

## Now What Was The Question?

### Oh yes, why did I join choir?

Actually, I've been thinking about your question a lot. I've been singing since I was two years old. I don't know how to worship without singing. So I can be in the choir, or I can sing from the pews (and make those around me uncomfortable, as I probably do on the days I sit with Aiden and sing along with the anthem). I choose to participate as much as I can because to do otherwise makes me feel... less worshipful. I remember practicing with a small group once and not getting to sing with the group because I had a sinus infection. I cried through the entire song... not because I was saddened by the words... but I because I was sad I couldn't sing. A silly reaction, I know, but my first instinct is to sing. I don't know how to cope otherwise.



Another reason I joined choir is that I truly believe we should share our talents. The adage "use it or lose it" comes to mind. God has given all of us gifts. When we join the church, we promise to support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. When I participate in choir, I believe I'm fulfilling all five of those promises at once. Music is a form of prayer, which you must be present to share. It is a gift, a service to God, and a witness. When the King comes in His glory and sits upon His throne, will He find me faithful? If I don't share His story with others through song, I cannot fulfill my part of His mission.

Staci Curry

### So Trey, why did you join the choir?

... because Staci said I had to! Actually, I grew up with a Mom who was musical and who played piano for our youth choir for probably ten years. We were the Sunshine Choir and we sang at our church and several other small churches in the area. I enjoy singing and while I don't read music, I can learn my part and try (as Bill Dillon has been known to say) to do no harm if I'm not sure or if I lose my note. It doesn't feel like I have been to worship unless I get to sing. I really miss not being in choir on Sunday mornings when work has kept me away from practice.

Music and participating with the choir is spiritually uplifting for me; it feeds me like nothing else can; and

... because Staci said I had to!

Trey Curry



Jo Hebert

## An Encouraging Word From Jo Hebert

"I'm sorry, but there's no way I can write a Beacon article this month." That's what I wanted to tell Delores last week. With the deadline approaching, I was looking at a schedule that was beginning to elicit anxiety: a trip to GA and NC for my niece's wedding, college orientation for my daughter, and a field trip to Memphis with my son—all during the same week, and just after Easter and my son's baseball tournament. Even though all of those activities ought to be fun, I found myself cowering to my enemy of Dread. Tired and on edge, I was unkind to my family, and my thoughts spiraled down: "Are you kidding me? I can't keep this up. I am going to screw something up. It's too much. What's wrong with me? These aren't even problems. Why can't I get it together?"

Thankfully, I have endured enough of these dips under pressure to know for certain that I would not stay there in my self-defeat. Every single time I have succumbed to Dread's demands, it is but for a brief time, and I have gotten back up into the arms of my Savior. I thanked Jesus that He was coming for me and that I would walk in freedom again.

Relief didn't come immediately, but I tried to watch expectantly for it. Then, God used my husband to help alert me to how my language was cooperating with my adversary. When I told him one day, "Looking at my calendar is making me nervous" he said,

"Why does it have to make you nervous? Why can't it make you excited? You will just have to be strategic in the logistics, but you can do it." Wow, he should be a counselor. He's right! I started to notice how often the word "nervous" or "worried" came out of my mouth. It was a lot! It was as if I was declaring I **WILL BE NERVOUS** before events even happened. I thanked the Lord for that realization and asked that I would trust in His provision instead of gearing up to be anxious.

I hear many people say, "I am a worrier" or "I am an anxious person." I used to say it myself. And truly, there are those of us who have a tendency to become anxious. I'm right there. But, for me...changing my language is very helpful. Instead, I might think to myself, "fear is an enemy of mine, but God is helping me reduce its effects in my life" or "I have a tendency to become anxious, but I am learning to give in less to it." I think we have to be careful not to proclaim things about ourselves that aren't true. When I define myself as a worrier, that definition of myself is not in agreement with scripture, which tells me I am "more than a conqueror through Him who loves me!" (Romans 8:37). If I ignore that truth and keep asserting that I am a worrier, I am choosing to settle down into an identity as a worrier instead of growing into the freedom Christ has for me. I may indeed struggle with anxiety here and there until I meet Jesus, but I am confident He will keep teaching me through it and lessening its grip.

Having truth on hand, in the form of God's word, is also a huge defense against anxiety. I am now in the habit of reciting verses while I'm getting ready in the mornings. I memorize scripture (as Jeff says, "memorize the mind of Christ"), not because I am some kind of bible scholar or memory wiz, but because I am nothing short of *desperate* for it. Without it, my mind wanders off to dark places of insecurity and self-doubt. I recommend this discipline highly. Start with one verse. Build an arsenal.

So take that, Dread. I got my article written, one day before the deadline. Only... *ONLY* because God hears my prayers and "stretches out His hands against the wrath of my enemies, and His right hand saves me" (Psalm 138:7-8). Praise you, Jesus.

*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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May 2015 • Number 104



Jeff Nesbit

"Praise the Lord! Sing to the LORD a new song..."  
- Psalm 149:1

The Lord is being praised at Saint Mark's through song! We are so grateful for the music ministries that the Holy Spirit of Jesus has given to our faith family. Through the leadership of Sandra Thomas, the sanctuary choir, Darlene Baker, Jason Boyd, the youth and children's choirs/leadership, and the 11th Hour praise team, we are full of joy and singing!

I want to give thanks and an introduction. I want to thank Brad McGee for his leadership with the 11th Hour praise team. Brad took the reigns while we were praying through who might be our next song leader. He helped our team take 11th Hour worship to the next level and brought a confident unity to all of us. His wife Jessica and daughter Millie stood by him and are to be given much appreciation as well. Brad will continue to be our drummer and a significant part of what Jesus does through music at the 11th Hour!

I would like to introduce to you a new family that the Lord has brought to Saint Mark's. Chris Phillips is our new 11th Hour praise team leader. He is the husband of Julie Phillips and the father of their ten year old son, Benjamin. Chris has an impressive resume. He received his Bachelor's Degree (Church Music, Summa cum laude, 1996) and Master's degree (Music Education, Magna cum laude, 1998) from Samford University. His emphasis was in vocal performance for both degrees.



Chris Phillips

From 2007-2015, Chris served First United Methodist Church of Sylacauga, Alabama as the Director of Worship and Arts. He oversaw the music ministries for both the traditional and contemporary worship services as well as providing vocal lessons and musical camps. He also has experience with integrating visual and performing arts in the weekly worship services.

Currently, he is an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Music at Belhaven University. He teaches courses that focus on worship arts, provides vocal instruction, and directs the concert choir.

His wife Julie is working on her Master's Degree at Reformed Theological Seminary in Marriage and Family. Their son, Benjamin, is a fun ten year old and a gamer.

I hope Saint Mark's will continue to welcome the Phillips family. We will be blessed by them and hope to be a blessing to them.

"Praise the Lord! Sing to the LORD a new song..." - Psalm 149:1

## Waiting on Power



Warren Coile

I love the *White Seasons* of the church year. Not the seasons of snow and ice, but of celebration: Christmas and Easter. Just as there are Twelve Days of Christmas, there are Fifty Days of Easter which lead us to reflect on Jesus' "round trip" through human existence.

One of the special days tucked in the calendar is forty days after Easter – the Ascension – described by Luke in Acts 1. He is the only writer to give us a record of that incident. He doesn't depict Jesus' ascension as a departure where the disciples are sad and forlorn as he goes away to parts unknown. It is another step in Jesus' glorification which grants benefits to the church on earth.

For Luke, the Ascension did not mean that Jesus was going to be absent from then on. The disciples weren't disappointed, but instead celebrated the glory of God as Jesus returned to reign in heaven. Not only did Jesus enter a new dimension with his resurrection body, the disciples were going to participate in Christ's reign through their preaching of the Gospel. What God had been doing through Jesus, God was going to do through them. And us.

The Ascension of Jesus Christ is good news because it demonstrates God's love in Jesus Christ that transforms all of human life. Jesus took all of human life and brought it with him into the heavenly places, to the very heart of God. It proves that God values us in all of our fragile and broken humanity – in the suffering, the abuse and the loneliness; those struggling with the everyday, the diseased and those in the midst of the difficult transitions in life – and God desires to transform that life with his power.

This one day in the *White Seasons of the Resurrection* tells the world that, in Christ, all of human life moves near to the heart of God. It is there that we abide, waiting for God's outpouring of his Holy Spirit's power at Pentecost.

**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**

*The Fabulous 50's*

**Family Fest!**  
Rockin' & Rollin' into Summer!

**Intergenerational Event! All ages invited!**

**Final Wednesday Night of this semester!**

**Wednesday, May 6 ~ 5 - 7 pm ~ CLC**

**Hamburgers/hot dogs, fries & root beer floats!**  
50's attire encouraged!

**Games ~ Team building ~ Laughter ~ Food ~ Prizes ~ Fun ~ Music**

**Fun for the whole family!**

**(Wednesday night supper prices apply. Sign up required.)**  
**Questions? Contact Jeanne or Karie Sue!**

# Children's Corner



Karie Sue McCaleb

## Hey Mom!

You are invited!



### MUFFINS WITH MOM!

ENJOY MUFFINS & REFRESHMENTS IN THE GARDEN AS WE CELEBRATE YOU THIS MOTHER'S DAY! SUNDAY, MAY 10TH

#### ST. MARK'S KIDS WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

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



**EVERY TUESDAY IN JUNE & JULY 6-8PM**  
**SPECIAL EVENTS FOR K-5TH GRADE**

\*SPLASH NITE \*BOWLING  
\*GAMES \*MOVIES \*POOL PARTY \* & MORE \*STAY TUNED!



**St. Mark's at the Park**  
Second Saturday Monthly  
Flowood Winner's Circle Park  
10:00am { Meet us at Pavilion #8 }

INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH VBS THIS SUMMER?

JOIN US FOR A PREVIEW HOUR AND PLANNING LUNCH

**SUNDAY, MAY 24TH**

**PARLOR @ NOON**

WE ARE COLLECTING SUPPLIES: IF YOU HAVE THINGS TO DONATE (or let us borrow) 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

YOU CAN VOLUNTEER IN THESE AREAS:

TRAFFIC HELP \* REGISTRATION \* DÉCOR  
CRAFTS \* TRIBE LEADERS/ASSISTANTS



Mark your calendars!  
St. Mark's VBS  
Holy Land Adventure Returns  
June 14th - 18th, 2015

Sunday School needs your help!

WE NEED TEACHERS:

PLUS SUBSTITUTES FOR ALL GRADES FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR!

\*Every other month, with a helper  
\*Easy to prep lessons\* Amazing kids

[kariesue@saintmarksum.org](mailto:kariesue@saintmarksum.org) for more info

## YOUTH News

Jeanne Chapman, Director of Youth Ministries  
[jeanne@saintmarksum.org](mailto:jeanne@saintmarksum.org)



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

### MAY SCHEDULE:

- 3 - Life Groups Dine Out Night!
- 10 - NO MERGE - Mother's Day
- 17 - FINAL MERGE - "Beach Brunch"
- 24 - NO Youth Group (Mem. Day Wknd)
- 31 - Splash Bash Summer Kick-off Party!



Dinner w/ Life Groups!  
Sun., May 3  
6 - 8 pm

Each group picks their restaurant of choice.  
Cost: \$5.00  
Sign up on bulletin board.



Middle School  
**Poolside**  
Midweek Scriptures & Swimming ~ 2 - 4  
Location: TBA  
May 27  
Transportation can be provided.  
Contact Jeanne for more info.



# Graduate Sunday

## May 17

Recognition at all three worship services  
Brunch at 9:30 am for grads and families  
RSVP for brunch to Jeanne through May 10.  
[jeanne@saintmarksum.org](mailto:jeanne@saintmarksum.org)



Kickin' off Summer!

All Students Gr. 6-12!  
Sun., May 31  
4 - 8 pm  
**FREE!**

Swimming, lawn games, food, friends, fun!

@ Avery Bracken's Pool  
102 Arrowhead Trl  
(Drop off & pick up is @ the Brackens')

Girls: one piece/tankini or dark colored t-shirt required.

### HS D-SQUARED!

Dessert & Devo  
@ Berry, Berry Good  
Wed., May 27  
7:30 pm - 9 pm  
All HS students invited!  
Bring \$ for dessert.



### GO M.A.D. MISSISSIPPI FOOD NETWORK

Thursday, May 28  
9:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Bring \$ for Cici's pizza  
Limit: 20!  
Sign up required.  
Drop off/pick up is @ St. Mark's.



### Final Wednesday Night of the school year!

We are rockin' and rollin' into summer!  
**Fab 50's Family Fest!**  
Wed., May 6 ~ 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
\* Regular Wed. dinner prices apply  
Burgers, fries, root beer floats, fun, games, & more!

## SUMMER CAMP DEPOSITS ARE DUE SUN., May 10TH!

Grades 6 - 12  
**MissionFest**  
June 7 - 11  
@ Millsaps College  
Cost: \$185  
\$50 deposit is due May 10th

Grades 9 - 12  
**HS Area One Camp**  
June 21 - 26  
Lake of the Ozarks, MO  
Cost: \$285  
\$85 deposit is due May 10th

Grades 6 - 8  
**MS Global Youth Camp**  
July 13 - 17  
Chatsworth, GA  
Cost: \$285  
\$85 deposit is due May 10th

## Trendsetters Adults Over 50



Rev. Sandra Thomas

### Trendsetters - Who are we?

Trendsetters are men and women, some working and some retired, some married and some single, some members of St. Mark's and some not. The common denominator is 50 and over.

Going places just for fun with a group of Christians is what we are about. You don't have to be a member of St. Mark's to go on any of our events. You just have to be ready and willing to have fun.

Some people enjoy the lunches, some enjoy day trips, some enjoy music events, some enjoy long trips, and some enjoy all of these.

You can contact Sandra for information about Trendsetters and upcoming events.

### SIGN UP NOW FOR THE SAN ANTONIO/FREDERICKSBURG CHRISTMAS TRIP

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 4 • \$100 WILL RESERVE YOUR SPOT

- The Alamo, The Riverwalk, The Johnson City Ranch, The San Antonio Museum of Art, The Tower of the Americas



- Great food, great fellowship, great times all for a great price. Total cost is \$825!!!
- Brochures available on-line and in the church office.



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



Martha Hand

### From the Director of Nurture and Outreach

We are so pleased to welcome our new members so far in 2015 --- James and Jackie Allen, Amanda Doby, Carolyn Farr, Samantha Kimble, Melba Lichte, Kimberly Madakasira, Will and Karen McCarty, Thomas and Jennifer Shappley, Lyn Smith, Greg and Beth Williamson, Mabel Talbot, and Linda Wright. We are blessed by their presence and their decision to become members of our church.

Our members continually strive to make visitors at St. Mark's feel at home, and your welcoming smiles, friendly words, and help in visitor gift bag distribution are so appreciated. Our greeter ministry assists in this effort as well, and we are always looking for new participants. As a greeter, your job would be to welcome people into worship, either in our traditional services or our 11<sup>th</sup> Hour contemporary service. You would be scheduled no more than once per month to be at an assigned entrance 15 minutes prior to the service to welcome members and visitors into worship. School age children are encouraged to assist parents in these duties. A smile from a child uplifts anyone, and lets them know that children have an important part in the ministries of our church. If you are interested in serving as a greeter, please email me at [mhand@saintmarksum.org](mailto:mhand@saintmarksum.org).