



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road Dallas, TX 75228 214-321-6437

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saintmarkchurch.org

January 2011

Commitment Sunday — January 16th

The Session of St. Mark invites you to continue your participation in "Stewards for Life" with an opportunity to renew your Faith Promises and to volunteer for various church responsibilities and activities on Commitment Sunday, January 16th.

Look for more information and a Faith Promise card coming in the mail soon, and please join us on January 16th as we recommit to the future of St. Mark.



Special Christmas Offering



As of December 26th we have received \$4,811 towards our goal of \$5,000.

Your generous contributions this year are going to the Presbyterian Joy Offering and to support the scholarship program of the Ministry of Hope in Malawi, Africa.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Your gifts will make a real difference in lives here in the United States and around the world.

From the Staff . . .

Thank you so much for your Christmas cards and special gifts to the staff of St. Mark. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Rick, Gary, Pat, Randall, & Bob

Happy New Year!

The church office will be closed
Monday, January 3rd
for the New Year Holiday.

Sandwich Sunday - January 30th

Each 5th Sunday we prepare and serve sandwiches at the Austin Street Centre.

Volunteers are asked to prepare **two or three dozen** sandwiches, individually bagged, with the sack labeled as to contents, and bring them to the church on that Sunday.



Cookies and snack cakes are also welcome.

Sign-up sheets are in the hallway

Volunteers are also needed to help serve the sandwiches at the Centre on Sunday evening.

May God Bless You on Your Birthday



January 1
Bobby Husted

January 3
Bob Carlson
Earl Sockwell
Walter Zahn

January 5
Selina Cantu
Sue Duncan

January 14
Susan Wood

January 15
Cody Robinson
Travis Stephen

January 17
Paul Pennington

January 23
Jennifer Cantu
Pat Hamilton

January 25
Patsy Neale

January 27
Mary Allison Crawley

January 30
Marie Chambers

January 31
Marilyn Jackson

The Church Pantry Needs:

- Pull-top cans of Beans (most needed)
- Pull-top cans of Fruit
- Sm. & Med. size jars of Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Peanut Butter/Cheese Crackers



No Vienna Sausage, we have plenty.



I admit that I don't watch a lot of television. If Teri's away, the television doesn't even get turned on. But when it's on, I enjoy watching home makeover programs with her. And of these reality shows, the ones I appreciate most, are the ones where a couple gets stuck attempting to remodel part of their house. OK, to be fair it's usually the "all thumbs" husband who grossly overestimates his remodeling skills, it's been going on for too long, and now his wife is upset. So an expert is brought in to save the project . . . and potentially the marriage. The expert immediately sees what needs to be done to the remodeling job, does what needs to be done with the couple helping, and even pays for the remodeling.

The start of a new year can be sort of like that because God specializes in makeovers. 2011 brings the opportunity to turn our wills and our lives over to the care of the one who created us for a remodeling. Since we're His creation, He's automatically the expert to be brought in on this makeover job. After all, He sees what we miss and knows just how to fix it. He even pays for it. He paid for it two thousand years ago through a Cross on a hill called Calvary. And now He wants to mold us into the image of His Son who paid that price we

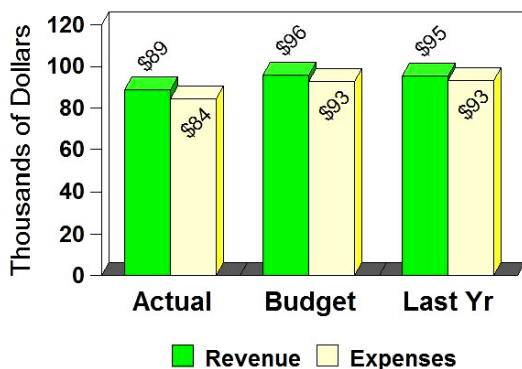
couldn't pay, and recover the image of Him that has been tarnished, but not eradicated, by the Fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden. God starts all over with us and makes us into something new. St. Paul puts it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:17

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

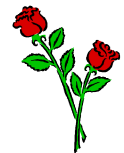
I especially like the part of about the old passing away. Frankly, every year brings things to mind we would like to be over. 2010 was a year like that for me. Some major tragedies occurred in our family. I'm not alone. Several at St. Mark Presbyterian Church also experienced the loss of loved ones. Some began facing other challenges they never dreamed they would face. Yet there is the Good News that God is not done with any of us. He's at work remodeling us, painful though it may be. It's a makeover process that makes those home remodeling programs look amateurish. They work on the outside. God's work is an inside job. And this makeover is not just for now. It's not even just for the year to come. It's for eternity when God will bring about a new heaven and a new earth that will never pass away. My prayer for 2011 is that St. Mark Presbyterian Church would prepare for that eternity by embracing the changes necessary that God wants to make in us regardless of the cost. Let's be open to having God provide an extreme makeover in 2011.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

Operating & Capital Funds 5 Mos through Nov 30, 2010



Our Sympathy to . . .



Chuck Hathaway and family upon the death of his wife Lola. Services for Lola will be held at St. Mark on Saturday, January 15th at 2:00 p.m.

Randall and Jane Ann McGee upon the death of her mother, Lola Blain of Lewisburg, Tennessee.



Reel Reflections

Sunday, January 9th 1:00 p.m.
in the Gleaner's Cinema

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

January 2

"Hooked"

Romans 10:14-17; Luke 5:1-11

Celebration of the Lord's Supper



January 9

"Bustin' Out"

2 Chronicles 7:12-14; Luke 5:34-39

Reel Reflections

January 16

"From the Ground Up"

1 Corinthians 3:10-17; Luke 6:46-49

Commitment Sunday

January 23

"Even Closer"

Ezekiel 36:22-32; Luke 11:1-13

January 30

"Faith-O-Meter"

2 Kings 17:33-41; Luke 12:32-40

Sandwich Sunday



White Rock Sunday is January 9th

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

Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services



School Supplies are always needed throughout the year. There is a basket in the hallway for your donations. If you have any questions please contact Phyllis Miller.

Join Us for Movie Night

Saturday, January 15th @ 7:00 p.m.



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.

St. Mark Memories

This is a new addition to the newsletter. Please share with us some special memories of your life at St. Mark. You can send them by email to the church or to Cecilia Grayson, or give them to Pat or Cecilia personally.
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We Remember

After being involved with St. Mark for a half century, we have seen the cycle go from seven soft ball fields to seven handicapped parking spaces. We have a great deal of wonderful memories. At this time however, we will limit our comments to the ministers and list three that stand out in our memories. All have been good. We respected each, grieved when they left, and welcomed each new replacement.

FOREST WHITWORTH Forest was super active with the new kids, which impressed my son greatly. In a discussion, my son asked him about his fantastic ability to remember names. His answer was simple and direct: "Gary, if you really care about people, remembering names is easy". Forest had an amazing memory. In fact, twenty-eight years later he reminded me of the time I had left one of my children at the church by mistake.

JOHN DANOF John had the ability to get deeply involved and work very closely with people. On his first day at St. Mark he taught a Bible Class and gave the sermon. At the appropriate time he hobbled over to the choir loft and sang a duet with Shirley and then hobbled painfully back. He remained busy, involved and inspiring.

CHARLES FOX Charles wasn't afraid to "break the mold". One Sunday his sermon was against betting on the horse races in nearby Grand Prairie. Another time during infant baptism he held the baby in his arms and paraded the child up and down the aisles. The entire congregation could see the child, thus becoming intimately involved in the ceremony and pledging their support.

Oh, so many joyous memories of our ministers at St. Mark, but these three I will remember to the end of my life.

Frank and Shirley Roberson

Your Session at Work...

At the November and December Stated Meetings, your Session approved the following:

- To form a Communications Team (Teri Brooks, Pat Bilger, Cecilia Grayson, Kathleen Hale, Emily McIntosh, Ellen Roberts, Leigh Taylor and Anne Thomas) for publicity, marketing, and information to provide a communication link for all the committees and members of St. Mark as well as advertising for the church.
- A special recognition during the November 21st worship service to recognize Janet Taylor for her years of service to St. Mark and the Christian Education Committee.
- Adult Vacation Bible School to be held August 1-4, 2011.
- CPR classes to be taught over the next twelve months by Linda Youmans and Cheryl Clifford.
- Katie Husted and Samantha Moore as communing members and welcomed them into the fellowship of St. Mark with full membership privileges.
- A report from Lynn Phillips, Randi Richards, and Sheila Wahl on the annual review of St. Mark finances and practices for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010.
- A request from First Presbyterian Church in Norman, Oklahoma for its Junior High youth to use our facilities for their mission trip on February 18 through 20.
- A "Service for Wholeness" to be held on the second Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. beginning in February.

Sheila Wahl
Clerk of Session



There is no way to thank you all for the wonderful recognition you gave me in November. I was overwhelmed by the beautiful cake, the fantastic book and the angel.

Just know that I love this church and all the people and I felt God has been VERY good to me!

Janet Taylor

Women of the Church News

The Women's Group met December 9th for their annual Christmas party and ornament exchange game. There were lots of cute and beautiful ornaments chosen . . . and taken, but in the end, everyone seemed happy with their chosen prize.

The women brought prepared Holiday Boxes for the Homeless. The shoe boxes were filled with lots of everyday items that are not always available to the homeless. Donna Simes and Barb Tuinstra delivered 66 boxes to the Stewpot at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Dallas.

One ongoing project for the women is to help supply pull-top cans of meat and fruit and small packaged crackers filled with peanut butter or cheese for the small food pantry at St. Mark.



The Women of the Church meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Teri Brooks and Marilyn Jackson are hosting the program and refreshments in January.

Please Note!

The new directory shows my son's name as Cody Robinson. However, the prison will **not** deliver mail to him unless it is addressed to:

Clarence O. Robinson, Jr.

I would hate to find out that someone tried to send him a Christmas card and then had it returned.

Thanks! *Dee Robinson*

Congratulations to . . .



Travis Stephen and Jacky Chapa on the birth of their son, Jayden Cole Stephen, born December 20, 2010, and to Lorraine Stephen upon the birth of her first grandchild.

Newsletter Staff:

Pat Bilgerstmarkpc1@sbcglobal.net

Cecilia Grayson

Articles and information for the newsletter can be e-mailed to the addresses above.

**Newsletter Deadline
is January 15th**

