

Volume 68

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April  
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# St. Mark Connection

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## CALENDAR REMINDERS

April 1<sup>st</sup> –  
Maundy Thursday  
7:00 Worship

April 4<sup>th</sup> –  
Resurrection Sunday  
9:00 Easter Breakfast  
10:30 Worship



Dear St. Mark Members and Friends,

I am pleased to spend the next 2 months with preaching and moderating session. I am praying along with you for Pastor Rick's recovery and return and I am praying for you. While God sends pastors to us to preach, teach, pray, and care for, let us remember that the Lord himself is our shepherd. We pastors just work for him.

*The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want.*

Turn to the Lord for your provision. He is taking care of St. Mark and you personally. Follow him and no one else.

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

In these challenging times both worldwide and in your own living room, God is a safe shelter and a source of strength for his people. You are one of his people. He is a very present help. Not distant, not busy. Call upon him and try him. No need or fear is too small or too big. God will not let you down.

If you need a fellow human to listen to you and pray with you as well, I will be available to you. You may contact me at [revpaulburns@gmail.com](mailto:revpaulburns@gmail.com) and will respond within 24-hours if I can.

Let me also encourage you to be God's people for one another. Listen to each other. Lean on each other. Walk with each other as you follow the Lord who is your shepherd, ever leading you to provision, safety and ultimately to your home. You have all that you need at St. Mark PC and wherever you are.

Truly,  
Paul

### EASTER BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 4, 9am - 10am  
Family Center

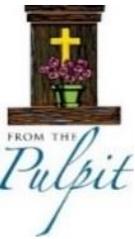
Please join your St. Mark family for a **Continental Breakfast** of individually wrapped muffins, bottled orange juice, and bottled water.

No coffee will be made. If needed, please stop for a cup on the way.

In keeping with our Covid guidelines, you will be required to wear a mask, except when eating. The tables and chairs will be socially distanced and handwipes will be on each table.

Please make a reservation with Marilyn Jackson when registering for the worship service.

**PLEASE NOTE: SEATING IN THE SANCTUARY FOR WORSHIP WILL BEGIN AT 10:15 A.M.**



## Sunday Sermons

Guest Pastor this month is:  
The Reverend Dr. Paul Burns  
Sermon Series  
"Where You Go, I Will Go"

(see Pastor Paul's bio on the last page)

## April Birthdays

### April 1

Ann Gordon  
Ann O'Neal

### April 3

Thomas Munoz  
Kim Price  
Donna Simes

### April 6

Souvenir Swift

### April 8

Noylene Howard

### April 9

Kathleen Arthur  
Don McGowan

### April 10

Nikki Guinee

### April 11

Bruce Huckaba

### April 12

Valerie Bassett

### April 13

Mason Brown  
Doug Duncan  
Mercy Shea

### April 15

Alice McLean

### April 20

Sandra Knapp

### April 21

Anne Carlson

### April 22

Patti Aulenbach  
John Carver

### April 28

Charles Shea

### April 30

Bill Grayson

*Happy Birthday*



## Thank You!

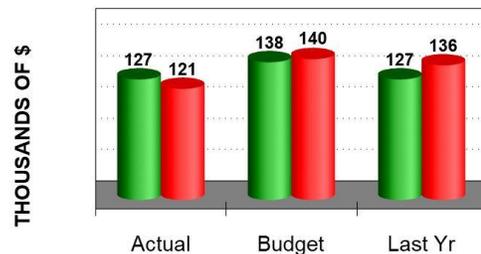
Thanks to our wonderful and loving St. Mark family for the calls, cards, Memorials to Pancreatic Cancer Organizations and prayers for the loss of my brother Roger Parsley. He was "promoted to glory" on January 24th after a two-year battle with Pancreatic cancer. He was honored with a very nice Military Service at the National Cemetery on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. He served proudly in the United States Navy 1954 thru 1958.

All of your expressions of love and understanding have been helpful to ease our grief and the pain of our loss and are very much appreciated.

Blessings to you all, Mike and Jo Ann Parsley

## Treasurer's Report

8 MONTHS THROUGH 2-28-2021



## OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund – YTD contributions are under budget by \$8,800 but \$3,000 ahead of last year. YTD expenses are \$19,000 below budget and \$14,000 below last year. Bottom line, we are \$5,900 cash positive YTD which is \$8,300 better than budget and \$14,300 better than last year.

## Special Easter Offering

We hope you will give generously to the Special Easter Offering this year. Your gift will be divided between One Great Hour of Sharing and, for the youth of St. Mark, the Camps & Campgrounds Special Fund so we can send the future leaders of our Church to Christian camps this year and for years following.

Thank you.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

## Thank You!

I can't thank you enough for all your prayers, cards, phone calls, support, encouragement and meals you provided for us following the accident, neck surgery and recovery.

We will be forever grateful for our St. Mark family.

Cecilia and Bill Grayson





I just looked back at the last article I wrote before the pandemic changed our lives. It appeared in the March 2020 newsletter. It was one in a series about changes that were happening in the neighborhoods around the church. I think it is or soon will be time to start thinking about some of the things I was writing about again. With the number of people who have been vaccinated going up and the cases of COVID going down people are starting to do some of the things they have not done for a year. So, I am going to share the entire article. And then offer a short reflection.

Last month I wrote about real estate in my article. I asked you to think about the people that might be moving into new constructed and renovated homes near the church. I noted that some of the new residents might be “young families”, but I also mentioned that there are also many empty nesters moving into our part of town. I encouraged you to think about how we might reach out to these diverse groups of people.

This month I want you to look across Ferguson to the pile of dirt at Harry Stone Recreation Center the next time you are at St Mark. Do you know what is going on there? The Parks and Recreation Department is completely redoing the swimming pool set up. I believe the original pool was over 60 years old and long past its prime. I am not sure exactly what is going to be part of the new neighborhood aquatic center that will replace the old pool. But I do know that people expect different things from swimming pools or aquatic centers than they did fifty years ago. So, the new aquatic center may look much different from the traditional swimming pool. It will be exciting to see what the final result looks like.

I wonder who will be coming to use the new aquatic center? Will it be folks who live within walking distance? Will it be so interesting that people will come from all over to use it? Will there be early morning lap swimmers? Or maybe there will be swim teams from all over the city.

As I think about who will be at the new aquatic center, I wonder what we might do at St Mark to connect with them. Will some of them not even notice that there is a church across the street? Will there be people there who might like to come to Vacation Bible School, the Advent Festival, or the Easter Egg Hunt. Maybe they will want to bring their dog to our dog park. Or they might need to know about the AA meetings that we host. Or maybe they even might want to sing in the choir or attend a men’s breakfast. Maybe there are some folks who would like to attend a Bible study after they swim their laps. Or maybe there might be some parents who would like to gather in a group with their children who have just taken a swimming lesson. What do you think we might do to connect with them? Perhaps we might start by having folks attend the grand opening of the new aquatic center this summer.

Let me wrap up this month by suggesting that you spend some time driving or wandering around the neighborhoods surrounding the church. Maybe take a different route to and from church. Or go for an old-fashioned Sunday drive and just explore. Go up and down some of the residential streets. If you have the time maybe even do it early in the morning or early evening. Or go on a Saturday. Who do you see? What do you do? Is it what you expected or did anything surprise you? How might God be calling St Mark to connect with these folks. I’d love to hear about what you find.

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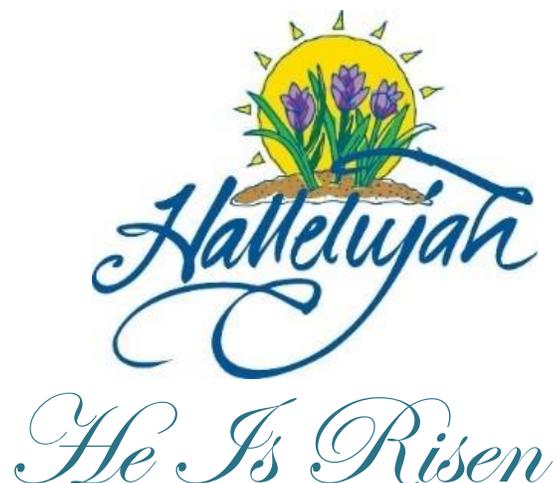
It has been quite a year since I wrote that. The first new home at Millmar and Peavy is being built. There is lots of work being done at Bryan Adams. The opening of the new aquatic center at Harry Stone was delayed but it will eventually be opened. Let me encourage you to read the last paragraph from the old article again. I hope you will go do a little exploring.

Stated Meeting of the Session, February 22, 2021.

- Motion passed to receive, review, and approve the PC (USA) Church Statistical Report for 2020.
- Motion passed to resume in person services at St Mark starting March 21, 2021.
- Motion passed to move the following members to the inactive roll: Ashley Holloway, Aaron Sivess, James Carver, Jerri Shevlin.
- Motion passed that 1/2 of our Easter offering go to One Hour of Sharing and the other 1/2 go to our Camps and Conferences fund in hopes that by summer our children and youth will be able to attend camps safely.
- Motion passed that St. Mark support the ministry of Cheryl Barnes. She is the Christian Education facilitator in Malawi and is currently supported by PCUSA.

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

Paul Burns is the founder of [Soul Metrics](#) and the creator of the [GPS Spiritual Inventory©](#). He trains and coaches Christian leaders all over the world in his theory and practices of spiritual health. He is an ordained Presbyterian minister with an MDiv. from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and received his Doctorate of Ministry at Western Seminary in Portland, OR. He served as a full-time pastor for 12 years in Tennessee and Texas, and has been coaching ministry leaders since 2009. Before becoming a minister, he worked as an investment consultant for Wall Street and narrowly avoided being in the Twin Towers on the morning of 9/11. His books include [Prayer Encounters: Changing the World One Prayer at a Time](#) and [The Sabbath Challenge: Learning to Rest in a World That Never Sleeps](#). He resides in the Dallas area with his wife, two children, and his dog, Chuy.





# St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>10:30a In- Person Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group <b>Palm Sunday</b> Virtual Worship will also be available.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>  <p><b>HOLY WEEK</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b></p>  <p><b>Maundy Thursday</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9:00a Continental Breakfast <b>10:30a Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group <b>Easter Sunday</b></p>  <p><b>Hallelujah</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>6:00p Zoom Worship &amp; Music Com. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>6:00p Zoom Fellowship Meeting 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>2:00p Zoom Membership/Evangelism Meeting 7:30p AA Group</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>10:30a Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 2:00p Zoom Mission &amp; Outreach Com. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6:00p Zoom CE Committee Meeting 6:00p Zoom Stewardship &amp; Finance Com. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 6:30p Zoom Property Com. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>9:00a Work Day 7:30p AA Group</p>  <p><b>USE YOUR GIFTS</b></p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>10:30a Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>6:30p Zoom Session Meeting 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>10:30a Worship Service</b> 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>