

# ST. MARK CONNECTION

Volume 72, Issue 5  
May 2025



## Pastor's Corner

Dear Members and Friends,

One of the big reasons many Christians are reluctant to do evangelism is because the evangelism they have witnessed or experienced has felt inauthentic. It seems more

like insurance sales. Everyone needs insurance but nobody wants to talk to an insurance salesperson. And we don't want to be that guy that nobody wants to talk to. They have seen Christian groups asking questions like "Do you know where you will go when you die? Heaven or hell"? Or the good old classic, "Have you been saved"? And then they share a carefully honed sales pitch about how if you say a prayer today repenting of your sins and accept Jesus into your heart, you won't go to hell. Just sign on the dotted line. It doesn't take into account the person's needs. It tells more than it listens.

I suspect many of you are Presbyterian because you don't want to be involved in things like that. But there are other ways to share the Good News about Jesus Christ. That's what evangelism is – the sharing of good news.

We share good news all the time. Did you hear?? The Rangers won the World Series!! There's a new restaurant that opened nearby and it's awesome! You have to try it! I just got tickets to the Dallas Symphony (assuming they love the symphony) and I want you to come with me.

It is good news that God no longer holds our sin against us. Jesus' death on the cross is God's way of saying "You are forgiven." It's good news that when we die, we will go to heaven. We just have to accept the free gift by believing it. It's good news that God can change our lives. You might be surprised how many people there are who are desperate for a better life. They are trapped in addiction or anger or guilt and are looking for a way out. It's good news that there are people in the world who will love you no matter what and actually want you in their life. It's good news that you don't have to go through your struggles alone. It's good news to have a purpose on this earth that meets the needs of the world. It's good news that we can be healed emotionally, spiritually, and even physically (it happens!).

In my view, evangelism always meets people at their point of need. We pay attention and listen to people wherever we are. When they share a need we show we genuinely care. If there is a way we can help with their need we help. If there is no obvious solution, we pray for them and ask God to help. We tell them that we will be with them through their struggle even if nothing can be done about it. Evangelism happens through authentic relationships.

We do evangelism just by being the people that Christ is making us to be. But let us not keep Christ a secret. Share how Jesus has changed your life. Share scriptures that apply to people's current struggles. That means you must learn at least a handful of scriptures. The Spirit will cue them up in your mind when he wants you to speak them. Sometimes it's just saying, "Jesus said he will be with you always and I will be with you, too."

I don't know if you have been paying attention, but the world you live in is in desperate need of good news. Don't let the bad news win. Share the good news of Jesus, which is good news for all people, not just a select few. I just ask you to open yourself up to people and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you.

Pastor Paul

## May Worship Services

### Sermon Series: Called to Action

#### May 4th – Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings: John 21:1-19; Acts 9:1-6

Sermon: Feed My Sheep

#### May 11th – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings: John 10:22-30; Acts 9:36-43

Sermon: Hear My Voice

#### May 18th – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings: John 13:31-35; Acts 11:1-18

Sermon: Wash One Another's Feet

#### May 25th – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings: John 14:23-29; Acts 16:9-15

Sermon: Keep My Word



### Easter Offering Update

We are grateful for the generous contributions made towards our Easter Offering. We have come very close to our \$4,000 goal with a total of \$3,523 donated so far. If you haven't had a chance to contribute this Easter season, the deadline to give is May 4th.

This year, St. Mark will be contributing half of our Easter Offering to the One Great Hour of Sharing which supports many of the works of the Presbyterian Church, a fourth to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and a fourth to support Sandwich Sunday expenses.

Thank you for your generous support!



It is with heartfelt sorrow that we share the passing of longtime and devoted St. Mark member, Ruth McGowan, who peacefully departed on April 17, 2025. A Celebration of Life was held in her honor at 10:30 a.m. on April 25th at Williams Funeral Home, with Rev. Burns officiating the service. Following the service, Ruth was laid to rest beside her beloved husband, Don, reunited in eternal peace. We ask that you keep Ruth's family, along with all those who cherished her, in your thoughts and prayers during this time.



To all mothers, we offer our deepest thanks for your unconditional love, wise guidance, and unwavering support. We honor your strength, patience, and devotion to your families, recognizing the incredible role you play in shaping lives with love and faith. May God richly bless you this year and in the years to come.

### Happy Mother's Day!

Proverbs 31:25-26 – "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue."



- May 2** Mike Parsley
- May 10** Tricia Johnson
- May 12** Drew Taylor
- May 14** Harry Roberts
- May 22** Travis Moore
- May 25** George Schingle

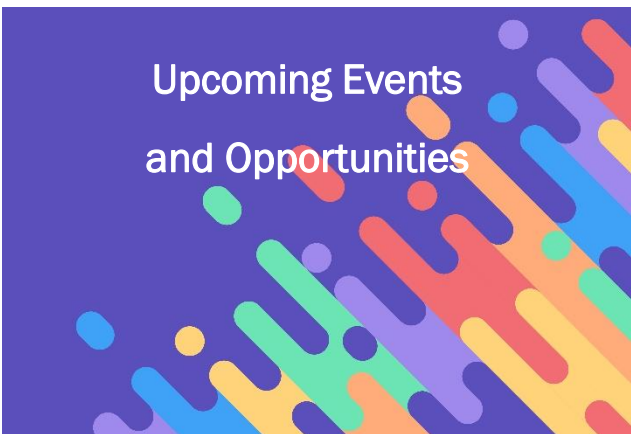
**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**OPERATING FUND**

9 Months - Through 3/31/2025



Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are \$11,700 below budget, but \$3,000 ahead of last year. YTD expenses are on budget, and \$13,200 above last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$16,200 cash negative YTD.



To stay informed about all upcoming events, please refer to the May Calendar included in the newsletter. You can also visit the church website at [www.saintmarkchurch.org](http://www.saintmarkchurch.org) or simply scan the QR Code below. Navigate to the 'About' page and select 'Calendar' to view the full schedule.



- MAY 3**  
Covenant Spring Fling  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Eastminster
- MAY 4**  
Communion Sunday
- MAY 11**  
Mother's Day

- MAY 17**  
9:00 a.m. – Mini Workday at Church
- MAY 17**  
Shred & Recycle Event  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
at Lake Highlands Presbyterian Church
- May 26**  
Memorial Day – Church Office Closed

## REFLECTIONS ON HOLY WEEK



The special events and series of services throughout Holy Week were not only well organized but also deeply moving and spiritually enriching.

We began the week by observing Palm Sunday during our April 13th worship service. The service began with a Processional of the Palms (beginning in the courtyard) and included special music by our sanctuary and handbell choirs.

On Maundy Thursday, St. Mark hosted a Soup Supper prior to the worship service. This was a Covenant event that also included Journey Community Church and El Divino Salvador Presbyterian Church. A combined St. Mark and Eastminster choir, along with our handbell choir, provided beautiful music during the service. The Lord's Supper was served in the Prayer Garden, followed by a moment of silent reflection, after which the congregation followed the pastors quietly and solemnly and exited the church.

On Good Friday, we participated in a Covenant service at Eastminster. This service, "The Stations of the Cross," also included special music provided by a combined St. Mark and Eastminster choir.

Easter Sunday was a joyous celebration, beginning with a beautiful worship service in the sanctuary. The altar, adorned with vibrant, colorful flowers, added an extra touch of beauty to the occasion. Families and visitors gathered to honor the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, filling the space with faith and fellowship.

The handbell choir and sanctuary choir enriched the service with special music, while thoughtful liturgy created a peaceful atmosphere for contemplation. Following worship, we joined together for a delightful Easter Brunch, graciously hosted by the Fellowship Committee, where laughter and connection continued the spirit of the day.

The beauty of the flowers, musical performances by the handbells and sanctuary choirs, and Pastor Paul's inspiring sermons throughout the week brought the passion and resurrection narrative to life, providing comfort and hope to all who attended. It was a profound experience that reminded us of the power of faith and the enduring message of love and redemption.

As we reflect on the solemnity and significance of Holy Week, we give our sincere thanks to everyone involved in the planning and execution of the Holy Week events. Your dedication and collective efforts made a lasting impact on our community and its spiritual journey.



## EASTER GIFT BAGS

The Easter gift bags for our homebound members were a wonderful success! Our amazing volunteers made and delivered 14 gift bags.



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed gift items, helped decorate the bags, and delivered them to our special St. Mark members. A special thanks to the WOW kids for the adorable stick bunnies!

## JOURNEY NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

Bob, Sabrina, Gary, Ann, Willetta, and Sheila did an excellent job representing St. Mark at the booth during the Block Party hosted by Journey Community Church on April 11th. Their participation in the event is greatly appreciated! They welcomed neighborhood attendees, distributed informational materials, and organized a fun project for the children. The event was a success and well attended!



## SANDWICH SUNDAY – JUNE 29th A Special Opportunity to Serve

June has five Sundays this year, giving us a wonderful chance to support the clients of Austin Street Center. As we share the bounty our Lord has provided, we express gratitude for our many blessings by helping those in need. The Church will provide chips and fruit, and we invite the congregation to contribute sandwiches, snack cakes, or cookies. Signup sheets will be available in the Narthex.

Thank you for joining us in this meaningful act of service!



**ST. MARK FOOD 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 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 Shelly Manriquez at (214) 908-4015 to volunteer.**



**REQUEST FROM WHITE ROCK CENTER OF HOPE**

White Rock Center of Hope needs men’s pants, slacks, jeans, and gently used or new shoes. Please place your donated items in the marked containers in the Austin Hall hallway.

**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.



“Garden Rocks”

The WOW kids are collecting and decorating “Garden Rocks” to be placed in the Prayer Garden. If you come across rocks approximately 3” x 3” or larger, please consider contributing them to the church by placing them in the designated container in the Narthex, next to the 'Cans for Cows' container.



**The St. Mark WOW kids appreciate your support!**



# St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas

## May 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:00a Church Food Pantry 11:30a Yoga Wellness 1:00p Unplugged Jam Club</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>11:30a Church Food Pantry</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>6:00p Spring Concert and Reception at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church - "Six String Paintings" 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 11:30a Church Food Pantry 3:00p Open Gate 6:00p Spring Concert and Reception at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church - "Oriental Sound Poetry"</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>12:00p Fitness Boot Camp at Eastminster Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>10:00a Covenant Spring Fling at Eastminster Presbyterian Church</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9:45a Worship Service - Communion 11:00a Church Food Pantry 11:30a Yoga Wellness</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>6:00p Worship &amp; Music Com Mtg</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>11:30a Church Food Pantry 6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>11:30a Church Food Pantry 3:00p Open Gate 6:00p Administration &amp; Personnel Com Mtg</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>12:00p Fitness Boot Camp at Eastminster Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:00a Membership and Mission Com Mtg 11:00a Church Food Pantry 11:30a Yoga Wellness <b>Mother's Day</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>5:00p Property Com Mtg.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>11:30a Church Food Pantry 6:00p Stewardship &amp; Finance Com Mtg 6:00p Christian Education Com Mtg</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 11:30a Church Food Pantry 3:00p Open Gate</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>12:00p Fitness Boot Camp at Eastminster Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>8:00a Shred and Recycle Event - Lake Highlands Presbyterian Church 9:00a Mini Workday</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:00a Church Food Pantry 11:30a Yoga Wellness</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>11:30a Church Food Pantry</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 11:30a Church Food Pantry 3:00p Open Gate</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>12:00p Fitness Boot Camp at Eastminster Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9:45a Worship Service 11:00a Church Food Pantry 11:30a Yoga Wellness 1:00p Unplugged Jam Club</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>12:00p Hannah Moore Graduation Party - Courtyard, WOW Classroom and WOW Game Room <b>Memorial Day - Church Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>11:30a Church Food Pantry 6:30p Session Meeting</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 6:00p Way Out Wednesday 7:00p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>10:30a Bible Study 11:30a Church Food Pantry</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>12:00p Fitness Boot Camp at Eastminster Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>9:00a Grace Presbytery Meeting - Grace First Presbyterian Church, Weatherford, TX</p>