

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

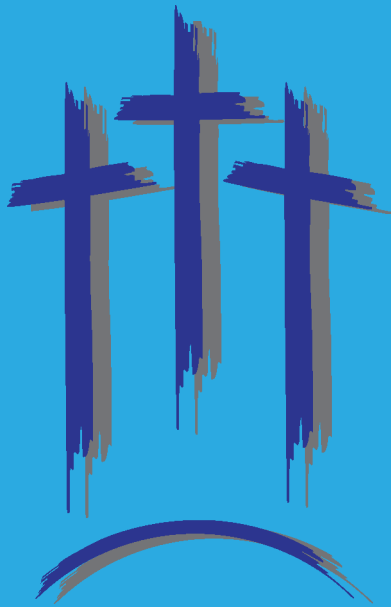
Wednesday, April 1 – 6pm
Musical Drama "The Debt"
Dinner at 5pm
(All in the Christian Life Center)

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)



Jo Hebert

An Encouraging Word From Jo Hebert

I love the word “integrous.” It does not seem to be, in fact, a real word...but a google search shows that a few others besides me have used it. I use “integrous” to describe a person of integrity, or a respectable decision that shows integrity, honor, and truth. I believe we all inherently desire and expect truth. We want someone to be who they say they are, do what they say they will do, sell the quality product they purport to sell...just be honest.

Sometimes when there is a blatant disregard for the truth, it shows up as a news story. We all remember Lance Armstrong being stripped of seven Tour de France titles for doping. Undeniably, he is a remarkable athlete...but he broke the rules and lied about it. As sad as that story was, I felt a strong sense of justice and rightness with that decision. Something within us knows cheaters shouldn't win. More recently, Brian Williams was suspended from his NBC news anchor position after the facts of some of his reported events were called into question. We expect a newscaster to deliver the facts. Not to do so is recognized as wrong, universally.

To me, the most poignant recent story along these lines is the one about the Chicago Little League baseball team stripped of its title for falsifying geographical boundaries to include players that most likely helped them win the Little League Championship last year. Though district presidents denied it until they no longer could, it appears that they knowingly broke the rules to stack a winning team. Little League International CEO, Stephen D. Keener, said this “heartbreaking decision (to take away the title) was necessary to maintain the integrity of the Little League program.”

I don't know who all was culpable in that bending of the rules...did the parents of the players outside the legal district know what was going on? Who could have spoken up before that time? It took the persistence of a ridiculed league vice president, Chris Janes, to bring the injustice to light. When facing a lot of criticism in the early stages, he said, “I have no regrets. I feel like we're doing the right thing and we just have to keep moving forward.”

What is the lesson here for us? I think we ought to renew our commitment to follow godly principles each time we find ourselves criticizing the wrongdoing of another. We ought to “beware lest (we) fall from (our) own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked. But, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:17-18). We all can feel tempted to break the rules, or embellish our story, for the praise of men. But, once we give in to that temptation, trust is destroyed...our integrity crumbles, affecting all of our relationships.

We are all in need of growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ, no matter where we are on our journey with Him. And, what a joy to know we get to keep learning from our Father until the day we will meet him face to face! Not only is He able to keep us from stumbling (Jude 2:24), but He is also our steady provider of Truth. Proverbs 22:20-21 is a comfort and strength to me: “Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge, that I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, that you may answer words of truth to those who sent you.”

So, even if it's not popular...even if you are ridiculed, keep doing the right thing—moving forward in an honorable way. If you end up in the news, let it be because of your righteousness and not your deception. Line up your life with the certainty of His truth. Be integrous!!

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 (jhebertpc@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 MARCH 1 2015

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Saint Mark's United Methodist Church

Phone: 601-992-2131

Church Staff:

- Warren Coile, 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 Directorx113
- Jim Readell, Church Facilities Manager.....x112
- Delores Seward, Administrative Assistantx101
- Martha Toombs, Business Office.....x106
- Corrine Carpenter, Preschool Officex110
- Darlene BakerMusic assistant/pianist
- Jason BoydMusic assistant/organist
- Robert GhostonCustodian
- Dennis O'NealMedia 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

Save the Date!

ANNUAL YOUTH

GARAGE SALE

COMING MAY 1 & 2 WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS!



the BEACON

Shining Christ's light into the community



March 2015 • Number 102



"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

- Philippians 1:2

As we continue to move into this new year, by God's amazing grace, I want to ask our Holy God to make five things real in our lives from the book of Philippians. *Will you join me?*

- Jeff Nesbitt**
1. Lord, help us to partner in gospel truth together and even with other local churches: advancing it, defending it, and living worthy of it (1:5,12,16,27).
 2. Father, help our pastors and teachers (for all ages) to speak the Word boldly and to preach Christ fearlessly (1:14,18,28).
 3. Loving, Triune God, give Saint Mark's the mind of Christ for 2015: in your Holy Spirit, let us do nothing from selfish gain, but in humility, count each faith family member and each guest as more significant than ourselves: seeing Jesus who humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a Cross (2:1-9,20-21).
 4. God, you have highly exalted your Son and given Him the Name that is above every name. See that Saint Mark's highly exalts Him with You and that at the Name of Jesus, every knee that comes through the doors, bows to Him and that every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. To Your glory, Father (2:9-11).
 5. Father, help us to risk our life for Christ, count everything as a loss in order to gain Christ, to forget the days last year that we lived paying little attention to Christ, to strain forward for the prize of Christ, to rejoice in Christ, to have the peace of Christ, to think of Christ, to be content because of Christ, to do all things through the strength of Christ, and to have every need met in the glorious riches of Christ. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen (2:30; 3:7-8,13-14; 4:4,7,8-9,11-13,19-20).
- The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, Saint Mark's (4:23).

Lenten Suggestions



Saint Benedict wrote his *Rule* to guide monks in their life of piety and prayer. He said that "the life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent." Benedict was also practical and understood that not too many, even among the most devout, have the stamina to live Lent all year long. He suggested that we ought to be especially observant when Lent rolled around because it would "wash away the negligence of the other times."

What we most neglect, a lot more than I would care to admit, is our relationship with God. If giving up chocolate, or dessert, or whatever helps you to think more about God, then go for it. But if all your abstinence does is make you think more about what you gave up, then here are some suggestions from folks like Benedict for something else you can do until Easter –

Have a one-on-one with God. "Take time to be holy," the old hymn says. So take off for an extended conversation with the Lord. Go to the woods or the park or the quiet room and "have a little talk with Jesus." And don't forget to do some listening, too.

Cut back a little. Over the past decade Americans have added a whole week of work to their schedules. Rather than having work at the center of who you are, imagine your soul back in the middle and back off with regard to your schedule.

Get some sleep. Our compulsive sleep deprivation is really a spiritual issue. One of the desert spiritual fathers of the 4th and 5th centuries, John Cassian, told those who sought his advice to get enough sleep because it takes energy to properly pursue spiritual things. Shut your eyes more than when you pray so you can really pray.

Detach. Even from the "good" things. If there's something you want during Lent, put off its purchase and give the money to a worthy cause, whether here at the church or somewhere else. The delay of gratification will help you to clarify your legitimate needs.

Take care of yourself. Scripture tells us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 3:16). So take care of God's dwelling place during Lent. Eat better, exercise more, and follow your grandmother's direction when you got under foot: "Go outside and play."

And remember the church sign: *God's love is not lent, it's given.*

Bro. Warren

Children's Corner



Karie Sue McCaleb



A Human Sexuality Workshop for 5th, 6th, and 7th Graders

This month, we want to highlight "Created by God", a faith-based curriculum for families of 5th - 7th graders. **WORKSHOP IS MARCH 20th - 21st.**

This curriculum takes an in-depth look at how our bodies change over time, addresses important questions that students have about relationships and intimacy, and how God created it all for us. We will welcome Dr. D'Ann Somerall from Birmingham, Alabama to lead us in our sessions together. Dr. Somerall has expertise in this subject as she serves her community in the medical field teaching nursing students at UAB, and has faithfully taught this curriculum for over a decade at her home church. Other volunteers are needed who will lead small groups with students in break-out sessions. Registration is \$25 per family and includes workbook, supplies, and food. Parent preview session will be Sunday, March 15th at 1:30pm in the Parlor. This will be the final day for registrations. Please share the news to the community if you know families who have 5th-7th graders.

{ Childrens' Council: Mar. 1st @ 12pm
Parlor — Lunch \$5

WE NEED TEACHERS:
4 YEAR- OLD CLASS
(Months: March May June)
PLUS SUBSTITUTES
FOR ALL GRADES!
Our kids LOVE their
teachers!
Be a blessing for our
students at St. Marks



PATH 345 for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders: 6:00pm in CLC for sports & study



**3rd Grade Bible Presentation
Sunday March 1st during worship.**



Mark your calendars!

St. Mark's VBS

Holy Land Adventure Returns

June 14th - 18th, 2015

INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH VBS THIS SUMMER?
JOIN US FOR A PREVIEW HOUR AND PLANNING LUNCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH & MAY 24TH

PARLOR @ NOON

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

MARCH SCHEDULE:

- 1 - No MERGE (D-Now Weekend)!
- 8 - Movie Night! (Watch for more details)
- 15 - "Insider's View: Palm Parade"
- 22 - No MERGE (30 Hr Famine)
- 29 - "Insider's View: Passover Plans/
Clean Feet

Sun., March 8 ~ Cost: \$5 (+snacks)
Time: TBA ~ Theatre: TBA

CHAMPIONS CAN COME FROM ANYWHERE

Disney
McFARLAND
USA

The 5th Block

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

30 Hour Famine

make
IT YOUR
Fight

Go M.A.D. about World Hunger!

March 21-22 @ St. Mark's!
7:30 am Sat. - 2:30 pm Sunday

Cost: \$10

Games ~ Competitions ~ Bible Study ~ Fun ~ Worship ~
Prayer ~ Service Project ~ Sleep ~ Laughter ~ Surprises!

Deadline to register is Sun., Mar. 15th!
(Modified fasts are available. Contact Jeanne for more info.)

FUEL

"High octane for the soul midweek"

March 4 - "Empty Your Basket"
March 18 - "Coloring Your Life"
March 25 - "A New Easter Outfit"

Note: No FUEL 3/11 due to Spring Break!

Wednesdays
5:30 - 7:00 pm

THE BUNNY TRAP

Grades 6 - 12

MissionFest

June 7 - 11
@ Millsaps College
Cost: \$185
\$50 deposit is due April 5th

Grades 9 - 12

HS Area One Camp

June 21 - 26
Lake of the Ozarks, MO
Cost: \$285
\$85 deposit is due April 5th

Grades 6 - 8

MS Global Youth Camp

July 13 - 17
Chatsworth, GA
Cost: \$285
\$85 deposit is due April 5th



THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
and
11TH HOUR PRAISE TEAM

Join together for a
HOLY WEEK MUSICAL DRAMA

Wednesday, April 1
6pm in the Christian Life Center

We all have pains and burdens that we carry. As the story unfolds in "The Debt," the audience will hear the message that Jesus' grace is freely given for all who follow him. He paid the price for all of us.

Trendsetters will have a lot of fun in March 2015

Tuesday, March 10 - Bowling and Burgers

Bowl a couple of games at Fannin Lanes and then lunch at Five Guys
Pay as you go on your own



Thursday, March 19 - A Day in Leland, Mississippi

Cost is \$25.00



Lunch at
Connie's
Kitchen



Also see

"Rainbow Connection Bridge" "James 'Son' Thomas" Grave Leland Blues Murals Highway 61 Blues Museum

Remember to sign up for San Antonio/Fredericksburg trip

November 30-December 4 Cost \$750 for food, entertainment, hotel and charter bus