

# Call for Volunteers

## Freezer Ministry – Getting Going Again!

Restocking the freezer for readiness: 'St. Mark's Food Gifting to our congregation and community!'

WORK DAY: Saturday, OCTOBER 11, 9:00am to 12:00 noon.

Meet in the CLC-kitchen and help prepare several recipes to be packaged in containers.

Ingredients will have been purchased as well as containers! Volunteers are needed to help!

Questions; call Connie Thompson @ 601-540-4358 or email, [catacr51@gmail.com](mailto:catacr51@gmail.com)

Please email Connie to prepare the tasks and assignments in completing the needed tasks for the work day morning.

**REMINDER:** The emphasis for this ministry would be for those individuals who are struggling with **chronic or extenuating health care food needs!** This ministry is merely to offer an adjunct, and does not replace, the already hundreds of hot meals taken to folks with new hospital discharges, new babies, or quick recovery health issues.

## Freezer Ministry

Procedure for contributing and removing foods:

- Select the food item you wish to make. Do not place raw foods of any type in the freezer.
- Place in disposable aluminum container with lid for casseroles/entrées; or plastic containers with lids for soups, stews, or chili. Or wrap for freezer storage if breads/cakes. Containers are currently available in the church office to get this ministry kicked off!
- Be sure you have one of the ministry's labels (church office), that states it is from St. Mark's Freezer Ministry, what it is, date prepared, and the ingredients contained in the item. Many persons are allergic to certain food items/ingredients.
- Go to the church office and check to make sure front Wesley building is open, and be instructed as to the location of the freezer, if you are not already aware of its location.
- When you get to the freezer; Be sure to place a piece of packing tape over your label so the writing does not bleed when damp, then enter your item on the log with date placed in the freezer.
- Packing tape, log, and pens are attached to the top of the freezer.
- When delivering to someone; the food item is removed and logged out on the same log sheet.



Jo Hebert

## An Encouraging Word From Jo Hebert

I treasure and celebrate "set-apart" moments. I'm talking about pockets of special significance that make you feel alive, purposeful, and engaged in life... that give you a longing and a joy that you wish you could put in a bottle and save for a mundane day.

Last weekend, I had a set-apart weekend when I made a solo-trip to visit my family in GA. From the celebration of my mother's birthday and special conversations with people I love, to my set-apart alone time on the drive—praying, reflecting, and singing, it was packed full of meaning. And that's not even counting the fun of seeing the Falcons beat the Saints in the GA Dome! (Sorry, Saints fans...)

Just as it was time for Atlanta to win, it was time for me to enjoy my family... even more so. Believe me, my family of origin has a few stories that could be on Jerry Springer. When I say it was time, I mean it was like a salve—a longing fulfilled—to have joy with them with no drama.

Though I tried to prepare for the jarring of the routine when I got home, I soon found myself grumbling in my spirit. My to-do list awaited me, and I jumped back into a busy family and work schedule. My enemies of dread and dissatisfaction organized and drew close, whispering lies that my regular life is only dishes and laundry and conflict. And, despite knowing better, I listened.

The lies are outlandish of course. I have a job that allows me to witness very profound moments and meaning. I have out of this world kids, and a husband who asks every night, "ready to go walkies?" Though I do indeed have dishes, laundry and conflict, dissatisfaction ought not come near me. But, it did (and it does). The grumbling in my spirit gave rise to grumbling out loud; and, after a few days, the people I lived with probably wanted me to go back to GA as much as I wanted to go.

And then, wisdom came in the words of Lysa Terkeurst, author of *The Best Yes*: "Life has such a habit of stripping the feelings of power and significance right out of our scope with its constant daily demands... That daily stuff—those responsibilities that seem more like distractions... are the very experiences from which we unlock the riches of wisdom. *Never despise the mundane. Embrace it. Unwrap it like a gift.*" **Busted.** Oh I didn't bounce back immediately, but the seed grew. And, my enemies are breaking up a bit. Truth is coming to rescue me and set me right... along with Forgiveness. Oh, thank you Father.

Reflecting on my desire for set-apart moments led me to scripture about being set-apart. I can't include them all, but in Romans, Paul refers to himself as "set-apart for the gospel of God." I began to focus more on *being* set-apart than groping for my next set apart moment. And, I can only **be** set-apart when I am looking to God to transform me by the continual renewal of my mind (Romans 12:2).

If you find dissatisfaction knocking, I pray you'll be able to escort it out with the truth of God's Word before you invite it to stay for dinner. Let's be willing to release yesterday's beauty to embrace today's—in the special and the mundane. Laundry calls...

*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](mailto:jhebertpc@comcast.net)).*

## St. Mark's UMC is covered!

We have hit our goal of 72 units for Mississippi Blood Services. Starting with the Blood Drive in March we have continued to have faithful donors who together have met the goal of 25% of the congregation.

Because we met this goal, members of St. Mark's UMC are covered under the Donor Protection Plan. What this means: Mississippi Blood Services provides a 'donor protection' insurance policy for its blood donors against all processing fees and replacement fees for one year should they need blood. If any member of St. Mark's is in need of this policy, please contact the MS Blood Services and tell them you are a member of St. Mark's!

You may continue to donate in the church's name at the Mississippi Blood Bank on Lakeland Drive. The Blood Mobile is scheduled at St. Mark's again on Saturday morning, January 31. We have scheduled a large block of time in order to meet the response we had at the last blood drive. Details to come later for slot sign ups!



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

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 ORGANIZATION  
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DATED MATERIAL OCTOBER 6, 2014

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### 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)

## Thanksgiving Senior Meal Boxes Mission

As the holiday season approaches we begin to consider more the joys of love for our family, friends, church family, and community. For several years, St. Marks has extended our church love to low income seniors by providing a box of food for Thanksgiving. The box contains an assortment of canned vegetables, grits, rice, small turkey breast, rolls, etc. It has provisions for 1-2 seniors and requires minimal preparation.

There is a special joy that comes from sharing the Lord's love through providing for someone's needs. The seniors are thankful for the sharing of love and remembrance at this time of year. Most of the recipients have medical problems and are struggling. For these recipients the Thanksgiving meal box is their Thanksgiving dinner.

The Women With Faith Sunday School class has coordinated and sponsored this mission for the past few years with your help through donations and volunteers. We are again seeking your support through donations so that this mission can continue. Donations can be made through your Sunday School class or a check made to St. Marks with "Thanksgiving Senior Meal Mission" on the memo line. The November Communion Rail Offering will also be used to support this mission. Please join us in sharing the blessing of our Lord.





# the BEACON

*Shining Christ's light into the community*



October 2014 • Number 97



Jeff Nesbit

*"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted..."*

~ 2 Timothy 3:12

Your life is about Christ Jesus. If you are a follower of our Shepherd, you are a "sheep among wolves" in this world (Matthew 10:16). 2 Timothy above is telling us that it is not "abnormal" for a born again Jesus follower to be persecuted: it is "normal and expected". Not only that, it is a "blessing" to be persecuted for Jesus' great Name (Matthew 5:10-12).

Nik Ripken has written a book titled, "The Insanity of Obedience: Walking With Jesus In tough Places". In it, he points out that 80 percent of the world's believers who are practicing their faith live in persecution.

He says: "If 80 percent of a group experiences something, then perhaps what they are experiencing is normal. According to the Bible, persecution is normal, simply a natural by-product of faith.\*

November 2, 2014 is International Day of Prayer For the Persecuted Church. Most of us have read about the recent events with ISIS and our Christian brothers and sisters in Iraq. Let's remember them. The following web address can help you and a small group bless them in 5 ways ...<http://blog.opendoorsusa.org/5-ways-part-idop-2014/>

I hope this time helps us gain clarity about the real Jesus...that being a Christian means being a persecuted Christian, at least at some level, for His great Name. There is no other type - a sheep among wolves.

\*The Insanity of Obedience, Digital Edition Based on Print Edition Copyright © 2014 by Nik Ripken

## Small Words

A couple of weeks ago I flipped across a program on ABC celebrating their series of educational cartoons, *Schoolhouse Rock*. Anyone remember that one? Lessons set to music. Like how a bill becomes a law on Capitol Hill, the Preamble to the Constitution, and my wife's personal favorite, *Conjunction Junction* – "Conjunction Junction, what's your function? Hooking up words and phrases and clauses in complex sentences..."

Think about how those short, little words – and, but, or – carry so much weight.

"She *and* I" (together.)

"It was nice, *but*..." (maybe not so nice?)

"This *or* that" (not both.)

Small words carry huge meaning, like "if" and its partner, "then." But that's a whole other discussion.

The story of our faith is full of conjunctions – we understand God to be Trinity: Father, Son, *and* the Holy Spirit (all together.)

"Wide is the gate *and* broad is the road that leads to destruction," Jesus said. "*But* small is the gate *and* narrow the road that leads to life..."

Joshua told the Israelites, "*But* if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, *or* the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. *But* as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

"Christ loved the church *and* gave himself up for her." –

There's a great temptation to make a single choice when presented with a list, to pick and choose what is most desirable – One from Column *A and* One from Column *B*, soup *or* salad, air conditioning *but* not leather seats. But the "list" we affirm in our vow of membership to the church isn't like that. As we express the living out of our faith in Christ through the church, we say that we will be loyal to the church and uphold it with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, *and* our witness. The conjunction is intentional – "and," not "or." Leaving one out dilutes our discipleship. Choosing only one cheapens our commitment. Our vows to the Lord through the church might be understood as multiple choice, with the only proper response being, "all of the above."

*And* – short, little word. Major meaning.



# Children's Corner



Karie Sue McCaleb

FALL FEST is almost here! We need your help to make this another awesome year for our St. Mark's Kids & Friends! We also need baked goods for our Cake Walk, and cars to decorate for Trunk or Treaters!!! Sign up in the front office or email [kariesue@saintmarksum.org](mailto:kariesue@saintmarksum.org)

Admission for your family is a bag of candy!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

We are collecting small toys, toiletries, new clothing, and school supplies for Operation Christmas Child: Packing Party November 8th @ 9:00am-Noon.

Kids Christmas Musical & Snacks with Santa will be Sun. December 14th

**Join us weekly for Sunday School (9:30) and Wednesday Nights (6-7pm)**



### ATTENTION! College Students (Parents of College Students) & HS Seniors!

St. Mark's is once again taking a group of college students, young adults and HS Seniors to THE number one conference for ages 18-25! Last year was a phenomenal experience and we can't wait to join with thousands of others who want to worship Jesus and make Him famous! Check out the promo video at: <http://26generation.com/passion2015/> and then sign up! You DO NOT want to miss this life-changing experience!

Worship leaders: Chris Tomlin, Crowder, Matt Redman, Christy Nockles, Kristian Stanfill, Brett Younker  
 Speakers: Louie Giglio, John Piper, Frances Chan, Carl Lentz  
 Lodging: Hilton ATL Transportation: church bus

PASSION 2015 ~ January 2-4, 2015 ~ Georgia Dome ~ Atlanta, GA Cost: \$100 + food  
 Cost includes: conference, 2 nights hotel lodging, transportation and lunch Saturday  
 We will be having a fundraiser to offset the costs! A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due by Dec. 1 to reserve your spot. Partial scholarships are available. Space is limited!  
 For more info or to register, please contact Jeanne!



Martha Hand

## From the Director of Nurture and Outreach

The fall session of our Newcomer's class is meeting now and enjoying a very informative study of Methodism by Rev. Coile. October 12 is the final Sunday of our session, and we are planning a fellowship time with a meal

together after church at an area restaurant.

To continue to nurture these newcomers and all people supporting St. Mark's by their presence, an alternative joining process is being offered to anyone at St. Mark's who desires "official" membership. St. Mark's has many different personalities who attend worship, and who come with a different set of life and faith experiences. Some may feel the normal joining process – walking down the aisle and being in front of a very large crowd – a little daunting. That is why we are offering a more personal setting for those who would like it. A solemn vow will still be taken with church officials in attendance. If you have been baptized and would like to participate in this joining opportunity, it will be held in the sanctuary on October 19 at 9:20 following the early service. If you have never been baptized but desire church membership, Rev. Coile can discuss this process with you further. Affiliate and associate memberships will be offered at this time as well.

The youth of St. Mark's proudly presents... MURDER MYSTERY DINNER FUNDRAISER

## Murder Among The Mateys

Sun., Nov. 2 @ 5:00 pm in the Salty Sea Dog Inn (AKA CLC)

Catering by Sonny's BBQ  
 Smoked Chicken, baked potatoes, baked beans, corn, drinks and dessert.

**Tickets: Adults \$15 Children \$5** (birth - 5th grade)

**Special: Grab 7 buccaneers & get an entire table of 8 for \$110!**

**Reservations accepted through Wed., October 29.**

\*Pirate Wear encouraged! (Note: child care provided for birth - Kg)

All proceeds benefit the St. Mark's Youth Ministry!

# merge

bringing students and god together



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

## OCTOBER SCHEDULE:

- 5 - "WOZ: The Scarecrow" - (Wisdom)
- 12 - "WOZ: The Tin Man" - (Heart)
- 20 - Bonfire! "WOZ: The Lion" - (Courage)\*
- 26 - Moonlight Maize!

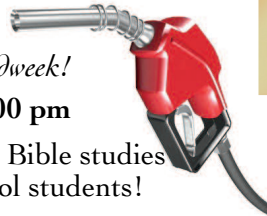
\* Note: Time changes for these nights  
10/20 ~ 5:30 - 7:30 pm 10/26 ~ 5:30 - 8:30 pm

## FUEL

High octane for your soul midweek!

Wednesdays ~ 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Dive into God's Word in separate Bible studies for middle school and high school students!



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

Monday, Oct. 6th ~ Noon - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$25 plus food (eat lunch prior)  
Drop off and pick up is at St. Mark's!



Sign up is required!

Unlimited rides!

FRIENDS WELCOME!

## Bonfire

Sun., Oct. 19  
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Food ~ Fire ~ Friends ~ Worship  
~ S'mores ~ Prizes

Dress in costume for your chance to win! Theme: Wizard of Oz!

## TAILGATE PARTY

@ NWR HS LOT

5:30 PM

Oct. 3

Last names A - L bring sides/dessert  
Last names M-Z bring canned drinks



## MOONLIGHT MAIZE!

@ NICHOLS-BOYD CORNFIELD

SUN., OCT. 26 ~ 5:30 - 8:30 PM

COST: \$5.00

SIGN UP REQUIRED

FRIENDS WELCOME!

Sundays @  
5:00 pm

# Youth Choir

Working on Christmas program!  
All youth 6th-12th grade invited!  
Come join us!

## State Fair Senior American Day is October 8 for Trendsetters



Mary Wilson of the Supremes

Our favorite Guy Hovis

Jerry Puckett

Ralph Semmes and the  
Mississippi Live Orchestra

Advertised as the biggest and best show ever and we can see it!

**Trendsetters will leave at 10:00 a.m. and return at 3:00 p.m. on the church bus. -- No Cost**

They will enjoy the exhibits at the fair as they always have in the past then see the program in the Coliseum sponsored for senior citizens by Trustmark Bank. There'll be Motown hits from the '60's, classic American standards, Big Band swing and patriotic favorites to sing along with. Miss Mississippi, Jasmine Murray, will be there for everyone to meet.

Trendsetters will have the opportunity to attend the music pre-show at 11:30 and also get flu and pneumonia shots, visit exhibits. Sign up in the church office.

## Thursday, October 23 - Merigold/Cleveland Trip

Leave at 7:15 a.m. Return at 7:00 p.m.

Cost is \$25 includes lunch. (NOTE TIME CHANGE - 7:15)

10:00 a.m. - Shop at McCarty's Pottery

11:15 a.m. - Shop at Peter's Pottery

12:45 p.m. - Lunch at The Warehouse  
in Cleveland, MS



2:00 p.m. - Tour of Railroad Heritage Museum and/or Downtown Shopping

3:30 p.m. - Drive Thru Tour of Delta State and see campus and sculpture garden

7:00 p.m. - Return to Saint Mark's

(This trip is full - there is a waiting list for the bus - For those planning to drive their car behind the bus, we can accommodate a larger group.

Check it out in the church office or call Sandra at 601-992-2131.