



# the BEACON

*Shining Christ's light into the community*



October 2013 • Number 86

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**November 3, 2013**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Saint Mark's  
United Methodist Church  
Sanctuary**

LUNCH TO FOLLOW IN CLC

**Celebrating the Decades**

**10:10 in the Sanctuary**

Decade of 1970's - October 6

Decade of 1980's - October 13

Decade of 1990's - October 20

Decade of 2000's - October 27

**Sunday School 9:30 a.m.**

**Open  
Hearts**

**Open  
Doors**

**Open  
Minds**

## Rob's Remarks



October is here and so are the plans for the 40th Anniversary as the Saint Marks UMC. I hope you see, hear, and experience how God has richly blessed this ministry. Our Co-Chairs for this event are Mrs. June Miracle and Mr. Fred Price. During July they invited together over a hundred people to come and began the process of telling our story. It has a host of characters, events and people who have enriched the community around the Rez and into the state and world. We hope you will feel free to invite friends who have been part of our church to come and join in the celebration with us on one or more of the Sundays in October and on November 3rd for the great day of worship and "dinner on the grounds".

I digress for a moment to remember the summer of 1978. I had completed my freshman year in college. My father had met a young pastor in the conference named David Price. They were riding to a meeting together and the conversation turned towards St. Marks. David asked my Dad if he knew anyone who might be interested in a summer youth internship. He replied, "Yes. I have a son who would be very interested." And I spent 10 weeks here with a fun group of youth and two couples who were youth counselors. This was my first opportunity to test my gifts for ministry.

Somewhere in my worldly possessions is a scrapbook of my summer here among the good people who gave me a chance. Sometimes that is all God needs is a chance. I am indebted to David and to the folk who were part of that summer of '78. I look forward to sharing more memories that make up "the rest of the story" and even more to being part of the unveiling story that God is writing through our witness.

Beside is a Sunday Schedule for October. Please note the times and places for our weekly remembrances.

I look forward to remembering with you as well as looking to the future for 40 more years!

Grace and Peace,  
Rob

# Children's Corner



Karie Sue McCaleb

Galatians 5:22 describes the Fruit of the Spirit; one of those parts is JOY! Our Saint Mark's Kids have had such a joyful time of learning this fall through children's church, Sunday school, our weekday preschool, and Wednesday night programs. (Many thanks to all of our volunteers who make these special groups happen!) There are some exceptional events approaching in the following weeks! Be

sure to mark your calendars for these exciting events for our children and families. Sunday, October 13th will be Children's Sabbath. During our worship services, our children will have an opportunity to share songs and lead us in worship. This will be a Sunday to highlight the many ways that kids can offer their gifts of service and leadership, while focusing on our heritage and legacy as we approach our 40th anniversary at Saint Mark's. Volunteers are also signing up now for our annual "Fall Fest" held on Sunday, October 20th from 3:00pm until 5:00pm. This is a thrilling afternoon filled with games, inflatables, and fun for the entire family. This year we are offering a few new attractions such as a Pumpkin Carving Contest where you can bring your pumpkin creations to be displayed as well as a Pie Bake-Off. Break out that award-winning recipe book and enter to win a fabulous prize if your pie wins in our tasting contest! We want this to be a great event for our families and guests, so we need

adult and youth volunteers to make the night a success! Be sure to keep up with news and pictures in the digital world with #stmarksfallfest as you spread the word via Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram! Sign-up sheets will be going around Sunday school classes this month, and you can always sign up in the red binder in the front office. If you are interested in volunteering or registering for a contest you may also email [kariesue@saintmarksum.org](mailto:kariesue@saintmarksum.org)! Our kids do bring such joy to our church, and we are thankful for each family that calls Saint Mark's "home!"

Blessings! Karie Sue

**Children's Sabbath**  
**Sunday, October 13th**  
 Come enjoy a special time of worship  
 as our children lead and sing in our fellowship  
 together at Saint Mark's!

## Saint Mark's UMC

### Fall Fest

## Sunday, October 20th

# { 3:00 - 5:00 }

**Train Ride**

**Hay Ride**

obstacle course

**Mechanical** \* \* \*

**Bull** Face painting

**Trunk-or-Treat** Popcorn & Cotton Candy

## Costume Parade

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GAMES \* pie bake-off  
 pumpkin carving contest


### FUN FOR ALL AGES!

\*admission is a bag of candy\*

**SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER  
 IN THE FRONT OFFICE!**

or email [kariesue@saintmarksum.org](mailto:kariesue@saintmarksum.org)

#stmarksfallfest



**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

**Sunday, Oct. 13th ~ 3:00 - 9:30 pm**  
Cost: \$25 plus food  
Drop off and pick up is at St. Mark's!  
Sign up is required!



Unlimited rides!  
**FRIENDS WELCOME!**

**OCTOBER SCHEDULE:**

- 6 - Game Night: "Sorry"
- 13 - State Fair!
- 20 - Bonfire! "Guess Who?"
- 27 - Game Night: "Life"



**Bonfire**  
**Sun., Oct. 20**  
**5 - 7 pm**

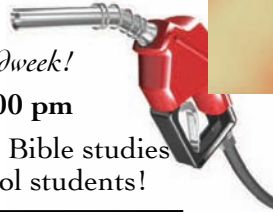
Food ~ Fire ~ Friends ~  
Worship ~ S'mores ~ Prizes  
Dress in costume for your  
chance to win!

**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



**TAILGATE PARTY**  
**@ NWR HS LOT**  
**5:30 PM**  
**Oct. 18**

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

**Jeanne's 2 Sense:** [jeanne@saintmarksum.org](mailto:jeanne@saintmarksum.org) (Isaiah 44:13-17)



The Pumpkin House in Kenova, West Virginia. I doubt many of you have ever heard of it. 3000+ pumpkins gutted, carved and lit for the enjoyment of the community. What started as a family project with 20 pumpkins for his three girls mushroomed into a monster of a project with more than 3,000 pumpkins! There are pumpkins everywhere and I'm still not sure who puts the one at the very top of the house! The entire community spends weeks, often working around the clock, to get the pumpkins finished before Halloween. When we lived in Kenova, our entire family took part in helping bring The Pumpkin House to life. There were plenty of jobs for everyone: unloading, sorting, scooping, carving, bleaching/washing, and displaying the pumpkins. My favorite job was carving. Jigsaws are used to do the carving and while there are plenty of 'typical' carvings of triangle eyes and jagged mouths, the majority are specialty carvings! I actually carved Abraham Lincoln's face on a pumpkin! And while that was certainly impressive (to me), I never once considered bowing down and worshipping any of the pumpkins I had carved. In fact, you may think I'm strange for even mentioning it. And, yet, the prophet Isaiah wrote that people were doing exactly that with wood! Part of the wood they would use to cook food or keep warm and part of it they would use to carve an idol and pray to it. Just as it would be crazy for me to have prayed to a carved pumpkin, it's just as crazy to bow/pray to a block of wood. False gods come in all shapes and sizes. Accolades. Achievements. Reputations. Relationships. Careers. Money. Fame. Notoriety. Possessions. It doesn't actually have to be something that can be carved with a knife or a jigsaw. There is only One worthy of our worship, the bowing of our knees, our prayers we lift before Him: the Lord our God. So, when you carve a pumpkin this season, remember how silly it would be to bow down to it and then pray to the One, True God and praise Him! ~ g. (P.S. Google The Pumpkin House! You won't be disappointed!)



# Trendsetters Adults Over 50 September



Sandra Thomas

## THE FAIR and MORE

In **August**, the Trendsetters enjoyed a trip to Aberdeen. The Visitor's Bureau greeted us with refreshments and material about Aberdeen and Mississippi. The group toured two antebellum homes and had lunch in the town. Most of all we enjoyed a day of wonderful fellowship.

Upcoming events in **October** include a trip to the fair and a pot luck luncheon.

On **Wednesday, October 9**, we will load the bus and head downtown to the Mississippi State Fair for a day of food, fun and entertainment. The bus will depart at 10 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. There is no cost for the trip.



On **October 23** the Trendsetters will be entertained by the Son Valley Hand Bells. Son Valley is a living center for people with physical or intellectual disabilities. They are located in Canton, but they house residents in apartments and homes in Northeast Jackson, South Jackson, Byram and Ridgeland.



Trendsetters enjoyed a trip to Aberdeen.

There are plans to open locations in Rankin County in the future. One of the experiences Son Valley offers residents is the opportunity to play hand bells. We look forward to welcoming this group of adults to St. Mark's on October 23 at noon. Bring your favorite dish and \$2. St. Mark's will provide the tea.

If you have not been a part of Trendsetters, come and join us. We are open to anyone 50 years of age or older. You don't have to be a member of St. Mark's to participate. For more information, contact Rev. Sandra Thomas at 601-992-2131 or [sandra@saint-marksum.org](mailto:sandra@saint-marksum.org).

## October Worship Experiences

### Oct 6 "World Communion Sunday"

*"All who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves."* (I Cor. 11:29)

While at a music conference in Pittsburgh this summer, I worshiped at Shadyside Presbyterian Church. While in the worship service, we learned that World Communion Sunday actually began at this church. It was a warm feeling knowing that congregation years ago had worshiped in that building and felt the call to unite churches together through Jesus Christ. I came home and read a bit more about that first world communion Sunday.

The first Sunday in October is set aside as World Communion Sunday and it celebrates our oneness in Christ with all peoples around the world. Paul tells us that we are to "discern the body" when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration.

World "Wide" Communion Sunday, as it was first named, began at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA in 1933. The pastor, Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, was attempting to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity by sharing knowledge and information thus showing how each congregation is interconnected one with another. The concept spread slowly, but gained momentum during WWII as the world was attempting to hold things together. World Wide Communion Sunday symbolized the effort to hold things together in a spiritual sense emphasizing that we are one in the Spirit and Gospel of Jesus Christ. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches promoted the celebration.

Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated by denominations around the world demonstrating the hope of peace through Jesus Christ.

### October 9-Children's Sabbath

(information about this Sunday is on the Children's Page)

### October 27 All Saint's Sunday

*"Sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise in the assembly of saints."* (Psalm 149:1)

On October 27, St. Mark's will have a special worship service remembering the lives of members that have gone to be with our Lord since our last All Saint's Service in 2012. We are grateful for the lives of each of these people and the memories we have of them. A candle will be lit and a bell tolled in their memory at each of our services. Those that will be remembered on All Saints Day 2013 are:

Betty Heidelberg	January 11, 2013
Eric Vaughn	January 22, 2013
Deacon Millard	March 6, 2013
Glenn Smith	March 15, 2013
Bill McKie	April 5, 2013
Sarah Jones	April 12, 2013
Bob Halbach	April 26, 2013
Mabel McCluer	May 3, 2013
William "Sonny" Millican, Jr.	June 11, 2013

# Calendar of Events

## OC TOBER

- October 6 – World communion, Decades presentation
- October 9 – Senior day @ fair, Flu shot clinic
- October 10 – Abigail Circle
- October 13 – Children's Sabbath, Decades presentation
- October 15 – Tabitha circle, Ruth circle
- October 20 – Fall Fest, Decades presentation, Salt & Light leaders meeting
- October 23 – Trendsetter luncheon
- October 27 – Decades presentation, All Saints observance

## NOVEMBER

- November 2 – Set up for 40th anniversary
- November 3 – 40th anniversary celebration
- November 10 – Finance
- November 14 – Abigail circle
- November 19 – Tabitha circle, Ruth circle
- November 23 – Handmade Holiday
- November 27 – Office closed
- November 28 – Happy Thanksgiving, Office closed
- November 29 – Office closed



Jo Hebert

## An Encouraging Word From Jo Hebert

I had a stellar-mom day last week. Yes, I am being sarcastic. Thinking I was helping, I gave my youngest daughter and my son a haircut, but I got overzealous with the scissors, and both were unhappy with the amount I took off. One was extremely unhappy—like, ruined the evening kind of unhappy. It has turned out ok, but at that moment, I just wanted to replace the hair I'd taken off. I wanted to undo what I did.

Words can be like that. We did a family devotion one time that compared unkind words to toothpaste that has been squeezed out and cannot be put back in the tube. Scripture calls the tongue a fire (James 3:6) with the power of life and death (Prov. 18:21). We all know the salve of kind, encouraging words that build up—bringing life. And, we know the pain of harsh words that come in like a kick to the gut—bringing death (maybe not actual death, but death of a conversation, a hope, a trust, a relationship... something will die.)

And, where do we typically give and receive the most hurtful words? Sadly, we tend to guard our tongues the least around the people we love the most—our families. After all, they know we love them...they will forgive us...they know we don't mean it, right? Maybe so, but when we speak unkind words, the fire burns both the speaker and the hearer. So, it is good to be reminded the truth of Ephesians 4:29: "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

How on earth are we to let "no unwholesome word proceed from our mouths?" Is that a joke? That's what I wondered when I first meditated on that verse. It seems so impossible that we just want to skip over it. But, I've come to see that verse as a challenge and the act of obeying it as a discipline (although my family can testify that I have a very long way to go).

I'm going to devote the next couple of articles to this discipline of speaking words of life, as it applies to family. For now, I'd like to invite you to be a detective of your thoughts about others—especially your family. Since it is "from the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45), we ought to consider how we are sizing up those we live with. Are we looking at them through a screen of criticism or are we trying to observe and appreciate the good? Ask the Lord to bring your attention to unwholesome words and thoughts.

Let's start there. The scissors are in hand—we haven't yet begun the haircut. We have a choice to make: life or death? More next month.

*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](mailto:jhebertlpc@comcast.net)).*



*The present Newcomers Class ~ Building more than just buildings*



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

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 PERMIT 27

DATED MATERIAL OCTOBER 5, 2013

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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
- 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](http://www.saintmarksum.org)



Martha Hand

## A Messge from Nurture and Outreach

For the last four weeks, St. Mark's has been nurturing a group of new members and regular visitors during our latest Newcomer's class. Rob and Jeff have been leading our discussions from a book called **United Methodist Questions, United Methodist Answers**. Topics of discussion so far have been baptism, communion, our Methodist story, means of grace, and Methodist theology. Questions have been asked that have led to some very informative answers by our pastoral leaders. The culmination of our Newcomer's class will be a meal together at Corner Bakery. What a great way to fellowship with new friends who have begun this spiritual journey together! These Newcomer classes will continue throughout the year on a regular basis. Just another way St. Mark's is growing deeper and reaching wider by ministering to the newest of our congregation and helping them get immersed into the life of our church. Those attending the class are Robin Rae Burns, Phyllis and Jerry Channell, Farasha and Jeremy Hackler, Dean and Jenna Hemphill, Linda Lott, Karen and Will McCarty, Nancy Branigin, Samantha Biggs, Asem and Mimi Zeini, and John Merritt Howard. Special thanks to the S.A.L.T. and Encouragers Sunday School classes for sharing their classroom for this important ministry