



the BEACON

Shining Christ's light into the community



SAINT MARK'S

Sept. 2013 • Number 85



*"...but just as we have been approved by God to be **entrusted with the gospel**, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts...we were ready to **share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves**, because you had become very dear to us." ~*

(1 Thessalonians 2:4,8)

It's been said that science can send a man to the moon, but it can't make a neighborhood safe.

As great as sending a man to the moon is, it can't touch sending a man or a woman to the Cross of Jesus.

I want to see more men and woman, boys and girls sent to the foot of the Cross. I want to see more people walking out of graves, overcoming defeat, and standing strong in faith.

Forget the moon, I'm shooting for Heaven!

I want to see a church sent to their knees in prayer, gathering together for worship, and reaching out in mission. I want to see a people entrusted with the gospel. I want to see a people sharing not only the gospel of God but also their own lives. I am hoping to see this during the month of September at Saint Mark's.

As we enter into September, we will be emphasizing stewardship. Stewardship is simply being entrusted with a treasure that you can't wait to share (see passage above). We are stewards of the gospel. We have been entrusted with the deity of Jesus. We have been entrusted with the life of Jesus. We have been entrusted with the death of Jesus; the burial, resurrection, ascension, and second coming of Jesus. He is the gospel that we have been entrusted to share.

I hope this month of stewardship will take on new life for you and for me. I hope we will see ourselves as stewards of the only thing that can bring people to the foot of the Cross. The only thing that can make a neighborhood safe. The only thing that can transform broken families, hurting people, doubting skeptics, and hard hearts. It is not a thing, but a Person: Jesus!

As you steward your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness this month, realize you are stewarding something that will make history...salvation history. You may not make the local newspapers or the national news for going to the moon, but through sharing the life of Jesus and your own, you might just be the vessel God uses to take someone to the Cross. Ready to take off?

-Jeff

Rob's Remarks

This month our worship theme is "Building More Than Buildings". Jeff and I will be focusing on scriptures that engage our hearts, hands and minds around the building blocks of faith. 2 Timothy 1:5 is a passage that comes to mind when I think of building blocks for a strong faith: "I am remember your sincere faith, a faith which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and I am sure dwells in you." The letter to Timothy is a word of assurance to this young pastor facing his first assignment in ministry. Even after almost 30 years I go back to this text from time to time and think how blessed I am to have two grandmothers and a mother who showed me Jesus.

Both my grandmothers were married during the Great Depression. It profoundly influenced their lives. My Dad's Mom, Zemly, was widowed in her thirties. She was a strong woman of faith and resolve whose spirit overcame many challenges raising four children. But she loved Jesus and she loved gospel music and her favorite preacher was Charles Stanley. That has always amused me since her son, son-in-law and grandson were preachers. But no, Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church in Atlanta was her guy. She read Barclays commentary on Matthew often. She lived to be 97 and went to be with the Lord about five years ago as we gathered in the Saucier United Methodist Church with a celebration to beat the band. Yes, I am blessed.

Winnie, my maternal grandmother, taught the Primary Class for 28 years in the Escatawpa United Methodist Church. She was known to bake a cake every month for those in her class who had birthdays during the month. I remember being at her side in the kitchen on Saturday afternoons "helping her". Mostly I was waiting to "lick the cake batter from the mixing spoons." For almost 20 years she hosted her nieces and nephews, over 25 of them, to an all day New Year's party. They came to watch parades and left after the Orange Bowl was over at 10:00 PM. At her funeral many of them recalled how wonderful that memory was for them.

Why is this important? Building blocks come in all shapes and sizes. They develop in many different kinds of circumstances but are forged by God's hands and will grow into blocks that can build lives and shape destinies. Who has helped make your life count for something? Who are the people who have poured their lives into yours for a greater good?

Over the next few weeks we will see how God uses relationships to build lives through prayer, by being present in the lives of others, in giving financially with integrity, setting aside time for holy purposes and becoming a witness that glorifies and honors God.

My Maw Maws invested well. I hope that my life pays dividends because they gave so much to me. Think about how you are a dividend in the life of those who have looked to you in faith. And by the way, it is Grandparents' Month. So remember them and be thankful.



Children's Corner



Karie Sue McCaleb

Our fall has kicked off with a BLAST! Thanks to all who came to our "LAST BLAST" pool party. We had a wonderful time of fun and fellowship. Our August 4th Promotion Sunday was filled with the excitement of our kids moving up to their new classes with their new Sunday School teachers. Also, our kids have opportunities to be involved in the life of our church in a few other ways as we have begun our

Wednesday night programming. Be sure to check the calendar for times of Methodist Melodies (K-5th grade), Cherub Choir (3-4 year olds), and after dinner programs with games and devotional time.

In our first week of Wednesday night devotional time, the children reflected on how **we can always count on God, and that God is with us—no matter what!** We talked about other community helpers that we can always count on too, like firefighters. For our "Project with a Purpose" the classes wrote thank you cards to our local firefighters to show our appreciation of their hard work.

There's room to grow at St. Mark's! Bring your children to our activities, and even you can participate in the excitement! We are in need of more teachers for Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. If you are not already serving, please contact me so that we can put your wonderful gifts to use and bless our families!

Mark your calendars! Our Methodist Melodies group will be working hard on their musical offerings for worship on Sundays as well as a special Children's Sabbath on Sunday, **October 13th.**



This will be a great highlight for our children and families in worship together. Sunday, **October 20th** will be our annual Fall Fest. Volunteers are signing up now for one of the biggest nights of the season! Stay tuned for the exciting things to come...

Trendsetters Adults Over 50 September



Sandra Thomas

The Trendsetters are in full swing for the fall with a plethora of activities. It is such a delight to be in a ministry with this active group of adults. We are ages 50 and over; some retired, some still working, but all looking to have fun and camaraderie with other Christian adults.

What does it take to be a part of Trendsetters? Nothing special. Just call and say I want to go on this trip, or that outing, or the luncheon and that's it. We mail flyers out periodically telling of various events. If you would like to be on the Trendsetters' list, give me a call at 601-992-2131.

Our events for September include 2 events:

Tuesday, September 3 (4:30-9:30) – Dinner and a Millsaps Program

We will have dinner at Piccadilly and the program is "The Blues – Music, Stories and Photographs". Steve Gardner will play the blues on a variety of handmade instruments and he tells the story of American music from the 1800's to the 1950's. The cost is \$10.00 for the program and transportation. Dinner is dutch treat.

Tuesday, September 24 (8:00-4:00) – Senior Day at Camp Wesley Pines

This annual event is a day to enjoy Camp Wesley Pines with other United Methodists from across the state. There is storytelling, concerts, games, food and lots of fellowship. You can also choose to take some time to sit in the rockers on the porch or walk some of the trails at Wesley Pines. The cost is \$20.00 for lunch, transportation and a free will offering to be given to Camp Wesley Pines.



Jeanne's 2 Sense:

jeanne@saintmarksum.org

Roll the dice. Spin the spinner. Draw a card. Move two spaces forward. Lose a turn.

Board games. Love them or hate them, we've all played them. From the time we were little, games have played an important role in our lives. Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, Connect Four. Then as we got older Monopoly, Twister and Scrabble. Even now, you may have a new favorite: Apples to Apples, Bananagrams, Quelf?

Games give us the opportunity to compete, laugh, act crazy, think, strategize, communicate, connect, use teamwork and have fun. Games are often the first opportunities we have to experience victory as well as defeat. Games are designed for enjoyment, but can surely be educational. Reasoning, math, spelling, strategy, memory and teamwork skills can all be strengthened through playing games. But games can teach us so much more. They can teach us spiritual truths and bring us closer to Christ and strengthen our relationship with Him and each other.

"Game Night!" is our theme for MERGE this year. Each week we will feature a specific game and apply the spiritual truths to our lives and faith. Our relationships with Christ and each other will be strengthened. It's guaranteed to be a good time! Please note that our times have changed for MERGE. Dinner is at 5:00 with programming beginning at 5:15. Programming ends at 7:00 pm and there is an optional hang time from 7:00 - 7:30. The HUB and the gym will be available.

Parent's Night is set for Sun., Sept. 29th. All students and their parents are invited to join us for this special night of MERGE. It will include a Youth/Parent meeting that highlights our school year events! Please be there! Let the games begin! ~ g. (PS - my favorite is Bananagrams!)

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

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE:

- 1 - Labor Day Camping Trip
- 8 - 9-11 Memorial Run/Post-Run Party
- 15 - Game Night: "Outburst"
- 22 - Game Night: "Mad Gab"
- 29 - **PARENT'S NIGHT: "Life"**

Confirmation

Confirmation is an opportunity for students to explore the Christian faith and full church membership. The confirmation experience will offer a variety of learning opportunities including weekly class instruction, service projects, retreats, field trips and building a relationship with a spiritual mentor (Friend in Faith). Confirmation is open to all current 8th grade students and above, who have not already been confirmed. **Registration is open through September 1.** To receive a confirmation packet, please contact Jeanne at jeanne@saintmarksum.org.

Kick-Off Celebration Dinner ~ Thursday, Sept. 5 ~ 6 pm ~ CLC
 For all confirmands and their families ~ no cost but registration required



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 the BLOCK

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

TAILGATE PARTIES
@ NWR HS LOT
5:30 PM

Sept. 13 & 27

Last names A - L bring canned drinks
 Last names M-Z bring side dish/dessert



9-11

MEMORIAL EVENT

EATURING OUR HEROES IN UNIFORM

Sunday, September 8, 2013
Lakeshore Park
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Children 1 Mile Fun Run
4:30 PM start \$10 entry

Adult Half Marathon
2 PM start \$25 entry
 Firemen will run 11 miles in full gear in honor of all the victims of September 11, 2001.

Register Online:
www.stinkyfeetathletics.com/911-half-marathon/

Bring the whole family for a fun-filled day!
RACE, FOOD, MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT, DOOR PRIZES
Proceeds to benefit the MS Burn Foundation & Reservoir Fire Department.

Event Sponsors:



Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- September 1 - Labor Day camping trip (youth)
- September 2 - Labor Day camping trip (youth), office closed
- September 3 - Trendsetters to Millsaps
- September 5 - Confirmation kick-off
- September 8 - 9-11 Memorial run
- September 9 - Stewpot
- September 10 - Stewpot
- September 11 - Stewpot
- September 12 - Stewpot, Abigail Circle
- September 13 - Stewpot
- September 17 - Tabitha Circle, Ruth Circle
- September 24 - Senior day @ CWP
- September 27 - Finance
- September 29 - Stewardship Sunday

OCTOBER

- October 6 - World communion
- October 9 - Senior day @ fair, Flu shot clinic
- October 13 - Children's Sabbath
- October 20 - Fall Fest
- October 23 - Trendsetter luncheon



Jo Hebert

An Encouraging Word From Jo Hebert

My 16 year-old daughter began driving to school this week. Yikes! Let me just say I am using the “find my iPhone” app...a lot. (When I see the green dot in the high school parking lot on the map, I am very happy!) Whether I was ready for this stage of parenting or not, it is here.

Parenting is packed full of “letting go” moments. Starting with moving the baby from bassinette to crib, all the way to buying dorm furnishings, our job is to let go—even when everything inside us says, “I don’t like this at all.” So, in this month’s article, I’m going to give you a guaranteed step-by-step plan to let go successfully.

Ha! It would be nice if that kind of plan existed, but if it did, we might miss significant opportunities to grow in our faith. Today, let’s settle for some reminders we can hold on to through all stages of parenting.

First, **let them take risks... and when they fail, encourage them to try again.** When my oldest fell off a swing for the first time, I wanted to coddle her forever, but thankfully my husband (after he consoled her) insisted she get right back on it so that she would realize she can do it and not be as afraid the next time. A child who is over-protected may develop a lifestyle of shying away from challenges.

Let others care for your children and let them do what they can for themselves. The first part of this comes very early— allowing loving grandparents and babysitters to provide care, taking advantage of church nurseries, etc. In regard to the second part (doing for themselves), I have to admit, I am coming in with a solid C (I still make lunches everyday for all 3 of mine). But, having our kids fold towels or order for themselves at a restaurant can turn out to be building blocks for developing healthy independence.

And, that is what we want, even though it feels so contrary to a part of us. During a parenting bible study long ago, I was taught that my greatest wish for my kids ought to be that they would “glorify God and enjoy Him forever.” That made an impression on me because, at the time, I just wanted the two I had then to be happy and safe from harm. As they (and I) have grown, so has that wish for them to glorify God...for them to know, above anything else in the world, that He is with them, He is trustworthy, and He loves them like crazy.

When that is my hope, I have to (and this is the last reminder) **be aware and stay engaged.** It is good to stay aware of our desire to hover, as well as our desire to “check-out” of a situation. We’ve all heard of (or we are) the mom who has to chaperone every school activity (hovering?) or the dad who starts working 80-hour weeks when his daughter goes to college (checking out). Letting go can create in us a massive desire to hold on tightly. Be aware of it. Your faith is about to grow. Let that feeling direct you to the One who holds it all. Ask Him how in the world you can trust Him with your children. He will show you. He loves you like crazy too.

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).



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

NONPROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT 27

DATED MATERIAL SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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
- Martha Hand, Director of Nurture/Outreach.....x102
- Karie Sue McCaleb, Pastor to Children & Families.....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



Greet St. Mark's Newest Acolytes:

- Miss Laura Case*
- Mr. Blake Champney*
- Miss Stella Cobbs*
- Miss Campbell Duese*
- Mr. Currie Jones*