

St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church

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Pastor's Corner

this issue

**BULLETIN BOARD AND
UPCOMING EVENTS** P. 2

CALENDAR P. 3

RANDALL'S PEN P.4

**NEW ELDERS AND
SESSION HIGHLIGHTS** P. 5

AUSTIN STREET P. 5

CE NEWS P. 6

reminders

August 14 – Church Workday

August 29 – 4:30 Austin
Street Sandwich Sunday

Dear St. Mark Members and Friends,

In this final month of my time with you, I want to help you to maximize your learning and growing in your ability to love God, neighbor, and self. Even now I am writing a discussion guide to my summer sermon series: The 9 Marks of Spiritual Health. While I hope to make this available to other churches, you will have it first. Each of my sermons are on YouTube and the discussion guide can be used in small groups or even with just a partner.

Though my time with you has been short, it has been sweet. August 29th will be my final Sunday. Preachers are being lined up to fill the pulpit until the session knows more about what will be next. You have been so lovely and welcoming to me and I consider it an honor to share this time together.

We are not done yet, though. Many of you have taken the GPS Spiritual Inventory, but whether you have taken it or not, I invite you to spend 45 minutes with me in the next month. We can talk by phone or zoom or meet after church. The subject would be your spiritual health and where you are in need of healing, forgiveness, and growth. Please email me at revpaulburns@gmail.com to set up a time.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Paul



Happy 50th Anniversary Gary O'Neal
Gary joined the staff as Director of Music/Organist
in July of 1971.

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

August 1 – “Listening to Others”

9 Marks of Spiritual Health

James 1:19-20; Mark 10:46-52

Rev. Dr. Paul Burns

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper



August 8 – “Imitators’

Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Rev. Dr. Randall McGee

August 15 – “Feeling for Others”

9 Marks of Spiritual Health

John 11:17-36; John 8:1-11

Rev. Dr. Paul Burns

August 22 – “Responding with Love”

9 Marks of Spiritual Health

John 12:1-8; Matthew 25:31-40

Rev. Dr. Paul Burns

August 29 – TBA

Rev. Dr. Paul Burns

God Bless You on Your Birthday

August 5

Charlene Taylor

August 9

Katie Moore

August 10

Michael Bell

August 11

Finn Shea

August 14

Elizabeth Cantu

August 15

Cecilia Grayson

Samantha Moore

August 17

Stephany Brown

August 18

James Carver

August 19

Charlene Ramsay

August 23

Duncan Guinee

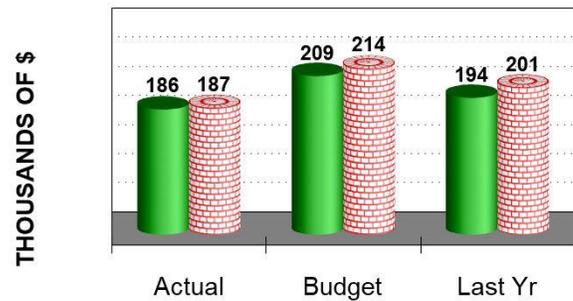
August 29

Susie Miller



Treasurer's Report

12 MONTHS THROUGH 6-30-2021



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are under budget by \$21,000, and \$4,000 less than last year. YTD expenses are \$27,000 below budget, and \$14,000 below last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$1,000 cash negative YTD which is \$4,000 better than budget and \$6,000 better than last year.



Sympathy and Prayers

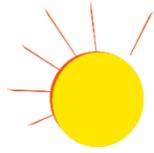
Our deepest sympathy to Ellen Roberts in the death of her brother, John Haralson. John was promoted to Glory on June 28th.

Back-to-School

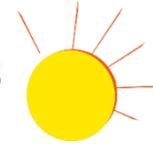


We are partnering again with *Sharing Life* in Mesquite. This time we are asked to collect **New** Backpacks for school age children. We have until **August 8th** to collect these. I have placed a blue bin in the hall for your donations. The backpacks may be clear or not.

Thank you, Susie Miller
Mission and Outreach Committee



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas



August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Group Rev. Dr. Paul Burns	2 7:30p AA Group	3 6:00p Fellowship Com. Mtg. 7:30p AA Group	4 7:30p AA Group	5 6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group	6 7:30p AA Group	7 7:30p AA Group
8 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Mission & Outreach Com. 7:30p AA Group Rev. Dr. Randall McGee	9 6:30p Zoom Worship & Music Com. 7:30p AA Group	10 6:00p CE Committee Meeting 6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com. 7:30p AA Group	11 6:30p Zoom Property Com. 7:30p AA Group	12 6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group	13 7:30p AA Group	14 9:00a Mini Workday 7:30p AA Group
15 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Group Rev. Dr. Paul Burns	16 6:30p Session Meeting 7:30p AA Group	17 7:30p AA Group	18 7:30p AA Group	19 6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group	20 7:30p AA Group	21 7:30p AA Group
22 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 7:30p AA Group Rev. Dr. Paul Burns	23 7:30p AA Group	24 7:30p AA Group	25 7:30p AA Group	26 6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group	27 7:30p AA Group	28 7:30p AA Group
29 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Yoga 4:30p Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center 7:30p AA Group Rev. Dr. Paul Burns	30 7:30p AA Group	31 7:30p AA Group	1 7:30p AA Group	2 6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group	3 7:30p AA Group	4 7:30p AA Group



I was thinking about the Psalms this morning. I know some folks who are starting exciting chapters in their lives. I know of others who are dealing with major challenges and may be at a low point in their lives. I think that one of the reasons that the Psalms are so beloved by many people is that there seems to be a Psalm or Psalms that fit with every human type of experience. They are a place many people turn when they want to express joy or sorrow.

There are Psalms for those days when everything is going right and we want to give praise:

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

(Psalm 8:1-5)

There are Psalms for those day when we are bewildered may even wonder what God is up to:

Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? (Psalm 10:1)

There are Psalms for those days when we feel lost and forgotten, even by God:

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death.

(Psalm 13:1-3)

There are Psalms that we turn to because they are familiar. We may not have a clue as to what to say but the Psalm says it for us:

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

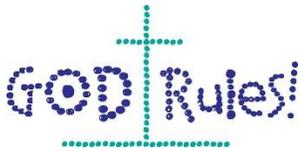
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. (Psalm 23)

I could go on and on and share more examples. There are are 150 Psalms after all. But I will stop here with a handful of questions. How about you? Have you ever explored the Psalms? Do you find any of them helpful to you at particular times in your life?

Your Session, 2021-2022



The Session has 3 newly installed members, ruling elders, Class of 2024, Kathleen Hale, Christi Malouf and Susie Miller. Christi was ordained and installed on Sunday, July 11, Kathleen and Susie were installed on Sunday, July 11th. Jo Ann Parsley was commissioned as trustee for the class of 2024 on Sunday, July 11th.

Session meets on the third Monday of each month. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact any of the active elders listed below.

Class of 2022

Tricia Johnson
Daniel Robinson
Lorraine Stephen
Pelham Swift

Class of 2023

Bruce Huckaba
Dee Huckaba
Marilyn Jackson

Class of 2024

Kathleen Hale
Christi Malouf
Susie Miller

The Session bulletin board is in the hallway across from the parlor and kitchen. Look for approved Session minutes and other Session related information to be posted.

Thank you to the Class of 2021; elders Kathleen Hale, Sheila Wahl and Dick Waters and trustee Mike Parsley for your hard work and dedicated service on the session.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session, June 21, 2021.

Motion passed that St. Mark reopen fully for all worship services, committee meetings, fellowship events and education classes effective immediately. All planning will return to the appropriate committees.

Motion passed that the RTF will be dissolved.

Motion passed to elect Marilyn Jackson as Clerk of Session for July 2021 – June 2022.

Motion passed that the Bequest and Planned Giving Program of St. Mark Presbyterian Church of Dallas, Texas be approved at the June 21, 2021 session meeting.

Motion passed to continue our current budget for three months and then reassess.

Called Meeting of the Session, July 11, 2021

Motion passed that Christi Malouf be ordained and installed as elder and that Kathleen Hale and Susie Miller be installed as elders for the class of 2024.

AUSTIN STREET CENTER

We will have the opportunity to serve at Austin Street Center again this month on August 29th. The Church provides the chips and fruit, and we ask the congregation to provide sandwiches, snack cakes or cookies, as well as folks to help serve the meal. We will be leaving St. Mark at 4:30 so that we can set up at 5:00 and begin meal service at 5:30. Servers will be required to have a temperature check, answer the Covid questions and wear masks and gloves while serving. Servers must also preregister on the **Galaxy Digital volunteer link** which is listed below. Thank you for your help in St. Mark's Mission and Outreach.

https://austinstreet.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=585654

Dee Huckaba – Chair of Mission and Outreach

Christian Education Offerings for the Fall

Adult Sunday School Classes:

- The Bible Discussion Class will focus on a subject as they read text from the Bible. The leaders provide background on the subject and the class discusses the text as it pertains to today's world.
- The Men's class and the Gleaners class will not be meeting for Sunday school at this time. All are welcome and encouraged to join the Bible Discussion Class when it restarts on September 5th.

Children's Sunday School Classes (Starts August 22)

- Infant – 4 years will be using "God Loves Me" storybooks, a collection of 52 books that follow the Bible, and story related coloring and crafts.
- 5 years – 5th grade children will continue "Growing in Grace and Gratitude". This lesson series uses Bible stories, music, teaching pictures, maps, figures, puzzles, games, and game pieces to use with the children.
- Jr. & Sr. High youth will begin with material from PC(USA) to help us through post pandemic feelings, identity, self-reflection, and what's next. We will talk about what they would like to study, learn, and discuss.

Fall means a fresh start in your life. Include Sunday school & Sunday worship to your fresh start! See you at St. Mark Presbyterian Church!!!

