

ST. MARK CONNECTION

Volume 72, Issue 3
March 2025



Pastor's Corner

My friends,

In last month's article I shared with you that my friend and I share a blessing for each other at the end of our conversations: Enjoy God and Prosper! In that article I focused on what it means to enjoy God. Are you learning to enjoy God? Good. Because when we enjoy God and God's life, we are in our best position to prosper.

Usually when we think of prospering, we think of financial success, but the word includes more than money. The root of the Hebrew word translated as prosper means *to move forward*. We all want to move forward financially, but what about spiritually?

God wants us to prosper in our mission as followers of Jesus. He wants us to move forward in our faith, in our ability to love, in our proclamation of the Good News. Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these other things will be given to you." When we are seeking to move forward with God's plans, he prospers us in other ways that matter to us.

Jesus says not to worry about material things. Seek God's will and you will have what you need. You will prosper. I recognize how hard it is to focus on God when you have a stack of unpaid bills on your desk.

An elder at my first church had just been elected as treasurer. She said she went to the office to pay the bills and realized that the sum of the bills was greater than the banking account balance. At the same time, we were in the midst of a campaign to pay off the mortgage. It wasn't looking good from a material perspective. So, she began to pray.

Then a series of things happened. We got a call from a small Hispanic congregation that was looking to lease worship space. They signed a lease for \$1200/mo. A nearby karate studio lost their space and needed a gym to hold their classes. One of our member's grandsons was in one of the classes and she said to call the church. They signed a lease for \$1800/mo. Then our Sunday designated to finalize our debt campaign came. We had enough gifts to pay the whole thing off. A \$3000/mo debt payment was gone. Finally, we had our annual pledge campaign, and we received 25% more pledges than the previous year. All in all, a \$100,000 swing in the church's finances. God prospered the church.

But that wasn't the end. The next February a tornado blew down the old sanctuary. A curse?? No! A blessing. No one was harmed and we received enough money from the insurance claim to build a new and much better equipped and more beautiful sanctuary.

With the burden of the financial worries removed – thanks be to God – it opened up the vision of the congregation to seek the kingdom of God. We began a youth basketball program, a Sunday night supper for the neighborhood, a food pantry, and a Christmas and Easter meal delivery ministry. The congregation was bursting with prosperity! It all began with a desperate prayer from the treasurer.

When we learn to seek God, not only will we prosper, we will enjoy God all the more. Knowing God and fulfilling his will is greater than all the money in the world – it's true prosperity. God wants us to move forward into his world!

Enjoy God and Prosper, my brothers and sisters!

Pastor Paul

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

March 2 – Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

Celebration of The Lord’s Supper
 Sermon: “The Power to Become: God’s Glory”
 Scripture Readings: Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36

March 5 – Ash Wednesday

March 9 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Sermon: Dying to Live: The Death of Your Survival Instincts
 Scripture Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 4:1-11

March 16 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Sermon: Dying to Live: The Death of Your Ways
 Scripture Readings: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Luke 13:31-35

March 23 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Sermon: Dying to Live: The Death of Your Idols
 Scripture Readings: Isaiah 55:1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

March 30 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Sermon: Dying to Live: The Death of Your Point of View
 Scripture Readings: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



March 8
 Jacob Curry
 Shea Curry

March 10
 Kat Hutchings

March 15
 Cathy Schingle

March 16
 Phyllis Speck

March 25
 Sabrina King

March 30
 Bunty Taylor

INVITATION – MARDI GRAS SHROVE TUESDAY PARTY
Delicious Pancake Supper, Fellowship, Fun, Prizes, and More!

Event: Mardi Gras Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser
 Money collected will be used for future special musical events.

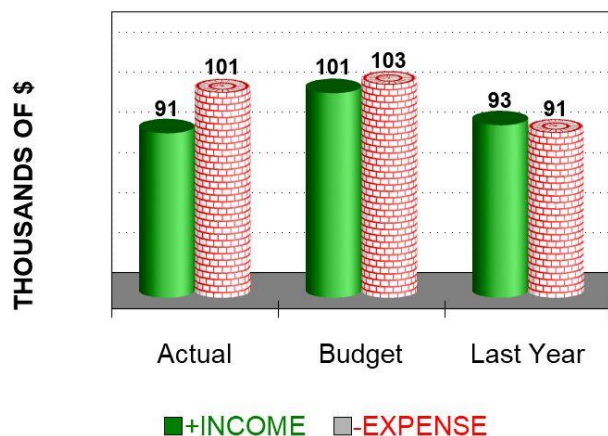
When: Tuesday, March 4th from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Where: Eastminster Presbyterian Church
 6550 Samuell Blvd., Dallas, TX 75228

Cost: \$3.00 for children 12 and under; \$5.00 for adults; \$20.00 maximum for family (regardless of size)
Payment will be collected at the door.

RSVP: Please notify Diane Llywelyn (Rooster7656@gmail.com) if you plan to attend, including the number of children and adults in your party, so Eastminster can ensure there are enough pancakes for everyone! **The deadline to RSVP is Sunday, March 2, 2025.**

TREASURER'S REPORT
OPERATING FUND
 7 Months - Through 1/31/2025



Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are \$9,300 below budget, but still \$4,700 ahead of last year. YTD expenses are \$1,200 below budget, and \$10,800 above last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$10,600 cash negative YTD.

STEWARDSHIP



Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

Overflowing Cups: Giving and Serving

The Annual Faith Promise Campaign is off to a great start – and it is continuing! If you haven't already turned in your Faith Promise card, the church is still accepting them. Please bring your Faith Promise card to church on Sunday 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. Cards are also available in the pew racks or you can request one by emailing the church office (office@saintmarkchurch.org) and one will be mailed to you.

Thank you for your commitment to the future of St. Mark Presbyterian Church!



To view all events scheduled on the church calendar, visit the church website (www.saintmarkchurch.org) or scan the QR Code above. Go to the "About" page and select "Calendar."

MARCH 2

Communion Sunday

MARCH 4

Mardi Gras Shrove Tuesday Party

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Eastminster Presbyterian Church

MARCH 5

Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. – Journey Community Church

MARCH 9

Daylight Saving Time Begins

MARCH 15

Mini Workday – 9:00 a.m.

MARCH 16

St. Patrick Day Fellowship Time

MARCH 30

Sandwich Sunday

Coming in April – Please mark your calendar! Eastminster is hosting a joint "Spring Fling" event on Saturday, April 5th, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Plans are in progress for both churches to participate, so be sure to watch for updates and more information!



On Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, our St. Mark Youth collected: \$77.00 and 37 packages/cans of food for White Rock Center of Hope.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!!!
THE ST. MARK YOUTH**

**TIME CHANGE REMINDER
Sunday, March 9th**

**Remember to set your clocks forward one hour
before going to bed on Saturday night, March 8th!**



SANDWICH SUNDAY – March 30th

March has five Sundays, which means we have a special opportunity to serve the clients of Austin Street Center. Sharing the bounty that our Lord has provided us with those who are less fortunate is one of the ways we give thanks for our many blessings. The Church provides chips and fruit, and we ask the congregation to provide sandwiches, snack cakes or cookies.

Signup sheets are in the Narthex.



Thank you for your continued dedication and support to St. Mark's Mission!

Open Gate

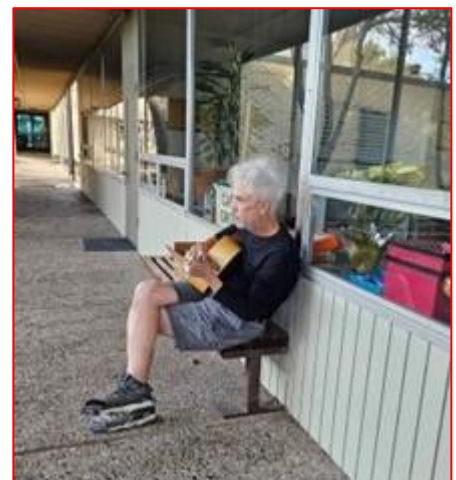


**After School
Youth Ministry Program
Thursdays from 3:00 – 5:30**

We need your help with Open Gate. Please consider donating any of the following items for the Open Gate students:

- Sodas
- Bottled water
- Gatorade
- Packaged snacks
- Hot dogs
- Hot dog buns
- Cash or checks, noting the donation is for the Open Gate Ministry Fund.

At Open Gate, we see about 120 students per week. We have a great ministry crew! Take a look at the pictures below from a February gathering. In addition to the students, you will see some of our volunteers: Bill Chadwick, Paul Alverson, Hilda Flores, and Bill Oney. You can witness Hilda holding the attention of a group of teenage boys; Bill passing out buns for hot dogs; Paul and Hilda encouraging the students; and Bill Oney providing musical entertainment. There are many other volunteers who contribute their time and provide snacks for the kids – all very much appreciated! The students were recently asked to finish the sentence written on a chalk board, “Jesus teaches me to _____.” We heard a lot of great answers: “love others no matter what,” “forgive everyone,” “be the best person I can be,” “have faith,” “be kind,” and “be righteous.” At 5:00 o’clock we circled up for prayer. Please pray for those who volunteer and for the young people who are invited to pray with us. Thank you for all your prayers and support!



ST. MARK COMMUNITY UNPLUGGED JAM CLUB

The newly organized Unplugged Jam Club, under the direction of Bill Oney, is under way! The group is open to anyone and is held the first Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in Princeton Hall (last classroom on the right). The group hopes 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 monthly 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 Unplugged Jam Club. For more information, please contact Bill Oney.



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!



REQUEST FROM WHITE ROCK CENTER OF HOPE

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

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

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



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to prepare bags and/or assist in passing out items during the allotted days and times: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 to 1:00 and Sundays from 12:00 to 1:00. Please contact Shelly Manriquez to volunteer.



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

March 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>23</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:30a Yoga Wellness</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30p Session Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 3:00p Open Gate</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12:00p Fitness Boot Camp at Eastminster Presbyterian Church</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:00a Grace Presbytery Meeting - First Presbyterian Church, Longview</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service - Communion 11:30a Yoga Wellness 1:00p Unplugged Jam Club</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00p Worship & Music Com Mtg</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00p Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Eastminster Presbyterian Church</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Ash Wednesday - Journey Community Church 7:45p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 3:00p Open Gate 6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:00a Membership and Mission Com Mtg 11:30a Yoga Wellness Daylight Saving Time Begins</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:00p Property Com Mtg.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com Mtg 6:00p Christian Education Com Mtg</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Administration & Personnel Com Mtg</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00a Mini Workday</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:30a Yoga Wellness</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>3:00p Open Gate</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:30a Yoga Wellness</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30p Session Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 3:00p Open Gate</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:30a Yoga Wellness 4:30p Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 3:00p Open Gate 6:00p Administration & Personnel Com Mtg</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>