

St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church
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Pastor's Corner

Even before we open our mail (paper variety, not email), we know what the envelope contains. For instance, a letter-size envelope with a small cellophane "window" that shows our name and address is probably a bill or a check, if we're fortunate. Conversely, a hand-written envelope could contain something more personal maybe a greeting card.

Reading the Bible is much like interpreting the contents of the mail. Without too much effort, we can quickly tell whether what we are reading is a parable, Psalm, history, wisdom, poetry, theology, etc. Taken as a whole, the Bible is a library of many forms of literature, all based on an overarching theme of God's plan of redemption and our place in His story.

The ending of one of my favorite recounting of God's unfolding plan is the story of happy ending to Joseph's sad story, which can be found in Genesis:

"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today." Genesis 50:20

You may recall, Joseph's brothers, who sold him into slavery in Egypt, told their father in Canaan that an animal had killed him. In God's perfect timing, Joseph was released from prison where he was sent after telling a lie and taken into the Pharaoh's palace, eventually becoming an Egyptian prime minister. Because of Joseph's leadership, Egypt had plenty of food even when Canaan experienced a famine. When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt seeking food, they went before Joseph, who graciously helped them. He asked his brothers to return with their father, Jacob, to live with him. After Jacob's death, the brothers worried that Joseph would seek revenge. They begged forgiveness. That's when Joseph delivered the nature of God's plan of redemption, as quoted in Genesis 50:20.

Only God can make *"all things work together for good"* (Romans 8:28). Nothing obstructs God's plan, not even the depths of human sin. Just as Joseph's brothers couldn't slow Providence down, Satan ultimately cannot hamper God's will.

One of the most intriguing parts of Joseph's profound theological statement occurs at the last: "...in order to preserve a numerous people, *as he is doing today.*" God can and will preserve numerous people and He is accomplishing exactly that today-right here, right now.

God is calling St. Mark to be a part of God's redemption plan through mission outreach *and* in-reach such as worship, Christian education, fellowship, and sharing the Good News of Jesus. That's not just a happy ending. It's a joyous beginning, too.

Blessings, *Pastor Rick*



this issue

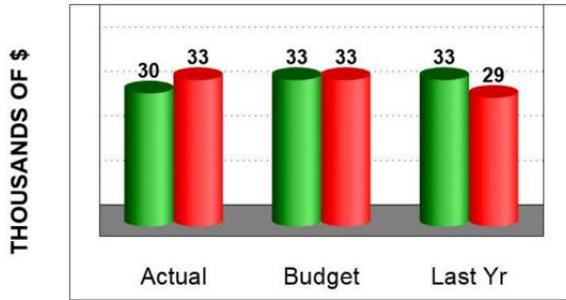
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reminders

- October 3** - Volunteers to the Bridge
- October 6** – World Communion Sunday
- October 12** –All Church Workday
- October 13** – Table Talk
- October 20** -Chili Lunch
- October 27** – Reformation Sunday

Treasurer's Report

Two Months Ending August 31, 2019



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund income was \$3,100 below budget and expenses were \$600 below budget, for a net \$2,500 worse than budgeted.

Fund Balances – Total fund balances are down \$300 from the previous month and down \$4,000 from the beginning of the fiscal year.

Kitchen Table Talk Sunday, October 13th

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, **October 13th**.



Sympathy to the Waters family in the death of Brent Waters. Services are pending.

Sympathy to the family of former member, Shyra Bradley. A celebration of life was held was on September 7th at Grace Redeemer Community Church.

Please keep these families in your prayers.



Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for the shower you threw for Ann and all the beautiful gifts for Harper. She's a doll and we are very blessed to have her and all of you in our family.

Thank you, George and Cathy

All Church Workday

Saturday, **October 12th**

8:30 Breakfast in the parlor

9:00 Work begins.



HELPING HANDS ARE NEEDED!!

PCHAS Luncheon



The annual PCHAS luncheon will be held on

Wednesday, **November 6, 2019**

at the Doubletree Hotel

US 75 and NW Highway

Check in time is 11:30 a.m.

The luncheon and program are from 12:00–1:00 p.m. The program will focus on foster children/young people and foster parents.

Each year we at St. Mark have one or two tables for our congregation. The event is free – good food and fellowship – a worthwhile, inspiring and uplifting event. If you would like to attend, please contact Dick Waters or the church office.



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM



Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

October 6 - "Call of Duty"
 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10
 World Communion Sunday

October 13 - "Gratitude Over Circumstances"
 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 20 - "Prayer Persistence"
 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5; Luke 18:1-8



October 27 - "Chicken or Feathers?"
 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Luke 18:9-14
 Reformation Sunday

God Bless You on Your Birthday

- October 3**
Cheryl Simpson
- October 4**
Mary Beckham
- October 6**
Jo Schindler
- October 7**
Elli Guinnee
Dick Waters
- October 11**
Jeff Taylor
- October 13**
Emily McIntosh

- October 16**
Bill Oney
- October 18**
Myrtle Harbaugh
Lorraine Stephen
- October 19**
Rose Curry
Arthur Jones
- October 20**
Karl Crawley
- October 25**
Dean Anderson
- October 27**
Ellen Roberts
- October 30**
Richard Arthur
Carolyn McInnis
- October 31**
Wylie Matthews



Chili for the Chilly Weather

Sunday, October 20th
 (Immediately following worship)

Members are asked to bring their favorite chili, sides and desserts to share.

Suggested Chili Types:
 Beans, No Beans, Veggie, Turkey,
 White or Cincinnati



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

SUNDAY – OCTOBER 6th

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. There is a world map hanging in 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.

Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 27th at 4:00 p.m.



A very special Reformation Service is being planned for Reformation Sunday. Please mark your calendar. More information to come.

How to Get a Yoga Body

1. Have a Body



2. Do Yoga



DOYOUYOGA

Yoga meets Sundays at 12:00 and Wednesday evenings at 5:15



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas



October 2019

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

29	30	1	2	3	4	5
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	12:00p AA Group 6:15p Pilates/Barre Class 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 5:15p Yoga 6:30p Handbells 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	9:00a Choir Retreat at the Arthur's lakehouse 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group
9:00a Membership & Evangelism Com. 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 7:00p Worship & Music Com. 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 6:30p CE Com. 7:30p AA Group	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	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	8:30a All Church Workday 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group 
9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:45a Kitchen Table Talk 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	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	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	9:00a Fellowship - Set-Up Family Center 12:00p AA Group 6:00p Anniversary Party (FC) 7:30p AA Group
9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Chili Luncheon 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 6:15p Pilates/Barre Class 6:30p Session Meeting 7:30p AA Group	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	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group	12:00p AA Group 2:00p Birthday Party (FC) 4:00p Trunk or Treat (tent.) 7:30p AA Group
9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 4:00p Reformation Service 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	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



This month I am thinking about how thankful I am to be doing ministry in a Presbyterian context. That means I, along with St. Mark, don't have to go to ministry alone. We have colleagues and partners in ministry across the region, country, and even the world. We have so many opportunities to share wisdom, ideas, and resources. And I always try to take advantage of those opportunities.

For example, yesterday I was thinking about a fairly specific resource that I thought might enhance our ministry at St. Mark. I did not know if what I was thinking about even existed. But I put a post up in the Grace Presbytery educators Facebook group. Within a few minutes I had a couple of suggestions. I won't be surprised if over the next few days I get more ideas.

And one Saturday last month the East Dallas Presbyterian Cluster co-sponsored "Won't You Be My Neighbor: Spending a day with Mr. Rogers." That's an event that we at St. Mark would not have been able to do by ourselves. And it was made possible in part because of a Presbyterian congregation that does not exist anymore. When the Colonial church ceased to exist, it established an endowment for the Cluster that helps pay for events like this.

Then there is Mr. Rogers himself. I think by now most of us know that Fred Rogers was a Presbyterian minister. Nurtured as a child in a Presbyterian home and congregation. Educated at a Presbyterian seminary. Generations of people have benefited from his ministry. He was a gift to the world from Presbyterians.

One day last month I participated in the decision of Grace Presbytery's congregation support committee to award a couple of mission initiative grants that will help several congregations attempt new ways to reach out to their neighbors with the Good News. (St. Mark received one of these grants when we opened our dog park several years ago.) Who knows what interesting things might happen because those congregations now have a few thousand extra dollars for a new ministry.

Those are just a few ways we are connected to our colleagues in ministry across Presbyterian world. I am grateful for each of them.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Stated Meeting of the Session, August 19, 2019.

Motion passed to elect Charles Miller and Lorraine Stephen as Commissioners and Leigh Taylor as alternate.

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

VETERANS DAY



The Mission and Outreach Committee would like for us to honor our Military on Veterans Day. Any canned food, boxed food like "Hamburger Helper" or pastas collected October 27th through November 10th will be donated to the VFW on Garland Road. This will help restock their food pantry.

Baskets are placed by the parlor door for your donations.

After our 2-week collection we will deliver the food on Veterans Day to Post 6796. Our departure time has not been determined but those helping deliver have been invited to stay for lunch.

Our Veterans, men and women, thank you and the Mission Committee thanks you for your generosity!!

Call Donna Simes or Bill Grayson if you have questions.

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

