



St. Mark Connection

Volume 66
Issue 3

March
2019

St. Mark Presbyterian Church
9999 Ferguson Road Dallas, TX 75238 214-321-6437
office@saintmarkchurch.org • www.saintmarkchurch.org



Pastor's Corner

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	Page
UPCOMING EVENTS	2
CALENDAR	INSERT
BULLETIN BOARD	3
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS	3
RANDALL'S PEN	4

CALENDAR REMINDERS

March 6th – Ash Wednesday
Worship at 7:15

March 9th –
8:00 am Men's Breakfast
9:00 am Mini Workday

March 10th –
Daylight Saving Time Begins
11:45 Kitchen Table Talk

March 17th –
St. Patrick's Day Potluck Lunch

March 31st – Sandwich
Sunday @ Austin Street

Karl Barth (1886-1968), arguably the most influential Protestant theologian of the Twentieth Century, believed that Jesus is the answer to every question. Really. All of existence begins and ends with the second Person of the Holy Trinity. His theology was thoroughly Christocentric. For Barth, the question of whether or not God exists is not a question worth addressing. Instead, his starting place was simple: God is. Period. All speculation of God as a reality is a fool's errand. The real question we should be asking is: Can God be known? Answer: Yes. We understand who God "is" only by knowing Jesus.

During the celebration of Advent, we encountered Jesus in the Incarnation, the enfleshment of God breaking into the broken world as the babe of Bethlehem in a manger. But now that Lent is upon us, it is time to reflect upon our individual and corporate sins that separate us from God and each other. Given that it is only Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection by the Father's power that can remove these sins that separate, it follows that Easter is, by extension, the answer to all questions. So, I pose this question for Lent: Because Easter is the Answer, What is the Question? (Hint for Lent: "To grasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world." Karl Barth)

Blessings, Pastor Rick



Upcoming Events

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

March 3 - "What Happens on the Mountain"

Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36

Rev. Dr Randall McGee

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

March 6 - "Where's Your Heart?"

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Worship 7:15pm

Ash Wednesday



March 10 - "Gunsmoke"

Psalm 91:1-16; Luke 4:1-13

1st Sunday in Lent

March 17 - "No Fear"

Psalm 27:1-14; Luke 13:31-35

2nd Sunday in Lent

March 24 - "One More Time"

Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 13:1-9

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 31 - "God's Department"

Psalm 32:1-11; Luke 15:11-32

4th Sunday in Lent

God Bless You on Your Birthday

March 5

Jacie Minick

March 8

Jacob Curry

Shea Curry

March 10

Kat Hutchings

Birthday Blessings

March 16

Phyllis Speck

March 19

Pauline Millender

March 25

Sabrina King

March 31

Bunty Taylor

Ash Wednesday

We will observe the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 6th at 7:15pm with worship, communion and the imposition of ashes.



"...for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."
Genesis 3:19b

Men's Breakfast

All men of St. Mark are invited to the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 9th



at 8:00am. The Men's Breakfast meets in the church parlor on the second Saturday of the month for a time of food, fellowship, devotional and sharing of prayer concerns.

After the Men's Breakfast **all** are invited to help with the mini workday beginning at 9:00am.

Time Change Reminder Sunday, March 10th



Set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, March 9th.

Sunday, March 10th

URGENT! WRCH needs the following: canned soup, canned meat products (chili, chicken, Chef Boyardee, ham, etc.)



St. Patrick's Day Potluck Lunch Sunday, March 17th

12:00pm



Please bring your favorite dish, meat, veggie, or salad to share. Make it interesting...bring something Irish or **Green**. Beverages and desserts provided.

Sandwich Sunday March 31st

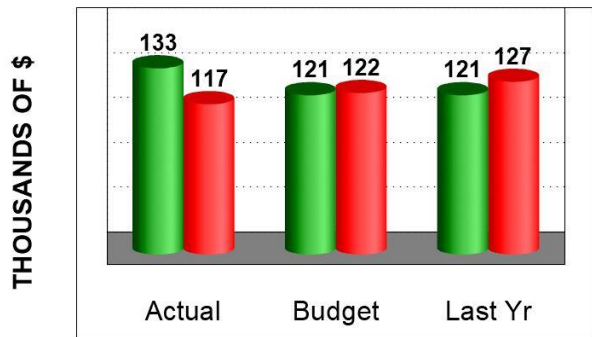


If you are able, please prepare one to 3 dozen wrapped sandwiches. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Volunteers will leave the church at 5pm to serve sandwiches to the homeless at Austin Street Center.

Bulletin Board

Treasurer's Report

7 MONTHS THROUGH 1-31-2019



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund income was \$12,600 above budget and expenses were \$4,600 below budget, for a net \$17,200 better than budgeted.

Fund Balances - Total fund balances are down \$800 from the previous month and up \$11,400 from the beginning of the fiscal year.

Kitchen Table Talk Sunday, March 10th

The Session invites you to attend a brief Kitchen Table Talk presented by the Stewardship and Finance Committee. Please join the committee in the sanctuary for about 5- 10 minutes after the worship service on Sunday, **March 10th**.



Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sunday, February 3rd, we collected non-perishable food items and donations for White Rock Center of Hope. We are pleased to report that 212 food items and \$338.30 were donated. Thank you for your generosity.



Blood Drive Results



At our February 24th Blood Drive, we collected 15 units of whole blood. Thank you so much for donating your blood to help those in need in Dallas. What better way to serve God!!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Stated Meeting of the Session, January 21, 2019.

- Motion passed to approve the use of the parlor for the Financial Peace Class for 13 weeks, beginning February 5, 2019 – May 7, 2019, from 6:30 – 8:30pm.
- Motion passed to accept the report of the Facilities Planning Task Force and thank them for their work.
- Motion passed that Session approve a 3% salary increase for Randall McGee, Gary O'Neal, Kat Hutchings, Bob King, and Elaine Burgess, effective January 1, 2019.
- Motion passed to elect Leigh Taylor and Kathleen Hale as Commissioners and Charles Miller as alternate for the Stated Presbytery Meeting at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Saturday, February 23, 2019.

A full set of Session minutes are available to read on the Session bulletin board.



St. Mark Family,

Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers following the death of Bob's mother, Mary Katherine King. We appreciate your love and support very much.

Bob and Sabrina King



Last November our dog Lilybelle died. She had been part of our household for almost sixteen years. She had been in pretty good health until her last few months when she went into a fairly rapid decline.

Lilybelle loved her walks. Unless it was a hard rain storm, she was ready to head out. Might be well over 100. Might be a wind chill factor near zero. Didn't matter. She was ready to go. Sometimes it seemed that the colder the weather the more she loved to be out walking. And she was a short haired dog not one of the breeds that you normally associate with cold weather. Of course, as she aged the walks became shorter, more frequent, and at increasingly odd times. But even in her last days when she could barely walk a quarter of a block she wanted to go out and sniff around the neighborhood.

And for the most part the folks in our neighborhood loved Lilybelle. They were happy to see her, and she was happy to see them. A long walk on a nice day might involve a dozen interactions. Even a short spin around the block would usually involve at least one brief chat with a neighbor.

I miss Lilybelle. Now I have to admit that I don't miss taking her out in unpleasant weather. Or when she woke up in the wee hours of the morning.

But I don't just miss Lilybelle. I also miss the interaction I had with our neighbors. The other day as I was driving through the neighborhood, I realized there were quite a few folks I had not seen since she died. In a way I am now out of the loop. It's not a good time in our life to make the decade or more commitment to another dog. But I am thinking it might be a good idea to try and head out for occasional walks along our old routes around the same times that we used to head out. Maybe I'll see some of our old friends and catch up a bit.

Now what does this have to do with the Christian faith in general and St Mark in particular. To be honest I am not sure. But I think there might be a connection. And I am pondering it a bit. What do you think?

