

**DRIVEN Youth Present...
MURDER MYSTERY
DINNER FUNDRAISER**

**Sunday, October 18
at 5:30 pm
in the Castle Ballroom
(aka CLC)**

**Adults: \$18 / Children \$8
Catering by Sonny's BBQ
Tickets on sale through Oct. 11**



A Timeless Tale of Treachery and Treason
in a Kingdom Far, Far Away



Jo Hebert

**An Encouraging Word
From Jo Hebert**

Recently, I successfully cajoled my 84 year-old mother into coming for a visit from Georgia. Actually, "strong-armed" is more like it. I was planning to visit for her birthday, and I asked her over the phone if she would let me bring her back with me for a few days following the celebration. She told me, "I don't think so this time. You are just too busy, and I don't want to be an imposition." I could read between the lines here, but she was not getting off that easy. If her answer was no, she was going to have to own it. I explained that I would not have asked her if it was an imposition, that we would slow down the pace to enjoy her visit, and that I really wanted her to come. I told her it was fine for her to decline, but she couldn't put it on me. Then, thankfully, she changed her mind.

Direct and honest communication is dear to me. I strive to use it, and I appreciate receiving it. (And sometimes, like in this example, I kind-of insist on it). But I, too, can be guilty of disguising what I truly think and feel occasionally. We might justify our deception because we believe our intentions are good. But, if occasionally becomes routinely, a habit of withholding the truth (even about little things) can lead to some undesirable results.

For instance: A grandmother agrees to watch her grandchildren for her daughter frequently, without telling her daughter that she is starting to feel taken advantage of. Instead of being honest with her daughter, she vents to her husband and friends, and becomes resentful. An opportunity is lost for the daughter to gain understanding, for the grandmother to exercise her voice assertively, and for the two of them to handle conflict in a constructive way that fosters trust and respect.

Here's another one: A wife is bothered by her husband's attention to his phone during dinner. Instead of saying anything, she gives him the silent treatment through the evening while her frustration grows. She makes assumptions about being low on her husband's priority list and thinks to herself, *he just doesn't care*. And, what if she has already talked to him about this previously? She may feel as if there's no use bringing it up again. Dissatisfaction and hopelessness gain some ground here.

In relationships that matter, we have to keep retooling. We may have made attempts to express ourselves in the past that left us feeling rejected. But, it might be appropriate to try again, prayerfully considering our timing and attitude. Are we speaking the truth in love, or speaking lies with a smile? ("Yes, I can bring a casserole to the bible study," while thinking, *why am I always the one that has to bring something?...I am too busy!*) If we don't own that thought and express it, we will likely grow in our discontent, which will actually be our choice.

When I got to Georgia, I felt a little bad about how I had railroaded my mom on the phone. I gave her every opportunity to opt out, seeking for how she truly felt. She still wanted to come, and we had a wonderful visit together...precious time that almost didn't happen. I am glad I challenged her original response. And, now, I lovingly challenge all of you (and me) to let our communication be "perfectly straightforward and sincere," as Paul describes his teaching in 1 Thessalonians. Pray for boldness to address conflict directly and honestly, before a seed of resentment is sown. And, in time, you might reap a deeper, more trusting, and respectful relationship.

Jo is a Licensed Professional Counselor at St. Mark's. You can reach her by phone (601-259-1749) or email (jhebertlpc@comcast.net).



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

DATED MATERIAL OCTOBER 1, 2015

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October 2015 • Number 109



Jeff Nesbit

Lock On

"Devote yourselves to prayer..." - Colossians 4:2

The Holy Spirit Is off like a rocket in this season at Saint Mark's. I truly believe we are experiencing a fresh move of our Holy God and I want to inspire us to "lock on" to Him, specifically in devoted, intense prayer.

The word, "devoted", in Colossians 4:2 above, means to *"adhere, to lock on, to remain steadfastly attentive, to be courageously devoted."* A pastor named, Fred Hartley gives two great pictures of this type of devotion: (1) a pit bull that sinks its teeth into a hunk of raw beef ("locks on") and refuses to let go and (2) a heat seeking missile that "locks onto" the heat source and refuses to let go until it hits the target.*

As you will soon hear, the month of October through November, we will be "targeting" and "locking on" to the topic of "stewardship". Don't stop reading or start speed-reading because of the word "stewardship". It's one of the most blessed words to Christianity. Yes, money is involved, but we are called first of all to steward our Lord's powerful, manifest Presence to an unbelieving world. We are stewarding people. We want to "lock onto" the Father's heart for hurting people. Don't de-value the word, "stewardship". Sink your teeth into it. Pray intensely about the next few weeks about the target the Lord might have you go for in being a blessing to His church and people outside of His church.

I believe our Chief Steward, Jesus Christ, who first committed His life to us by locking onto humanity, is calling each of us to deeper devotion to His Father by prayer. I believe that He has a target for you personally and for our church corporately. We must pray for that! We must pray that the Holy Spirit will be given to us (Luke 11:13). We must pray that He will ignite a corporate fire within us to stop dabbling in Kingdom blessings. I believe His heat seeking missile is full of gospel fire, healing fire, saving fire, baptismal fire, uniting fire, praying fire, reconciling fire, and miraculous fire. His Gospel rocket is not one that destroys, but gives life. It explodes over humanity with saving power and showers blessing. I believe He will use your little gifts and large gifts in the coming "stewardship" month to fuel every miraculous thing that He will do through a church that is on fire with reckless abandoned devotion. It starts by locking onto Him in fire burning prayer.

Blessed Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, what would you have each person at Saint Mark's "lock on" to? Let us hit the target that You have us aiming for. In Jesus Name, Amen!

"Church On Fire", Fred A. Hartley, III

How Much Is Too Much?

In this time of stewardship, here's one from the *What It's Worth Department* –

A letter to Dear Abby complaining about the church's asking for money drew this response from Bob Whitmore of Eugene, Oregon. Mr. Whitmore sent in a clipping for which he had no author, only a title: "Is the Church Costing Too Much?"



Warren Coile

Last Sunday, another golfer sank the last putt on the 18th green and received a check for \$50,000 for four rounds of golf, plus an automobile for himself and one for his wife. This week, the papers reported that a certain popular singer will receive \$100,000 per week for her current singing engagement. Americans spend, annually, more on dog food than on church contributions. It is not unusual for an individual to pay more for his country club membership than he gives to the church. Is the church costing too much?

Let me share an experience with you. On June 2, 1940, a little girl was born to us. She cost us money from the moment she was born. As she grew from babyhood to girlhood, she cost even more – her dresses and shoes were more expensive, and we had to have the doctor through all those childhood diseases.

She was even more expensive during her school and teen years. She needed long dresses to go to parties. When she went to college, we discovered, along with other parents, that all college expenses are not listed in the catalog. Then after graduation, she fell in love and married. She was married in a church wedding and that, too, cost a lot of money.

Then, five months after her marriage, she suddenly sickened and within a week, she was dead. She hasn't cost us a penny since the day we walked away from her grave.

As long as the church is alive, she will cost money. And the more alive a church is, the more money she will cost. Only a dead church, like a dead child, is no longer expensive.

Think it over. Is the church costing too much?

A "prodigal" church, like a prodigal child, is better than a dead church. Just saying...

Bro. Warren

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 Managerx112
- Delores Seward, Administrative Assistantx101
- Martha Toombs, Business Officex106
- Corrine Carpenter, Preschool Officex110
- 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



Surviving the Holidays



**Tuesday October 6th from 6:30-8:30
in the Wesley Center**

• \$5 registration fee

• Childcare provided if pre-arranged

Call or email Jo Hebert for more info:
jhebertlpc@comcast.net or 601-259-1749

ART SALE
Featuring the works of Maxine Rivers

Where: St. Mark's United Methodist Church
400 Grants Ferry Rd
Brandon, MS

When: November 6, 2015 ~ 6p - 9p
November 7, 2015 ~ 9a - 1p

For more information call: 601-992-2131



Children's Corner

Karie Sue McCaleb

ST. MARK'S KIDS ARE HAVING A "FAITH-FILLED FALL" Join us for these fun events:

Kids ages 0-5th grade come enjoy a "spooky" glow party in the CLC while parents enjoy a night out! RSVP by 10-14 karlesue@saintmarksum.org

PARENTS NITE OUT
AUGUST 14
OCTOBER 16
DECEMBER 18
CLC 5:30-9PM

St. Mark's is taking Operation Christmas Child donations now! The 3rd Annual Packing Party will be Saturday, November 14th 9am in the CLC. **Things to donate: Standard shoe boxes! New small toys, clothes, school supplies, hard candies, & toiletries. Please deliver items to Asbury Hall before November 14th.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: NOV. 8TH CHILDREN'S SABBATH



FALL FEST

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH
3 - 5 PM @ CLC

JOIN ST. MARKS AND INVITE THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR ONE OF THE BEST NIGHTS OF THE FALL! THIS YEAR WILL BE ANOTHER GREAT NIGHT OF FUN WITH INFLATABLES, COSTUME PARADE, TRUNK OR TREAT, GAMES, AND SNACKS & MORE FOR ALL AGES. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS! SIGN UP DURING- SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS, THE FRONT OFFICE, OR EMAIL karlesue@saintmarksum.org FOR MORE INFORMATION. ADMISSION IS A BAG OF PEANUT-FREE CANDY

Driven
 ST. MARK'S YOUTH MINISTRY

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

merge
 bringing students and god together

Dinner, Games & Life Groups
 SUNDAYS ~ 5:00 - 7:30 pm (free dinner @ 5:30)
 For students in grades 6 - 12

TAILGATE PARTIES @ NWRHS LOT
5:30 PM
Oct. 16 & 30

Entree Provided
 Last names A - I bring sides/dessert
 Last names M-Z bring canned drinks

RUSH HOUR
 Sunday mornings 9:30 - 10:30 am

MS/HS Bible Studies
 Confirmation

BIBLE STUDY FOR LIFE IN THE FAST LANE!

DRIVEN FILLING STATION
FUEL

High octane for your soul midweek!
 Wednesdays - 5:30 - 7:00 pm

A midweek worship experience for students!

The 5th Block

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

Once Upon a Murder
 Sun., Oct. 18
 Workers arrive at 4:30!

Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser!
 Youth MUST work to receive credit. Character parts and child care worker spots available. See Jeanne for more information.

Bonfire
 Sun., Oct. 25
 5:30 - 7:30 pm

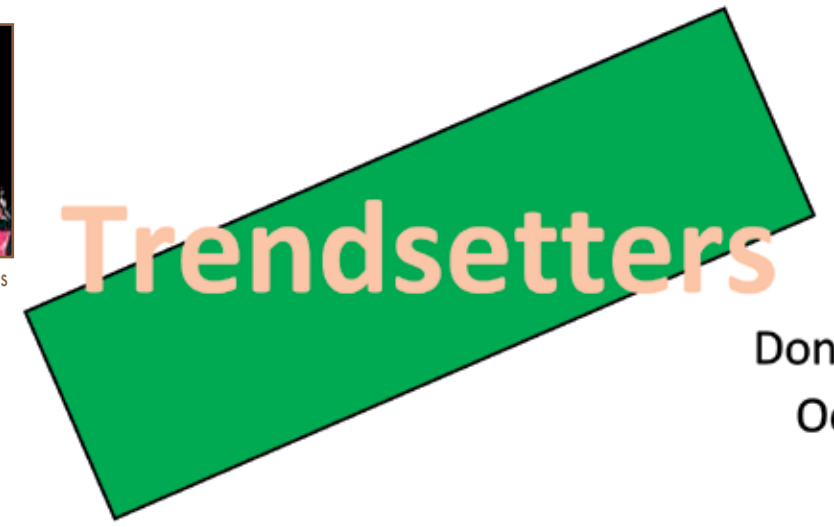
Food ~ Fire ~ Friends ~ Worship ~ S'mores ~ Prizes
 Dress in costume for your chance to win!

Go M.A.D. prior to the Bonfire by serving @ Fall Fest!
 Contact Karie Sue for more info!

Trendsetters Adults Over 50



Rev. Sandra Thomas



Don't Miss Out on These October Happenings

October 14 – Hop on the Bus to the Mississippi State Fair

Senior American Day
 Music of the 60's as well as classic American standards, Big Band swing, and Patriotic favorites

SCHEDULE	
9:15am	Bus will depart St. Mark's
10:00am	Music by the Mississippi Live! Orchestra
11:00am	Concert with Jewel Bass, Guy Hovis and Jerry Puckett (After the concert) Lunch at the Midway
Noonish	Return to St. Mark's
2:00	

Whether you sit for the concerts or walk around the exhibits or eat some traditional fair food, come and enjoy a fun day at the fair!!!!



Ghosts and Goblins and Witches, Oh My!!!!
- Wait wrong words, but it is October.

Join the Trendsetters for a Haunted Evening in Vicksburg. We will be visiting the McRaven House, one of the most haunted mansions in the State. Be inspired by a guided tour of the newly reopened mansion and perhaps be introduced to one of the ghosts of the home. And whether a ghost visits us or not you will certainly find out many interesting historical facts about this old home. Dinner will be served at Cedar Grove Mansion.

The Date is Thursday, October 29 – Cost and Time are forthcoming.