

St. Mark Connection

Volume 70

Issue 1

January
2023

St. Mark Presbyterian Church
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Greetings in Christ!

Here we are again at the beginning of another year! There is a simple, but powerful truth that comes to mind: “New Year, Same God”! That brief statement reminds us of the beautiful scripture in Hebrews 13:8 (ESV):

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

With changes coming at us so quickly, it’s wonderful to know God never changes! God doesn’t “adapt” to the times. The Word doesn’t change according to cultural pressures. God doesn’t need to run for political office because He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Let’s face it – these past few years have been much more challenging than most of us ever thought they would be! Be assured this New Year will hold more challenges as well. No, we don’t know what they will be, but we do know that even though it’s a new year, we still serve the same God!

There is a great old hymn that has the following words:

“Many things about tomorrow, I don’t seem to understand,
but I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand!”

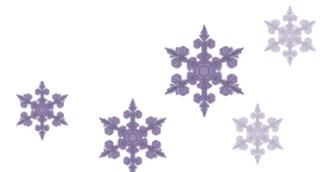
Be assured – there are many more victories ahead! There are answers to prayer that will take place in all our lives! God has ways of restoring and healing broken lives! He can do more in a moment than we can in a lifetime! Those may seem like very “general statements,” yet we still serve an awesome God who CAN make good things happen in our lives. Even at times, those things we feel may not be that “good” can be turned around in our favor if we continue to trust in this “same God.” Romans 8:28 (ESV):

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Think about this illustration involving a favorite food: While we may all enjoy a good piece of chocolate cake, if we were to try to eat each ingredient individually, we probably wouldn’t want them! We wouldn’t sit down to eat flour, eggs, chocolate, butter, etc. Oh, but mix them together, put them in the oven (with a few other steps involved), and out comes a delicious cake!

That’s a very simple illustration of how God can take the individual difficulties and victories in our lives and turn them around for good! Let’s go forward to all God has for us in this New Year!

Blessings and peace!



Sunday Sermons, Scriptures, and Events

January 1– 1st Sunday of Christmas
Celebration of the Lord’s Supper
Guest Preacher – Rev. Dr. Richard Selby



January 8 – Baptism of the Lord
Guest Preacher – Rev. Judy Fletcher

January 15 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
Guest Preacher – Traci Truly

January 22 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Guest Preacher – Rev. Dr. Richard Selby

January 29 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Guest Preacher – Rev. Julie Riley

God Bless You on Your Birthday

January 4
Vickie Lall

January 24
Norma Murray

January 5
Selina Cantu
Sue Duncan

January 26
Clive Duncan

January 15
Cody Robinson
Travis Stephen

January 27
Mary Allison Crawley

January 30
Marie Chambers

January 31
Marilyn Jackson



**White Rock Center of Hope
Sunday, January 8th**



Pantry Items Needed: Canned meat products and canned tuna. Any boxed shelf items, such as Hamburger Helper, Suddenly Salad, Jell-O, Ramen Noodles, etc. Please place items in the basket located in the hallway.

Thank you!

WELCOME TO ST. MARK!

A very warm welcome from the St. Mark family to our new Church Office Administrator, Darlene Wright. Darlene comes to St. Mark with loads of administrative experience in various fields, including a position as Parish Secretary at St. Peter’s Parish in Easton, MD. Darlene’s first day at St. Mark was December 5, 2022. She has been working with Kat and some of the office volunteers to become familiar with all her church office duties and will soon be “flying solo.” We are delighted to have Darlene with us! Please join us in extending our warmest welcome and good wishes to Darlene.

Administration and Personnel Committee

HAPPILY RETIRED!

Congratulations to Lorraine Stephen on her retirement! Lorraine was a Patient Navigator at UT Southwestern for 20 years and officially retired on December 15, 2022. Warm wishes for much happiness in the next chapter of your life, Lorraine!

Thank You!

St. Mark Church Family,

We are so very blessed by the generosity of this congregation. Thank you so much for your gift and your loving support. You continue to be such a remarkable congregation, existing to know Jesus and to make Him known. May God bless you richly in the coming year. And may God continue to bless this church and its leadership.



Blessings,
Bob King, Randall McGee,
Gary O’Neal, and Darlene Wright

Carter BloodCare Blood Drive



The lives that can be touched and saved by giving a pint of blood are countless. The Carter BloodCare

Bus will be at St. Mark on Sunday, January 8, 2023, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



Stated Meeting of the Session, December 12, 2022

- The Fellowship Committee will now be responsible for funeral receptions and meals for the bereaved.
- The Session approved the hiring of Darlene Wright as our new Administrative Assistant. Darlene will begin on December 5, and her regular hours will be 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

A copy of these minutes may be found on the Session board.

FLOWER CALENDAR

Thank you to Ellen Roberts for creating our 2023 Flower Calendar, which is on the wall outside the church office! To reserve a date for a special flower arrangement in the sanctuary, just write your name on the date line. Prior to your selected date, please provide the church office with the message you want printed in the Order of Worship and specify whether you will bring your own fresh flower arrangement (which you will need to take home after the worship service) or if you want an artificial flower arrangement provided by the church (a donation to the Flower Fund will be appreciated).

With Deepest Sympathy . . .



To Charlene Taylor and family for the recent loss of her sister. JaneAnn Ridenhour Smallwood passed away in San Antonio on Monday, November 28, 2022. She was sick with leukemia only a few months and spent the entire time in the hospital. Charlene was blessed to visit with JaneAnn before she was promoted to glory. A celebration of JaneAnn’s life will be held sometime in the near future.

Prayers are appreciated by Charlene, who also recently lost two brothers, and her family (the Harpoles, Smallwoods, Jacksons, Taylors, and Ridenhours) who have lost someone so dear.



To Dick Arthur and his family. Dick’s brother was promoted to glory Christmas Eve morning in Phoenix. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Prayers for comfort are appreciated by the Arthur family.

SOCK, HAT, AND GLOVE TREE UPDATE



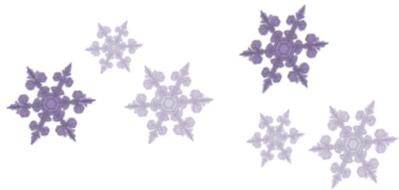
Thank you for your generous donations to our Sock, Glove, and Hat drive!

The donations have been delivered to Sharing Life ministry in Mesquite. They were delighted to receive 200 pairs of socks, 80 pairs of gloves, and 64 hats. St. Mark donated a total of 39 pounds of warmth to the needy. Thanks to everyone for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

Our coat drive is still in progress and will be extended until January 1, 2023. Gently used coats are acceptable. If you wish to donate to the coat drive, please note it in the memo section of your check.

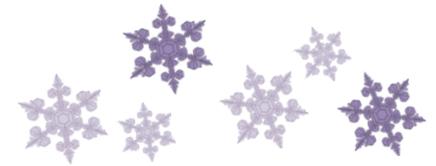
Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Susie Miller,
Mission & Membership Committee



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

January 2023

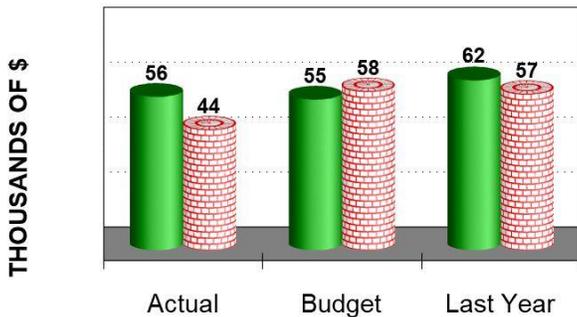


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>8:00a Property Com Mtg 9:00a Mini Workday</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00a Blood Drive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

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Treasurer’s Report

5 MONTHS THROUGH 11-30-2022



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are above budget by \$1,000, and \$10,000 below last year. YTD expenses are \$10,000 below budget, and \$10,000 below last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$13,000 cash positive YTD which is \$15,000 better than budget, and \$8,000 better than last year.

Commitment Sunday – January 22nd

The Session of St. Mark invites you to participate in our annual stewardship program. Commitment Sunday will be January 22nd this year. We have been blessed to be able to gather in person the past several months and continue to provide worship online through YouTube and Sermon.net. The work of St Mark goes on in the community and around the world.

The Operating Fund is the recipient of our tithes and provides funding for weekly worship, Christian education, building operations, and salaries, as well as our support for mission and outreach. If you wish to make a Faith Promise to another permanent fund please make this promise as an “over and above” gift after supporting the Operating Fund.

Please watch for more information and a Faith Promise card coming in the mail soon, and join us on Sunday, January 22nd as we once again commit to the future of St. Mark Presbyterian Church. Your financial commitment to the support of St. Mark Presbyterian Church is vital to our future mission.



The other day I was reading Matthew 2 for a different project. I was focusing on the second half of the chapter starting at 2:13. It is a familiar story, but you might want to read it before you read the rest of my article.

I’ll wait while you read. FYI my favorite online Bible is the Oremus Bible Browser <https://bible.oremus.org/>. I have it open to Matthew 2 on my iPad as I write. OK, have you had time to finish reading? Great. Back to my writing.

I don’t know how many times I have read this chapter and the story of what happened after the wise men came looking for Jesus. But this time something jumped out at me that I don’t recall noticing before.

Twice an angel or messenger from God appeared to Joseph in a dream. I remembered that. But it is the command of the messenger that jumped out at me. Both times it was a command to “get up.” The first was to get up and flee to Egypt. The second was to get up and leave Egypt. And both times Joseph obeyed the command.

As we start a new year, I am fascinated by the command to “get up.” I have never had a messenger from God exactly like Joseph. But I believe that God still calls people and congregations to do particular things. There have been times when I have sensed a call from God. Often it comes not in a dream but through the voice of a trusted friend. And there have been times when in hindsight I didn’t listen or misunderstood the call.

So, I am wondering if we as individuals or together as a congregation might experience calls to “get up” this year. I wonder what we might be called to do if that happens. Get up and do what? Hmmm. I wonder how we will respond. I hope we will be listening. What do you think?

Sandwich Sunday January 29, 2023

On those months with five Sundays, St. Mark is blessed with the opportunity to make, deliver, and serve sandwiches to the homeless at Austin Street Center. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. We will update you on whether we will be handing out sandwiches or delivering them this month. As always, thank you all for your continuing support!

Your Sandwich Lady,
Dee Huckaba

Awesome helpers making sandwiches!



Charlie and Drew



Hunter and Preston



St. Mark Presbyterian Church
9999 Ferguson Road
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Non-Profit Organization

