



Rodney and Sara Weeks

## CHOIR NOTES

Aren't we blessed to have such a diverse music ministry here at St. Mark's? How does the music impact you? Music has played an important role in church for me my entire life. Here at St. Mark's it can be the organ, the piano, instrumentals, the bells, the eleventh Hour Praise band, congregational hymns, the choir, the children, any of the ensembles, dance, the solos. There is music of so many forms. It erases a lot of distracting thoughts and puts me in the right frame of mind for worship.

And I do enjoy singing! It's uplifting and great fun - not only singing but being part of a great group of people. I look forward to seeing everyone at Wednesday rehearsals. I am blessed to be in the midst of an immensely talented group of people. But, I am living proof that you don't have to be a great talent to raise a "joyful noise" to the LORD.

Wouldn't you like to be part of this exciting ministry? It's as easy as **DoReMi**. Just ask any of the choir members, musicians, the office or Sandra for information. You may benefit from one of my famed Choir Lessons or just show up with your happy face.

Submitted by Dr. Rodney Weeks



Jo Hebert

## An Encouraging Word From Jo Hebert

Are you getting enough downtime? If you find yourself drawn even just to the word **downtime**, wondering "what is that?" then you probably are not. August may seem like a strange time for me to broach such a topic...who has time for downtime when school is starting back and we will soon be mindful of how many shopping days we have till Christmas? But, that is precisely why I do bring it up now. We need it.

My daughter, who plays softball for the NWRHS team, is having "dead week" this week. For them, dead week is the week that they, according to association rules, must shut down...no games, practices, or school work-outs. It has got me thinking about how we need our own mini-shut downs from time to time, and about how I am hesitant to allow myself to do this. Other than scheduled vacations, it is very hard for me to relax when there is work to be done (and there is always, always work to be done). So, I readily admit, this article is for me. But, my hunch is that I am not the only one.

I recently came upon some delightful words of Jesus. Surely I've heard them before, but it felt like I was reading Mark 6:31 for the first time: "Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'" Interestingly, the disciples didn't get a chance to rest that day, because a large crowd came upon them that Jesus would miraculously feed. But, we just can't miss that invitation. "*Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.*"

Just as farmers may deliberately put an entire field to rest, letting it become fallow to ensure greater production the next season (which God asked the Israelites to do in Leviticus), God is asking us to be deliberate to rest in Him. But, please don't go put "rest" on your to-do list. My purpose is not to add to the things you *should* be doing. Heavens no. But, I do hope to alert us to our desire for rest...and not just rest, but fun...things that rejuvenate and help us feel alive.

If thinking on these things creates a yearning in you but then you quickly dismiss it because rest isn't practical for you right now, I understand. But, I implore you to ask the Lord what the first step is for you to find rest. Ask Him to teach you how to trust Him enough to put tasks aside, and then prayerfully seek that opportunity. Perhaps you can start by meditating on Jesus' words from Matthew 28 (Message version): "Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

May God strengthen you and refresh you as you seek Him in rest.

*Jo is a Licensed Professional Counselor at St. Mark's. She is available Mon and Wed mornings and some evening hours. You can reach her by phone (601-259-1749) or email ([jhebertlpc@comcast.net](mailto:jhebertlpc@comcast.net)).*



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

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DATED MATERIAL AUGUST 6, 2014

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### 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)

## Wednesday night PROGRAMMING

**begins August 20th**

**LOOK!**

- 3:30 pm 5th block
- 5:00 pm Supper
- 5:30 pm Fuel
- 6:00 pm Cherub Choir
- 6:00 pm Methodist Melodies
- 6:00 pm Adult Study
- 6:00 pm Praise Team
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir

**Watch bulletins, emails, Facebook for more info!**



# the BEACON

*Shining Christ's light into the community*



August 2014 • Number 95

## The NOT so late night show with....

Wednesday, August 13  
Dinner at 5. Show at 6.

Be sure to see the talents of your fellow church members on display Wednesday August 13 as St. Marks presents the NOT so late night show. Several of the adult Sunday school classes have been diligently coming up with "acts." And there will be some entertaining acts. We have ballroom dancing, line dancing, singing, skits, and more surprises. Our hosts for the evening will be Ken Peacock and Ron Humphrey. The meal will be prepared by Ron Milone and his crew. The cost for the meal is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children through 5th grade.

Our kids will have fun and games with Rev. Karie Sue McCaleb.

Make Wednesday nights a date on your calendar every week beginning with this fun kick-off.



## Hitting the Reset Button

The Gospel lessons for the past few Sundays have been from Matthew 13, the Kingdom of Heaven Parables. It's one of five great sermons preached by Jesus using seven parables to convey what the reign of God is like. He could have laid out one huge policy statement about the rules of God's reign. But then again, how many times do we skip to the dotted line at the bottom of the page, initial the box indicating our compliance, or click on the button that says we agree to the terms and conditions of whatever. Remember what the rules are for that latest app you downloaded? Didn't think so.

Jesus said the reason he spoke in parables was that "this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing." Too much verbiage, perhaps? Sort of like the way we get desensitized by all the noise and information coming at us all the time? Jesus wants his disciples to see everyone and everything in a completely different way. We need something to help us pay attention and think about things in light of the eternal.

So, thinking about Jesus' method, I want to offer another kingdom parable – the kingdom of heaven is like... a subway ride?

In the beginning of his book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Steven R. Covey tells about something that happened to him:

I remember a mini-paradigm shift I experienced one Sunday morning on a subway in New York. People were sitting quietly – some reading newspapers, some lost in thought, some resting with their eyes closed. It was a calm, peaceful scene.

A man and his children entered the car. The children were soon yelling back and forth, throwing things, even grabbing people's papers. It was very disturbing.

And yet, the father sitting next to me did nothing.

It was difficult not to feel irritated. I could not believe he could be so insensitive as to let his children run wild and do nothing about it. It was easy to see that everyone else on the subway felt irritated, too. So finally, with what I felt was unusual patience and restraint, I said, "Sir, your children are really disturbing a lot of people. I wonder if you couldn't control them a little more."

The man lifted his gaze as if coming to a consciousness of the situation for the first time and said softly, "Oh, you're right. I guess I should do something about it. We just came from the hospital where there mother died about an hour ago. I don't know what to think, and I guess they don't know how to handle it either."

Can you imagine what I felt at that moment? Suddenly I saw things differently, and because I saw things differently, I thought differently, I felt differently, I behaved differently. My irritation vanished. I didn't have to worry about controlling my attitude or my behavior; my heart was filled with the man's pain. Feelings of sympathy and compassion flowed freely. "Your wife just died? Oh, I'm so sorry! Can you tell me about it? What can I do to help? Everything changed in an instant.

In the middle of an ordinary ride on public transportation, Covey experienced what he calls a "paradigm shift." He had come to one conclusion based on a set of assumptions but was challenged by being confronted with an underlying reality. I can look back on incidents in my life where my own assumptions were challenged and, instead of taking things at face value, it was like all the fine print above my dotted line were suddenly written in large bold face type. I was guilty of allowing all the worldly noise to desensitize me and give me dullness and deafness in my soul. And I have found that the Holy Spirit has all kinds of ways to push my "reset button" so I can see as he sees.

As much as anything, being disciples means that our perception is no longer influenced by what we see at first glance. We have to continually hit the reset button on our spirits, to hold down the Ctrl-Alt-Del keys of our minds, in order to clear our souls of the junk of the world. God helps us to do so in a myriad of simple, ordinary ways. We call them the means of grace.

They are the things God uses to teach us his will – worship, the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion, regular prayer and Bible study, our "conferencing" together in order to discern how we live as a covenant community together – all are ways God helps us pay attention and think about things in light of the eternal.



# Children's Corner



Karie Sue McCaleb

The Summer season is just about over and our families are gearing up for a new and exciting school year! I am praying for our little ones entering school for the first time, as well as all our students, teachers and administrators. St. Mark's has wonderful things ahead for the fall as we begin our regular Wednesday night schedule August 20th! Methodist Melodies (K-5th) and Cherub Choir (3's-4's) will be practicing for exciting musical specials coming soon. Our Promotion Sunday is August 3rd and our kids will "graduate" to their new classes with their friends and to celebrate we are meeting after church for a "Sunday FUNday" pool party & pizza at Millcreek from 1:30-3:30. Stay tuned for the great things



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**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**  
**START AUG 20TH!**  
 .....  
**CHERUB CHOIR**  
 • & • **METHODIST**  
**MELODIES**  
**6-7PM**  
**ASBURY HALL**  
 .....

**WE NEED SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS LIKE YOU!**

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BE  
**A PART**  
 OF THE AWESOME WAYS GOD  
 IS BLESSING OUR KIDS  
 AT ST MARKS.

- COMING SOON:**
- Sunday, Sept. 14th  
Children's Council 12-2pm
  - Sunday, October 19th  
FALL FEST
  - Saturday, November 8th  
Operation Christmas Child  
Packing Party!
  - Sunday, December 14th  
Snacks with Santa

**AUGUST 3RD PROMOTION SUNDAY "BACKPACK BLESSING" & SUPPLY FUNDRAISER**

**Praying you have a wonderful school year ahead!**

Join us Promotion Sunday for a special "Backpack Blessing" during worship August 3rd! Each student preschool and older is invited to bring their backpack to worship and receive a special blessing for the new school year. To give back to our schools, we are also holding a school supply drive! As you are shopping for school supplies, pick up a few extra things to donate to kids in need! Crayons, paper, pencils, glue and notebooks are just a

# YOUTH News

# GAME! ON!

## AUGUST 2014

Jeanne Chapman, Youth Director  
jeanne@saintmarksum.org

## summerge

Sunday Night Youth Group  
Select Sundays thru summer  
6 pm - 8 pm  
Bible study, snacks, fellowship, fun!

Aug 3- MS Braves' Game (4-9 pm)  
Aug 10 - "Twister" w/ messy games  
and Shaving cream wars!



## White water rafting on the Ocoee!

Labor Day Weekend  
Aug. 30 - Sept. 1  
(Sat. - Mon)  
Cost: \$115

Cost includes: 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, rafting  
on the Upper & Middle Ocoee, activities, &  
transportation.  
(Lodging & meals at Outdoor Adventure Rafting.)

**\$50 deposit is due by Aug. 10!**

**COLLEGE STUDENTS INVITED!**  
Families welcome! (Must be 12 to raft!)



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## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY!



### PASSION BAND IN CONCERT!

Friday, August 1  
6:30 pm - 11 pm  
@ Pinelake Church

Concert then Waffle House!  
Meet & Return at St. Mark's

Cost: Whatever you order :)

All upcoming Freshman are VIPs for this event  
and your dinner is on us!

Sign up is required. Space is limited!

Note: This is the worship band that led us at Beach Camp!



## MS Braves' Game

### Sun., Aug. 3

### 4:00 - 9:00 pm

### \$10.00

### All youth grades 6 - 12!

Cost includes game ticket, hot dog or hamburger, peanuts or  
cracker jacks, soda, hat, & fun-zone wrist band.

Drop off and pick up is at St. Mark's!

UPCOMING 6TH GRADERS ARE VIPs for the evening and  
attend FREE!

Sign up is required!



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



and resume  
Wednesday, August 13!

# back2school



Sun., Aug. 17

FOOD!

Zip Line!

Bungee Run!

5 - 8 pm

Velcro Wall!

Game Truck!

Prizes!

FREE!

Obstacle Course!

## DIVORCE *Care*

*DivorceCare is a 13 week biblically based divorce recovery group for those going through separation or divorce. And, new classes are STARTING SOON!*

Classes will run  
every **Thursday** from  
**August 21-November 13**  
from **6:15-8:30**  
In the Wesley Center

**DivorceCare for Kids** will be offered during the same times for children ages 5-12 whose parents are going through divorce or separation.

Cost is \$20 for DivorceCare  
\$15 for DivorceCare for Kids

Register for DivorceCare through the church website or by contacting  
Jo Hebert at 601-259-1749 or  
[ljohebert@comcast.net](mailto:ljohebert@comcast.net)

For more information about DivorceCare for Kids, contact  
Karie Sue McCaleb at  
601-992-2131 or  
[kariesue@saintmarksum.org](mailto:kariesue@saintmarksum.org)

## Tuesday, August 12 Trendsetters will go to Newton, MS



7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$25.00 and includes lunch.  
Newton strives to present groups with a fun-filled day of interesting sites and great food on its "Great Small Town Tour." Newton County was founded and organized February 26, 1836 and named after the famous scientist and philosopher "Sir Isaac Newton." Among the sites to see are the Doolittle Confederate Cemetery and Historic Newton Depot, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The city also has La-Z-Boy South and Newton boasts of having the largest facility in Mississippi for the company. A walking tour through the plant will show each step in making a La-Z-Boy chair and most everyone has one of those.  
The city's most famous native is country singer/songwriter is Paul Overstreet.

## Wednesday, August 27, 2014

Covered dish luncheon 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Entertainment will be

*The Gospel Music of Maynard Hill & Friends.*  
(Bring covered dish and \$5.00 honorarium for the group)

All folks 50 and over are invited.

Stop by the church office to sign up for these events and the other great Trendsetter events planned for the year.

## 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, two 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](mailto:jeanne@saintmarksum.org).

**Kick-Off Celebration Dinner ~ Thursday, Sept. 4 ~ 6:30 pm ~ Parlor**  
For all confirmands and their families ~ no cost but registration required

## *Trendsetters* Adults Over 50



Sandra Thomas

**Trendsetters to... Birmingham and LaGrange...**

THE NUTCRACKER, "HOLY LAND" AND SHOP TIL YOU DROP – November 20-21

We have a 50 passenger coach with 20 spots filled. This trip is open to St. Mark's as well as any others that would like to join us. If you know of anyone that would like to go see the Moscow Ballet performing the Nutcracker and visit The Explorations in Antiquity "Holy Land" exhibit and enjoy shopping at "The Summitt" invite them. \$250 includes tickets, transportation, hotel, breakfast and dinner. It's a great deal with some great folks.