



SAINT MARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1109 WEST HENDERSON STREET
CLEBURNE, TX 76033-8794
(817) 641-3311



September 1, 2021

St. Mark Messenger

By Grace Transformed...

Back in May, I saw a TV commercial trying to sell masks saying that they are here to stay, so we should order some. I kind of scoffed, thinking that things were back to normal. I had no plans to buy any more masks. But that was before the Delta variant had reared its ugly head and returned our hospital system to its overwhelmed status. In July, I got a phone call from the hospital here in Cleburne where I had been a volunteer chaplain, a program which was suspended when the pandemic began. I had been expecting them to tell me that we could return to our duties, but instead, they canceled the program altogether. I don't think they would have canceled it if they thought we would be out of this in the near future. I ended up buying a box of 100 disposable masks. It looks like the times have changed for us for longer than we anticipated.

I was not surprised when the Bishop put out a video encouraging us to consider wearing masks in the sanctuary again. That is why I started wearing mine a couple of weeks ago. Today I read a post from Emily Smith, the Friendly Neighbor Epidemiologist, an epidemiologist at Baylor University and the wife of a pastor in Waco. Here is a part of what she wrote:

****This post is written to my beloved town of Waco, Texas. But I would say the same things to churches/ Christians in areas with similar HIGH case rates, overwhelmed hospitals, and increased numbers of deaths all across the country - including my hometown area of Lea County, NM.****

Waco churches, when is enough enough? It is unfaithful, as Christians, at this point to not wear a mask in a church service with numbers like this (go here for more on that: <https://emilysmith.substack.com/p/delta-and-church>).

For a year now, loving your neighbors has meant requiring masks in your sanctuaries at all times. But it is more evident now with numbers like these. This is my personal plea to you. Pastors, we need you to lead.

Letting masking be a personal choice for your congregants misses the point of the Cross that, 2000 years ago, stripped our personal choices and gave us Jesus, a whole new way to define who our "neighbor" is, and a whole new way to define freedom - one that lives out and reflects what Jesus showed us in Philippians 2:5-11 - with humility, considering others better than ourselves, being a servant. Not a usurped "freedom" that was individual. But a true freedom that reflects holiness and Who lives in us.

Her understanding of the cross is one that I have come to have over the last few years. We may be justified by Christ's death on the cross, but we are sanctified by our taking up our cross and following Christ. To paraphrase Galatians 2:20: We are crucified with Christ, therefore we no longer live, Jesus Christ now lives in us. Jesus is Lord. May we live like we truly believe it.

While I have not called upon the church council to consider requiring masks again, I do encourage all of us to wear them during worship on Sunday mornings. I hate wearing them as much as anyone, but I love all of you more than I hate wearing them.

In Christ's love,

Andy

.....a church being reborn by the grace of God

PUMPKIN PATCH

beginning September 25

10:30 - 6:30 Monday - Saturday

11:30 - 6:00 Sunday



Our Staff

Dr. Andy Tyler, Senior Pastor
pastor@stmarkcleburne.com

Becky King, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Kathryn Stallings, Choir Director

2021 Financial Information

August:	Income	\$ 13,749.00
	Expenses	\$ 19,709.95
Year to Date:	Income	\$147,801.06
	Expenses	\$168,570.60

Web Site

www.stmarkcleburne.com
Church Office Email address:
stmarkcleburne@sbcglobal.net

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

Our Worship on Wednesday (WOW) will resume on Wednesday, September 8 from 5:30-6:30. Children ages 4 years old-5th grade are welcome to attend. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 for a light meal. Come experience God through music with Ms. Katie and scripture lesson activities.

The Middle School Youth will also gather for the meal at 5:30 then will be attending a confirmation curriculum class led by Pastor Andy.

There will be a sign up sheet to chaperones and bring meals. Thank you in advance for supporting this important ministry with your time and your prayers.

With love and appreciation,
Becky King
817-713-9367



Please join us in welcoming Mike and Cindy Moore to the Saint Mark family. The Moores joined by transfer of membership on July 25.



Can it really be September already? The summer has gone quickly, and now we're getting ready for Fall—and PUMPKINS! Believe it or not, PUMPKINS arrive at St. Mark on Saturday, September 25, at 10 am. We are looking forward to inviting our members and customers to our front lawn to see and purchase PUMPKINS. With the funds earned from the Pumpkin Patch, we are able to provide snack sacks for a local elementary school, and so many more projects.

Be watching for a way you can help with this project. We'll need folks who can help set up the Patch, the barn, and the tent so we can be ready for the pumpkin arrival. Are you thinking that you might not be able to help with the physical tasks? We need people who will pray for our workers, those who help us unload, and our visitors who come to the Pumpkin Patch.

Sign up sheets will be available on Sunday, September 12 and 19th after the worship service. Workers typically sign up for 2 hour blocks of time. Hours of operation are 10:30-6:30 Monday-Saturday and 11:30-6:30 on Sunday. Join your friends (and meet new ones) while watching the world go by- and selling pumpkins!!

Questions? Please call Shelly Samuels at 817.517.3772.

SPRING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for Spring Scholarships are due by October 1. Scholarships are available for St. Mark members and one time \$500 scholarships are available to grandchildren of members. Please contact Brenda in the church office for applications.



Our deepest sympathy is extended to family of Betty Recer. Betty passed away on August 8. Services were held at St. Mark on August 15. Clifford and Betty had been members of St. Mark since 1961. Our prayers are with the family in the days ahead.



SAINT MARK MINISTRIES

*In memory of **Gary Workman** by Bill & Sandra Arnold*

BREADBASKET

*In memory of **Billye Moore** by Lou Fitzgerald*

*In honor of **Cathy Campbell** by Lou Fitzgerald*

*In honor of the **United Methodist Women** by Pam Johnson*

SAINT MARK BUILDING FUND

*In memory of **Betty Recer** by Chris & Becky Snider, Martha Harris, John & Brenda Patrick, Milton & Laura Harris, Brian & Karen Ellen Anderson, Martha Darwin & James Creel, Dan & Jan Taylor, Lowell Smith, Dorothy & Jimmie Venturi, Ruth Ann Hill, Robert & Elizabeth Childress, Rick & Bernadine Mariott, Gayle Anderson, and Jimmy & Cathy Campbell*

SNACK SACK

*In memory of **Ted Reynolds** by Ben & Carla Oefinger*