



# St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437

Volume 57, Issue 2

saintmarkchurch.org

February 2010



Two of the most significant times in the life of the church year are Advent and Lent. Advent looks forward, in excited anticipation, to our Savior's birth. Lent "feels" very different. It reminds us that it is time for a spiritual checkup. St. Mark Presbyterian Church is already praying to discern what God is doing in and through us as His called out, set apart people. The Lenten season adds emphasis to our time of discovery by focusing on what God is doing in and through us individually, too. This is a time of self appraisal, reflection upon the life of our Lord with the view of Holy Week looming large before us. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Resurrection Sunday remind us of God's overwhelming grace that encompasses all that is broken in us and renews a right spirit within us. Let our hearts be made contrite by the power of the Holy Spirit because this is what God requires of us over all else. David states this eloquently in his 51<sup>st</sup> Psalm: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken spirit and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." May God use this Lenten season to draw us closer to His perfect, holy will, broken so He can repair us. May His amazing grace encourage us to consider our lives in light of His supreme sacrifice and may the resurrection life of Christ make a real impact in our hearts right here and now. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*Blessings, Pastor Rick*



**February 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Communion Service**  
**7:15 p.m.**

## Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

### February 7

"It's A Miracle!"

Psalm 63:1-8; Matthew 8:1-17

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Souper Bowl of Caring



### February 14

"Cost Accounting"

Proverbs 28:6-13; Matthew 8:18-27

Reel Reflections

### February 21

"Something To Talk About"

Psalm 37:1-9; Matthew 9:18-34

Blood Drive

### February 28

"Bad Place, Good Invitation"

Psalm 27:1-5; Matthew 11:20-30

### St. Mark Blood Drive

**Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Contact Sue Duncan for details.



### St. Mark Women's Group

**Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 p.m. in the Parlor**

The women of St. Mark are encouraged to attend an organizational meeting of the Women's Group (formerly, The Care Core). We will meet at 6:30 in the parlor. This is not a dinner meeting but coffee will be available.



The plan so far is to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month. Bring your ideas for any projects, charities, organizations, programs or speakers.

If you have any questions contact Diana Kettle.



## White Rock Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup>

Please bring your donations of toys, canned or dried foods, paper products, clothing, etc. and place them in the baskets in the hallway.

### Special Needs:

- King & Queen size sheets
- Bath Towels & Washcloths
- Pillows, Blankets & Bedrolls
- Socks & Underwear
- Men's Jeans (especially smaller sizes 34 & 36)

## Annual Boy Scout Food Drive Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

All food collected in our area goes directly to the White Rock Center of Hope. Bags will be delivered to homes on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Yoga Classes Begin

Sundays - 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.  
Wednesdays - 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

We meet in the former 4/5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. Classes are free but a "love donation" (\$5 per class) is requested to help defray the cost of utilities. If you cannot give you won't be turned away.

Bring a yoga mat, work out clothing (not too loose), water bottle (optional).

Classes will accommodate all fitness levels. Open to St. Mark members and their families age 9 or older. For more information contact: Kathy Hale



### Join Us for Movie Night

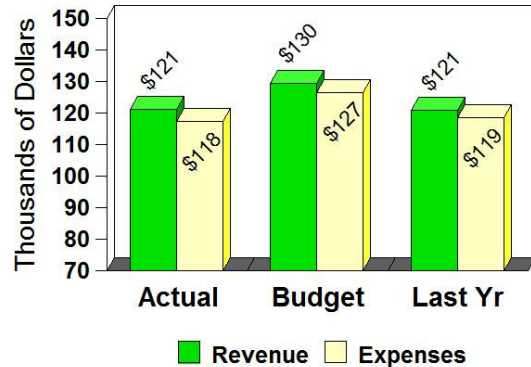
Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.

**"Master and Commander:  
The Far Side of the World"**

Bring snacks to share and a covered cup for your drinks and join your friends in the cozy confines of the "Gleaners Cinema" for a new release or classic movie. Movie night is the THIRD Saturday of every month.



## Operating & Capital Funds 6 Mos through Dec 31, 2009



### New Parking Lot?

At their January stated meeting, the St. Mark Session approved a recommendation from the Property and Maintenance Committee to pave the front parking lot - with concrete! Can we hear an "Amen" to no more puddles?

The next step is to determine how to pay for the project. We will have a meeting of the congregation after church one Sunday in February to discuss our options.

### New Directories Available

Look for the new church directories on the glass table in the hallway across from Pat's office.

### The Church Pantry Urgently Needs:

- Pull-top cans of Vienna Sausage, Beans & Beanie Weanies
- Small & Medium Jars of Jelly & Peanut Butter

### Reel Reflections



**Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.  
in the Gleaner's Theater**

### Newsletter Staff:

Cecilia Grayson . . . . .  
Pat Bilger . . . . .stmarkpc1@sbcglobal.net  
Articles and information for the newsletter  
can be e-mailed to the addresses above.

**Newsletter Deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>**



## Randall's Pen

VBS is NOT just for kids any more.

We have just made it through the coldest weather we have seen around here for ages. And winter is still not over.

But I am already thinking about summertime. And not just because I am longing for warmer weather.

Summer is on my mind because I am thinking about Vacation Bible School. This year we are going to have two VBS experiences at St Mark. It's going to be a great summer of teaching, learning and fellowship.

July 12-15<sup>th</sup> we will have the traditional evening VBS for children. The Family Center will be transformed to look and feel like Egypt in the time of Joseph. St Mark always does a great job with this VBS. Children get to experience stories from the Bible and also get to experience the love of God as they interact with the adult and youth leaders. It's a wonderful 4 evenings.

August 2-5<sup>th</sup> we are going to have our second VBS of the season. But this one will be different. It's going to be during the morning and IT'S GOING TO BE FOR THE ADULTS.

There is still a lot of planning to do for the new adult VBS and many details to be worked out. There will be opportunities for adults to grow and mature in the faith in classes or workshops. There will be singing and fellowship. Since it is VBS you know there will be refreshments. And who knows maybe there will even be some crafts.

Watch and listen for more details. Make note of the dates and plan on being there if you can. Think about children you know who might love to spend a few evenings in our version of Egypt. Think about adults you know who might be thrilled with an invitation to come to our new VBS designed just for them.

It's going to be a great summer.

*Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education*

## Thank You

Dear St. Mark Family,

Thank you for the cards, flowers, telephone calls and most importantly, your prayers for me when I had my shoulder replacement and during my recovery. The surgery was a huge success and the physical therapy is making me stronger each day. It is wonderful to have the support of such a loving family!

*Becky Page*

To All of My Friends at St. Mark,

2010 has, so far, been pretty rugged for me. I was taken to the hospital by ambulance on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and was there for a week with septic lungs and pneumonia. It was a tough week of fighting and praying. Without you, there would never have been enough. But, with you, I'm pulling out of it.

There are no words sufficient to thank you for your thoughts, prayers, gifts and personally uplifting time so freely given. But, here, I'll try.... THANK YOU for helping send the message that I still have a use on earth. And thank God for showing me the way out of the shadows.

My love to you, everyone,  
*Randi Richards*

## May God Bless You on Your Birthday

### February 1

Linda Marshall

### February 2

Rick Brooks

### February 5

Preston Swift

Hunter Swift

### February 8

Barb Tuinstra

### February 12

Rose Marie Stone

### February 16

Gary O'Neal

JoAnn Parsley

### February 17

Kenneth Brandenburg

### February 19

Gerald Jones

### February 23

Cade Curry

Hannah Moore

### February 24

Flo Philips

### February 25

Lucy Roberts



**Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**



St. Mark youth will hold soup pots at the church doors on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Young people in churches across the country will collect food and money for those who are hungry and hurting. All the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the youth. None of the money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. Since the program began in 1990 millions of dollars have gone to help people in need. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "love our neighbors" by dropping your dollar, canned or boxed food in the soup pot on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

---

**Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers**

Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
First United Methodist Church, Richardson  
Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20.  
For registration contact:  
Mike Lightfoot at 972-235-8385 or  
mlightfoot@fumcr.com

**Gerald Jones Valentine's Day Concert**

Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Sons of Hermann Hall  
3414 Elm St. - Dallas

Gerald is a beloved fixture of the music community in North Texas and has taught hundreds of students. His set list can be expected to cross multiple music genres—jazz, classical, bluegrass — and demonstrate his extensive musical skills, especially on banjo and mandolin.

Playing along with Gerald will be George Anderson on bass, Jim "Texas Shorty" Chancellor on fiddle, Brad Davis on Guitar. Other musicians will include Rick Brooks on keyboards and Kim Platko on jazz guitar. It's a guaranteed good time!

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.  
For advance ticket information email:  
chorsey@msn.com.



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