

Volume 69
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St. Mark Connection

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this issue

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Thanksgiving Greetings!

God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good!

While a statement like that may sound a bit "cliche," we must realize it's true! Much of the world considers Thanksgiving as just another excuse to throw a party or watch football all day. We, as believers, know it goes far deeper than that.

In addition, we know that Thanksgiving is not just a "day," but it's a mindset! The Bible shares many scriptures on the importance of being thankful, giving thanks, and even entering into times of worship WITH thanksgiving!

Psalm 100:4 (ESV) "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"

The Psalmist was clear that one of the best ways to enter God's presence is with a thankful heart. When we are grateful, we are also mindful that the blessings we experience in life are not a result of our works and giftings alone. We depend on a mighty God who provides and guides!

One of the very first lessons we, as parents and grandparents, teach our young ones is the importance of being thankful. God, our Heavenly Father, takes great joy in hearing words of thanks from the grateful hearts of His children.

The Apostle Paul told the early church that it was essential to give thanks "in everything" we may go through. Although, there are many things we may find challenging to be thankful "for," we CAN be thankful "in" those circumstances knowing that God will help us go through that journey.

These past few years have been a challenge for all of us, but we are encouraged to ask the Lord to help us be thankful. Begin to think of specific things or people you are grateful for and express your thanks to the Lord!

Blessings and peace!

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

November 6th
Guest Preacher – Rev. Judy Fletcher
Celebration of The Lord’s Supper
All Saints’ Sunday

November 13th
Guest Preacher – Rev. David Fletcher

November 20th
Guest Preacher – Rev. Julie Riley
Christ the King Sunday

November 27th
Guest Preacher – Rev. Dr. Richard Selby
First Sunday of Advent

God Bless You on Your Birthday

November 2
John Wahl

November 4
Alan Aulenbach

November 7
Dorothy Moore

November 13
Charles Miller

November 19
Cheryl Nowlin
Troy Simpson



November 20
Teri Brooks

November 21
Julian Oney
Andi Taylor

November 24
Vincent Oney
Pelham Swift

November 28
Robert Mounts

Time Change



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 6th. Don’t forget to set your clocks **back one hour on Saturday night, November 5th**.

All Saints’ Sunday

Sunday, November 6th, is All Saints’ Sunday. During the 10:30 Worship Service, we will be commemorating those members and loved ones who have joined the church eternal in the last year.



Mary Beckham
Jo Farley
John Hale
Don McGowan

Sock, Hat, and Glove Tree Time

Once again, the Mission and Membership Committee will provide the St. Mark Congregation with the opportunity to bring new socks, warm hats, and warm gloves for children, teens, and adults and deposit them into the basket below the Christmas tree in the parlor. Let’s fill the basket – make that at least two baskets – for Christmas 2022. We will begin collecting November 6th.



Beginning November 27th, we will begin our gently used coat drive.

Please stay tuned for more information about these two projects.

Thank you,
Mission and Membership Committee

Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services

The Annual Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services Luncheon, *Forever Homes Start Here*, will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Dallas, Campbell Centre, 8250 N. Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75206 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 3rd. Sign-up sheets to attend are on the table in the Narthex or RSVP to Diane Pennington at diane.pennington@pchas.org or 469.552.9525.



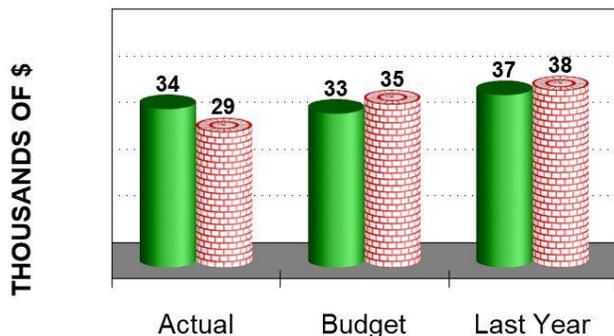
Giving Sunday, November 13th

Items needed this month are:

Canned meat products, canned tuna, canned fruit, canned green beans, canned other beans, canned corn, canned other veggies, canned tomato products, boxed mac & cheese, peanut butter, any shelf items (Hamburger Helper, Jell-O, Suddenly Salad, Condiments, etc.) Newspaper bags.

Baskets for donations can be found in the hallway outside the parlor. Thank you.

Treasurer's Report
3 MONTHS THROUGH 9-30-2022



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are above budget by \$1,000, and \$4,000 below last year. YTD expenses are \$6,000 below budget, and \$9,000 below last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$5,000 cash positive YTD which is \$7,000 better than budget and \$6,000 better than last year.

St. Mark Church Pantry

THANK YOU once again to all who have so generously given to the church pantry. 

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Pastor's Fund Appeal

Dear St. Mark members and friends:

Several St. Mark members have recently been hospitalized, or otherwise find themselves in difficult circumstances, and are in need of financial support. The Session has approved the use of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund by the Stewardship Committee for this purpose. A three-member sub-committee has been appointed to administer distributions.

If you wish to help our church family members through these difficult times, you can contribute to the Pastor's Fund, either by check or online via our church website. Please include "Pastor's Fund" in the memo field of your contribution. Your generous support is needed and will be greatly appreciated.

Your Stewardship Committee

Session Highlights

Stated Meeting of the Session, August 22, 2022:

The Rev. David Fletcher was welcomed as Moderator of the Session until a new pastor is selected and brought on board.

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

Book Review Club

The Third Thursday Book Review Club will meet in the church parlor on Thursday November 17th at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome.

Joanne Szalay



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
6 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga All Saints Sunday	7 6:00p Zoom Worship & Music Com. Mtg.	8 6:00p Zoom CE Com. Mtg. 6:00p Zoom Stewardship & Finance Com. Mtg.	9 6:00p Handbells 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	10 6:00p Zoom Yoga	11	12 8:00a Property Com. 9:00a Mini Workday
13 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Membership & Mission Comm Mtg	14 6:00p Zoom Personnel/Admin Com. Mtg.	15	16 6:00p Handbells 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	17 6:00p Zoom Yoga	18	19 9:00a Choir Rehearsal
20 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga	21 6:30p Session Meeting	22	23 6:00p Handbells 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	24 Thanksgiving Day The church office will be closed.	25	26
27 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga First Sunday of Advent	28	29	30 6:00p Handbells 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	1 6:00p Zoom Yoga	2	3



Jan Edmiston (I have mentioned her blog “A Church for Starving Artists” through the years) shared a story and a comment on her blog one day last month. The story is one of those that both make you chuckle and also think a bit:

I can’t find it now, but someone tweeted recently that – in working with some church kids – they thought she was saying that we “horrify” God when she was saying we “glorify” God. Prophetic children are the best.

I pray we glorify God in our service, our gratitude, our sacrifices, our love. And yet, it’s likely we humans spend quite a bit of our lives horrifying God.

If you have lived in “Presbyterian World” for a long time when you see the words “glorify” and “God” together, you just might think of the first question of the classic Westminster Catechisms. That question is “What is the chief end of man?” That’s an old way of asking “What is our main purpose in life?” And the answer is “to glorify and enjoy God forever.”

As Jan notes, we all spend our time both glorifying and horrifying God by the things we do. I like to think about the ways that I may glorify God with my life. If I am being honest, I really don’t like to ponder anything that I might be doing to horrify God. How about you?

Those thoughts made me think about another catechism. It is more recent than Westminster. I have referenced the opening questions of “Belonging to God: A First Catechism” many times through the years. It opens with the affirmations that we are all children of God, and we belong to a God who loves us. Thinking about things I might do that horrify God made the fourth question of this catechism pop up in my mind. That question and answer goes like this:

Don’t you have to be good for God to love you?

No. God loves me in spite of all I do wrong.

I really find those words to be incredibly comforting. They really are good news. I still don’t like to think about what I might be doing that horrifies God. But it does remind me that it doesn’t keep God from loving me. But the catechism doesn’t stop there. I’ll remind you that this is designed for elementary aged children, but I have found it so helpful and challenging. Here’s the next couple of questions:

How do you thank God for this gift of love?

I promise to love and trust God with all my heart.

How do you love God?

By worshipping God, loving others, and by respecting what God has created.

I find those words to be both a reminder and a challenge. It is a reminder that even if I did something that horrified or just annoyed God yesterday or even 10 minutes ago God still loves me. But it is a challenge in that I always have new opportunities to respond to God’s love in positive ways.

I wonder what this month will bring. How might I horrify God? How might I experience being a beloved child of God? How might I glorify God?

How about you?

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(from *Chalice Worship*)



Let us give thanks for all God's gifts so freely bestowed upon us:
For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;
For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends;
For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve;
For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play;
For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity;
For the communion of saints, in all times and places.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

To him be praise and glory, with you,
O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



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Non-Profit Organization



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