

# ST. MARK CONNECTION

Volume 72, Issue 2  
February 2025



## Pastor's Corner

Dear Members and Friends,

I speak to one of my closest friends almost every day. We talk about family, ministry, God, and just whatever is going on in our lives. We always end the call saying, “I love you” and some kind of blessing for each other. Recently we have settled into a blessing I am particularly fond of: Enjoy God and Prosper! It’s a mash of the “chief end of man” from the Westminster Catechism (What is the chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy him forever) and Star Trek’s Spock’s Vulcan farewell “Live long and prosper.” Enjoy God and Prosper.

Mark and I were discussing church and agreed that it is easy to get so focused on the mission of the church that we forget to Enjoy God. In a recent sermon I preached on becoming marriage partners with God, beyond being children of God. When I was a child, I wouldn’t say I enjoyed my parents. I needed them and then at times I pushed them away so I could figure things out for myself. But enjoy them? Not so much. However, as I grew up a transition happened in my relationship with my parents. We became something like friends.

I learned that my parents have needs and wants. I learned that they thought deeply about life. They became interesting to me. Just like I talk to my close friends regularly, I talk to my parents regularly – not out of any obligation or because I need anything from them. I just enjoy talking to them. I enjoy them. I just had to grow some.

Enjoying God will require some growing up as well – something I am still working on. We will always need God as children need parents. However, there is something more to be had when it comes to you and God. Abraham was called a “friend of God.” Long before there was a Bible or a church, there was a relationship between God and Abraham. They talked. They listened to each other.

I sometimes wonder how many people on Earth at the time of Abraham paid any attention to God. Perhaps God tried to reach many people, but Abraham heard him. To be clear God is never lonely, God dwells in the community of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But from the beginning it is clear that God desires a relationship with human beings.

Certainly, God delights in his children just as humans delight in theirs, but there is more for God and us. As we grow up in Christ, we will enjoy each other more. We will become part of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit relationship. It is hard to describe but there are moments when I can feel God’s delight in me. It is sublime. It doesn’t take hours of prayer; only a little time to pick up the phone and chat with God. These moments help me to share in God’s joy. I find I can enjoy God when I take time to appreciate his creation and the people he puts in my life – to recognize what he has done and what he is doing even now.

Enjoy God! Know that God enjoys you. God is not too busy or uninterested to spend time with you. He wants more in relationship with you.

Next month, we will look at the second part of the blessing, Prosper. Hint: Enjoying God and prospering are related.

Enjoy God and Prosper!

Pastor Paul

**FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES – THE POWER TO BECOME**

**February 2 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany**

Celebration of The Lord’s Supper  
 Sermon: “The Power to Become: God’s Prophets”  
 Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 4:21-30

**February 9 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany**

Guest Preacher – Colin Boring

**February 16 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany**

Sermon: “The Power to Become: God’s Fruit”  
 Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 17:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

**February 23 – 7th Sunday after Epiphany**

Sermon: “The Power to Become: God’s Character”  
 Scripture Readings: Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Luke 6:27-38



**February 1**

Kathleen Hale  
 Linda Marshall  
 Karen Oney

**February 2**

Rick Brooks

**February 5**

Hunter Swift  
 Preston Swift

**February 8**

Bar Tuinstra

**February 12**

Rose Marie Stone

**February 16**

Gary O’Neal  
 JoAnn Parsley

**February 18**

Colin Boring

**February 19**

Gerald Jones

**February 23**

Hannah Moore

**February 25**

Joshuah Brown  
 Lucy Moore

**HIGHLIGHTS from SESSION MEETING**

At the December 17, 2024 Stated Meeting, the Session:

- Received the Treasurer’s Report for the first five months of the fiscal year.
- Voted to empower the Trustees to bind 2025 insurance coverage for property, general liability, and directors and officers.
- Voted to accept the Annual Financial Review.
- Voted to approve the Start-up Ministry Grant Application for submission to Grace Presbytery.
- Voted to authorize the following schedule for serving communion in 2025: the first Sunday of every month; Ash Wednesday; and Maundy Thursday.
- Voted to hire Bill Oney as the interim Church Facilities Manager.



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**OPERATING FUND**  
6 Months - Through 12/31/2024



Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are \$6,000 below budget, but still \$8,000 ahead of last year. YTD expenses are \$300 above budget, and \$11,500 above last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$5,800 cash negative YTD.

**STEWARDSHIP**



Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

**Overflowing Cups: Giving and Serving**

St. Mark members and friends participated in Commitment Sunday on January 19th. During the worship service, those in attendance dedicated their Faith Promises and renewed our covenant to support God’s work and our church.

If you were unable to attend the service or have not yet submitted your Faith Promise card, please consider how you can make a difference in our community, nation, and world through your annual 2025 Faith Promise contribution. Please bring your Faith Promise card to a future worship service and place it in the offering plate. You can also mail your card to the church office or drop it in the mail slot located on the Parlor door.



To view all events scheduled on the church calendar, visit the church website ([www.saintmarkchurch.org](http://www.saintmarkchurch.org)) or scan the QR Code above. Go to the “About” page and select “Calendar.”

**FEBRUARY 2**

Communion Sunday

**FEBRUARY 9**

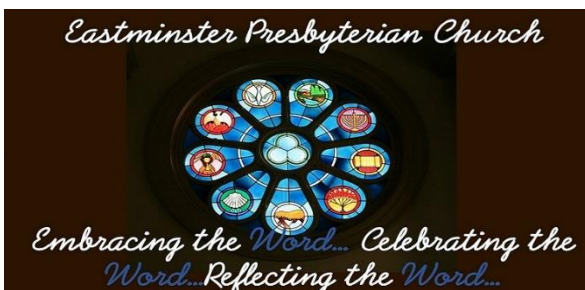
Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday  
Valentine’s Day Fellowship Time

**FEBRUARY 14**

Valentine’s Day

**FEBRUARY 15**

Mini Workday – 9:00 a.m.



**FITNESS BOOT CAMP – EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

You are invited to join our Fitness Boot Camp!

Noon classes every Friday, starting February 7th.

6550 Samuell Blvd, Dallas, TX 75228

Classes are Free – Space is limited, so sign-up early!

Learn more and sign up: [eastminsterdallas.org](http://eastminsterdallas.org)



**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – FEBRUARY 9TH**

The youth at St. Mark will be collecting non-perishable food as well as cash or check contributions for Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 9th. Checks should be made out to St. Mark with a notation that it's for Souper Bowl of Caring. All contributions will be given to White Rock Center of Hope.

**COMMUNITY GUITAR JAM**

The Community Guitar Jam, under the direction of Bill Oney, will resume at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 2nd, with plans to expand the community outreach program by inviting Bryan Adams students into the mix. The group is requesting guitar donations for students who do not own one but are interested in participating in the weekly jam sessions. If you have an old guitar – or any guitar – that you no longer use and may be collecting dust, please consider donating it to Saint Mark and the Community Guitar Jam.



**CHURCH PANTRY**

Our St. Mark Food Pantry needs the following supplies:

Fruit (containers with pop top)  
Vienna sausages  
Soup (pop tops)

Bottled water  
Snack bars (granola type)  
Cheese or peanut butter crackers

Toiletries:  
Deodorant, hand sanitizer,  
combs, and toothbrushes

Food items that are easy to open and or eat (since most do not have kitchens) are appreciated!



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Volunteers are needed to pass out items on Thursdays from 11:30 to 1:00 and Sundays from 12:00 to 1:00. Please contact Dorothy Moore or Shelly Manriquez to volunteer.



**REQUEST FROM WHITE ROCK CENTER OF HOPE**

White Rock Center of Hope needs towels, socks, underwear, and men's pants, slacks, and jeans. Please place your donated items in the marked containers in the Austin Hall hallway.

**CANS FOR COWS – THE WOW KIDS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

"Cans for Cows" provides an opportunity to purchase cows that will be sent to underprivileged third world countries.

Please save your empty aluminum cans, bring them to church, and place them in the marked trash cans located in the Narthex and outside the WOW classroom in Princeton.

The St. Mark WOW kids appreciate your support!





# St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas



## February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:30a Yoga Wellness</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>6:30p Session Meeting</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>12:00p East Dallas Presbyterian Cluster Meeting 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 3:00p Open Gate</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:45a Worship Service - Communion 11:30a Yoga Wellness</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6:00p Worship &amp; Music Com Mtg</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 3:00p Open Gate 6:00p Administration &amp; Personnel Com Mtg</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>12:00p Fitness Boot Camp at Eastminster Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 10:45a Valentine's Day Fellowship Time 11:00a Membership and Mission Com Mtg 11:30a Yoga Wellness <b>Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>5:00p Property Com Mtg.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>6:00p Stewardship &amp; Finance Com Mtg 6:00p Christian Education Com Mtg</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 3:00p Open Gate 7:00p Eastminster/St. Mark Covenant Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>12:00p Fitness Boot Camp at Eastminster Presbyterian Church Valentine's Day</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:00a Mini Workday</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:30a Yoga Wellness</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 3:00p Open Gate</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>12:00p Fitness Boot Camp at Eastminster Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:30a Yoga Wellness 1:00p Community Guitar Jam</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>6:30p Session Meeting</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 3:00p Open Gate</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>12:00p Fitness Boot Camp at Eastminster Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><b>1</b></p>