

Calendar of Events

MARCH

- March 3 - Trustees meeting
- March 11 - Stewpot, Spring break
- March 12 - Stewpot, Spring break
- March 13 - Stewpot, Spring break, No Wednesday night activities
- March 14 - Stewpot, Spring break, Abigail Circle
- March 15 - Stewpot, Spring break
- March 16 - UMM workday
- March 17 - Finance meeting
- March 18 - Intentional Faith meeting
- March 19 - Tabitha circle, Ruth circle
- March 23 - Easter egg hunt
- March 24 - Palm Sunday
- March 27 - No Wednesday night activities
- March 28 - Maundy Thursday service, Confirmation retreat
- March 29 - Good Friday service, Confirmation retreat, office closed
- March 30 - Flowering of the Cross
- March 31 - Easter

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 – Palm/Passion Sunday 8:20 and 10:45 presentation by Sanctuary Choir
Palm processional by the children in all 3 services

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 – No regular activities

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 – Supper at 5pm in the CLC, Maundy Thursday service at 6pm in Sanctuary

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 – Good Friday service at 6pm in the Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 – Flowering of the Cross at 6pm outside Wesley Center

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 – Easter Sunday 8:20, 10:45, and 11:00



Sandra Thomas

HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS WITH MUSIC, DRAMA and MORE

Holy Week and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is an exciting time in the life of the Christian Church. At St. Mark's we are celebrating with the senses.

Sight – Crosses cloaked in purple representing the somberness of both royalty and repentance. Altar decorations reflecting “24 Hours that Changed the World.”

Sound – Every Sunday we have music depicting “24 Hours that Changed the World”

Taste – The opportunity to partake of the Last Supper.

Smell – The wonderful scent of Easter lilies and flowers on the outside cross.

Touch – We carry the nail we received on Ash Wednesday as a reminder of what Jesus gave up for us.

Specific dates to remember are:

Sunday, March 24 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

8:20 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. traditional services

“SONGS OF THE PASSION”

a cantata reflecting on the final days of Jesus' life
featuring the Sanctuary Choir and
members of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra.

– The children will process in with Palm Branches at all three services

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday

5:00pm - Supper in the CLC

6:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Service

in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion

Friday, March 29 Good Friday

6:00 p.m.

“The Way of The Cross”

a dramatic presentation of the journey of Jesus' life

Saturday, March 30 Holy Saturday

6:00 p.m.

“Flowering of the Cross”

Everyone is welcome to come and bring flowers to adorn the cross outside of Wesley Center Building in expectation of Easter morning.

Sunday, March 31 EASTER

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR

8:20 and 10:45 - traditional Easter services

11:00 Eleventh Hour - contemporary Easter service





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

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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 Nurture/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
Drew Herring.....	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

Discipline is Doing Something You Dislike to Create Something You Love

By Gary Cazier

The excuses we use to keep from talking to people and making new friends:

- I don't want to get up from my seat and talk to someone I don't know
- They probably won't want to talk to me anyway
- They are too young for me to talk to them
- They are with their own friends, I don't want to interrupt
- I don't like to talk to people
- I came to church to learn how to be a better Christian, not to chat
- They don't look like people I would like
- I want to talk to my friends
- They don't dress like I do
- They look snooty to me

Some of the above excuses seem funny, but in actuality they are very serious. I have used some of them myself, though I am not proud to admit it. If I had not had the desire or discipline to overcome these ridiculous misconceptions and selfish interests I would have missed the opportunity to:

- Meet my neighbor who lives around the corner
- Meet an Episcopal Priest visiting our church between her assignments
- Meet the grandparents of one of my daughter's close friends
- Make a friend of an older gentleman whose ideas made me think
- Made some new friends that I hold dear
- See the genuine smiles of people I have greeted
- Hear someone say I am one of the reasons they come to church

Be that friendly person; make someone's day by smiling and making them glad to be with you. We want everyone to know that Saint Marks is a friendly and loving church.



the BEACON

Shining Christ's light into the community



March, 2013 • Number 79



“...*Why this waste?*” - Matthew 26:8

Our Christian brothers and sisters worldwide and even those of us here at Jesus' church at Saint Mark's have entered into the season of Lent. The season of Lent prepares us for the Son of Man being delivered up to be crucified (Matthew 26:2).

The crucified and risen King is worthy of all our attention, all that we are, and all that we possess. In a sentence, He is worthy to “waste” everything on.

As He was getting prepared for His death, Jesus was sitting at the house of Simon the leper. While there, a woman walked in with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment. She poured it on His head as He reclined at the table.

The disciples witnessed what she did, were indignant and said, “*Why this waste?*”

Think about it, she could have used the value of the “very expensive” ointment for so many things. It was at least a year's worth of salary. She could have sold it and given the money to the poor. She could have gone on vacation. She could have bought groceries. She could have gone to Jerusalem movie theatre and entertained herself. She didn't use the jar for money or expenses at all. She “wasted it all” on Jesus.

Praying is a “waste” of time, isn't it? Corporate worship is a “waste” of time. Bible study is a “waste” of time. Local and global mission, serving, visiting, fasting, fellowship, family discipleship, youth ministry, children's ministry, music ministry, and Sunday school is just a bunch of “wasted” time. Think of all the things we could be doing with our life if we would stop “wasting” it on Jesus. Wrong! Listen, there's nothing and no one better that we can spend our time, resources, and thoughts on than The Lamb who was slain (Revelation 5:8-14).

Know from Scripture that you are doing a “beautiful thing” for Jesus as you worship Him. Jesus said that what she did was a “beautiful thing” to Him (v10). I imagine He carried the scent of that ointment on His body all the way to the Cross.

Let's pray that Jesus Christ finds Saint Mark's doing a beautiful thing to Him this Lent and Resurrection season! May His Holy Spirit lead us to worship Him extravagantly, boldly, and without reservation.

Rev. Jeff Nesbit

Rob's Remarks



I have found this reflection from the theologian Fredrick Buechner (Beekner) helpful as a reminder of the forty days of Lent. I hope you will enjoy them. The reflection comes from his book *Whistling in the Dark*.

In many cultures this is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent, is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of the calendar year. After being baptized by John in the River Jordan, Jesus went away into the wilderness where the question he spent forty days to ask was what it meant to be Messiah. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask in one way or another what it means to follow Jesus.

Consider the following:

If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?

When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see that you most like and what do you see that you most dislike?

If you had only one message to leave to a handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less?

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most lie to undo? Which is the one that makes you most happy?

Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances dictated, you would be willing to die for?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all but if sackcloth and ashes are the beginning, then something like Easter may be at the end

I wish for you a holy Lent of introspection and spiritual renewal. In the coming days, please take advantage of the opportunities Saint Mark's provides to help you grow deeper and wider in your faithfulness to God.

Peace,
Rob

Children's Corner

A Note from Staci Curry Chairperson of Children's Council

St. Mark's is blessed with a wonderful Children's Council willing to take the lead in areas of ministry during this transition time for a director of children's ministries. Parents are stepping in to coordinate ongoing children's ministry activities like Sunday School and Wednesday Faithweaver, and also one-time events like Vacation Bible School and Palm Sunday.

The staff-parish committee at St. Mark's is in the process of seeking a person to join the ministry team at St. Mark's. Please keep them and potential applicants in your prayers as we move forward in reaching deeper and growing wider as disciples at St. Mark's.

OUR LEADERSHIP:

Acolytes at Traditional Service
8:20: Anita Womack
10:45: Jennye Case

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUBSTITUTES: KATHY CALDWELL

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

8:20 and 10:45: Ashley May
11th Hour: Melissa Rowe
Learn to Use Your Bible: Phaedra Hailey

WEDNESDAY CHILD CARE PICKUP:

Jennye Case and Bill Weems: Subs: Jim Readel and Sandra Thomas
Methodist Melodies: Currie Gill and Martha Toombs
Homework/Supper/Faithweavers: Jennye Case

EASTER EGG HUNT

MARCH 23
Pre-K – 3rd Grade
10 a.m. - Noon

The Easter story, pictures with the Easter bunny, petting zoo, hunting eggs and snacks

Bring a dozen plastic filled Easter Eggs (no chocolate) to the church by March 17

Boxes located in the office and in the Children's Sunday School Building (Asbury)

Deb Hartung, Coordinator



Jo Hebert

An Encouraging Word From Jo Hebert

It has been over a year since I began counseling at Saint Mark's, but many still don't know I am here. In hopes of spreading the word, I asked Rob if I can contribute to the newsletter occasionally—and he said yes! So, for my first article, I simply want to introduce myself and tell you how to reach me if you would like to make an appointment.

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor, originally from GA. I have a Masters degree in Community Counseling from Georgia State University and a diploma in Christian Counseling from Richmond Graduate University. After working in both GA and OH, I became a stay at home mom when we moved to MS in 2002—until I started counseling part-time at St. Mark's in 2011. I knew when I got back into the field that I wanted my work to be ministry-driven, so I set my fee much lower than the going rate. The initial session is free, and subsequent sessions are \$50. (We also have a special counseling fund established for people that might need a lower rate.)

I have experience with all ages and all types of issues, and I offer individual, couples, and family counseling to both church-members and non-church members. My favorite part of counseling is getting to know my clients' strengths and helping them see the hope in their lives... the greatest hope being Jesus.

St. Mark's has been my church home for over two years. I attend the 11th Hour service where I get to play the keyboard in the praise band. I am crazy about my husband of 22 years and love to spend time with him and our three kids (15, 12, and 9).

My office is just off the robe room in the main church building. I am available Mon., Wed., and Fri. mornings and some evening hours. You can reach me by phone (601-259-1749) or email (jhebertlpc@comcast.net).

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL

March 24
All 3 services

Children will meet in the back of the church before service begins and be given palm branches to wave as they process inside. Cherub Choir will sing.



Jamie McKinley and Melissa Rowe,
Coordinators

Jeanne's 2 Sense



Jeanne Chapman

jeanne@saintmarksum.org

I've come to change everything, turn everything right-side up. -
LUKE 12:49 (MSG)

Change. Some people like it. Some people hate it. Some people embrace it. Some people resist it. Some people demand it.

Regardless, everyone has to deal with it. Think of a baby who never got changed. What would happen? You know what would happen. Life would really begin to stink and the problems would not end there. Most of us understand the need for a baby to be changed. But yet when it comes to our attitudes, behaviors and habits we see change as an enemy, nemesis and foe. If there are things in our lives that are causing us to "stink" we need to change those things. Have you ever noticed a baby who needs to be changed, but he/she is oblivious to it and doesn't seem to know or care? It is often the caregiver who realizes that the change is necessary. The same is true in us. We often get messy and our lives begin stinking, but we don't seem to notice. We seem completely oblivious to it. Yet others around us begin to notice - starting with those who love us most.

Lent is an opportunity to really search our hearts and be honest before God. It's the perfect time to stop being oblivious to actions, attitudes or habits that may be pulling us from God: the things that make our lives 'stink'. Once we're quiet before Him and He opens our eyes to where we need to change, we need to rely on Him and then do it. We need to change. Thankfully we don't have to change on our own (for if we try we will surely fail). No, we're not alone. He is with us every step of the way. Jesus came to this earth, not to leave things as the status quo, but to change everything. Once we meet Christ, true lifechange begins. We just simply cannot be the same. This Easter, may we strive to change to be more like Him. Have a blessed Easter. ~ g.

Youth News

COMING ATTRACTIONS

merge
bringing students and god together



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

MARCH Schedule

- 3 - Now Showing: *"Over the Hedge"*
- 10 - NO MERGE (Spring Break)
- 17 - Now Showing: *"The Bucket List"*
- 24 - Now Showing: *"Chronicles of Narnia"*
- 31 - NO MERGE (*Happy Easter!*)

FUEL

High octane for your soul midweek!



Wednesdays
5:30 - 7:00 pm

Fellowship and graded Bible studies for middle school and high school students.

Join us as we journey toward Easter and as we go deeper in how we NOTICE God!

(NOTE: No FUEL March 13)



StMarksRezYouth

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Plan to join us for 30 Hours that will change your life and bring hope to the hungry.

APRIL 20-21, 2013
(Sat. - Sun.)

More info TBA



COMING SOON!

"A BLOCKBUSTER SUMMER"

MISSIONFEST @ Millsaps College

Join us for a week of worship, service, fellowship and friendship!

June 2 - 6, 2013 **Cost: \$175 through 4/1 (\$200 after)**
(For current 6th -12th graders!)

SURGE @ Lake Junaluska, NC

Join us for a week of Bible study, worship, fellowship, & white water rafting!

High School: June 21 - 27 ~ Cost: \$305 (\$325 after 4/1) (current 9th - 12th graders)

Middle School: June 26 - 30 ~ Cost: \$250 (\$270 after 4/1) (current 6th - 8th graders)

To register for any trip, submit your \$75 non-refundable deposit to Jeanne.

Trendsetters

Adults Over 50

By: June Miracle

Trendsetters of Saint Mark's will have an opportunity to see Christmas in Colonial Williamsburg, December 6-13. We're telling you about this now because reservations have to be made and a \$100 deposit must be submitted by March 15. Total cost will be forthcoming soon. Rev. Sandra Thomas is negotiating with tour officials.

Thirty people have already signed up for the trip, but there is room for many more since a 56-passenger bus has already been chartered. Remember, the more people who go, the more fun we will have, and the less it costs for each person. So come and invite your friends.

It will be a fantastic trip and Trendsetters will see the spectacular Grand Illuminations Event that officially begins the Christmas season on December 8. The trip will also include a night tour of Williamsburg, guided tours of the four parks at Yorktown and Jamestown. There will be time to shop at the Yankee Candle Store, the glass-blowing shop and several other places during the casual time. The trip will be filled with history, Christmas music, great food, and a great group of Trendsetters.



Saint Mark's Trendsetters attended a Millsaps lecture, "The Old Meets the New," Tuesday, January 15, 2013. The program featured historic architecture of Jackson and the current trends and influence that will impact the architectural future. Speakers were Jeff Seabold and Todd Sanders. We were photo-graphed by a staff member named Wanda. From left are Jerry Oakes, Brad and Robin Sessums, Jane Becker, Frances Upchurch, Jimmie Ray Gordon, Sherry Essington, June Bragg, Sandra and Billy Bates, Anita Womack, Jon Wimbish, Rev. Sandra Thomas, and June Miracle.

International Mission News

Did you know you have a brother or sister in need of help? Could you say "No" just because they don't live in this country or can we open our hearts of compassion knowing we are all part of the body of Christ.

I Corinthians 12: 12-27 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body... Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body, it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body." ..If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

We know the needs and cries for help across the globe can be overwhelming and beyond our ability to fulfill. The General Board of Global Ministries is the global mission agency of The United Methodist Church, its annual conferences, missionary conferences, and local congregations of believers. Through this organization many local churches have found sister churches in other areas of the world with which to partner.

The first two listed goals of this organization are:

1. Make disciples of Jesus Christ
2. Strengthen, develop, and renew Christian congregations and communities.

Almost 15 years ago St. Marks began a partnership with the 1st United Methodist Church of Moscow and its pastor, Ludmila Gorbazova. Pastor Gorbazova is well known throughout Russia as the leader of a professional choral group that has traveled the world proclaiming the Word of God through song. She is also the editor of the first Russian United Methodist Hymnal. Whenever she is in Mississippi, her visits to St. Marks are filled with scriptural and musical blessings for our congregation. We have reached out to these members of the body of Christ in the areas of their greatest need. Through this partnership they have the assurance of our ongoing prayer support, and they tell us this is the most important thing we can do. They covet our prayers for the work they do among the hostile environment that continues to exist after the fall of communism. Members of St. Marks have visited the various missions supported by the church in Moscow including local evangelism, seminary training, and help for local youth, widows and orphans. The financial assistance provided by St. Marks has helped to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ and strengthen the members of His Body in Moscow. In addition, this congregation is quick to communicate their love and prayers for us in the face of any disaster we experience in our nation.

Thinking of your brother or sister in Russia in need? You may made contributions anytime toward this work, or give in the upcoming communion offering designated "Russia".