

- January 1 – office closed
- January 2 – No Wednesday activities (exception Sanctuary choir)
- January 8 – Meeting with new church leadership/dinner
- January 9 – Wednesday afternoon/night activities resume
- January 10 – Abigail Circle
- January 12 – Pinewood Derby build
- January 13 – 3rd grade Bible presentation & class begins
- January 14 – Stewpot
- January 15 – Stewpot, Tabitha Circle, Ruth Circle, Trendsetters to Millsaps
- January 16 – Stewpot
- January 17 – Stewpot
- January 18 – Stewpot, Elevate Ski conference
- January 19 – Elevate Ski conference
- January 20 – Elevate Ski conference
- January 21 – Elevate Ski conference, office closed
- January 25 – Spiritual emphasis weekend
- January 26 – Spiritual emphasis weekend
- January 27 – Spiritual emphasis weekend
- January 28 – Clergy leadership conference
- January 29 – Clergy leadership conference
- January 30 – Clergy leadership conference

## FROM GARY R. CAZIER

Greetings from the office of Outreach and Nurture! It seems appropriate that an apparent newcomer be involved with outreach to possible members and recent new members to our church. Though not such a newcomer, I have been a member of St. Mark's for a little over two years, enjoying the Crusaders Sunday School class, Disciple classes, the Stew Pot ministry and life in general at St. Mark's.

My working life prior to retirement was in the military where I spent 32 years in the active Air Force and Mississippi Air National Guard retiring as a Brigadier General. Traveling extensively and changing positions often instilled in me what it is like to be a newcomer, not knowing anyone and being the "lost outsider".

Several months ago, I was invited to address one of the Sunday School classes about my abilities to counsel and help individuals in a time of need. I was being likened to Phil Miracle, who was an outstanding counselor and mentor. My presentation lasted approximately an hour, telling the class what I wasn't and how I was not able to do what Phil had done. I was asked by one of the class members, if I wasn't like Phil, what was my mission. I had to tell them I did not know what my mission was or would be.

Since that time I have looked for and prayed for a mission with St. Mark's. I did not find a mission. It found me. Brother Rob called me and asked if I might be interested in a position with the church staff on a part-time basis. Obviously I was; I am now the Director of Outreach and Nurture.

What are my hopes and dreams resulting from this position? To ensure everyone who comes to St. Mark's is made to feel welcome and is aided in every possible way to become entrenched in the St. Mark's family.

## LONG RANGE PLANNING

The planning process with the completion of the two recent Charrettes is reaching its final stages. Several decisions have emerged as the process progressed:

**PROPERTY** – The church owns sufficient property to accommodate future growth therefore there is no need for additional property. Future planning will require careful consideration of the site elevation fluctuations on our existing property. Drainage will also be a major design consideration as each facility is planned.

**BASIC DESIGN CONCEPT** – The basic design concept has resulted from the physical location of the church's existing buildings. There is considerable building area between the Sanctuary/Wesley/Asbury buildings and the Youth/CLC complex. The construction of one wide enclosed central pedestrian corridor running east and west from the side of the Sanctuary to the Youth/CLC covered connection will provide a unifying element for all church activities. This permits the construction of three (3) large separate buildings each attached to that corridor. This also facilitates the phasing of construction projects as demands require.

**PARKING** – The abundance of church property permits construction of ample parking on the north side of the church property.

**INFRASTRUCTURE** – Limited knowledge of the existing infrastructure is available at this time. It is doubtful the existing support services are of size and capacity to accommodate the future growth. The planning and construction of a new campus infrastructure system is advisable. This system would include the sanitary sewer, water, natural gas, electrical, communications and fire protection.

This is a general summary of the planning group's findings to date. Please remember a Long Range Plan is very broad in nature. It does not delve into the myriad of decisions that are required in planning and construction of a building. When each individual building is planned for construction, these decisions are faced and decided. A Long Range Plan identifies property use, renovation and new construction needs over an extended time as well as any needed support systems. Hopefully this Long Range Plan, by identifying future facility needs, will be of great assistance in St. Mark's growing ministry.

We anticipate a church wide gathering early in 2013 to present to the congregation the proposed St. Mark's Long Range Plan. The actual time is dependent on the production of the necessary presentation items. Keep in touch; good things are happening at St. Mark's.



Saint Mark's United Methodist Church  
400 Grant's Ferry Road  
Brandon, MS 39047

DATED MATERIAL JANUARY 2, 2013

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*"And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"*  
(Matthew 4:19)

Happy New Year, Saint Mark's! Bless the Triune God!

It's always wise to look back at the previous year and rehearse how Jesus was actively engaged in our lives. I think back to the 2012 and remember how Jesus was my Advocate, my Shepherd, my Lord. I think back how He guided my steps when I didn't have a clue where to turn. I think about how He was the Healer for many I knew needing a Physicians touch. I think about how He taught me greater insights about His way, truth, and life. By the grace of His Holy Spirit, I only wanted to get closer and closer and closer to my Wonderful Counselor. He is so wonderful (Isaiah 9:6).

For this new year, I'm hungry to see more of His wonder (Isaiah 6). I'm praying many prayers. I want to be more prayerfully dependent on He and His Father, our Father. One prayer among many is this: *"Father, what's the next step? Just one small baby step or one large step; whatever it is, what's the next step with you? I just want to follow You."*

Here's why I'm praying that for 2013: In Matthew 4:19, as stated above, Jesus desires to "make" something out of us. All I know is this: whatever Jesus wants to make me into, I want in! *"Make me, mold me, use me, Jesus. Send me King Jesus"* (Isaiah 6). I don't want to contain demonstrating and declaring His glorious gospel anymore this year. I want His life to be unleashed out of mine. I want to come to the end of myself and the beginning of Him. I want the next step with Him. And the great thing about the Son of Man is this: He is a fisher of men and is making us fishers of men. He is constantly pursuing people so they can live into the gospel rhythms of His life every day, one step at a time.

What's your next step with King Jesus? It sounds like a simple prayer, *"Jesus, what's the next step with You?"* But how might He answer that for 2013 for you? Everyday, *"Mighty God, what's the next step?"*

*Saint Mark's, let's pray that together. Let's follow Jesus together this new year. Amen.*

Jeff Nesbit

## Rob's Remarks



The season of faith that follows Christmas is called Epiphany. It is celebrated on January 6th, which fall on the first Sunday of the year. It is a celebration of the visit of the magi, the three wise men who traveled to meet Jesus bearing precious gifts. It symbolizing that Jesus was the Savior of the whole world not just a prophet for Israel. It is also a time to remember our baptism and common ministry we share as the body of Christ. So this January we will make time in our busy schedules for a renewal weekend.

Rev. Steve Casteel, Director of the MS. Annual Conference Ministries and Pastor/Teacher, will lead us in a time of teaching and renewal of our witness and call to faithful living. WE will begin on Friday evening January 25th, Saturday morning January 26th and conclude in worship on Sunday January 27th, The core purpose of this retreat is help us grow a deeper understanding of God's purpose for us as disciples in today's world. There will be a time of teaching and then time for questions dialog in each setting. We will explore what baptism means and how water is more than just H2O.

The other member of our team is Maura McIntosh Fields. Maura will be our worship leader and musical guest. Maura is a songwriter, teacher and traveling evangelist in song. She has been with us in previous times but this weekend she will bring her own story of faith to enrich and inspire. She will also lead the 11th Hour Worship Sunday morning.

Dinner will be Friday night at 6:00. And we will have a brunch @ 9:00 on Saturday prior to our second session @10:00. There will be further detail forth coming as they are finalized. Mark your calendars and save the date for this great opportunity.

Grace and Peace,  
Rob

**Saint Mark's United Methodist Church**  
Phone: 601-992-2131

**Church Staff:**  
Rob Gill, Senior Pastor .....x103  
Jeff Nesbit, Teaching Pastor .....x105  
Sandra Thomas, Minister of Worship & Music .....x104  
Gary Cazier, Director of Nuture/Outreach.....x109  
Jeanne Chapman, Youth Director.....601-992-9554  
Jim Readell, Church Facilities Manager.....601-506-4714  
Delores Seward, Administrative Assistant .....x101  
Martha Toombs, Business Office.....x106  
Corrine Carpenter, Preschool Office .....x110  
Darlene Baker.....Pianist  
Jason Boyd .....Organist  
David Polvin .....11th Hour Worship Leader  
Robert Ghoston .....Custodian

Check the church website or Sunday bulletin for times of events and further information. See the bulletin for all on the caring list.

Worship is each Sunday at 8:20, 10:45 and 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m.

**www.saintmarksum.org**

**SWEETHEART DINNER**  
**THURS., FEB. 14**  
**6:30 PM @ 6:00**  
**\$35 PER COUPLE**

Celebrate with your sweetheart! Enjoy a fabulous dinner, quality service, and unforgettable entertainment!

(Childcare provided - \$5.00 per child - pizza dinner included)

**RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH!**  
**Contact Jeanne Chapman for more information.**

Sponsored by the St. Mark's Youth Ministry



# Children's Corner



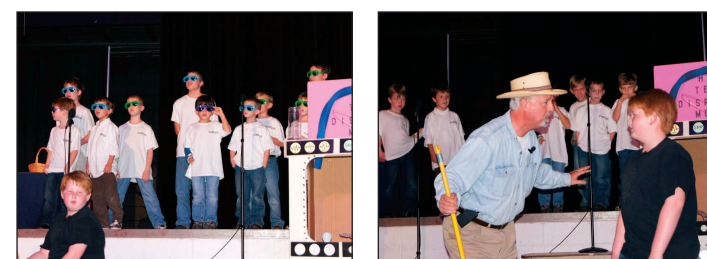
Amie Cain

## Snacks With Santa

After our musical the children had cookies and punch with Santa. Along with Santa this year, there was very special guest, Mrs. Clause. It was a magical time for our children. Each child had their picture taken with Santa. You can view your picture and download your picture at [www.stmarksphoto.shutterfly.com](http://www.stmarksphoto.shutterfly.com).

## Christmas Musical

The spirit of Christmas was here as our children performed their Christmas musical, Back To The Manger. They did a fantastic job and we are so proud of them! Many thanks to Currie Gill and Martha Toombs for leading our children in this program!



## 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

On Sunday, January 13 at all three of our worship services, our 3rd graders will be presented with a Bible. They will begin a 6 week class, How To Use Your Bible, taught by Phaedra Hailey. They will meet in our 3rd grade Sunday school classroom each Sunday at 4:00pm. After they finish the class, we have each child's name engraved on their Bible. Sign up is required in the church office.

## Methodist Melodies

We will continue to offer children's choir at 4:00pm on Wednesday afternoons starting January 9. If your child attends an after school program and they would like to participate in children's choir, we will pick them up from their afterschool program. Please sign your child up for this program in the church office.

To Whom it may concern,

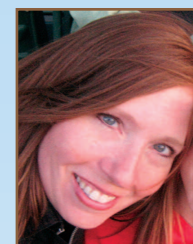
I wasn't sure who to send this e mail to so I hope that you can get it to the right person. My 5 yr. old daughter was recently hospitalized at Crossgates River Oaks hospital in Brandon. She was very bored and tired of watching t.v. She was not allowed in the playroom because she was running fever and might have been contagious. Well, the nurse hands us this care package that your church put together for the children. When my baby opened it up and saw the coloring books, crayons and stickers her face just lit up. She was so excited. She and I spent the next several hours coloring. I just want to thank your church for the thoughtfulness. You really made a bad situation better for us. I just wanted to let everyone know your kind acts have not gone unnoticed. Hope everyone has a blessed Christmas.

Thank you,  
Angela Reeves

*It has been a blessing to serve on St. Mark's staff. This has been more than a job, it has been a ministry. I can't begin to express what St. Mark's has meant to me and my girls. St. Mark's is our church family and we will still worship here. It has been a joy to watch all of your children grow. I love each and every one of them. I would like to thank all of the volunteers that help in children's ministry. I could not have done it without you. Thank you for all the time and dedication to our children. All of you and your families have been a blessing to me!*

Amie Cain

## Jeanne's 2 Sense



Jeanne Chapman

This time of year there is a lot of talk of "lists". Most Influential, Top 100 songs/videos, Most Beautiful People, YouTube clips, and on and on it goes. Well, as I wrap up the year two thousand twelve, I also want to submit my list. My list focuses on the best Godmoments of the year in the St. Mark's Youth Ministry. Now, I am doing this late at night and off the top of my head without my calendar in front of me, but I will do my best to recall all the amazing things God has done this past year. They are in no particular order (just as the Spirit brings them to mind) but they all have made a difference in someone's life (mainly mine!). Here we go... Drumroll please.... Rebuilding homes and hope on a mission trip to Slidell, LA, eating wings and playing Uno watching the Giants beat the Patriots in the Super Bowl, D-Now weekend, the Sweetheart Dinner and laughing from the answers of contestants of The Wedded Game, MYAC and worshipping with Kristian Stanfill, fasting with 25 students and leaders for 30 Hours to raise money and awareness for world hunger, sleeping in a cardboard box, celebrating and participating in the confirmation of 14 youth in their faith in Christ and to this faith family, raising over \$8,000 with our live auction and garage sale, celebrating with amazing students as they graduated high school (including my son), listening to one of our seniors give the valedictorian address at his commencement, MissionFest, canoeing, swim parties (and the belly flop contest @ the Brackens), SKY VBS, Beach Camp and the amazing illusions & preaching of Harris III, seeing some of students get to be part of the act, watching our students worship God and grow in their faith, honest sharing, tears of confession and brokenness, unity, love, Centrifuge, witnessing the baptisms of several youth (including my youngest son), the ST LOUIS ROAD TRIP (totally incredible!), MERGE and what God has done through it, the communion service at MERGE, seeing youth's faces after the remodel of the Hub, a packed house for Parents' Night @ MERGE, an amazing Fall Confirmation retreat, awesome costumes @ bonfire, the high school retreat, the Christmas party, watching our youth use their God-given talents in music, sports, and ministry, holding the hand of one of our youth while she got stitches, being God's arms to wrap around youth who experienced deep sorrow and loss this year, and the opportunity to share the talents, gifts, and graces that God has given me to impact the lives of students, their families, & St. Marks that our community and the world may be reached for the glory and purpose of Christ. I'm sure I'm forgetting several things, but this will have to suffice (I'm out of room!). What a year! Before January 1 - create your own list and then praise God! - g.

# Youth News



**merge**  
bringing students and god together

Sundays • 5:00-7:30 pm  
Dinner • Worship • Life Groups  
All students grades 6 - 12

- ### January Schedule
- 6 - Now Showing: "Karate Kid"
  - 13 - SPECIAL FEATURE: Parents' Night!  
Now Showing: "Finding Nemo"
  - 20 - Ski Conference (No MERGE)
  - 27 - Now Showing: "Shrek"



Lunch & Ice Skating in Madison  
Cost: \$10  
Noon - 5:00 pm  
**MS - Thurs., Jan. 3**  
**HS - Fri., Jan. 4**  
Sign up required! Friends welcome!  
Drop off and pick up at St. Mark's.



**Ski Conference**  
**Jan. 18 - 21, 2013**  
**Gatlinburg, TN**  
\$225 plus meals  
For students in grades 6 - 12.  
Contact Jeanne if still interested in participating.

## Special Feature!



All youth parents are invited to be our VIPS for this special feature of MERGE! Please join us for dinner, worship, life groups and an important Youth/Parent meeting to get a "sneak peak" at 2013 plans!

**FUEL**  
"High octane for your soul midweek"  
Wednesdays  
5:30 - 7:00 pm  
Dive into God's Word in separate Bible studies for middle school and high school students!

**5th Block**

Wednesday's 3:30-5:00 @ the Hub

**DISCIPLE NOW**  
Feb. 8 - 10, 2013  
Watch for more details!



Sandra Thomas

# Trendsetters Adults Over 50

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Looking back at December, we had a wonderful time of celebrations in the areas of music and older adults. We enjoyed music, worship, tours, meals, and great fellowship together. The pictures on this page are just a part of the Christmas activities. We give thanks for Jesus Christ as our Savior. We come together in His name to share times of fellowship, fun, service and care for one another.

In music, we have a place for people from 3-103. Our Trendsetter opportunities are geared for people 50 and over.

If you would like to be a part of the music ministries or Trendsetters at St. Mark's, call the church office and I will be happy to help you get connected to others with the same interest.

## MISSION NEWS

With the help of the entire congregation, Saint Mark's was able to supply clothing and toys to one hundred different children from thirty different families this season. The names of these families and their information was provided by the Rankin County Human Resource Agency. Our members pulled tags off the trees in the Narthex and the CLC. Several Sunday Schools also adopted entire families. For the first time, through the generosity of several Sunday School classes and individuals we were also able to additionally provide WalMart gift cards to each of the families, which should serve to ease their burden this holiday season.

As a new local mission, the Salvation Army provided us with the Christmas wishes of twenty four Senior citizens in our community. We were also able to supply gifts for these folks.

Thanks to everyone who contributed the gifts, special monetary contributions and their time. A project like this doesn't come together without folks sorting, packing and shopping to make it happen, not to mention Robert taking multiple loads of gifts with his Santa Claus hat on to the Human Resource Agency and the Salvation Army. Blessings to all those who participated.

Chris



Delores dates for the next Honduras Mission Trip - June 13-20, 2013, if you are interested or have questions please contact Julie or Bobby Blake 601-919-1764 home, 601-397-8880 cell. "When God calls you he will equip you to do His service."

## New members in 2012

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Martin Baker      | Charlie Lucroy   |
| Heather Baker     | Leigh Lucroy     |
| Jordan Barlow     | Pat Lucroy       |
| Savannah Bizzell  | Diane Malotthi   |
| Carol Blair       | Les Malotthi     |
| Katy Blair        | Sam McDevitt     |
| Miachelle Blair   | Dianne McGinty   |
| Edd Blake         | Joe McGinty      |
| Liz Blake         | Derek McGuire    |
| Leah Calder       | Heather McGuire  |
| Steve Calder      | Becky Muirhead   |
| Kevin Champney    | Curtis Muirhead  |
| Trish Champney    | Tim Newell       |
| Lisa Clarke       | August Ogle      |
| Tim Clarke        | Deborah Rogers   |
| Rebecca Doyle     | Forrest Rousseau |
| Ron Doyle         | Nancy Rousseau   |
| TJ Fleeger        | Lee Schisler     |
| Cat Foster        | Nancy Schisler   |
| Porter Foster     | Merriam Smiley   |
| Nicolas Fraser    | Tanner Smith     |
| Zachary Gay       | Brad Suggs       |
| Beth Griffith     | Jeanann Suggs    |
| Russ Griffith     | Ellen Sullivan   |
| Jackson hailey    | Jake Sullivan    |
| Jo Hebert         | Jacob Thomas     |
| Michael Hebert    | Lisa Valadie     |
| Chandler Jones    | Jean Vaughn      |
| Kathy Joslyn      | Connie Weaver    |
| Michael Joslyn    | Bradley Williams |
| Jim keel          | Eunice Williams  |
| Christalin LaCour | Liles Williams   |
| Elizabeth Lockett | Roselyn Williams |
| Zack Lockett      |                  |
| Bob Lucroy        |                  |