

St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church

9999 Ferguson Road Dallas, TX 75238 214-321-6437

office@saintmarkchurch.org • www.saintmarkchurch.org



Pastor's
Corner

this issue

BULLETIN BOARD

P. 2

**RANDALL'S PEN
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

P. 3

reminders

**Wear a Mask
Social Distance
Wash Your Hands**



August 2020 brings the twelfth year of me experiencing the blessings of being Pastor of Saint Mark Presbyterian Church. Nobody but The Almighty could have possibly known in 2008 that the world would be gripped in a pandemic that would upend so many of our norms thereby causing us to reexamine and recalibrate our lives toward what matters most. To quote Thomas Payne, *"These are times that try men's souls"*. Yet God's claim on our lives remains the same. To that end, I'll extend a "thank you" to the saints of Saint Mark and share the story of one of my favorite Christian prayers.

"The Fellowship of the Unashamed" is a prayer that has inspired many to stand strong in their faith and to live unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This prayer, originally titled "A Zimbabwean Martyr's Prayer," was found among the papers of a young African pastor who was martyred in Zimbabwe some 100+ years ago.

According to Southern Nazarene University, the prayer was passed on by missionary Louise Robinson Chapman who served in Africa from 1920-1940. Years later the prayer became known as "The Fellowship of the Unashamed." It is unclear if the pastor was killed by Islamic or other forces in that part of the world, but it is known that he was martyred for his refusal to renounce his faith in Jesus Christ.

I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power.

The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.

My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I'm finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudity, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and labor by power.

My pace is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road is narrow. My way rough. My guide is reliable and my mission is clear.

I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, pander at the pool of popularity or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

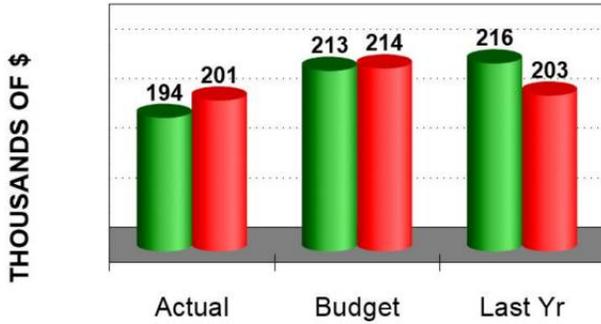
I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I've stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Jesus Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give 'til I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He'll have no problem recognizing me. My banner will be clear!

Blessings, Pastor Rick

Treasurer's Report

12 MONTHS THROUGH 6-30-2020



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund - YTD income was \$19,400 below budget and expenses were \$12,900 below budget, for a net \$6,500 worse than budgeted.

Fund Balances – Total fund balances are down \$10,900 from the previous month and down \$29,300 from the beginning of the fiscal year. This is primarily due to continuing projects undertaken by the Property Committee totaling \$54,000.

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

August 2 – “Soul Food”

Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
 Celebration of the Lord’s Supper



FROM THE
Pulpit

August 9 – “Taking a Walk”

Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 16 – “Love Without Limits”

Romans 11:29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

August 23-“It’s No Secret”

Psalm 138:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
 Rev. Dr. Randall McGee

August 30 – “Cutting Corners”

Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

God Bless You on Your Birthday

August 5

Charlene Taylor

August 9

Katie Moore

August 10

Michael Bell

August 11

Finn Shea

August 15

Cecilia Grayson

Samantha Moore

August 17

Stephany Brown

August 19

Charlene Ramsay

August 23

Duncan Guinee

August 29

Susie Miller

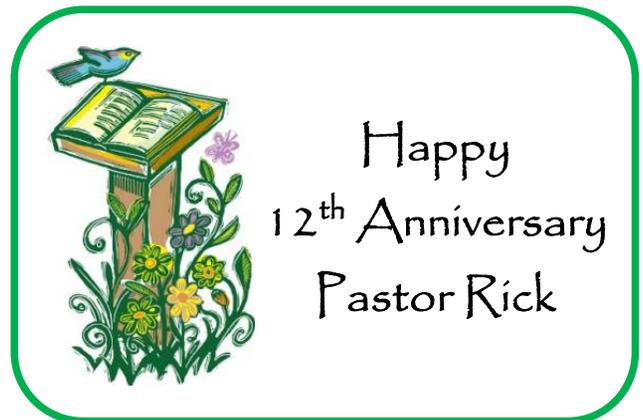


To the Women of the Church,

Thank you all so very much for the prayer shawls that were given to Arthur and me. We really appreciated them. We are also very grateful for the prayers of our church family.



Willetta and Arthur Jones





Last week I drove down Ferguson past St. Mark. I happened to look over at the Harry Stone Rec. Center. I noticed something new in the middle of all the dirt. There was a big blue water slide tube. You may remember that all the construction is going on because there will be a water park replacing the old pool. Seeing that slide made me think back too earlier this year. I wrote several articles about all of the changes that were happening in our area like the new water park and plans for new residential construction. I wondered who would be the people living in the new homes and using the water park. I wondered what opportunities we might have for ministry with them. That seems like it was much more than six months ago. COVID 19 has changed our focus a lot this year.

In what may seem like an odd thought I took that new blue water slide as a bit of a sign of hope. It brought a smile to my face. It made me wonder a bit about the future and what God may have in store for St. Mark and our neighbors.

Now I am not ready to engage in heavy-duty long-term planning. I am still thinking short term about ways that we can do Christian Education while social distancing while we are in the midst of the pandemic. Because we are likely to be doing that for a good while. But I do have the image of that blue slide in my mind. So, I am pondering the future a bit. How about you. What do you think that God might be calling us to do at St. Mark?

New Elder and Trustee



The clerk of session declares a quorum number of affirmative replies has been received and the following have been elected elders. Sheila Wahl will fill the unexpired elder term of Joanne Szalay, Class of 2021 and Bill Grayson will fill the unexpired trustee term of Jacie Minick, Class of 2022. These newly elected officers will be installed at a later date. Thank you for your service Joanne and Jacie.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session, June 15, 2020.

- Motion passed to conduct the election of new officers by email and postal mail, using guidance provided by Grace Presbytery, with all responses received by June 30, 2020 to be counted.
- Motion passed for Session to appoint a Task Force to research and report on procedures for a safe reopening. The members of this Task Force are Kathleen Hale, Bruce Huckaba, Marilyn Jackson, Bill Grayson and Jeff Taylor, supported by Rev. Rick Brooks and Music Director Gary O'Neal.
- Motion passed that Bill Grayson be elected Treasurer and John Carver be elected Assistant Treasurer for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.
- Motion passed to cancel all church in-person gatherings through July 31, 2020, with the exception of online worship service recording and property maintenance. *(The cancellation of all church in-person gatherings has since been extended through August 31st.)*

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



**White Rock Center of Hope
Giving Sunday - August 9th**

Items needed this month are: canned meat products, canned tuna, canned fruit, canned green beans, canned other beans, canned corn, canned vegetables, canned tomato products, boxed mac and cheese, peanut butter, and any shelf item such as Hamburger Helper, Jell-O, Suddenly Salad, condiments, etc.. Baskets for donations can be found in the hallway outside the parlor. Thank you.

