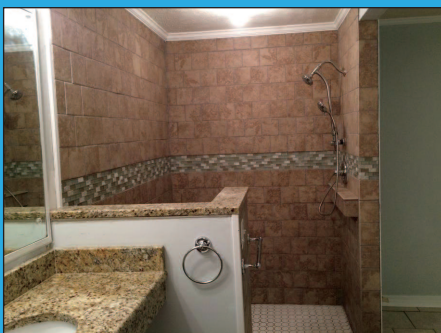
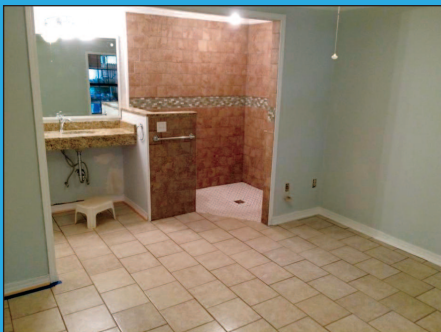
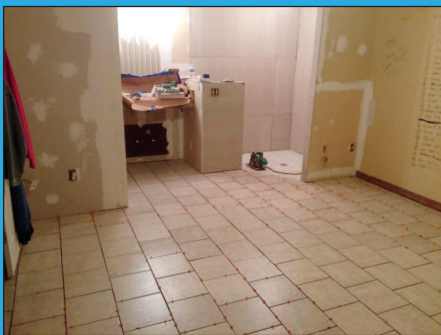


Jeff Nesbit *continued from page 1*

happened to be a Scout mom and knew the Ivy family. It just so happens that Jesus Christ aligns people for His glory. Without hesitation, Chris was compelled by the love of Christ to do something with eternal value. He gathered his troops, contacted Saint Mark's, formed a work crew, and assessed the needs of the family and the house. For the first time in years, Craig was able to lay his eyes on more than one room. For the first time in years, he was able to take a shower in his own home.

Who else? What else? The relationship with the Ivy's will not end. But it does cause me to pray: "Jesus, who else? where else?" Let us continue to be ready at a moment's notice to share Jesus and our lives with someone needing to see Christ at work. *Who, where, what else?*



Jo Hebert

An Encouraging Word From Jo Hebert

Three days ago when I got home from work and learned of Robin Williams' suicide, my daughter was surprised at my strong reaction. As pictures of the vibrant, positive roles he played immediately came to mind, especially the encouraging teacher in *Dead Poets' Society*, I stomped my foot in disbelief saying, "No no! That's terrible! That's so terrible!" Though I can't say he was even among my favorite actors; I was 10 when *Mork and Mindy* began, and he was certainly an iconic figure with tremendous talent and influence. I didn't want it to be true that someone who gave so much laughter had ended up in such a dark, lonely place.

Tragically, Robin Williams was most likely one among 108 or so desperate individuals who took their lives that day in the United States; and will be one of over 39,000 this year (according to the most recent statistics from the Centers for Disease Control). Absolutely none of the stories behind these decisions is the same. Each number represents an entirely unique struggle that can't be generalized or summed up haphazardly. But, every one of these anguished souls, for a variety of reasons, felt trapped with one option, and each leaves behind heartbroken loved ones asking unanswerable questions.

Struggling to make sense of the shock and despair of suicide, some make blanket statements about what could have caused that level of devastation and what could have prevented it. That sort of conjecture is to be expected, and it is right to educate, equip, and encourage; but please let us stop short of criticizing and judging those who lost the battle of depression. Let us recognize that we have **no idea** what pain they carried, and that they may have put up a valiant fight before the end.

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church has very thoughtful words on the topic. Here are some: "A Christian perspective on suicide begins with an affirmation of faith that nothing, including suicide, separates us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39). Therefore, we deplore the condemnation of people who complete suicide, and we consider unjust the stigma that so often falls on surviving family and friends." I like the word "deplore" there. We deplore it (condemnation). Let's not do it (condemn). Let's offer words of hope or none at all.

May the Lord help us to share our burdens and victories with trusted friends and family who can help us strive to the next victory. (It is coming!) Gracious God, help us to speak life and truth at every opportunity, not knowing who may be desperate for it. And may we encourage one another to fight valiantly throughout the trials of life, able to declare the truth of Micah 7:8,9(b): "Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; when I fall, I will arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me... He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness."

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).



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

NONPROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT 27

DATED MATERIAL SEPTEMBER 6, 2014

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



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://268generation.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 Yonker
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!



the BEACON

Shining Christ's light into the community



September 2014 • Number 96



Jeff Nesbit

"So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us."

- 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Who is very dear to you?

For the past month, the Ivy family has been very dear to the 11th hour faith family at Saint Mark's. You may not know the Ivy's. They are a very precious family the Lord Jesus Christ led us to.

The father and husband of the household, Craig Ivy, was paralyzed in a car accident years ago and has been unable to transfer from one room to another in the house because it has not been handicap accessible. He has not been able to get outside of his house either.

Beginning on Monday, July 28th, the Ivy home began to be re-created. Christ began to be exalted in a neighborhood. Scripture was written all over the walls and floors of the home. The Gospel of God and lives began to be shared. A family become very dear to us. The work team labored night and day for two weeks. People prayed, donated money, provided food, drink, and support. On Friday night, August 8th, the house was dedicated to the Lord Jesus with prayer, Scripture, and song. Craig was prayed over and his life was celebrated as it was his birthday on that Friday! People of Saint Mark's, the neighborhood, Scout Troop 416 (see below), and friends all invested time and energy. You can see the before and after pictures above of one of the rooms that was transformed! To see more, visit the 11th Hour facebook page.

How did all of this begin? Chris Blake, who is an 11th Hour brother, helps lead Scout Troop 416 at Saint Mark's church. Chris just happens to have the heart and the skills required to repair homes for people for the glory of Christ. Kimberly Dear just

(continued on page 5 with Photos)

More Going On Than We Can See

One of my favorite musicals is Rogers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. I always dreamed of playing Emil DeBeque, singing to Ensign Nellie Forbush that immortal song, "Some Enchanted Evening." But alas, I'm too short on looks to be a romantic leading man.

Whenever I audition for those kinds of roles, I usually end up with parts like "Sailor No. 3."

In *South Pacific* there's a song called "Cockeyed Optimist." Nellie Forbush describes herself as being "stuck like a dope with a thing called hope." Being an optimist who sees the proverbial glass half-full is better than being a pessimist who goes through life where everything is half-empty, not quite good enough, always second rate. If we expect the good we will see the good in life or in other people.

We know that sometimes attempts at always looking on the sunny side fall as flat as a failed audition. We've all had needs that have gone unmet. At one time or the other, we've faced circumstances that have squeezed the breath out of us. We've experienced personal and material loss. We've been let down by someone. We know it's hard to be hopeful when things seem to be against you.

The apostle Paul presents us with his own understanding of hope. Paul says to face adversity as it is. He even says that we are to "rejoice in our sufferings," whatever their source. It's not that we're supposed to go around looking for suffering. He knew all too well that it has the ability to find us. It's not that God visits suffering on us to teach us a lesson. I think Paul would be a little wary of those who see God lounging by the pool while his children were drowning. Paul is so bold as to say that we are to "boast" in our sufferings, to take pride in them, "knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us."

The Christian virtue of hope comes from God. Hope is grounded in God's love for us, "God's love poured into our hearts through his Holy Spirit." God makes hope come alive in us and lets us know that God can even use evil against itself to accomplish the divine will. Jesus' life hit the brick wall of crucifixion. But that's not what defines him. His resurrection does. The resurrection shows that God's sustaining and redeeming grace are so powerful and pervasive that even things that beat us down, circumstances that undermine our confidence, can serve to strengthen our resolve because God is trustworthy.

It's our faith in what *God* does that gives us hope, even when conventional wisdom tells us we should give up. Don't create your own permanent solution to the temporary situation you're facing. Faith tells us there's more going on than what we can see. God's *always* at work.

Bro. Warren



Children's Corner



Karie Sue McCaleb



Do you have a servant's heart for kids? Our Sunday School classes are still in need of TEACHERS! MONTHLY ROTATION * EASY LESSONS * LOTS OF FUN

Children's council meets in the Parlor

Sunday, Sept. 14th NOON with \$5 lunch

Our Wednesday nights at St. Mark's are in full swing as our kids enjoy choir and Bible study, along with games and fellowship. Be sure to invite a friend and if you haven't signed up to help on a Wednesday night, there is still plenty of opportunity to have fun with our

Methodist Melodies and Cherub Choir! **Wednesdays at 6:00**

Email kariesue@saintmarksum.org for more info

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR FALL FEST!

Be sure to sign up during Sunday school or in the office!



St. Mark's FALL FEST



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

HAY RIDE



COSTUME PARADE

CONTESTS & PRIZES cakewalk inflatables

Games

Face Painting

TODDLER TOWN



TRUNK OR TREAT

3:00—5:00pm

YOUTH News

Kick off is Sept. 14th!

merge
bringing students and god together



Dinner ~ Worship ~ Life Groups ~ Hang Time
SUNDAYS ~ 6:00 - 8:00 pm (free dinner @ 6)
For students in grades 6 - 12

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE:

- 7 - Silver Ring Thing (Forest, MS)
- 14 - Merge
- 21 - Merge
- 28 - **PARENT'S NIGHT!**

All students and their parents are invited to join us for this special night of MERGE. It will include a Youth/Parent meeting that highlights our school year events! Please be there!



Sundays @ 5:00 pm (beginning Sept. 14)
Roslyn Williams - Director

We are resurrecting the Youth Choir! If you love Jesus and love to sing, we want you! All students grades 6 -12 are invited. This choir will sing periodically in services with special programs for Christmas & Easter. There is so much potential! Come join us!

TAILGATE PARTY
@ NWR HS LOT
5:30 PM
Sept. 5



Entree Provided
Last names A - L bring canned drinks
Last names M-Z bring side dish/dessert

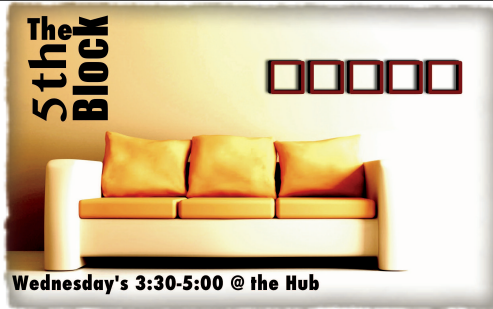


"No Strings Attached"
Sun., Sept. 7 ~ 6:00 - 8:30 pm
@ All Seasons Worship Center in Forest, MS
For MS & HS Students & their Parents!

We will meet at St. Mark's at 4:00 pm and return about 9:30 pm.
Free event, but bring \$ for dinner (fast food).

Silver Ring Thing is a ministry that defies the norms of culture and speaks honestly to teens about God's plans for relationships and sex. The 2.5 hour concert-style event is a life-changing message of hope, perseverance, forgiveness and the truth of the Gospel. Students will respond and relate to the videos, dramas, music, testimonies and comedy that connect deeply and get to the heart of this cultural problem. This night is the remedy to the "meet-up, hook-up, break-up mindset of today.

A separate parent session also begins at 6:00 pm (Parents, please RSVP!). Please check out www.silverringthing.com for more information and to see promotional videos. Registration is required. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board or by contacting Jeanne. **Friends welcome!**
(Note: Youth can attend without parents. Optional rings are sold for \$20)



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!

Confirmation

Confirmation is an opportunity for students to explore the Christian faith, Methodism and full church membership. The confirmation experience will offer a variety of learning opportunities including class instruction, service projects, 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 August 31.** To receive a confirmation packet, please contact Jeanne at jeanne@saintmarksum.org.

Kick-Off Dinner ~ Thursday, Sept. 4 ~ 6 pm ~ CLC
For all confirmands and their families.
No cost, but registration is required.



Trendsetters will travel in September 2014

Tuesday, September 23 - Senior Day at Camp Wesley Pines

Leave at 8:00 a.m., return at 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$20.00

They'll enjoy a day with other United Methodists across the state and hear concerts, there'll be storytelling, games, food and lots of fellowship. They can also sit in the rockers on the porch or walk the trails at Wesley Pines. It's always a great day.

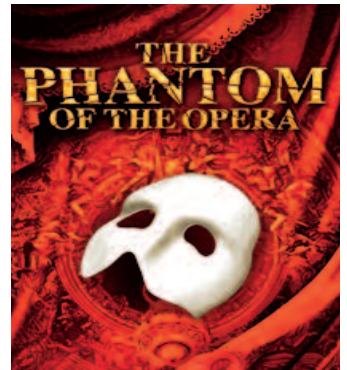
It's all for people over 50 - some are retired, some still working but all enjoy having fun.
Sign up in the church office. Questions: Call Sandra at 601-992-2131.

See Phantom of the Opera In Memphis

Thursday, September 25 - Leave at 7:30 a.m.

2:00 p.m. Matinee - Cost: \$100.00

(Bus is filled and there is a waiting list but you can also drive your own car - sign up in the church office)



Trendsetter Plans for October

October 8 - Traditional trip to Senior Day at the State Fair that includes the performance at the Coliseum and visiting the fairgrounds sites. -- Leave at 10:00 a.m. - No Cost.



Thursday, October 23, 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Merigold and Cleveland, MS.

Lunch at the Warehouse, Cost \$25.00

Includes the popular Peter's Pottery and McCarty's Pottery, Shop at Delta State, Martin and Sue King Railroad Heritage Museum, Walk around downtown, see campus and sculpture garden.

Watch next month's Beacon for more details.

Sign up in the church office.

Everyone over 50 is invited -it doesn't mean it's over at 50.