friends,

I am excited to introduce my soon-to-be-released new book to you. I want to say a bit about how and why this book came about. In short, this book is my answer to the question: How do we learn to love like Jesus? The second question I answer in this book is: What keeps us from loving like Jesus?

While this book comes from years of academic rigor and research, it is written for anyone seeking to become more loving. It is filled with everyday stories and offers simple, practical practices that will aid you in your relationships with God, self, and others.

My ideas about spiritual intelligence began to form after taking an emotional intelligence assessment when I began my doctorate studies. Emotional intelligence is essentially your ability to navigate your emotional life and relate to others with empathy. It is not like IQ which is about your ability to think logically. EQ is about your ability to have healthy relationships. I began to think how important relationships are to churches. A lack of emotional intelligence is the thing that keeps churches from being beacons of God's love. Emotional immaturity is why people get wounded in churches, including pastors.

However, standard emotional intelligence does not include the most important relationship a person can have, one's relationship with God. Spiritual intelligence includes our relationship with ourselves and others just like emotional intelligence, but also factors in one's relationship with God. My definition of spiritual intelligence is one's ability to receive God's love and love others with the same love.

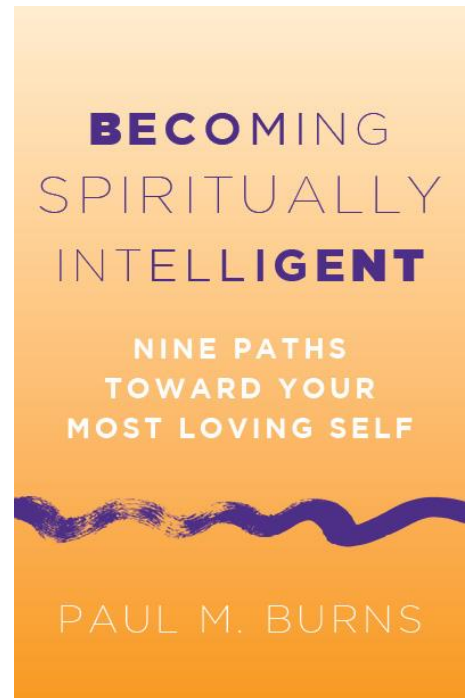
What is it that keeps us from loving others like God loves? In a word, insecurity. Our evolutionarily developed survival skills have helped us survive, but they keep us fearful and self-centered. This insecurity we all experience keeps us from receiving love and loving others in the way of Christ – love that is willing to give up one's life for the sake of another.

Becoming Spiritually Intelligent: Nine Paths toward Your Most Loving Self will lead you through a series of paths that will help you to find security in your relationship with God, grow into your God-given identity, and unlock your ability to love others just as they are and for their own sake. The book will hit the shelves August 13th. You will be able to purchase it from your favorite book outlet or you can get it directly from me when the time comes. There will be a book signing event sometime somewhere to be announced soon.

I have used this model with hundreds of people and myself over the last four years with wonderful, life-changing results. I look forward to sharing it with you!

Lovingly yours,

Pastor Paul



JULY WORSHIP SERVICES
Summer Sermon Series: “Presbyterian Passions”

July 7 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: “Scripture Still Matters”

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40:6-8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

July 14 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: “Church Must Be a Safe Place”

Scripture Readings: Psalm 139:1-18; John 8:4-11

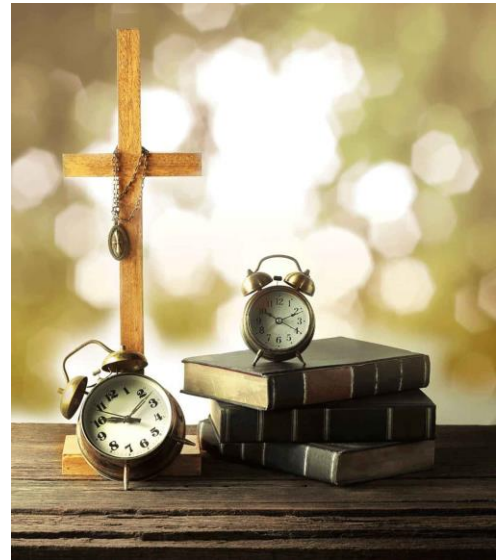
July 21 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Preacher

July 28 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: “No Conformity Required”

Scripture Readings: Romans 12:2; Revelation 7:9-11



Average Weekly Attendance

May – 32

**SWORD OF THE SPIRIT
 SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE**

St. Mark now has a “Time with Young Disciples” during the worship service. A St. Mark youth is invited to come forward, grasp the Sword of the Spirit, and recite a verse from the Bible. What unfolds next is truly remarkable – the Sword of the Spirit illuminates and glows with God’s love!

May this powerful moment continue to inspire and touch our hearts!



- July 12 Lacey Zuretti
- July 15 Willetta Jones
- July 18 Linda Youmans
- July 19 Allison Curry
- July 31 Trevor Crawley

TREASURER’S REPORT

OPERATING FUND
11 Mos 7/2023 - 5/2024



Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are \$15,400 better than budget, and \$15,900 ahead of last year. YTD expenses are \$2,100 below budget, and \$36,700 above last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$13,100 positive YTD, which is \$17,000 better than budgeted.



Last September during Bible Study, Sandy Knapp asked for prayers for her 44-year-old niece, Julie Schupbach. She had a tumor behind her heart. She tried chemo but it only made her feel worse. Before Julie passed away on June 16th, her 18-year-old son, Eli, graduated high school as the Valedictorian and thankfully, Julie was able to proudly watch the ceremony from home. Eli will be attending Texas A&M in the Engineering Program, where he hopes to get in the Space X Program. Please keep Sandy and her family, including Julie’s son, Eli, and her husband, Sannon, as well as all those who loved Julie, in your thoughts and prayers.



To view all events scheduled on the church calendar, visit the church website (www.saintmarkchurch.org) or scan the QR Code below. Go to the “About” page and select “Calendar.”



- JULY 4**
Independence Day
Church Office Closed
- JULY 7**
Communion Sunday
- JULY 13**
Mini Workday – 9:00 a.m.
- JULY 14**
Ordination and Installation
of Church Officers for the Class of 2027
- JULY 28**
Annual Meeting of the Congregation

HERITAGE SUNDAY

On July 23, 2024, St. Mark Presbyterian Church celebrated its first annual Heritage Sunday. Gathered together were 52 members, families, and friends, united by faith and a shared journey. During the worship service, we reflected on the path we've traveled, acknowledging God's guidance every step of the way. Gratitude filled our hearts as we honored St. Mark's enduring legacy and paid homage to our history, including our charter members.



Following the service, we gathered in the Parlor for our time of fellowship. We enjoyed delicious food and shared stories and lots of laughter. It was a special time to connect, celebrate, and strengthen the bonds that make St. Mark truly special.

Thank you to the many volunteers who generously contributed their time and talents to make Heritage Sunday a heartwarming success.

The Worship and Music Committee crafted a worship service that honored our past, embraced our present, and anticipated our future; the Handbell Choir and Sanctuary Choir lifted our hearts with music and praise; and Lucy (Roberts) Moore created the beautiful cover for the Order of Worship (shown above).

The Fellowship Committee once again dazzled us with a delicious meal and special fellowship time. Their efforts fostered connections and strengthened our sense of community.

The Property Committee handled numerous outside chores, ensuring that St. Mark appeared welcoming to all who attended.

With joy, we embraced this new tradition, recognizing that our shared history shapes an exciting future. As we look ahead to 2025, we eagerly anticipate celebrating 72 years of faith at St. Mark.

May these memories continue to inspire and uplift the St. Mark community!





Last month Jane Ann and I traveled to Vermont for my niece Sarah's wedding. We had a great time! My sister and her husband were terrific hosts as they opened their home to both sets of family. They were exhausted by the end of it. But they enjoyed all of the festivities. It was not a huge wedding, but it was a grand celebration. It was an outdoor ceremony. That was a bit of a gamble because rain is always in the forecast in Vermont in June. It drizzled a bit of rain early in the ceremony. But then the sun popped out for the rest of the day. Friends and family had a fine time.

Both of Sarah's "90 something" grandmothers were able to attend the wedding. The logistics of their travel from Texas and Tennessee were a bit complex. But they made it to Vermont and then back home. And they both had a great time. And everyone was glad we had put in the extra effort to make those trips happen.

Now that the Texas summer is going full bore, I find myself wishing I was in Vermont and needing a jacket in the morning.

But this note is not about Vermont and cooler weather.

I am actually thinking about celebrations and hospitality. I am pondering the connection between the two. I suppose it is possible to celebrate something without hospitality. But it usually is much more fun to celebrate with others. And a celebration is not the only reason for practicing hospitality. But they do make good partners.

Hospitality and celebrations. What do you think about when you see or hear those two words either separately or together? And (here it comes) do you ever think about those two words in connection with the church? I hope you do. When we are at our best, we are both a celebrating and hospitable people. Of course, some days we aren't all at our best.

What are some of your favorite celebrations (large or small) that have some type of church connection? What memories do you have of experiencing hospitality at church? As you ponder those memories how are you encouraged and challenged?



The Session calls the congregation to meet Sunday, July 28, 2024, immediately following the worship service to: (i) elect three members of the congregation to serve on the Nominating Committee; (ii) receive Annual Reports from the Clerk of Session and each Session Committee; and (iii) receive the 2024 – 2025 Budget.

HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING



At the June 18, 2024 Stated Meeting, the Session:

- Received the Treasurer’s Financial Report for the first eleven months of the fiscal year.
- Voted to sustain the examination of the new church officers for the Class of 2027.
- Voted to change the date of the July Stated Session Meeting from July 16, 2024 to July 23, 2024.
- Voted to set July 14, 2024 as the date to ordain and install the Class of 2027 Elders and Trustee.
- Voted to set July 28, 2024 as the date for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Congregation.
- Received the Committee Annual Reports and Budget for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Congregation.
- Voted to elect Diane Llywelyn as clerk for the term of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.
- Voted to approve the concept of opening two Princeton classrooms for weekly fellowship with Bryan Adams High School students on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.
- Voted to approve the 2024 Temporary Position Contract for Rev. Burns.
- Voted to approve the Operating Fund budget for fiscal 2025.

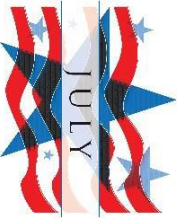
St. Mark Session



Pastor	Rev. Dr. Paul M. Burns
Christian Education Director	Rev. Dr. Randall McGee
Director of Music/Organist	Mr. Gary O’Neal
Clerk of Session	Ms. Diane Llywelyn
Office Administrator	Ms. Darlene Wright
Building Maintenance	Mr. Bob King

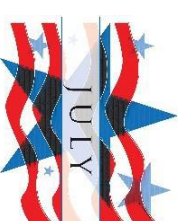


Have a safe and Happy 4th of July!



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

July 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:45a Worship Service 1:00p St. Mark Community Guitar Jam 4:30p Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center	1 6:00p Worship & Music Com Mtg	2 6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg	3 6:00p Way Out Wednesday Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	4 Independence Day - Office Closed	5	6 8:00a Property Com Mtg 9:00a Mini Workday
7 9:45a Worship Service - Communion 1:00p St. Mark Community Guitar Jam	8 6:00p Admin & Personnel Com Mtg	9 6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com Mtg 6:00p Christian Educ Com Mtg	10 6:00p Way Out Wednesday Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	11 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga	12 8:00a Property Com Mtg 9:00a Mini Workday	13
14 9:45a Worship Service - Ordination and Installation of New Church Officers 1:00p St. Mark Community Guitar Jam	15 6:00p Mission & Membership Com Mtg	16 6:00p Way Out Wednesday Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	17 6:00p Zoom Yoga	18	19	20
21 9:45a Worship Service 1:00p St. Mark Community Guitar Jam	22 6:30p Session Meeting	23 6:00p Way Out Wednesday Meeting	24 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga	25	26	27
28 9:45a Worship Service 10:45a Annual Meeting of the Congregation 1:00p St. Mark Community Guitar Jam	29	30	31 6:00p Way Out Wednesday Meeting	1 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga	2	3



SAINT MARK

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9999 Ferguson Road
Dallas, TX 75228
Non-Profit Organization

