



Volume 68
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St. Mark Connection

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Pastor's Corner

Dear St. Mark members and friends,

As we celebrate the independence of our nation, I want to offer a few thoughts for your reflection. When I was working as an investment consultant a book hit the NY Times best seller list called "Good to Great".

The author wrote, "Goodness is the enemy of greatness." I am all about striving toward doing and being your best and I want that for my country as well. I love America! But I think there is a lesson to be learned in the quest for greatness and the rejection of goodness as somehow being not good enough.

The main issue for me is not so much in being great at something, but in equating goodness with mediocrity. When God created the world and everything in it he pronounced it "Good". He gave the young humans charge of creation and called them "good" as well. He said that they could eat of any of the trees in the garden because they were good. But it wasn't good enough for Adam and Eve. They wanted to be like God, they wanted greatness.

What makes America great, in my opinion and in talking to people from all over the world, is its goodness. We were founded out of a perspective that embraced the reality that God created all people equal and that all people deserve respect and have worth. When we have lived into that good ideal, we are great, but when we fail to uphold all people in the same esteem we have failed. There is still much goodness in our country. America and Americans spend more money publicly and privately to help people around the world than any other nation. I believe it is out of a sense of goodness.

And yet, we seem to be losing our sense of goodness. Goodness is devalued everywhere when we lose our respect for others and do not prize them as valuable creatures in God's good creation. We see it when our leaders demonize their political opponents. We see it when women are treated unfairly in the workplace. We see it when people of different colors and sexual orientations are demeaned and even killed. We see it online with cyber-bullying. We see it in the violence of our entertainment. We see it in the discarding of unborn life. I could go on for sure.

As people of faith, we should lead the way in prizing and exhibiting goodness. So let us *go for goodness* and leave greatness to God, who has so greatly blessed our beloved country. God is Great! God is Good! Let us thank him for our country!

Pastor Paul

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GPS SPIRITUAL SURVEY				

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

July 4 – “Receiving and Giving Forgiveness”
 9 Marks of Spiritual Health
 Genesis 50:15-21; Mark 2:1-12
 Celebration of the Lord’s Supper
 Reception in the Prayer Garden
 Rev. Dr. Paul Burns

July 11 – “Regulating Emotions”
 9 Marks of Spiritual Health
 Matthew 14:1-12; Matthew 14:12-21
 Rev. Dr. Paul Burns

July 18 - “Being Vulnerable”
 9 Marks of Spiritual Health
 Isaiah 53:1-5; Matthew 18:1-5
 Rev. Dr. Paul Burns



July 25 – To Be Announced
 Rev. Dr. Randall McGee

OPENING UPDATE

St. Mark will reopen fully for all worship services, committee meetings, fellowship events effective immediately and education classes will continue at a later date, following the Guidelines below:

1. COVID screenings will no longer be implemented.
2. Member and visitors who are not fully vaccinated for the COVID19 virus are strongly encouraged to wear masks. Fully vaccinated members and visitors are welcome to wear masks if they desire. Mask wearing is considered appropriate at any time for any event.
3. Social distancing will be relaxed.
4. All scheduled events should be guided by Current CDC, State and Local Guidelines.



God Bless You on Your Birthday

July 8
 Ella Arthur
July 18
 Linda Youmans

July 12
 Lacey Zuretti
July 19
 Allison Curry

July 15
 Willetta Jones
July 31
 Trevor Crawley

Welcome New Elders and Trustee

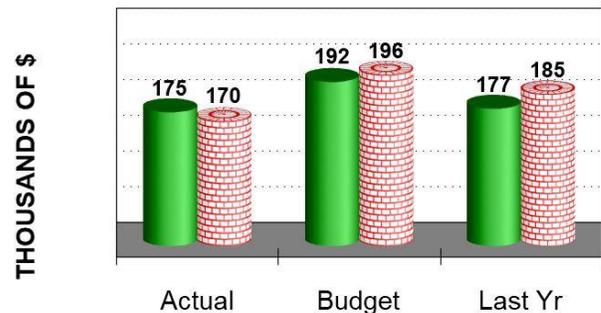
Welcome newly elected elders Kathleen Hale, Christi Malouf, and Susie Miller. Christi will be ordained and installed on Sunday, July 11th. Kathleen and Susie will be installed on July 11th. Newly elected trustee, Jo Ann Parsley will be installed on that Sunday as well.



Thank you for your service Class of 2021: Elders Kathleen Hale, Sheila Wahl and Dick Waters and Trustee Mike Parsley.

Treasurer's Report

11 MONTHS THROUGH 5-31-2021



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund - YTD unrestricted contributions are under budget by \$15,000, and about the same as last year. YTD expenses are \$26,000 below budget, and \$15,000 below last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$5,000 cash positive YTD which is \$9,000 better than budget and \$13,000 better than last year.



Several times over the last couple of years I have encouraged everyone to take notice of everything that is happening in the area around St Mark. I have noted the major upgrade and addition that is going on at Bryan Adams. I have pointed out the new homes being constructed and old ones that are being remodeled. And I have mentioned the changes that have happened at Harry Stone Rec Center. An outdated pool was closed and in its place there is now an “aquatic center.” The new aquatic center has been open a few weeks. I have not been over there but you can tell from the road that it includes a pretty cool looking slide. I think there may be a small lap pool. And there are supposed to be several play areas that are designed to appeal to children in 2021.

Now I have to share something I saw last week. I saw a woman walking down Millmar past the church pushing a stroller. There were three young children walking behind her carrying floats and other toys. Yes, it looked a bit like a momma duck with duckling walking behind her. They were clearly headed to the aquatic center. I watched for a moment as they crossed Ferguson and headed to the center. I have to admit I don't think I ever saw anyone in the last 20 years walking down Millmar across Ferguson to the old pool. Interesting to think that we have something in our neighborhood that folks are willing to walk several blocks in the summer to use. I hope they had a good time.

And so I began wondering about those folks walking down Millmar. I don't know anything about them. I have made the assumption that they probably live in the neighborhood across from Bryan Adams. I wonder if they noticed St Mark as they walked by. I wondered if there might be more folks like them living near the church. Perhaps they will be just the first of many folks we could see headed to the aquatic center this summer. I wondered if there might be any way for St Mark to connect with them. What do you think? What have you seen happening in our neighborhood recently?

If you would like to see improvements in areas like forgiveness, communication with God, and listening to others, Pastor Paul invites you to take the GPS Spiritual Inventory.

Here is what you need to know:

- 1) Go to www.soul-metrics.com or simply type in soul metrics to your google search engine.
- 2) You will see a button in the middle of the homepage that says, “Take the GPS Spiritual Inventory”, which you will click on.
- 3) Then it will take you to a page and you will click “Add to Cart”.
- 4) On the checkout page you will find where it says “If you have a coupon click here”. Click on the words and a box will appear to enter a code. Enter STMARK and click the button that says, “Apply Code”.
- 5) Then fill out the rest of the personal information including setting up a password along with your email so you can receive your report.
- 6) Then click at the bottom of the screen “Place Order” and you will be taken to the assessment, and you can begin. It will take about 15 minutes. Upon completion you will immediately receive an email with your results. If you do not receive them immediately then something has gone wrong. It does not mean that God has rejected you!



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

St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <p>10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Group Rev. Dr. Paul Burns</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>
<p>4</p> <p>10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Reception in Prayer Garden 7:30p AA Group Rev. Dr. Paul Burns</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>6:00p Worship & Music Com. (Zoom) 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00p Fellowship Com. Mtg. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00a Mini Workday 7:30p AA Group</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:15a Called Session Mtg. 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Group Rev. Dr. Paul Burns</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00p Stewardship/Finance Com. Mtg. 6:00p CE Committee Meeting 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30p Property Com. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:30a Membership & Evangelism Com. Mtg. 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Mission & Outreach Com. 7:30p AA Group Rev. Dr. Paul Burns</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30p Session Meeting 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>
<p>25</p> <p>10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Group Rev. Dr. Randall McGee</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session, May 17, 2021.

- Motion passed that St. Mark enter into an agreement with New Life Community Lutheran Church for use of a Princeton classroom.
- Motion passed that the Session call a Congregational Meeting for the election of elders and trustee on June 13, 2021, and that elder training begin soon.
- Motion passed to hold in-person or Zoom committee meetings, at the discretion of the committee.
- Motion passed to maintain the Endowment Fund Account at Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF) with 100% in the TPF Balanced Fund; and maintain the Savings Account with approximately 95% in the TPF Balanced Fund, 5% in the Money Market Fund.
- Motion passed that the Bequest and Planned Giving Program of St. Mark Presbyterian Church of Dallas, Texas be approved at the June 21, 2021 meeting.
- Motion passed that Session approve the 90-day contract for Rev. Burns as part-time stated supply pastor serving approximately 10-15 hours per week with the starting date of June 1, 2020.

Called Meeting of the Congregation, June 13, 2021

- The following elders were elected for the Class of 2024: Kathleen Hale, Christi Malouf and Susie Miller.
- Jo Ann Parsley was elected as trustee for the Class of 2024.

Copies of these minutes can be found on the Session bulletin board.



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Non-Profit Organization

