



## Pastor's Corner

Dear St. Mark Members and Friends,

A fellow pastor posted these words on Facebook that are very much worth considering:

“I fear that as long as the reason we invite people to our religious institutions is so they can fill our pews, take over our volunteer projects, and give us money, we’re going to end up hurting the people who come to us looking for a connection to the Divine and authentic spiritual community.

Because it’s deeply painful to want to be in relationship with someone, and to find out they really only want us to keep their institution going.”

Over the years I have wondered why more church members don’t invite people to church. Perhaps our motivation is in the wrong place, and we sense that, so we don’t ask. If our rationale for inviting people to church is to find people to serve on committees, volunteer for various ministries, and support the budget, then we feel bad about asking. We know that we are asking of them more than we believe they will receive.

Think about the activities that you gladly and excitedly invite people to join you in: dinner parties, new restaurants, festivals, concerts – enjoyable things. And you want them to say yes, because you want to spend time with them and share your enjoyment. We all hunger for authentic connection with others. We also all have a spiritual hunger, a desire to connect with the world beyond the one we see before us. People are looking for “connection to the Divine and authentic spiritual community.” They want the real thing. Nothing fake or put on.

I believe that we have the real thing here at St. Mark Presbyterian Church. The ministry and the finances will happen. We have God with us and leading us. Let’s focus on relationships.

**I have a challenge for each of you: Find one person to invite into our spiritual community. Be their friend just to be their friend. Invite them into your life, which includes this church.**

Start with this prayer: Lord, show me the person that you want me to befriend and invite to church.

Then become a spiritual friend. Ask them about their life. Pray for them. Invite them to join us for Sunday worship or some other event that you think they might enjoy. When they come to church, welcome them and sit with them. Or even pick them up, drive them to church, and have lunch with them afterwards.

Don’t be afraid to make new friends. They may prove to be a bigger blessing to you than you can imagine!

With Love and Hope,

Pastor Paul

## JUNE WORSHIP SERVICES

### Summer Sermon Series: "Presbyterian Passions"

**June 2 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Communion Sunday**

"God Gave Us Minds"

Ephesians 4:14-15; Mark 7:26-30

**June 9 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

"Promote Social Righteousness"

Isaiah 58:6-12; Luke 4:14-30

**June 16 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost**

"The Church Is the Body of Christ"

1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Hebrews 10:23-25

**June 23 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost**

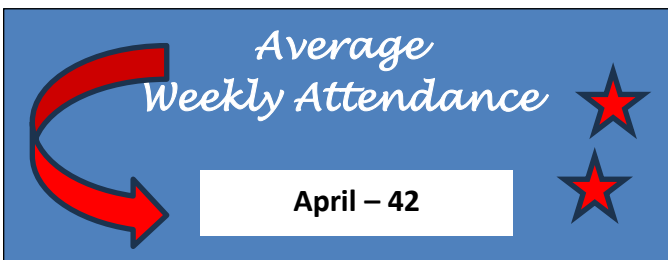
"All Are Welcome"

Acts 10:34-36; Galatians 3:26-29

**June 30 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost**

"All Have Value"

Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 28:5-7



### Easter Offering Update

The generosity of St. Mark members and friends is truly heartwarming! Surpassing the Easter Offering goal with a total of \$4,109 is a testament to the collective spirit of giving. The funds for One Great Hour of Sharing (\$2,055) have been forwarded to Grace Presbytery, supporting their mission. Funds raised for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and the Austin Street Center were transferred in April. Thank you for your generous contributions to this year's Easter Offering!

### NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session invites the congregation to a meeting on Sunday, June 9, 2024, immediately after the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new church officers for the Class of 2027.



- June 1** Harriett Anderson
- June 4** Danny Robinson
- June 25** Leon Johnson
- June 25** Ruth McGowan
- June 29** Dee Huckaba

### TREASURER'S REPORT

OPERATING FUND  
10 Mos 7/2023 - 4/2024



Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are \$13,600 better than budget, and \$10,800 ahead of last year. YTD expenses are \$1,200 below budget, and \$38,300 above last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$9,900 positive YTD, which is \$14,000 better than budgeted.



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



**JUNE 2**

Communion Sunday

**JUNE 8**

Bryan Adams Mock Trial Booster Club  
Car Wash Fundraiser  
8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Mini Workday – 9:00 a.m.

**JUNE 9**

Called Meeting of the Congregation  
10:45 a.m.

**JUNE 11**

Casa View Haven Neighborhood  
Association Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

**JUNE 16**

Father’s Day

**JUNE 23**

Heritage Sunday

**JUNE 30**

Sandwich Sunday

## WHITE ROCK CENTER OF HOPE CELEBRATES VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers gathered in April for the White Rock Center of Hope Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. White Rock Center of Hope said thank you to the more than 800 people who volunteered last year, recognized those who volunteered an extraordinary amount of time, and announced the recipients of this year's Donagene Christian Volunteer of the Year Award. The group enjoyed a tasty lunch and was entertained by special music that spanned the decades.

At St. Mark, our hearts are full of gratitude and joy! It is a privilege to honor two remarkable individuals who were recognized at the volunteer luncheon for their spirit of service and compassion.

**PROVIDING HOPE FOR**  
**33 YEARS**

**HONORING A LIFETIME  
OF FAITHFUL SERVICE**

**Alice McLean**

WRCH recently honored Alice for her 33 years of volunteer service, including countless hours in the Food Pantry and as a Board Member.

**Thank You, Alice!**




**Alice McLean:** Alice has faithfully supported White Rock Center of Hope for many years. Her unwavering commitment to helping those in need has touched countless lives. Alice's kindness knows no bounds.

# 250+ Hours!



**Jeff Taylor:** Jeff's dedication to the White Rock Center of Hope community is equally inspiring. His tireless efforts behind the scenes have made a lasting impact on the community. Jeff's servant heart exemplifies Christ's love in action.

Congratulations, Alice and Jeff! Your selflessness and compassion have not gone unnoticed. We celebrate you as good and faithful servants, shining examples of Christ's love. May your service continue to bless others and bring glory to God.

Let us all express our heartfelt appreciation to Alice and Jeff. Their legacy of kindness reminds us that small acts of love can transform lives.



## INTRODUCING HERITAGE SUNDAY

We are delighted to share exciting news! The Session has adopted a new tradition – a cherished milestone in our church’s journey. Allow us to introduce “Heritage Sunday”!



Purpose: Heritage Sunday will be our annual celebration of St. Mark’s enduring legacy. It will fall on a Sunday in June to mark the month of the first worship service in 1953. Each year, we will come together to honor our past, embrace our present, and eagerly anticipate our future.

### What to Expect:

#### 1. Worship Service

- Members and friends will gather for a heartfelt worship service where we’ll pay homage to our history, including our charter members.
- Together, we will reflect on the path we’ve traveled, acknowledging God’s guidance every step of the way.
- Gratitude for St. Mark’s enduring legacy of faith and love will overflow as we lift our voices in song and praise.

#### 2. Low-Key Reception

- Following the service, we will gather informally for our time of fellowship. No frills, just good company!
- Share stories, laughter, and light refreshments.
- Enjoy a special time to connect, celebrate, and strengthen the bonds that make St. Mark special.



We hope everyone will embrace this tradition with joy, knowing that our shared history shapes our exciting future.

**Mark Your Calendar: The first annual Heritage Sunday is June 23, 2024. We hope to see you there!**



*Fathers, your unconditional love, guidance, and support have shaped your children in lasting ways. We honor you for your strength, your patience, and your devotion to your families. We pray that God will richly bless you this year and in the years ahead.*

*Happy Father's Day!*

**Proverbs 22:6**

***Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.***



So, as I started to work on this article, I was kind of irritated. Not really angry but kind of annoyed. You see I was waiting on a package that was to be delivered by noon. Around noon I got notice that now it would be by the end of the day. It's not an urgent delivery. It's important but not urgent. It's something I need to spend a little time working on then sending it on to someone else. If it had gotten here by noon, I could have done my work and then sent it on its way today. But now it will probably be tomorrow before I can send it on. Like I said it's annoying but it's not the end of the world.

Then I started thinking about all of the people involved in the eventual delivery. And you know I am really thankful for every one of them. It's hot today. It's pretty miserable outside. I am glad I am working inside. But somebody is out there driving a truck around. They have to stop and get out in the heat and deliver things to homes and businesses. Then there is the person who took my package off the plane in the wee hours of the morning. And the person or persons who took my package from the airport to wherever stuff is sorted for delivery. And someone then put it on the truck that will eventually get to my house. Lots more people are involved. And I am thankful for every one of them.

I probably don't know any of those people. If the delivery comes while I am away, I may never see or speak to any of them. But I really am thankful for them and the work they do. Yeah, I am kind of annoyed now. But in general people doing the things they do makes my life better.

And now to go all theological, every single one of them is a beloved child of God. Each one of them belongs to God who loves them. They may not know or acknowledge that. But I do believe it is true. So now I am smiling a bit as I think about all of the people involved in getting the package to me. And all the people who will be involved in getting it to its final destination once I finish with it and send it off. All those beloved children of God. I hope that I will remember to treat them all like they are beloved children of God. Even if I am a bit annoyed.

PS: In case you are wondering, the package did not get delivered while I was writing. But it will get here.



## SANDWICH SUNDAY – June 30th



June has five Sundays, which means we have a special opportunity to serve the clients of Austin Street Center. Sharing the bounty that our Lord has provided us with those who are less fortunate is one of the ways we give thanks for our many blessings. The Church provides chips and fruit, and we ask the congregation to provide sandwiches, snack cakes or cookies. Signup sheets are in the narthex.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support to St. Mark's Mission!

Mission and Membership Committee

Mix it Up – Make New Friends!



# JOIN WOW !!!

Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

## Way Out Wednesday (WOW) is off to a great start!



All ages 6 and up are invited to join the fun, fellowship, games, bible lessons, and snacks! Please notify Sabrina King 972-674-7207 or Bob King 972-679-4217 if you plan to attend to make sure enough drinks and snacks are provided.

## St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam Club

The St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam Club is a gathering of folks who celebrate the joy of music and community. It offers an opportunity for musicians of all skill levels to come together and share their love for melody and rhythm. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting out, the club is a welcoming space where the blend of instruments and voices creates an atmosphere of fellowship and learning. It's not just about the music; it's about the connections made and the memories created as everyone contributes to the symphony of fellowship. The club even has a mascot – see picture of “Buddy” below!

The group is open to anyone and meets every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in Princeton Hall (last classroom on the right). Parking is available at the back of the church. For more information, please contact Bill Oney.





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

## UPCOMING GILMONT EVENTS

# Join us at Gilmont!



### Circle of Friends May 18-20, August 3-5 & August 31-September 2, 2024

*A weekend family camp for children with developmental disabilities and their families*

Circle of Friends provides a place for community and understanding for caregivers and a whole lot of camp fun for kids with developmental disabilities. Volunteers care for the children during the day while caregivers enjoy respite. Due to the generosity of many, Circle of Friends is FREE for all participating families and volunteers. Volunteer one of the remaining weekends or share this opportunity with a family who may benefit. Learn more at [Gilmont.org/Circle-of-Friends](http://Gilmont.org/Circle-of-Friends)



### Summer Camp June & July, 2024

*Overnight Camp, Day Camp, and Family Camp*

At Gilmont Summer Camp, campers of all ages enjoy classic camp activities (archery, crafts, canoeing, and so much s'more), connect to creation, make new friends and strengthen old ones, and grow in faith. Gilmont's 2024 Bible Study theme - Soil for the Soul - explores how we nourish our souls and create fertile ground for more good things to grow, be harvested, and shared with others. Learn more and register at [gilmont.org/camp](http://gilmont.org/camp)



### Save the Dates!

**Spiritual Practices** - September 13-15, 2024

**Confirmation Retreat** - September 20-22, 2024

**Battle of the Bags Fundraiser** - October 12, 2024

[www.gilmont.org](http://www.gilmont.org) | 903-797-6400 | [info@gilmont.org](mailto:info@gilmont.org)

## CHRISTIAN CAMPING SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The Prairie Valley Legacy Fund Scholarship provides churches and families of Grace Presbytery the opportunity to apply for assistance to send children and youth to PC(USA) camps and conferences.

Please see the information below for details.

## 2024 Prairie Valley Legacy Fund Scholarship Application

Prairie Valley was a rustic, church-owned, camping facility serving the Presbyterian congregations in the south and west ends of Grace Presbytery. When the property was sold in 2010, per a prior agreement, the proceeds reverted to First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, with the proviso that the money be used to provide "a program of Christian camping." The Prairie Valley Legacy Fund Scholarship was created and provides churches and families in Grace Presbytery the opportunity to apply for assistance to send children and youth to PC(USA) camps and conferences.

Families may request need-based scholarship assistance up to 50% of the total camp/conference fee. To receive a Scholarship Application, please contact the church office ([office@saintmarkchurch.org](mailto:office@saintmarkchurch.org)). Applications must be completed in full and submitted by email to: [PVLFScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:PVLFScholarship@gmail.com).

Note: Scholarship Applications are due no later than 15 days prior to the camp/conference start-date. Applications cannot be considered after an event has occurred.



Your prayers, cards, phone calls, and words of encouragement were greatly appreciated following my recent surgery. Gary and I are blessed to be part of the St. Mark family.

Thank you!  
Ann O’Neal

### HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

At the May 21, 2024, Stated Meeting, the Session:

- Received the Treasurer’s Financial Report for the first nine months of the fiscal year.
- Voted to allow Casa View Haven Neighborhood Association to use the Sanctuary for a meeting from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2024.
- Voted to allow the Bryan Adams Mock Trial Booster Club to use the front parking lot and water attachment for a car wash fundraiser from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 8, 2024.
- Voted to establish an annual “Heritage Sunday” tradition to celebrate St. Mark’s anniversary beginning on June 23, 2024.
- Voted to schedule a called meeting of the congregation on June 9, 2024 for the purpose of electing new officers.



### 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           |



# St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

June 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 1:00p St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam</p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>Memorial Day - Office Closed</b></p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:00p Mission &amp; Membership Com Mtg</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service - Communion 1:00p St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00p Worship &amp; Music Com Mtg</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00a Property Com Mtg 8:30a Car Wash Fundraiser - BA Mock Trial Booster Club 9:00a Mini Workday</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 10:45a Called Meeting of the Congregation 1:00p St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00p Admin &amp; Personnel Com Mtg</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00p Stewardship &amp; Finance Com Mtg 6:00p Christian Educ Com Mtg 6:30p Casa View Haven Neighborhood Association Mtg</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 1:00p St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00p Session Meal and Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 9:45a Heritage Sunday 1:00p St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00p Mission &amp; Membership Com Mtg</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 1:00p St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam 4:30p Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00p Worship &amp; Music Com Mtg</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday Meeting 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga <b>Independence Day - Office Closed</b></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>