



ST MARK

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



May 19th – Day of Pentecost
Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21

Our mission is to glorify God and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, provide opportunities for all people to know, love and follow Jesus Christ.

The Happenings



Sunday, May 19, is Pentecost—Please wear red as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit

Financial Review: As of March 30, 2024

Households Pledging YTD	92	Total Households YTD:	180
Budgeted total income YTD:	\$185,946	Actual total income YTD:	\$277,394
Budgeted expenses YTD:	\$184,470	Actual Expenses YTD:	\$144,744

We are off to a good start the first quarter of 2024 with actual income exceeding budget by \$91,448 and actual expenses lower than the budgeted amount of \$39,726. Many thanks to all of you who made the pledge commitments you have and continue to honor them!



REFLECTIONS: OSTRICHES AND NO SEE UMS

Ostriches and no see ums. You'd be forgiven if you thought that was an odd pairing. How can the flightless and largest bird on earth be compared to the pesky and miniscule insect that bite us during June and July? Yet, for this discussion, let's see if there's a connection albeit an obvious stretch on my part.

The ostriches' practice of covering their eggs in shallow sand and turning them from time to time with their beaks led early observers to believe they were hiding their eyes to so that they could avoid seeing problems around them. This mythical belief gave rise to the expression "burying your head in the sand". In other words, if you ignore or can't see a problem, it doesn't exist.

While the ostrich supposedly chooses not to see a problem, no see ums bring discomfort regardless of whether our eyes are open or not. No see ums are tiny gnats prevalent in Texas and the southern regions of our country. As the name implies. No se ums are largely unnoticed until you experience their itchy and painful bites that leave red dots and swelling on exposed areas of your body.

What's right in front of you that you don't, see? Often, we don't see what we find unpleasant or distressing: discrimination, poverty, spousal/child maltreatment, or someone experiencing various hardships. Perhaps we're in too much of a hurry and are preoccupied with our own "stuff". Maybe we feel too uncomfortable and look away. Or we turn a "blind eye" to someone else's troubles because we simply don't care enough (i.e. lack empathy) unless it directly affects us.

I wish to be more like a friend I once knew. Despite having life-ending lung cancer, she was always more concerned about what was going on in other people's lives. We'd be wise to realize that there's a lot going on around us when we really open our eyes and focus. Our world's a better and more caring place when our heads aren't buried in the sand, and we do see um.

"The Lord has given us eyes to see and ears to listen with" (Proverbs 20:12, GNT).

"they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" (Mark 4:12, NIV).

Offered by Larry Warren





Dear Congregation, Staff, and Friends,
The Strategic Visioning and Long-Range Planning Committee wants to provide you with a timely update!

The Committee continued its work to evaluate and consolidate your great feedback from last year's Questionnaires and Input Sessions. We met with the Elders at their January Retreat to provide and discuss the Goals for the Session to Consider.

We continued to fine-tune the Goals and develop additional documents. We met again with the Session on March 18th and provided them with a

Vision & Values Statement along with **Ten Goals** which they adopted.

The **Ten Goals** were assigned to various Church Ministries and those Elders agreed to provide an **Action Plan** for each Goal by April 30th. The Strategic Planning Committee met last week, and will meet again this week, to review the ten **Action Plans** which will become part of the Final Report.

SAVE THE DATE

We still have more work to do; however, we are excited about the interim results and want to share with you the **Vision, Values, and Ten Goals** at a **Town Hall Meeting** after Church on **Sunday, June 2nd**. A light snack will be provided for you to enjoy as you learn more about the strategic plans for St. Mark. We want to hear your comments and suggestions before we prepare the Final Report.

You are always welcome to contact any of the Committee members: Dave Thomas, Steve Crowell, Calleen Friedel, Crystal McElhenney, or Pastor Ann Marie.

Thank you and many Blessings,

Dave Thomas, Chairperson

(210) 213-3509 or davertmas@gmail.com



Dear Members of the Congregation,

The [Generation-to-Generation \(G2G\) Committee](#) is honored to share information about an important opportunity for you to leave a lasting legacy with St. Mark. Our special fund, *The Generation-to-Generation Fund, Leaving a Legacy* provides financially for the long-term future of St. Mark Presbyterian Church. On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, 2024 we will celebrate the birthday of the church and the Generation-to-Generation Fund.

In 1997 the Session created the *Bequest and Planned Giving Ministry* to receive personal gifts to the Church through planned giving and administered by the Session through the Finance Ministry. These gifts and donations are important to our church as they create a stable source of revenue for special projects and activities that exceed our annual budget. Your gifts directly support the mission and programs of the church.

In 2013 the Session renamed the fund *The Generation-to-Generation Fund (G2G)*, a subcommittee of the Finance Ministry. The G2G Fund is currently valued at \$541,331 with \$100,000 as Restricted and the balance as Unrestricted. As good stewards of these gifts, the church has invested these funds with The Texas Presbyterian Foundation, a nonprofit, faith-based agency.

The Generation-to-Generation Fund multiplies the blessings of planned gifts and bequests by current generations to make a difference for future generations. Like the widow's might in the gospels there is no gift that is too small to make a difference for future generations.

The ushers will have the new *Generation-to-Generation Fund – Leaving a Legacy* Brochure for you on Pentecost Sunday. We invite you to meet with members of the G2G Committee after the Service in the Parlor to ask questions and learn more about this program.

Thank you,
Dave Thomas, G2G Chairperson
(210) 213-3509 or davertmas@gmail.com



Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center Baby Bottle Boomerang

St. Mark Outreach will be supporting the Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraising event to benefit the Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center (HCPCC). The HCPCC is a faith centered local organization committed to offering completely free and confidential services to everyone involved with a pregnancy. This fundraiser is a community-wide effort to support the mission of the HCPCC.

On Mother's Day (May 12) we will be passing out Baby Bottles to the congregation to take home and fill with coins, bills, or checks and return to St. Mark by Sunday, May 26. All checks are to be made out directly to the HCPCC. A little spare change can go a long way to supporting a person in need.

Please see Marilyn Bonaguro, or Chris Snyder for more details and thank you for your generous support for this important cause.



Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center

BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

A little change changes lives.

Mother's Day - Sunday May 26

Take a bottle. → Fill with change, cash, and checks. → Return bottle.



ST MARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We're hiring

NURSERY WORKER NEEDED

The St. Mark nursery staff is in need of additional assistance on
Sunday mornings and occasional weekdays/nights.

Paid training and flexible shifts.

\$11-\$14/hr.

Contact Marilyn Bonaguro, St. Mark Nursery Coordin
at (210)857-3157



208 W. Bandera Rd. Boerne, TX 78006
www.StMarkTx.org



BACK TO SCHOOL NEW CLOTHING DRIVE

Thanks to YOU, at-risk students will start the school year with confidence and self-esteem.

Suggested New Items:

- 3 new bottoms (denim or pants, or shorts)
- 2 tops
- 1 Hoodie or Sweater
- 1 Package Socks
- 1 Package Underwear
- 1 Pair Athletic Shoes
- Personalized Note of Love



Return all items by: Sunday, June 23 (12 noon)

Drop Off Location: Hospitality Center / Lynn Bellow

For additional information: Lynn Bellow bellowmom@yahoo.com

Average cost per child is \$125.

Donations are welcome.



St. Mark Family:

Beginning on June 2nd we will partner with Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries to help 10 students who need school clothing for the 2024/25 school year. The students may be sponsored by you, or with your Small Group or with your Sunday School Class.

To learn the Name, Age, Gender & Clothing size of the student please contact Lynn Bellow bellowmom@yahoo.com or sign up at the Outreach table on June 2nd. Please bring items by Sunday, June 23, 2024, to the Hospitality Center or church office.

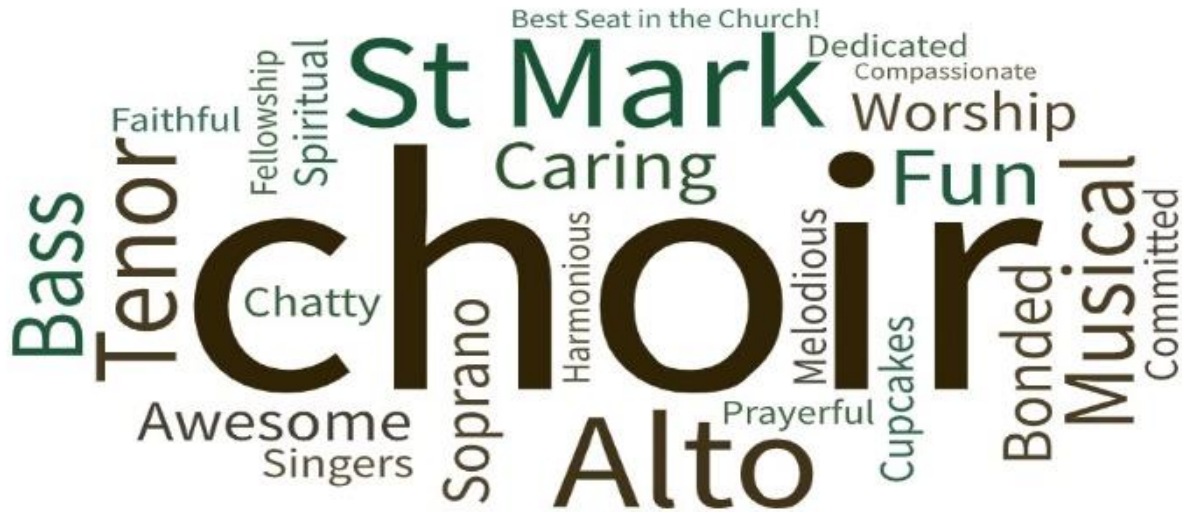
For credit card/bank donation only: Scan the QR code above or follow the link below:
<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E188857&id=140>



Class of 2024 graduates!

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT FOR ALL THOSE GRADUATING. WE WILL HAVE BASKETS AVAILABLE FOR CARDS AND GIFTS ON MAY 26. YOU CAN DROP OFF ITEMS IN THE OFFICE BEFORE THEN.

The graduates will be honored on May 26 with a blessing and reception following worship.



Have you ever thought about joining the choir?
This summer would be a great time to try us out!
There are many reasons to join –

- Choir is an instant family full of wonderful people
- It's a great way to make a joyful noise
- You may meet your new best friend(s)
- You have a reserved seat for the service every time
- No auditions
- The view from the choir loft is priceless
- It's an opportunity to serve the Lord while having fun
- No rehearsals in July
- And did we mention cupcakes?

This summer the choir will be singing EASY anthems to support Ann Marie's new sermon series *Tell Me a Story*. The anthems are children's songs including: *Arky, Arky*; *The Perfect Ten*; *Zachaeus Was a Greedy Little Man* and more.

Try us out on Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the Choir Room.

Questions? Talk to any choir member or contact Mary Beth Thomas at 210-415-3403
Email mbthomas46@gmail.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
ACCEPTING DONATIONS MAY 1- MAY 30



ADVENTURES *in* GOD'S WORD



VBS 2024

Supplies Donations

We are super excited to welcome over 130 students to Vacation Bible School June 10-14!

We will be accepting donation for supplies **May 1-May 30**

You can make a monetary donation to help cover the costs or:

- Sign-up in the hallway to donate items
- Take magnifying glass as your reminder
- Drop off donations by May 30

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29

contact: Angela Grover, ChristianEd@stamarktx.org

CROP HUNGER WALK: SAVE THE DATE

Would you like to be part of the solution to ease hunger in Boerne & beyond? Your next opportunity to create or join a team for the 4th annual Boerne CROP Hunger Walk supporting Hill Country Family Services and Church World Services is being planned for November 9th in the Family Life Center. Invite your neighbors & small groups at church to create their own team or join the St. Mark umbrella team under captain Calleen Friedel. For more information see the QR code or contact Lynn Bellow bellowmom@yahoo.com & Calleen Friedel calleen_friedel@hotmail.com



The poster features a yellow background with a dark blue oval in the center. At the top left, the word "Boerne" is written in a colorful, cursive font. Below it, "CROP HUNGER WALK" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. To the right of "WALK" is a blue footprint graphic. Underneath, "ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME" is written in smaller blue capital letters. Below this, a line of orange text reads: "Join or Create a Team for this Community-Wide ONE MILE WALK with Activities, Prizes, Refreshments and FUN!". The dark blue oval contains the event details in white text: "Saturday, November 9th", "9:00 am Gathering", "Starting at St Mark Family Life Center", and "208 W Bandera Rd, Boerne". To the left of the text is an illustration of a pair of orange sneakers with white laces and white soles. To the right of the sneakers is a QR code with the text "SCAN ME" below it. At the bottom of the poster are three logos: "ST MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" with a green leaf icon, "HCFS Hill Country Family Services" with a red heart icon, and "BOERNE RADIO 103.9FM / AM1500" with a green microphone icon.

Boerne
CROP HUNGER WALK
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

Join or Create a Team for this Community-Wide **ONE MILE WALK** with Activities, Prizes, Refreshments and **FUN!**

Saturday, November 9th
9:00 am Gathering
Starting at St Mark Family Life Center
208 W Bandera Rd, Boerne

SCAN ME

ST MARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HCFS
Hill Country Family Services

BOERNE RADIO
103.9FM / AM1500

ELC NEWS:

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!

SUMMER @ ST. MARK

Why You'll Love it:

- ✓ A structured routine.
- ✓ Wide range of activities that challenge the whole-child.
- ✓ Hands-on learning and unplugged from technology.
- ✓ Making memories!

8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.
Dates:
Week 1: June 17-21
Week 2: June 24-28
Week 3: July 8-12
Week 4: July 15-19
Ages:
3-entering Kindergarten
Must be fully potty trained!

Week 1

Watermelon Investigation

Week 2

All About Bubbles

Week 3

Robotics

Week 4

Summer Olympics

Choose the week(s) that work for you!
Balance due one month prior to camp week.

Weekly Cost \$220
\$50 Deposit per week

For more information:
Call: 830-249-3813
Email: elcstmark@gmail.com

Spot will not be held until the deposit fee is paid in full!!

The ELC is having its first ever summer camp program for children ages 3-entering kindergarten. Registration is open to ELC and St. Mark families. Please contact the ELC for additional information or questions. 830-249-3813

ELC News:

Another school year is coming to a close! All are welcome to join us at the ELC's Year End Program to celebrate the children, and another year filled with love and learning. The Year End Program is Wednesday, May 22nd at 9:00am in the Sanctuary. We hope to see you there!



ALL- CHURCH RETREAT 2024
OCTOBER 11 - 13

ALL- CHURCH
Retreat
2024



October 11-13
at Mo Ranch, Hunt, TX

Early bird registration
May 1-June 30, 2024

Rooms fill up fast! Don't miss
this wonderful weekend with
your church family in this
beautiful space.



Register online www.stmarkttx.org



"Why Presbyterians Are Like That"
Led by Rev. Dr. John Williams of Austin College

ST. MARK LEADERSHIP 2024

ELDERS	
Adult Christian Education	Dan Garber
Children and Youth Christian Education	Kathleen Ramey
Communication	Karen Ragsdale
Congregational Life	Christine Snyder, Gina Klein
Finance/Stewardship	Wally Doppenberg
Outreach	Lynn Bellow, Woody Paul
Personnel	Neal Patton
Property	Rick Eckersley
Strategic Planning	Dave Thomas
Worship	Andy Phillips, Rylynn Fenton
Clerk of Session	Julie McCarty
Treasurer	Bill Manzini
ELC Liaison	Wally Doppenberg
Deacon Liaison	Lynn Bellow
DEACONS	
Card and Flowers	Monica Phillips - Clerk
Driver Assistance	Wanda Pounders - Moderator
Meal Train and Prayer Chain Liaison	Sarah Hinman
Member Follow up	Christina Meeker
Member Care	Crystal McElhenney
Member Care and In-Home Communion	Ruben Trono
Pastoral Support	Pat Anderson
Receptions	Nona Annett, Paula Witt
Visitors Follow Up	Melanie Doppenberg
TRUSTEES	
Member	Gina Klein
Chair	Andy Phillips
Secretary	Dave Thomas



Weekly Calendar **May 19 – May 25**

Sunday, May 19th

Explorer’s Class – Rick Eckersley	9:00 AM	FLC # 107/108
Nursery Care (Birth to pre-kinder)	9:15 AM	FLC # 106
Children’s Sunday School – Angela Grover	9:15 AM	FLC # 104
Youth High Sunday School – Theresa Gateley	9:15 AM	FLC # 103
Disciple Class – Dan Garber	9:15 AM	FLC # 109
Engaging God’s Word – Rob West	9:15 AM	FLC # 101
St. Mark Worship Service in Person	10:30 AM	Sanctuary
https://www.youtube.com/@stmarkpresbyterianchurchbo7319/streams		Online
Congregational Life Meeting – Gina Klein	11:30 AM	FLC #109
Generation 2 Generation – Dave Thomas	11:30 AM	Parlor

Monday, May 20th

St. Mark/ELC Meeting – Woody Paul	12:30 PM	FLC #107/108
Session Meeting	6:30 PM	FLC #107/108

Tuesday, May 21st

Staff Meeting	12:00 PM	Parlor
Personnel Meeting – Neal Patton	1:00PM	FLC # 107/108
Communication Meeting – Karen Ragsdale	2:30 PM	FLC #109
Pickleball – Carol Trono	6:00 PM	FLC # 107/108
Worship Team Rehearsal – Ron Thompson	6:30 PM	Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 22^h

Bible Study – Rev. Ann Marie Swanson	10:30 AM	FLC # 107/108
Compassion in Action – Betty Parr	12:00PM	FLC #107/108
Centering Prayer – Lynn Bellow	5:00 PM	ZOOM
Youth Meeting – Angela Grover	6:00 PM	FLC
Midweek Men’s Group – Rob Klein	6:30 PM	Parlor
Choir Rehearsal – Mary Beth Thomas	6:30 PM	Choir Room

Thursday, May 23rd

Women of the Word – Angela Grover	9:00 AM	FLC # 107/108
Pickleball – Paul Cashion	11:00 AM	FLC

Friday, May 24th

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

FLC – Family Life Center