



## Thank You

June Bragg

Our thanks to June Bragg, who volunteered to help reorganize St. Mark's churchwide General United Methodist Women Unit as President for 2015. June is a life-long United Methodist with over 20 years of active service to the United Methodist Women (UMW). While St. Mark's has three active circles, Abigail, Ruth, and Tabitha, the church as a whole has not had a churchwide slate of officers who report to the East Jackson UMW District in several years.

Born and raised in Illinois, June moved to the Reservoir in 1986 with her husband, Francis, who worked for the railroad. June joined St. Mark's in 1991 and became a member of the Crusaders Sunday School class, sanctuary choir, and Ruth Circle. Ruth Circle, a nighttime circle, met June's needs while she worked for MS Properties/Invest Linc Securities for 23 years. Since retiring, June switched to Tabitha Circle, which meets each month on the third Tuesday morning at 9:30 in the parlor.

During her years in UMW, in addition to serving in various capacities at the local church level, June served on the East Jackson District UMW Board, first as the Spiritual Growth Leader and then as President for four years. She also served on the MS Conference UMW Board as the Communications Coordinator. Additionally, June served as the recording secretary for St. Mark's Administrative Council for many years.

June has three children, Jon, Debbie, and Amy, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren with another one on the way. Both her daughters live in Rankin County, and her son lives in Columbus.

Joining June in leading St. Mark's United Methodist Women for 2015 are Rebecca Doyle as Vice President, Arlene Pettus as Treasurer, and Anne Reed as Secretary. St. Mark's first General UMW Meeting in several years was held on March 1st in the parlor. The program centered on plans for the UMW's 2015 Tablescapes scheduled for August 29, 2015. Any St. Mark's member is welcome to participate in Tablescapes in any capacity. To volunteer, please contact any of the officers listed above or Julie Blake, this year's Tablescapes chairperson.

June is very excited about the future of St. Mark's UMW.



Jo Hebert

## An Encouraging Word From Jo Hebert

I just got back home after a walk around the block in the freezing rain. This is the one following the 82-degree day. (I bet you remember that.) While most normal, well-adjusted people are feeling teased and disgusted today and would not choose to take a walk in the 16-degree wind-chill, I found great significance along that stroll. I took in the sound of the pellets hitting the trees, rooftops, and the hood of my coat. I even cherished the bitter cold on my cheeks when the wind blew the wintry mix right on my face. No doubt, snow would be more my fancy...but I'll take what I can get here in central Mississippi.

No, I don't have a fever. Let me explain.

Growing up northwest of Atlanta, we got a little more snow than we do here, and I always loved it. But, a whole new world of snow-appreciation opened up to me when I moved to Cleveland, Ohio in 1998, with my husband and baby. Our first January there, it snowed 22 days in a row! I videotaped the pile-up in the front yard everyday, with absolute amazement. One particular day, as I stared out at the beautiful white blanket, my neighbor said "and Jesus washes our sin whiter than snow." WOW! I got it. Like never before. And I haven't forgotten.

I was wide-eyed at the beauty of it; while at the same time, I was wide-eyed at God's faithfulness to us as we began to build our family 700 miles from "home." I learned a lot during those four years— what a mud room is, what a white-out is, that shoveling snow makes you sweat, and that really good snow boots are essential— while God provided one need after another: a church, a group of godly friends, a job for me to help bring home the bacon while Michael worked as a post-doc...and so many other evidences of His presence with us.

So, the sights and sounds of snow (and anything resembling it) resonate deeply for me, bringing powerful reminders of the steady, sovereign presence of God. I think about the beauty He has made from the ashes of my life as I hear those clicks of freezing rain and feel their sting on my face. I picture those gorgeous weighted-down Ohio evergreens, almost breaking from the heaviness of the snow. And I remember the sacrifice my Savior made, weighted down by my sin, so that He could give me new life.

What are your reminders? What's your go-to story of God's faithfulness in your life... pictures of strength and fortitude? It is good for you to "consider what great things He has done for you" (1 Samuel 12:24). Store up those fond memories, don't pack them too far away; so that you can bring them to mind and know the Lord is faithful, for "He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen" (Deut 10:21).

And, if it's been a while since your eyes saw some great and awesome things in your life, take heart, for "the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your soul in drought. You will be like a watered garden, like a stream of water, whose waters do not fail" (Isaiah 58:11). As you wait, keep an eye out—searching diligently—for anything remotely resembling a reminder of His presence. When you find it, be wide-eyed! Treasure it...let it rain down on you and hit you in the face. He is with you! He loves you! He is for you!

Happy Easter, St. Mark's. May the Lord keep the beauty and glory of Easter resonating deep within us...a continual celebration.

Jo is a Licensed Professional Counselor at St. Mark's. She has flexible hours in the morning and evening. You can reach her by phone (601-259-1749) or email (jhebertlp@comcast.net).



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

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Jeff Nesbit

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold, the new has come." - (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Resurrection Sunday (April 5th) trumps everything else in April! If the Resurrection of Jesus explains your life, then you are a "new creation"!

I use an illustration with the 11th Hour that I have heard from many other preachers when it comes to being a "new creation".

What if I showed up for worship one Sunday morning, 15 minutes late, and apologized for being late to the service by giving you this explanation: "Sorry I am late to the service today. I was on the side of the road fixing a flat tire. While fixing the tire, a mac truck crashed into me and shook me up a bit, but I'm fine, and I'm here at worship now."

You would think one of two things: (1) I have lost my mind or (2) I am a liar. Why? Because if a mac truck crashed into my body, I would look completely different. Nothing about me would be the same...in a negative way. How much more, in a positive way, when the amazing saving grace of Jesus Christ crashes into my life, rescuing me from the kingdom of darkness and eternal death, should I be radically changed in every way! I should be a "new creation" if I am the "anyone" who is "in Christ" in the verse above! In other words, if I am truly converted by Christ, it should be obvious.

Is your salvation obvious? Are you a new creation? God the Father re-creating you out of a sinful nature is more of a miracle to be cherished than the first creation of the world out of nothing. He said "let there be light" as He created the world, but when He saved you through His Son, He said, "Let there be Light - My Son, Jesus Christ - who became your sin so that you could become the righteousness, not of man, but of God (2 Corinthians 5:21)!"

How has the righteous, regenerating, re-creating, Resurrecting life of Jesus Christ changed you into a patient husband toward your wife? A praying wife for your husband? A student devoted to Christ's holy ways? A parent who treasures Jesus so much, His love compels you to be the main disciple maker to your kids (2 Corinthians 5:14)? Has the Resurrection made you such a new creation that the moment you recognize being tempted, you go immediately to the Cross thanking Jesus for the power to overcome your sin or if you fall, you run quickly into repentance because you desire God?

May the Resurrection of Jesus explain your life and the life of Saint Mark's. May the Holy Spirit give us the crisp breeze of Heaven - let there be many, many, "anyones" in this bride of Christ!

## It is Empty

Philip was born with Down's syndrome. He went to Sunday school every Sunday with 8-year-old boys and girls. Typical of that age, the children did not readily accept Philip's "differences." They all had a creative teacher who helped them to care about Philip and accept him as part of the group. The Sunday after Easter, the teacher brought old Leggs pantyhose containers, you know, the kind that used to look like large eggs. Each receiving one, the children were told to go outside on that lovely spring day, find some symbol for new life and put it inside the big egg. Back in the classroom, they would share their new-life symbols, opening the containers one by one in surprise fashion. After running about the church property in wild confusion, the students returned to the classroom and placed the containers on the table. Surrounded by the children, the teacher began to open them one by one. After each one, whether flower, butterfly or leaf, the class would ooh and ahh. Then one was opened, revealing nothing inside. The children exclaimed, "That's stupid. That's not fair. Somebody didn't do their assignment." Philip spoke up, "That's mine!" "Philip, you don't ever do things right," one student retorted. "There's nothing there!" "I did so do it," Philip insisted. "I did do it. It's empty. The tomb was empty!" Silence followed. From then on Philip became a full member of the class. He died not long afterward from an infection most normal children would have shrugged off. At the funeral, this class of 8-year-olds marched up to the altar not with flowers, but with their Sunday school teacher, each to lay on it an empty pantyhose egg. This brings home what



Warren Coile

Candler professor Luke Timothy Johnson wrote in his book, The Real Jesus: The Christian claim concerning the resurrection of Jesus is not that he picked up his old

manner of life, but rather that after his death he entered into an entirely new form of existence,

one in which he shared the power of God and in which he could share that power with others.

The resurrection experience, then, is not simply something that happened to Jesus but is equally something that happened to Jesus' followers.

Which would be true, even if you're in a third grade Sunday school class with Leggs.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 1 – 6pm  
Musical Drama "The Debt"  
Dinner at 5pm  
(All in the Christian Life Center)

Thursday, April 2 – 6pm  
Maundy Thursday Communion Service  
(In the Sanctuary)

Friday, April 3 – 6pm  
Good Friday Nail Driving Service  
(In the Sanctuary)

Saturday, April 4 – 6pm  
Decorate the Cross  
(In front of Wesley Center)

Sunday, April 5 – 8:20, 10:45 and 11:00  
Easter Services  
(9:30 Sunday School for All Ages)

### Saint Mark's United Methodist Church

Phone: 601-992-2131

#### Church Staff:

- Warren Coile, 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 .....x113
- Jim Readell, Church Facilities Manager .....x112
- Delores Seward, Administrative Assistant .....x101
- Martha Toombs, Business Office .....x106
- Corrine Carpenter, Preschool Office .....x110
- Darlene Baker..... Music assistant/pianist
- Jason Boyd..... Music assistant/organist
- Robert Ghoston..... Custodian
- Dennis O'Neal ..... Media 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](http://www.saintmarksum.org)

# GARAGE SALE

## Fri., May 1 (6pm - 9pm ~ \$5) Sat., May 2 (7am - Noon)

### We need your donations!

This is a great opportunity to clean out closets, garages and attics! Please share your consignment quality "treasures" with others! We will accept donations through Wed., April 29. The PODS are open Sundays and Wednesdays and by appointment.

Need help with a pick up? We can help.  
Last day for a pick up is Sun., April 26.

Please contact Jeanne for more information.

All donations are tax-deductible.

All proceeds support our YOUTH!

# Children's Corner



Karie Sue McCaleb



Mark your calendars!

St. Mark's VBS

Holy Land Adventure Returns

June 14th - 18th, 2015



We are looking to put together a DivorceCare for Kids (DC4K) team. DC4K is a 13-week class providing hope and coping resources to 5-12 year-olds dealing with the separation or divorce of their parents. After offering it last fall, we believe it is a helpful and vital ministry that we would love to keep available. The curriculum is very organized and detailed, and training would be provided for all leaders. Because planning and preparation are very important, we would like to have this team arranged by May. We are looking for adults and teens that would be available one evening a week this fall (dates to be determined). If you have a desire to help with this ministry, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and the time to plan with others who have a heart for DC4K, we would love to talk with you. We are also looking for individuals willing to help with set-up and snack preparation. No contribution is too small. Please contact Karie Sue at 601-992-2131 to express interest or find out more.

**Egg Hunt**  
 Sat. April 4th  
 10am - 12pm  
 At the CLC  
 Ages 0-10  
 Bring a friend!

Weekly Programs: Children's Church during worship \* Sunday School 9:30 Wednesdays @ 6pm Choir (3-2nd grade) and PATH 345 sport/study 3rd-5th

WE NEED TEACHERS: PLUS SUBSTITUTES FOR ALL GRADES FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR! Be a blessing for our students at St. Mark's and sign up now for Fall

**St. Mark's at the Park**  
 Second Saturday Monthly  
 Flowood Winner's Circle Park  
 10:00am

THIS SUMMER? JOIN US FOR A PREVIEW HOUR AND PLANNING LUNCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH & MAY 24TH PARLOR @ NOON

WE ARE COLLECTING SUPPLIES: IF YOU HAVE THINGS TO BORROW/ DONATE PLEASE DELIVER TO ASBURY HALL. \* WE NEED:

- TAIL GATING TENTS MEDIUM (EARTH TONES) RUGS
- BLANKETS -OR THROWS BASKETS SMALL FURNITURE
- FLORAL PIECES AND GREENERY FILLER

VOLUNTEER IN THESE AREAS:

- TRAFFIC HELP \* REGISTRATION \* DÉCOR
- CRAFTS \* TRIBE LEADERS/ASSISTANTS
- GAME LEADERS \* DRAMA & WORSHIP LEADERS

## YOUTH News

Jeanne Chapman, Director of Youth Ministries  
jeanne@saintmarksum.org

**merge**  
 bringing students and god together

Dinner ~ Games ~ Worship ~ Life Groups  
 SUNDAYS ~ 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
 For students in grades 6 - 12

### April SCHEDULE:

- 5 - No MERGE (Easter!)
- 12 - MERGE - "Insider's View: Twice Busted"
- 19 - MERGE - "Insider's View: Roomy Tomb"
- 26 - Garage Sale Set Up!

**5th Block**

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

**May 1 & 2**  
 Set up dates:  
 Sun., April 26 - Thurs., April 30  
 4 - 7 pm  
**GARAGE SALE**

## SUMMER CAMP DEPOSITS ARE DUE SUN., APRIL 5TH!

<p>Grades 6 - 12  <b>MissionFest</b>          June 7 - 11          @ Millsaps College          Cost: \$185          \$50 deposit is due April 5th</p>	<p>Grades 9 - 12  <b>HS Area One Camp</b>          June 21 - 26          Lake of the Ozarks, MO          Cost: \$285          \$85 deposit is due April 5th</p>	<p>Grades 6 - 8  <b>MS Global Youth Camp</b>          July 13 - 17          Chatsworth, GA          Cost: \$285          \$85 deposit is due April 5th</p>
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*Confirmation Sunday*  
 April 26 ~ 10:45 Service

**GOOD Friday** April 3 6:00 pm  
*"Our Journey to His Cross"*  
**Nail Driving Service**  
 All youth needed to participate!

**GOD'S DEAD**

**FUEL**  
 "High octane for the soul midweek"  
 April 1 - Chancel Choir Program  
 April 8 - "Against the Grain"  
 April 15 - "Be It, Say It, Do It"  
 April 25 - "Friendship"

## Trendsetters will see the famous New York City Slickers on April 10, 2015



5:00 -10:00 p.m. Schubert and Bluegrass The New York City Slickers. Cost for the transportation and show is \$10. Dinner on your own.

RSVP and payment due April 1

The New York City Slickers return to Millsaps and join the Millsaps Singers in presenting Carol Barnett's highly acclaimed "The World Beloved: A Blue Grass Mass." This work will be contrasted with a short, traditional setting of the mass by Franz Schubert, accompanied by strings. Dr. Tim Coker will conduct both works. The program will conclude with special selections by the City Slickers.

### Wednesday, April 22

Covered dish luncheon in the CLC at noon - \$2.00  
 Jeanne Melton will sing the old familiar hymns like "The Old Rugged Cross," "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art." She will also sing requests.  
 Jeanne is a member of the Sanctuary Choir at Saint Mark's UMC



### Thursday, April 30

Time 9:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Christ Life Church  
 Meet at the church

## The Spring Musical Extravaganza - Branson Style

with Bill Clark, Candy Lee Dobbs, Andrew Ishee, Allen Harris, Bob Saxon and Victoria Holmes  
 There will be a special musical tribute to Elvis at 80

Cost is \$20 for show and Transportation - Lunch on your own  
 RSVP and Payment by April 12  
 We will eat following the show at Luby's Cafeteria

Now In A Terrific New Venue  
 670 Highland Colony Parkway at Christ Life Church in Ridgeland

**The Spring Musical Extravaganza - Branson Style**  
 With A Special Musical Tribute to Elvis at 80.

Bill Clark CandyLee Dobbs Andrew Ishee Allen Harris  
 Bob Saxon Victoria Holmes  
 Thursday, April 30, 2015  
 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.