



# St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437

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July 2009



## Vacation Bible School - July 13-16<sup>th</sup> 6:00—8:30 p.m.

The Family Center will be transformed to the Rome of St. Paul's time. Each day will have a theme based on a Bible verse and that theme will be reflected in all the day's activities. Participants will be part of a Roman family.

They will go to the marketplace and be apprenticed with various shopkeepers, learning a skill and working with crafts. They will visit with Paul, who is under house arrest and guarded by a Roman soldier. Later, they will worship with other Christians in a secret cave. And there are fun and games in the Olympic center. A light supper will be provided each evening.

VBS set up will be Saturday and Sunday, July 11 & 12 in the Family Center. If you have a canopy, artificial (or real) trees and shrubbery, or anything that would add to a Roman-looking environment, we would be grateful if we could borrow it for VBS.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Leigh Taylor or Marilyn Jackson.

*A costume makes it more fun. You can make your own or use one from the church. An old sheet, curtain, shawl or tablecloth can become a toga. Use your imagination and have fun!*

### St. Mark Annual Swim Party

Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Town East Pool located at

2525 John Glenn Pkwy (at N. Town East Blvd)



St. Mark has exclusive use of the pool and everyone is invited to attend. Come swim, play or sit in the shade and visit. Enjoy a refreshing night of fun and fellowship. Bring snacks and drinks, but no glass containers, please.

### Senior Citizen Tea

The Care Core Visitation Committee is having a get together on July 25<sup>th</sup> from 2:30—4:30 p.m. in the Parlor for all Senior citizens of St. Mark. Come for a visit and some light refreshments. If you need transportation to the church, please call the church office, Donna Simes or Diana Kettle by July 20<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you!

### Mission & Outreach Committee

"The Bridge" is continuing to help feed and shelter the homeless and also to provide a variety of programs in downtown Dallas.



Several St. Mark members are helping serve meals at The Bridge the first Thursday evening of each month. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact Diana Kettle or Donna Simes for more information.

### New Organ Update

Our new Johannus organ will be installed during the last week of July and will debut the first Sunday in August—also the first anniversary of Rick Brooks' ministry at St. Mark. Special thanks go to everyone who made this new organ possible. We reached our goal at the May 17<sup>th</sup> concert and the new organ is fully funded. If anyone knows someone interested in providing a good home for the old Saville organ, please contact Bill Grayson.



In Stephen King's book-turned-movie "The Shawshank Redemption", Andy Dufresne says to his closest prison friend, Ellis Boyd "Red" Redding, "Get busy living or get busy dying." That advice could be applied to the church in the twenty-first century. American Christians currently stand at the crossroads of culture. Which direction we choose will determine our destiny; death or life. I believe that if we continue to emulate our surrounding society we will become virtually indistinguishable from it. As it is sometimes stated: the world in the church instead of the church in the world. On the other hand, if we turn to God, the church will not only survive but thrive.

2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." NIV

This process of moving from death to life involves taking certain steps.

1. We become humble, admitting we can't save ourselves.
2. Pray, asking God for forgiveness.
3. Desire only God unconditionally.
4. Repent without reservation, confident in God's mercy.

This total surrender is the only direction available to "get busy living." So as we enter July with the celebration of our Independence Day on the Fourth, let us not forget that the church is actually dependent on our Heavenly Father for our healing. And the best part is that we have God's Word on it.

*Blessings, Pastor Rick*

### 68 and Counting!



Please join Frank & Shirley Roberson in the parlor for refreshments following the worship service on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. They will be celebrating their 68<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

## Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events



### July 5

"It's a Stretch"

Hebrews 11:1-6; Genesis 5:18-22

### July 12

"Blessed Assurance"

Psalm 32:1-7; Genesis 9:8-17

### July 19

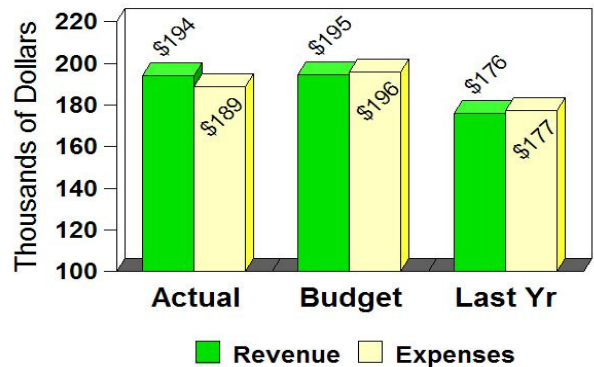
"It's Your Call"

Hebrews 11:8-12; Genesis 12:1-9

### July 26

Guest Minister

## Operating Fund 11 Mos through May 31, 2009



## May God Bless You on Your Birthday

### July 1

Dortha Finklea

### July 5

Suzanne Presley

### July 10

Lou Duncan

### July 12

Lacey Stephen

### July 16

Chris Tuinstra

### July 17

Rusty Holloway

### July 18

Linda Youmans

### July 19

Allison Curry

### July 20

Cathie Mackle

### July 22

Jeanette Sanders

### July 26

Adele Acrey

### July 27

Nancy Davis

### July 29

Patrick Powers

### July 31

Trevor Crawley

Kathy Stasz



# Randall's Pen

Well, it's clearly summer time in Texas again. We had a pretty wild late spring storm and then the heat set in.

Some congregations have a tradition of essentially shutting down for the summer. They have Sunday worship but almost nothing else goes on between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

But that is definitely not the tradition at St. Mark. We may do some different things in the summer but we do not suspend our activities. We actually take on some extra ministry opportunities.

Of course we gather for worship each Sunday. But there is so much more. Take a look.

In June this year we:

- Sent a group out on a mission trip to the coast of Texas to help folks still recovering from the hurricanes of recent years.
- Celebrated the birthday of the congregation.
- Celebrated the church reformer John Calvin's 500<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Had a Reel Reflections movie discussion.
- Offered educational opportunities for all ages.

In July we will:

- Have a Vacation Bible School where we transform the family center into Rome for a few days. (Don't forget to encourage ANY children you know to come and join us.)

- Send several people to Guatemala as a part of the East Dallas Cluster Mission trip.
- Install new elders who will be part of our leadership for the next three years.
- Offer educational opportunities for all ages.
- Install a new organ in the sanctuary

In August we will:

- Dedicate and begin using the new organ to the glory of God.
- Have another Reel Reflections
- Offer educational opportunities for all ages.

That's not an exhaustive list. It is what I can think of off the top of my head. And those are just the "programs" and planned events. This summer the people of St Mark will pray, and learn and serve in many different ways. We will care for each other and for strangers in tough times. We will share meals together. We will celebrate good news together. We will cry over tough news together.

St Mark definitely does not shut down for the summer.

And don't forget, we don't do any of this to try and earn God's favor. I believe that God is pleased when we do these things. But we already belong to God in life and in death. Nothing can change that. We do all these things this because we are part of God's beloved children.

*Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education*

Lindsay Knapp  
Dallas, TX 75287

Randi Richards  
214-

Jeanette & Jim Sanders  
Richardson, TX 75082

(note: complete contact information is available from the church office)

## Directory Update

### Newsletter Staff:

Cecilia Grayson . . . .

Pat Bilger . . . . . stmarkpc1@sbcglobal.net

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

### Congratulations to . . .



Newlyweds Jeanette and Jim Sanders, who were married June 4, 2009.

### Join Us for Movie Night

Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> @ 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.

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



## The Church Pantry Urgently Needs:

- ⇒ Pull-top cans of Vienna Sausage or any canned meat with pull-tops
- ⇒ Peanut butter and/or Cheese crackers
- ⇒ Pull-top cans of Fruits & Beans
- ⇒ Bottled Water



The small refrigerator in the pantry of the Family Center is no longer working. If you have a refrigerator you aren't using or are planning to replace your existing one, please consider donating it to St. Mark.

## White Rock Sunday is July 12<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.

### Pantry Needs:

Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Meat & Tuna  
Cereal, Peanut Butter & Jelly

### Other Needs:

Bath Soap, Personal Items



The Center is having a  
Half-Price sale in the Gift  
Shop on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>



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Non-Profit Organization