

St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church
9999 Ferguson Road Dallas, TX 75238 214-321-6437
office@saintmarkchurch.org • www.saintmarkchurch.org



this issue

BULLETIN BOARD AND UPCOMING EVENTS	P. 2
CALENDAR	P. 4
RANDALL'S PEN	P. 5

Greetings in Christ!

There is a saying we have heard over the past few months, and it is this: "we're in this together." Every time we hear it though, we also think to ourselves that while we may be in it together, that "together" includes the realization we need to try to accomplish that six feet apart!

We realize we should be appreciative of the fact that we are "better together," but then again, we are reminded on a daily basis not to be "too together." At times our brains not only hurt, but our hearts do too!

The past 2 1/2 years have been challenging for every individual, family, business, and church. Unfortunately, these are just a few categories of people and entities impacted by this global pandemic. Political and social "norms" have also been in upheaval, while so many of our leaders have often desired to use tragic events to score political points. Of course, you don't need convincing of these things as you have seen it all with your own eyes.

At St. Mark, our concern is to make sure people are hearing the Good News, which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ! This is important not only for those who have never listened to the message of the Gospel, but we as believers are to be reminded that it is the most incredible story of hope we can deliver to people.

We have seen many who have struggled with losing hope during this time and pray that our church families and friends can start returning to the Lord's House! While the Church needs people, people need the Church as well, and as a matter of fact, the Church IS people!

Anyway, we are gathering back together, and for this we give thanks to our Lord, because we need each other for both emotional and spiritual support.

We have heard it many times even before the pandemic, but we are reminded once again that "the church is not a building." While this is true, there is something quite compelling about meeting together. We pray we never get used to this idea and call it "the new normal," especially in light of scriptures like Hebrews 10:25, "not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

While many may not be quite ready to get back to church physically, St. Mark encourages you to stay connected as much as possible, even if it is online church.

Of course, so many of you have been joining us faithfully now for many months/weeks, but there are others we miss deeply! So, we hope to see you!

Blessings and peace!



Sunday Sermons

October 2
 Guest Preacher - Rev. Deanna Hollas
 World Communion Sunday

October 9
 Guest Preacher – Traci Truly



October 16
 Guest Preacher – Rev. Julie Riley

October 23
 Guest Preacher – Rev. Dick Selby

October 30
 Guest Preacher – Rev. Dick Selby

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

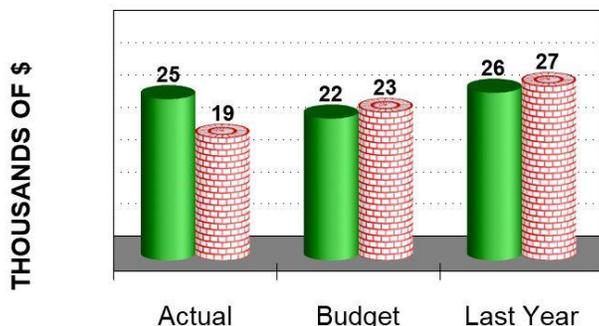
October 27
 Ellen Roberts

October 30
 Richard Arthur
 Carolyn McInnis

October 31
 Wylie Matthews

Treasurer's Report

2 MONTHS THROUGH 8-31-2022



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are above budget by \$3,000 and \$2,000 below last year. YTD expenses are \$4,000 below budget and \$8,000 below last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$6,000 cash positive YTD which is \$6,000 better than budget and \$7,000 better than last year.

Sympathy



Our deepest sympathy to Ruth McGowan and family in the death of long-time member, Don McGowan. Don was promoted to Glory on September 17th. The funeral service was held on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at the Chapel of Williams Funeral Home in Garland, TX. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society. Please keep Ruth and all those who loved Don in your prayers.

Directory Update

Elaine Burgess
 6239 Melody Lane, Apt. 2503
 Dallas, TX 75231



Carter BloodCare

The Carter BloodCare Team reports that the St. Mark blood drive on September 4th was a success according to the following “stats”:

Total Donors Seen	13
Whole Blood	9
Red Blood Cell:	1

Participants each received two pairs of socks and a \$25 Walmart gift card. The gift cards were an extra reward given for donating on a holiday weekend! Many thanks to those who gave their time and effort to make the blood drive successful. With each unit drawn, you contributed to the Carter BloodCare mission statement: “We Save Lives by Making Transfusions Possible.”

Sandwich Sunday

Sandwich Sunday is coming! October 30th will be the FIFTH Sunday in October! That means that we at St. Mark have the opportunity to provide food for our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Christ. Austin Street now houses 450 clients. We need to provide 90-100 loaves of sandwiches to ensure that each person will get 2 sandwiches. We ask that each sandwich be individually wrapped, and mark on the outer loaf bag what kind of sandwiches you’ve provided. A special fund in St. Mark’s budget covers the cost of fruit and chips for the meals. Please prayerfully consider helping others by making several loaves of sandwiches. John 21:15-17

Thanks for your help!
Dee Huckaba
Your Sandwich Lady

The Annual Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, November 3rd. More details to follow.



Reformation Sunday, October 30, 2022

The Protestant Reformation is observed every year on the last Sunday of October by Protestant churches throughout the world and serves as a reminder to St. Mark of our Reformed heritage. From this religious reform movement that spread through Europe in the 1500’s, the branch of Christianity called Protestantism was eventually created when many religious groups began separating from the Roman Catholic Church. It is recorded that on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a monk and scholar, nailed the 95 Thesis on the cathedral door in Wittenberg, Germany. These Thesis outlined what he felt needed to change in the church such as the teaching of indulgences, purgatory, and other practices that he believed were inconsistent with the teaching of the Bible. As a result of Luther’s teachings, he was considered a threat to the church, labeled a heretic, and then excommunicated. Consequently, he took his beliefs outside of the church and was joined by others in preserving the true teachings of the Bible.

The Reformation movement focused on the following **Five Solas** (sola is Latin for only): **Sola Gratia** - Grace Alone (*salvation is based on the unearned gift of God’s grace*); **Sola Fide** - Faith Alone (*through God’s Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper, we are sustained by faith; our good works come from the right relationship with God*); **Sola Scriptura** - Scripture Alone (*the Bible is the source for what we believe and practice*); **Solus Christus** - Christ Alone (*Christ is the basis and assurance of our salvation*); **Soli Deo Gloria** – To the Glory of God Alone (*it is God and God alone who is to receive the glory for the wonders of His work of our redemption*).

In observance of Reformation Day, we remember not only Martin Luther, but also John Calvin, John Knox and many other Reformers who helped the church find its way back to God’s Word. Let us remember to always continue to keep the light of the Gospel at the center of our lives.



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service	26	27	28 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	29 6:00p Zoom Yoga	30	1
2 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga World Communion Sunday	3 6:00p Zoom Worship & Music Com. Mtg.	4 6:00p Fellowship Com. Mtg.	5 6:00p Handbells 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	6 6:00p Zoom Yoga	7	8 8:00a Property Com. 9:00a Mini Workday
9 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Membership & Mission Comm Mtg	10 6:00p Zoom Personnel/Admin Com. Mtg.	11 6:00p Zoom CE Com. Mtg. 6:00p Zoom Stewardship & Finance Com. Mtg.	12 6:00p Handbells 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	13 6:00p Zoom Yoga	14	15
16 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga	17 6:30p Session Meeting	18	19 6:00p Handbells 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	20 6:00p Zoom Yoga	21	22
23 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga	24	25	26 6:00p Handbells 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	27 6:00p Zoom Yoga	28	29
30 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga 4:30p Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center Reformation Sunday	31	1 6:00p Fellowship Com. Mtg.	2 6:00p Handbells 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	3 6:00p Zoom Yoga	4	5



Last month I mentioned that it looked like the seasons were beginning to “think” about changing. And they spent most of September doing that thinking as it stayed summer like most of the time. But a cool front finally moved through the area Sunday afternoon. It looks like we have moved into that season here in north Texas where we may need a jacket in the morning but summer clothes by lunchtime. It is that time of year when it is really pleasant to be outside most of the day. Time to see if the flower beds in the yard can be resurrected after a long brutal summer. Or at least cleaned up and prepared to fill with cool season plants. Here’s hoping that we have a nice long fall before winter sets in.

The seasons outside may be changing but it seems like we are still in an ongoing season of wondering, watching, and waiting at St Mark. And at this point in time, we may not have an idea of how long this season will last.

We are wondering what plans God has for 9999 Ferguson Road.
We are watching (and praying and listening) for signs and clues.
We are waiting and waiting and waiting...

But as we wonder, watch, and wait we are not sitting still. We are not hibernating. We are still being the church.

In the PC(USA) Book of Order there is something called the “Great Ends of the Church.” I think I have mentioned them before. Please note that a “great end” does not mean a grand finale. The word “end” here is an old-fashioned way of saying something like purpose. So, you could think of these statements as “The Great Purposes of the Church.” There are six of them. Here they are:

1. The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
2. The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
3. The maintenance of divine worship
4. The preservation of the truth
5. The promotion of social righteousness
6. The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world

These are things every Presbyterian congregation is called to do. Different congregations do them in slightly different ways. And one congregation may do them in one way for a while and then be called to do them in a different way as the years pass.

So, as we wonder, watch, and wait at St Mark, we are still called to do things like proclaim, shelter, nurture etc. And maybe in the midst of doing these things we might hear what God has planned for us in the future.

What do you think?



OH, HAPPY DAY – ST. MARK IS FULLY OPEN!!!



The Session voted at the September 19th Stated Session Meeting to fully open St. Mark for all worship services, committee meetings, education classes and fellowship events.

Commencing October 2nd, the Session has lifted its mask mandate and updated the guidelines for worshipers.

- Mask wearing is considered appropriate at any time for any event.
- Food and drinks indoors are allowed.
- If you have tested positive, are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms, or may have been exposed to someone with Covid-19, we kindly ask you to worship with us online.
- St. Mark's guidelines are subject to change in consultation with current CDC, State and Local guidelines.



St. Mark Presbyterian Church
9999 Ferguson Road
Dallas, TX 75228
Non-Profit Organization



OCTOBER