

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- November 2 – Set up for 40th anniversary
- November 3 – 40th anniversary celebration, Daylight savings time ends
- November 9 – Youth retreat
- November 10 – Finance, youth retreat, choir rehearsal
- November 11 – Stewpot
- November 12 – Stewpot
- November 13 – Stewpot
- November 14 – Abigail circle, Stewpot
- November 15 – Stewpot
- November 17 – Youth mystery dinner fundraiser
- November 19 – Tabitha circle, Ruth circle
- November 21 – Preschool Thanksgiving feast
- November 24 – Ad council
- November 27 – Office closed
- November 28 – Happy Thanksgiving, Office closed
- November 29 – Office closed

DECEMBER

- December 3 – Charge conference (Clinton), Trendsetters to Millsaps
- December 6 – Trendsetters/Williamsburg
- December 7 – Trendsetters/Williamsburg
- December 8 – Trendsetters/Williamsburg
- December 9 – Trendsetters/Williamsburg
- December 10 – Trendsetters/Williamsburg
- December 11 – Trendsetters/Williamsburg
- December 12 – Trendsetters/Williamsburg, Abigail circle
- December 13 – Trendsetters/Williamsburg
- December 15 – Children's Christmas program, Snacks with Santa
- December 16 – Choir rehearsal
- December 18 – Trendsetter luncheon, Sanctuary Choir cantata
- December 19 – Preschool Christmas program
- December 20 – Nativity walk
- December 21 – Nativity walk
- December 22 – Christmas communion, Nativity walk
- December 24 – Christmas eve services, office closed
- December 25 – Merry Christmas
- December 31 – Contributions for 2013 turned in by noon



Jo Hebert

An Encouraging Word From Jo Hebert

Last month, we looked at a powerful verse that encourages us to “let no unwholesome word proceed from (our) mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen” (Eph. 4:29). Speaking beneficial words starts with the purposeful decision to think the best about someone and choose words of life. So, I challenged you to be a detective of your thoughts about others—especially your family—as we seek to build up those we love.

So, what have you noticed? If you are like me, you have come upon thoughts that are better left unsaid. But, what are we to do with them?

“Thought-stopping” is an effective technique to get rid of unwanted thoughts, but before the term was coined, the Bible put it this way: “...take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” If we would stop to ask God if what we are thinking lines up with His truth before we speak, just imagine how our speech would change. Then, going a step further, we can replace our negative thoughts by applying the truth of Philippians 4:8 (yes, I’ve quoted it here before and most likely will again): “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.”

I came face to face with these verses during a short time in my early parenting years when I struggled to think positively about one child. Though my love didn’t waver, my warm and fuzzy feelings took a hiatus while dealing with a particular hurdle. My thoughts became full of criticism—and shot right out of my mouth like darts. Disdain was choking out kindness until one day, I said, “Lord, I can’t keep feeling this way toward my child. Please show me another way.” I then began to journal about all of my child’s positive traits—thanking the Lord for each one. The tears fell as I asked the Lord for forgiveness. Everything wasn’t rosy yet, but Hope came.

I’ve had similar experiences with my husband when I felt as if God was urging me not to utter a word, but bring my feelings to Him. When I obey Him, the end result is much sweeter than I could have brought about through my own demands.

But, it is hard to close our mouths. We make mistakes. The darts get launched. And, when that happens, we need to say we are sorry as soon as possible. I have to do this continually. Likewise, when our loved one apologizes for harsh words, ask God for help to release them, and let the healing of forgiveness rush in.

And “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8). May we all abide in His love as He strengthens our love for our families.

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).

The youth of St. Mark’s proudly presents...

"DEATH IN THEM THAR HILLS"

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATER FUNDRAISER!

SUN., NOV. 17 @ 5:00 PM IN Cactus Gutch
AKA CLC

TICKETS: Adults \$15 Children \$5 (birth - 5th grade)

Lasso Special: Lasso up 7 pardners & get an entire table of 8 for \$100!

Reservations accepted through Nov. 10

*Setting: Wild West 1883 ~ Western Wear encouraged! (Note: child care provided for birth - Kg)

All proceeds benefit the St. Mark’s Youth Ministry!



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 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 Director601-992-9554
- Jim Readell, Church Facilities Manager601-506-4714
- Delores Seward, Administrative Assistantx101
- Martha Toombs, Business Officex106
- Corrine Carpenter, Preschool Officex110
- Darlene BakerPianist
- Jason BoydOrganist
- Drew Herring11th Hour Worship Leader
- Robert GhostonCustodian

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

White Christmas Trees

Our White Christmas Trees go up November 15th and signal the start of the Advent Season at St. Mark's. We'll have three trees this year. There will be two for Rankin County Children and one for our local Seniors who are in need. All names come from the Rankin County Human Resource Agency. For each child, we try to supply a toy and a set of clothes. For each Senior, we try to supply an item they are in need of. The children's trees will be in the Office Lobby and the CLC Lobby. The Senior Tree will be in the Narthex.

This year we would like to help 100 Children from 25 families and 25 Seniors. There will be a tag with the age, gender and Christmas Wish or clothing sizes. The items could be anything from a football to a bicycle. All you need to do is take the tag off the tree and mark on the sheets which one you took. **The wrapped packages must be back at the Church Office Lobby by December 8th with the tag attached.**

We also try to give the parent or guardian a \$25 gift card to WalMart or Kroger. If the tags are all gone, please consider donating a gift card and leaving it at the Office.

This is a wonderful way to begin to celebrate the Nativity with your family. If your Sunday School Class would like to adopt a family, please let Sandra Thomas or Chris Zachow (sezczg47@aol.com) know as soon as possible.





the
BEACON

Shining Christ's light into the community



November 2013 • Number 87

Help for the divorced
and separated
during the
holidays.



Surviving the Holidays

If you're separated or divorced, the holidays can be a lonely, stressful, and depressing time. But there's hope. Join us for an encouraging seminar to discover how to enjoy the holidays again.

DIVORCE *Care*



Thursday Nov. 21
6:45-9:00pm

in the Wesley Center

Contact Jo Hebert for more info:

601-259-1749 or jhebertlpc@comcast.net



Rob's Remarks



"Tis the gift to be simple, tis the gift to be free. Tis the gift to turn out where you want to be. And when you find yourself in the place that's right, twill be in the valley of love and delight."

This text and tune was running through my mind as I thought about the days leading towards Thanksgiving and Advent, which begins December 1st. Simple gifts often have such an impact. On my desk in my study at the church and at my home are simple gifts: notes, cards, pictures that speak to the relationships that have enriched my life among you and the hundreds of people I have been fortunate to serve for almost 30 years.

Each day is the possibility for such simple acts of kindness, charity, and grace. Often I miss them because I am hurrying on to the "important" things. I confess that the older I get, the more I want to linger. But my drive and my anxiety often get the best of me. After all I have been nicknamed "Taz". Not very flattering is it?

So as we approach these days in November, which in days gone by, were the time when crops were laid by after the harvest was completed and folk moved a little slower. I recognize that the demands of our jobs, family, school and work keep us often at breakneck speed. So I am thankful when Currie, Graham, Cason and I can sit down for a meal without a phone call or text or Instagram or an activity, which requires our attention.

Simple is a place of peace. Stillness and inner contentment are not based on performance and job satisfaction or career advancement or even volunteer service hours. It is a practice of setting time aside to sense and smell and touch and taste the good around us. We sing it from time to time in our worship settings in traditional worship: "Take time to be holy." It is a simple act of defiance against the hurried and frantic world of culture. And as the opening text suggests, "when we find our selves in the place just right, twill be in the valley of love and delight." That is a journey towards the inner joy of knowing the God who loves us and desires us and accepts us as we are. There are no strings attached. We are simply loved. We call it grace.

Consider the simple gift of being loved, cherished and desired. If you get that from other people it is a bonus. But be assured that God looks through all the complexities and sees the simple and ordinary and calls it good. That is "living in the valley of love and delight".

Peace,
Rob

Children's Corner



Karie Sue McCaleb

It is time for THANKS-GIVING! So many thanks to everyone who made our Fall Fest such a wonderful day for our church family! We had a blast with all the games, inflatables, and costume parade! Megan Murphey and Hannah Phillips were the first place winners of our Pie Bake-Off and Porter Foster won the best pumpkin creation! We could not have had such a great day without the help of so many adult and youth volunteers!

In the upcoming weeks we will be preparing for our Christmas program, Snacks with Santa (both of which will be Sunday, December 15th), as well as a very special mission for St. Marks. Our Children's Ministry will be participating in Operation Christmas Child this year and we will begin taking donations now. Here's what we hope to do for Second Saturday to help kids in need: Adults and children are welcome to attend a Packing Party on Saturday, November 9th. We will meet in the Parlor to pack, wrap boxes, and pray for the children who will receive them. We will wrap from 8am to 11am.

For the November 9th Packing Party, bring your shoe boxes (standard size!) and choose items you would like to give from these three specific age categories 2-4 years, 5-9 years, and 10-14

years (either for a boy or girl). Check out www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child for a great video about how to pack boxes and more information about the program.


Here are some suggestions for new items to include: hygiene products, washcloths, school supplies (especially pencils, sharpeners, crayons & paper), socks, shirts, undergarments, hair accessories, hard candy, small toys and flashlights with batteries. \$7 Check for each box you will contribute to Samaritan's Purse (note "OCC" on memo line)

DO NOT INCLUDE: Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, military figures or figurines holding weapons; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or aerosol cans.

We hope that you will participate along with us and this great mission! Our goal is to wrap 50 boxes for children in need around the world! As we enter into this season of thankfulness, may we be truly thankful for all the gracious gifts God has given us, as we bless those in our world through the amazing gift of Christ's love! If you are unable to be with us November 9, but want to participate, please have your completed shoebox/check to the church by November 18.

With a thankful heart,
Karie Sue





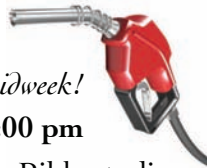
merge
bringing students and god together

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

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE:

- 3 - Game Night: "Trouble"
- 10 - FALL RETREAT
- 17 - Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser
- 24 - Game Night: "Apples to Apples"

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



"ALL IN" Weekend!

Youth Fall Retreat

Nov. 9 - 10

@ Camp Wesley Pines

Cost: \$25

(\$5 discount for families with more than one youth participating)



50' **RockWall!** **Games!** **Fun!** **Food!** **Competitions!** **Ropes Course!**
Worship! **Friends!** **Bible Study!** **Zip Line!** **Fun!** **Laughter!**

Deadline to register is Sun., Nov. 3!

Bring your friends! For all youth grades 6-12!

"DEATH IN THEM THAR HILLS"



MURDER MYSTERY DINNER FUNDRAISER!

Sun., Nov. 17th * 5:00 pm * \$5 for workers!

Youth who work earn money for their account! We need actors, servers, set up/clean up, & childcare workers! There's a spot for you! Sign up today!

* dress code: 'western wear'!



Jeanne's 2 Sense: jeanne@saintmarksum.org (Deuteronomy 30:10b)

"Nothing halfhearted here; you must return to God, your God, totally, heart and soul, holding nothing back."

When you consider sports, it's easy to identify those who compete half-heartedly and those who go 'all in'. Many of us have played on teams that had players on the team who really didn't want to play. They were on the team because their parents wanted them on the team or because their friends were playing and they didn't want to be excluded or for a number of other reasons other than competing. That's fine, if the team is just for 'fun' or exercise. But if you are on a competitive team, one in which 'rank' makes a difference, then you want each player giving it everything they've got - holding nothing back. A half-hearted player affects the entire team.

What would your life look like if you held nothing back with/from God? What would your school look like if you held nothing back? What would your home look like if you held nothing back? What would our church look like if you held nothing back? What would our youth group look like, if you truly held nothing back from God? If you gave God your total heart, mind, soul and strength? If you fully trusted Him, with not only your eternal future, but your present reality? What if you went "all in" with this 'God-thing'? What if you surrendered fully and let Him be your God?

"ALL IN" Weekend is coming Nov. 9 -10 and we want YOU there! We will play, compete, study God's Word, conquer high & low ropes courses, strengthen friendships, laugh, eat, sleep, worship and take a look at what it means to go "ALL IN" with God...to hold nothing back. Tired of half-heartedness? Join us for "ALL IN" Weekend! It is going to be the HIGHLIGHT weekend of our fall! You don't want to miss it! Guaranteed! ~ g.

