

UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN MAY

- May 4 - Methodist Heritage Sunday observance
- special guests from Grace Place
- MissionFest parent/participant meeting
- May 7 - Rankin County Senior Day
- May 8 - Trendsetter to Ag Museum
- May 11 - Mother's Day
and Methodist Melodies Easter Musical
- May 14 - Spring Fling, Preschool end of the year
program
- May 18 - Graduate Sunday with Chris Donald,
Chaplain at Millsaps preaching
- May 25 - Memorial Day observance
- May 28 - Acolyte training/ice cream party,
Trendsetter luncheon



Jo Hebert

An Encouraging Word From Jo Hebert

Have you heard of CBT? It's almost a buzz word right now...even John Tesh is talking about it on the radio. But, it is not new. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy grew out of work by Albert Ellis and Aaron Beck in the 1950's and 1960's and is widely used today for the treatment of all kinds of problems, including depression, anxiety, and addiction. The central focus of CBT is recognizing and changing irrational thoughts. Many of the principles of CBT are compatible with, and I believe strengthened by, scripture.

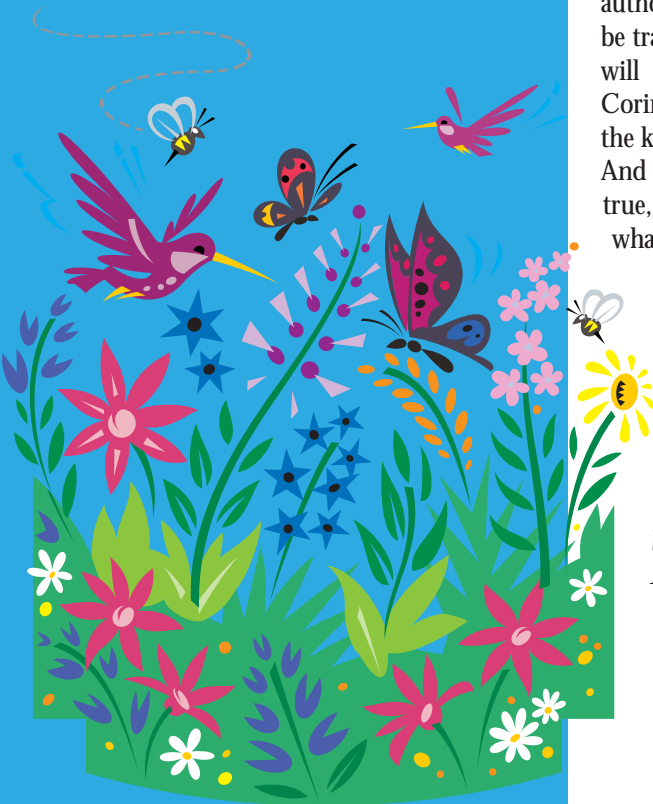
One of my favorite parts of counseling is accompanying someone as they learn that they can think differently. A workaholic husband uncovers and shoots down the beliefs driving the need to prove himself to his family...and begins to see, little by little, the truth that he is accepted and loved apart from his success. Freedom draws nearer. A victim of childhood sexual abuse begins to realize maybe she is not defective to the core, as she has always thought... and that she can catch herself in the act of berating herself and choose another way. Chains fall off. Grace (a foreign notion for so many) is ushered in.

I'm going deep now. Harry Potter deep. If you have read the series, or watched the movies, you know that the dementors are ghostly, cloaked figures that literally suck the life out of their victims. When they show up, warmth and light are snuffed out, and those nearby feel as though they will never be cheerful again. Harry learns that, in order to make the dementors flee, he must cast a patronus charm by focusing his energy on a powerfully happy memory that stirs up hope and the desire to survive. Likewise, Harry is taught in book 6 by Snape to "discipline his mind" so that the Dark Lord cannot penetrate his thoughts. (He doesn't do as well with that...)

I LOVE those concepts because, to me, they scream biblical significance (whether the author intended it or not). Romans 12:2 says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." And, we are taught in 2 Corinthians 10:5 to "cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." And my favorite (yes, I keep coming back to this one...), Phil 4:8: "whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

This discipline of allowing God to renew our minds continually is a life-long endeavor of letting Him show us what's not true and good in our lives, and then teach us what is true. Sometimes it's an excruciating process similar to Eustace changing from a dragon back to a boy in *Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (no time to talk about C.S. Lewis right now), but the chains falling off make a glorious sound that chases off any dementor.

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).





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 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 Pastorx103
- Jeff Nesbit, Teaching Pastorx105
- Sandra Thomas, Minister of Worship & Musicx104
- Martha Hand, Director of Nurture/Outreachx102
- Karie Sue McCaleb, Pastor to Children & Familiesx109
- Jeanne Chapman, Youth Directorx113
- Jim Readell, Church Facilities Manager.....x112
- Delores Seward, Administrative Assistantx101
- Martha Toombs, Business Office.....x106
- Corrine Carpenter, Preschool Officex110
- Darlene BakerMusic assistant/pianist
- Jason BoydMusic assistant/organist
- Robert GhostonCustodian
- Dennis O'NealMedia Director
- Ed Chapman.....Media Assistant

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

Confirmation Class 2014



Back row: Lucien Steen, Zack Richardson, JT Carney, Chris Hart, Landon Tomkins; Front row: Ashleigh Hackler, Rachael Clements, Caroline White, Carly Morgan, Connor Case, Aiden Walters, Zoie Cain



the
BEACON

Shining Christ's light into the community



May 2014 • Number 92



Jeff Nesbit

"And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them."

~ Acts 3:5

Day after day, week after week, life can get normal. We seemed to fall into a rut of knowing what to "expect".

A lame man from birth in Acts 3 came to know what to "expect" every day. He did not imagine anything new. He was stuck. Ever been there? He was not expecting or asking anything

from the God of the bible...not healing, nothing beautiful...no life saving gospel. Nothing new for 40 plus years!

Is that you? Same 'ole same 'ole? He could not take a single step in his lame life. What he did not realize was this: an "unexpected" step was about to happen for him. You see, he sat right outside the temple gate called, "The Beautiful Gate". He was on the verge of something beautiful. We're not only on the verge of something beautiful, the beautiful is already in us: Jesus Christ!

This lame man is the picture of each of us. He did not expect or ask for Jesus. But Peter and John gave him Jesus Christ of Nazareth! Sounds familiar to the gospel, doesn't it? Did we expect or ask the Father to send His Son? Nope. What did the Father do? He gave us Jesus. More than we could expect. More than we could ever deserve.

That's why this guy is a picture of us: he expected alms. He got the Almighty! Nothing was "normal" from that point on for this guy. He had never walked or leaped before. Jesus had given him a "new normal"!

How about us? Could this be a season of "new normals"? I'm wondering what the "next step" in your life is? Maybe it is something that you never expected! Don't simply think health, wealth, and prosperity here. Think Kingdom advancement...disciples made... marriages saved, people healed & baptized, souls redeemed; prayers revived; Scriptural holiness being lived out; the church actually being salt and light; Jesus being boldly and unashamedly proclaimed.

Listen, dead people stay dead. Lame people stay lame. They don't rise and walk. At least, that is what we have come to expect. Jesus Christ is the God of the "unexpected". I don't know what is "lame" in your life, but let me make a bold prediction: I believe that you are going to experience something beautiful and unexpected in the months to come...something only explainable by the Resurrection power of Christ. Not a change in your circumstances necessarily, but a change in your heart and mind, at the least.

Jesus predicted He would rise from the dead. He rose. Isaiah predicted that the "lame man" would leap like a deer" in Isaiah 35:6. He leaped in Acts 3. I'm not Jesus and I'm not Scripture, but I predict that you and our faith family at Saint Mark's are going to experience a "new normal" in the Resurrection power of our Lord in these months of Resurrection...not for our sakes, but for the sake of gospel mission. At least, that's what I expect. How about you?

Rob's Remarks



On March 26th I received a call from Bishop Swanson and the members of his cabinet. They urged me to accept an appointment to become the Senior Pastor at the Parkway Heights United Methodist Church in Hattiesburg, effective June 17th. I have accepted the appointment and as many of you know by now, this appointment was announced in worship on April 6th. Those are the facts.

Transition in any stage of life is stressful and takes time for adjustments. We are United Methodists and God has been using our form of itinerant ministry since the days of John Wesley and if you want to be biblical, you can go back as far as Abraham when God called him to go into a land where he would provide for his family and through him a great nation would be born. Even in the New Testament there is evidence of itinerant ministry in the ministry of Jesus as he went from town to town spreading the message of the kingdom. He sent the 70 apostles ahead of him as well to prepare the way for work to be accomplished. The Apostle Paul gave birth to the Christian church traveling all over the Roman world preaching the good news of Jesus Christ.

Even with all this said, I have feelings about leaving that are real and true. Leaving behind a congregation that has challenged me in new ways of doing ministry is no small thing. My family and I have opened up to you and you have responded in kind. That is a gift and a gift we will treasure all our lives. Graham will always know that Saint Marks was the community of faith that stood by him at one of the most significant moments in his life, his confirmation. He will never forget Gary Hand as his mentor.

Cason became an acolyte here in the 8:20 service and many of you watched us sit beside one another during worship. Wow! Good memories! Our grief is real but we trust that God is in the midst of all that is happening. We hope you can trust that too.

I will be serving as your pastor until June 17th when our worldly possessions travel down highway 49. Our calendars are open except for a few personal dates and some baseball games that Cason will play. If you would like to get together with us for fellowship, please call the church and ask Delores to get in touch with me and I will return your call.

On June 15th we will have a time of worship in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. There will be a time of fellowship at 9:30 in the prayer garden. The 11th hour service will meet at their usual time and place. I hope you will plan to be with us.

Please be in prayer for your new pastor, the Rev. Warren Coile, and his family who come to you from the First United Methodist Church in Brookhaven. He is a gifted man and is the one God has called to serve among you.

Grace and Peace,
Rob

Children's Corner



Many thanks to all who came to our Egg Hunt! And a VERY SPECIAL thank you to our volunteers who helped make our hunt so awesome!



Attention 2nd Graders and Acolytes:
As you move into the 3rd grade you have a great opportunity to be a LEADER in our church. We are recruiting upcoming 3rd graders to be Acolytes in our worship services. Any kids who will be 3rd grade to 6th grade are invited to join us for an ACOLYTE TRAINING & Ice Cream party: Wednesday, May 28th 6:30 ~ 8PM In the Sanctuary, then to Dairy Queen RSVP with kariesue@saintmarksum.org

FAMILY FUN NIGHT:
SPRING FLING * MAY 14th
Our Last Wednesday night all ages are welcome to join us for a night of family fun in the CLC from 5:00 ~ 7:00pm
We will share dinner and play fun games together as one big St. Mark's Family! Don't miss this wonderful evening to kick off summer!

Our 3rd Grade class will be participating in "How to Use Your Bible" this month during Sunday School! Please be sure to attend this month! There will be a special bible presentation during worship on June 1st!

Join us for a very special Mother's Day May 11th
Our Children's Choir will offer their Easter musical: "It's Easter"
During 8:20 & 10:45 worship

Our Sunday school classes are in need of **teachers** to fill our rooms this fall! Please consider being a teacher for our students! (3 years to 5th Grade) Curriculum is EASY and classes rotate **every other month** so that you can serve a month, and still enjoy your class the next month. **Substitutes** are needed as well. Please contact Karie Sue to volunteer. Our classes will move into a new rotation in August!

Don't forget to sign up to volunteer and register your child for our Holy Land Adventure with Moses! VBS is NEXT MONTH! Visit St. Mark's website for a link to register or go to groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/stmarks Join us JUNE 15th ~ 19th



YOUTH News



merge
bringing students and god together

Dinner ~ Worship ~ Life Groups ~ Hang Time
SUNDAYS ~ 5:00 - 7:30 pm (programming ends @ 7)
For students in grades 6 - 12

MAY Schedule

- 4 - Game Night: "Encore"
- 11 - Mother's Day - No MERGE
- 18 - Game Night: "Farkle/Risk"
- 25 - Memorial Day - No MERGE



Graduate Sunday ~ May 18

Recognition at all three worship services
Brunch at 9:30 am for grads and families

RSVP for brunch to Jeanne through May 11.



MissionFest

Parent/Participant Mtg.
Sun., May 4 @ Noon
in Youth Worship Room

For all participants and at least one parent.
All paperwork is due at this meeting. Please
contact Jeanne for more info.

Please Note: **Adult leaders are still needed** for summer trips. Your expenses are covered! Please contact Jeanne for more information!



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!

FINAL FUEL is May 7.

Spring Fling is May 14th!

Join us from 5 - 7 pm in the CLC for
an intergenerational evening of food,
games, laughter and Jesus!

\$85 deposit is now past due. Contact Jeanne for availability.

Mission Fest - June 1- 5 ~ Jackson, MS
For all students 6 - 12th grades
Millsaps College ~ Cost: \$225

HS Beach Camp ~ Orange Beach, AL
For all students 9 - 12th grades
~ Cost: \$385 (before 4/1)

MS Student Life Camp ~ Birmingham, AL
For all students 6 - 8th grades
Samford University ~ Cost: \$300 (before 4/1)



May is waiting for Trendsetters to have fun!



May 7 -- 9:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Rankin County Senior Day at Hinds Community College Rankin Campus

**Here's what's going on:
Information booths and speakers,
musical entertainment and lunch**

NO COST



Bill Clark

Thursday, May 8 - Ag Museum A Musical Birthday Bash! Branson Style



Victoria Holmes

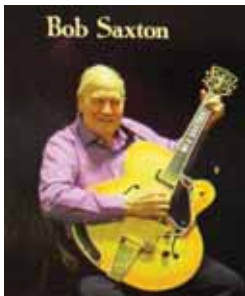
*The Music of
Your Life from
Broadway
Television
Radio
Movies*



Staci Stringer



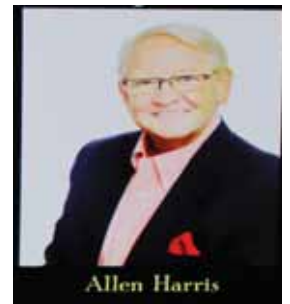
Andrew Ishee



Bob Saxton

**Leave at 9:15 a.m. - Back at 1:00 p.m.
We'll help celebrate Bill Clark's birthday
Cost: \$15.00**

Lunch afterwards at Georgia Blue



Allen Harris

Wednesday, May 28

Covered Dish Luncheon - 12:00 noon

Tea and water will be provided.

**Guest speaker will be our own Larry Swales
Larry will talk about the duties of Chancery Clerk
– specifically estates, guardianships and
conservatorships, those things that are beneficial to
senior planning.**



Larry Swales