



St. Mark Connection

9999 Ferguson Road

Dallas, TX 75228

214-321-6437

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saintmarkchurch.org

March 2010

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Wednesday Evening

March 3, 10 & 17th

6:30 in the parlor

If you have been worshipping with us at St. Mark Presbyterian Church for a while and want a better understanding of what we're all about, you may have some questions.

- Who are the Presbyterians?
- What do they believe?
- What do they do?
- What is their history?
- What has their influence been?



Bring your questions about being Presbyterian to Pastor Rick's Inquirer's Class. If he doesn't know the answer, he'll make something up! Not really, but he promises to try to find a suitable answer. Please join the Inquirer's Class on Wednesday evenings in March at 6:30 in the Parlor. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date for . . .

St. Mark Women's Retreat 2010

April 16 - 17th

Springhill Retreat Center

We are excited to announce another Women's Retreat weekend full of fun, worship, music and fellowship. Phyllis Speck will be our worship leader again this year.

The cost for this weekend will be \$15.00. This will cover the cost of the retreat center, a light breakfast, lunch and snacks.

We will be happy to arrange carpooling. Contact Donna Simes or the church office so arrangements can be made.

Come and join in a special time for all women of St. Mark.

Special Easter Offering

The Session has set a goal of \$5000 for this year's Special Easter Offering. This year, as in the past, half of the offering will go to One Great Hour of Sharing, but beginning this year the other half will be shared between our annual Habitat for Humanity Mission Trip and a special project with the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS).

One Great Hour of Sharing funds contributed by Presbyterian congregations are directed to three PC(USA) agencies: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. Funds directed to our Mission Trip are used for contributions to the Habitat affiliate that our group works with during their trip as well as food and travel expenses. That portion of the Special Offering directed to PCHAS will be used to finance a project to be identified by our Mission and Outreach Committee.

Look for more information coming in March regarding the annual Special Easter Offering.

Upcoming Schedule of Worship



PALM SUNDAY
March 28th
10:30 a.m.



MAUNDY THURSDAY
Maundy Thursday - April 1st
Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.



Good Friday - April 2nd
Tenebrae Service - 7:00



Easter - April 4th
9:15 a.m. Brunch in the Parlor
10:30 a.m. Service
No Sunday School





A young man during his first hot air balloon ride had an unexpected adventure. A fog closed in around the balloon making it impossible to see the ground and putting the passenger and pilot in extreme danger. For a moment, the fog parted and the two saw some golfers below. The pilot called out, "Where are we?" One of the golfers answered, "You are over the ninth green." With that the fog closed in once more. The passenger said, "That man must be a Christian." The pilot asked, "Why would you say that?" He answered, "Because what he said was precisely correct - and completely irrelevant." [adapted from Presbyterian pastor, Michael Neubert, Herrin, IL]

No dedicated Christian wants the Good News of Jesus Christ to be proclaimed irrelevantly. If we are faithful to God's Word, we will speak the truth because Jesus IS truth. He is not just one truth among many, sometimes opposing truths

but THE Truth. (John 14:6) Therefore, we aim for being precisely correct in our Christian walk simply because the Gospel matters. The very redemption of creation is at stake. It's why we are compelled to share Christ. Yet presenting the timeless Gospel message in a manner that is timely can be difficult, especially in a culture that demands relevancy and clamors for its "felt needs" to be gratified *immediately, if not sooner.*

To be relevant, Christian *thought* must strike some sort of balance with Christian action. Where can we locate doctrinal accuracy compellingly applied? Look to Jesus. The Bible devotes more ink to what Jesus *taught* than what He did. (John 8:31-32) There is no doubt that Jesus is concerned about how we conduct our lives. But it should not be overlooked that He is also concerned about what we believe. He calls us to take up the Bible and read. Understand God's Word, then apply it. As with mission and evangelism, without Scripture and its application, the church will remain irrelevant to a broken word only Jesus can mend.

Blessings, Pastor Rick

Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

March 7

Psalm 91:1-6; Matthew 13:24-35
 "Weeds, Seeds, Leven, Life"
 Celebration of the Lord's Supper



March 14

Isaiah 14:12-15; Matthew 16:21-28
 "Follow The Leader"

March 21

Psalm 96:1-10; Matthew 20:20-28
 Guest Preacher Rev. Frank Hamilton

March 28

Isaiah 50:4-9; Matthew 26:14-16
 "Mirror, Mirror, On The Wall"
 Palm Sunday

Buckner Retirement Village Workshop

Tuesday, March 23 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
 4800 Samuell Blvd, Dallas

Support groups for family members are a great marketing tool for your congregation. This learning format can help with education of important topics and retention of existing church members. All attendees for this **FREE** and informative workshop will:

- Understand the basic issues of the need for support groups
- Understand the basics of group dynamics
- Develop the topic to be discussed in group sessions
- Understand the aspects of the group structure from promotion to format

Valerie Sanchez, LCSW with Faith Presbyterian Hospice will present the workshop. A light breakfast will be served. Please RSVP to Kathy Key at 214-381-2171 by March 16th. Seating will be limited.



Reel Reflections

Sunday, March 14th at 12:30 p.m.
 in the Gleaner's Theater

Parking Lot Project

The Session has approved the replacement of our main (front) asphalt parking lot with a new one constructed of reinforced concrete. Several companies have submitted bids and one has been selected. The project will also include replacement of the pebble-finish porch outside the narthex entry doors. The total cost of this project will be approximately \$62,000 of which \$12,000 is available to be withdrawn from Capital Fund savings and the current budget. The balance will need to come from member contributions, either up-front in March, or to repay a loan, or a combination of the two. The Property Committee hopes to see this new parking lot become a reality by the end of April.

If you are able to contribute to this project, and haven't already turned in your commitment, please look for the Concrete Commitment form in this month's newsletter, fill it out and return it by mail or during worship no later than Sunday March 7th. Please contact any member of the Stewardship or Property Committees if you have any questions or concerns about the project.

Souper Bowl Sunday Report



Special thanks to everyone who contributed food items and/or money to the annual Souper Bowl Sunday. A total of 166 cans/boxes, etc. were collected, which all went to the White Rock Center of Hope. In addition, \$352.60 was contributed which has been forwarded to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance project for Haiti. St. Mark is truly a caring and generous congregation.

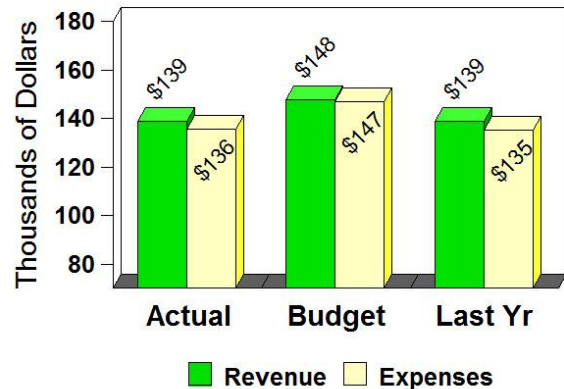
Results from the Blood Drive

Thanks to everyone who was able to donate and to those who wanted to but couldn't. We collected 8 pints of blood.

Newsletter Staff:

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

Operating & Capital Funds 7 Mos through Jan 31, 2010



The Beadle

The Session has authorized something new to start worship during Lent. The "beadle" will follow the acolyte into the sanctuary with the Bible and place it on the lectern in preparation for worship. Read on for some background on the "beadle":

During the Middle Ages and through the Reformation, Bibles were rare among the common people. The Bible of the Kirk (i.e. the church) was a treasured possession. The value of the sacred scriptures and the danger of theft led to the establishment of a special lay office within Kirk, known as "The Beadle."

The chief duty of the beadle was always to guard and protect the Bible. In some traditional Presbyterian Churches today the beadle begins the worship service by carrying the Bible into the sanctuary, opening the Bible and preparing the pulpit for the entry of the minister. The beadle normally removes the Bible from the Kirk for safekeeping following the service.



White Rock Sunday March 14th

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:

Sheets, Towels, Blankets, Men & Children's Clothing (especially shoes & jeans)



Randall's Pen

Wasn't the record snowfall last month a wild ride? I know it was at my house. And our hassles were much less than many of my neighbors. And those hassles were not that great compared to what folks are dealing with in Haiti weeks after the earthquake. But there still were some ups and downs.

On Thursday afternoon I was enjoying and taking pictures of a beautiful snowscape. By Thursday night I was wondering if our power would stay on overnight (it did). On Friday morning our yard was covered with large broken limbs. There were other limbs that were so snow laden that they were resting on the roof without being broken. Then there was one large cracked limb that was over our power line. I was certain that if it finished breaking it would crush the crape myrtle under it and take out the power line and part of my roof. I spent much of the next 48 hours wondering if it would hold on until someone could show up to cut it away (it did). A little later on Friday and again on Saturday a neighbor pitched in and we cleaned up our yards. On Sunday our "tree guy" came by and assured me that the limb would not take out the power if it fell. And on

Monday he came and cut it away. And I slept well that night.

As I sit here the snow is almost completely melted. And as I ponder the past week the words of the Psalm 46 come to mind:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

I experienced nothing like the troubles described in the Psalm. But it is nice to have that reminder that no matter what is going on in the world around us God does not abandon us.

Randall McGee, Director of Christian Education

Join Us for Movie Night

Saturday, March 20th @ 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.



Words of Thanks

Thank you St. Mark family and friends for the food, calls, visits and calls since my accident.

Margaret Murphy

Newsletter Deadline is March 15th

May God Bless You on Your Birthday

March 3

Lola Hathaway

March 5

Jacie Minick

March 6

Becca Novotny

March 8

Jacob Curry

Shea Curry

March 9

Natalie Sockwell

Ann Zahn

March 11

Pauline McPherson

Kaitlin Tuinstra

March 16

Phyllis Speck

March 19

Pauline Millender

March 30

Bunty Taylor

March 31

Margaret Caylor





**Spring Forward
Daylight Saving Time
Begins
Sunday, March 14th**

**All Church Workday
Saturday
March 20th
8:30 a.m.— noon**



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Non-Profit Organization**