



# St. Mark's Remarks

8255 Winchester Road \* Memphis, Tennessee 38125 \* (901) 754-8185 \* [www.stmarksmemphis.org](http://www.stmarksmemphis.org)

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Rev. Greg Taylor, pastor

## Focus and Leaves

During the month of August, our worship theme is: “The Focus of Successful Churches.” This sermon series will incorporate four distinct areas of focus that will allow for St. Mark's UMC to find greater success in the future. The four weekly themes are as follows:

August 5th—Congregational Problem-Solving

Proverbs 13:12

August 12th—Steadfastness to God's Vision

Jeremiah 29:11-13

August 19th—Heartfelt Worship

Psalms 147

August 26th—Modelled Upon a Triune God

1 Peter 1:3-9

Within each of these weekly themes, we find there is always room to grow in mission and ministry to be a successful church. Successful churches thrive together as a single Body of Christ when we work together. When we follow God's vision for our church and its relationship with our surrounding community, and when we model our internal structure and disciple-making structure, after a loving, indwelling Triune God, we will find our hearts open to others in new and glorious ways which will breed success. If our worship time together is authentically heartfelt, anyone who witnesses our praise of God will get swept up in the celebration and mutual adoration of God of grace and mercy.

So, during the month of August, come and listen to a heartfelt desire to offer strategies to help St. Mark's UMC grow in love, nourishment, desire, and grace and we learn together how we can always be successful as a church.

The other piece of news I would like to share with you is about an idea-generating opportunity to grow as a church. This will be made more fully known on August 5th, but I can share some information with you ahead of time. Our first August Scripture, Proverbs 13:12, reads: “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.” We hope to experience just that, a desire fulfilled. When we lift our hearts together to follow God, our desires are going to change the way they look. They are going to more fully align themselves after God's will. And when our desires are fulfilled, they become for us a tree of life—rooted in Christ, with a trunk built upon mission and love, and branches stretching out to leaves of possibilities.

We are going to create a tree of life in the sanctuary. Our goal for this tree is to be a reminder of how we can overcome any problem facing us. To do this, we are offering you the ability to participate through our “leaves of possibilities.” Each leaf is an opportunity to share an idea about how we can overcome our financial difficulty. Each leaf is an opportunity to share an idea about how we can grow as a congregation. Each leaf is an opportunity to share an

Continued on page 4

## August Birthdays

Carol Johnson 8/7 Jeff Hink 8/29  
Faith Graff 8/30

## Visitors Last Month

The Bishop Family John Davis  
Hardin Grandchildren Don & Luan Meeks  
Nabers Grandchildren Holly Perry  
Janice Thornton

## United Methodist Men



Come join us on Tuesday, August 21, for our monthly “steak or chicken” dinner, at 6:30 p.m., in Fields Hall. Please join us for great food and great fellowship and a chance to get to know our

new pastor! Steak is \$10 and chicken is \$8. Please call me at (901) 412-9125 to confirm your steak or chicken! See you there!

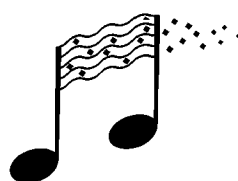
Mike Graff

## United Methodist Women

Greeting from your UMW! Thank you to everyone who welcomed Bro. Greg and his family with your delicious food on First Sunday. Every year, one of our ladies receives a Special Mission Recognition award. This year our recipient was Bonnie Carter. Tell her congratulations and thank her for her dedication, hard work, creativity, and all the special ways she serves St. Mark’s and the UMW. Speaking of Bonnie, she has arranged for Church Health at Crosstown to receive 300 books from Books from Birth, and will be creating a children’s corner at Room at the Inn with books for children in the program. For many years, UMW has been participating in the Kroger Rewards program. If you are a Kroger shopper, they will donate a portion of the proceeds of your purchases to St. Mark’s through their Community Rewards program. There is no cost to you. Mary Jane Randolph has information on how to sign up for the program. We will NOT have a First Sunday lunch in September. Our next meeting is October 6th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Blessings to you in the name of Christ,  
Leesa Henderson,  
UMW President

## Choir Notes



We hope you have enjoyed singing some of the old songs out of The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal during July. We’ll do it again

next summer!

The choir has had a vacation for the month of July. We will be back in the choir loft on August 5th. It will still be hot, so we won’t be wearing robes until September 2nd.

Our accompanist, Sean Ye, will be visiting his homeland, China, for 5 weeks, August 5th-September 2nd. In addition to visiting, he will be doing research for a paper in preparation for his doctorate degree. Sean will return to us on September 9th. Keep him in your prayers for a safe and productive journey.

In order to help watch our church expenses, we have decided to not hire substitute accompanists during these weeks. Bro. Greg and I will be doing “double duty” at accompanying our choir and congregational singing.

Either “you’re in for a treat” or “bear with us”!  
God bless you all for your “joyful noise unto the Lord”!

*Jim*

## Food Pantry

Don’t forget! St. Mark’s day to work the Food Pantry at Capleville UMC is Tuesday, August 28.

## Nursery

Our Nursery is open on Sunday from 9:30 a.m. til 11:30 a.m. Tell your family and friends to bring their little ones and join us!

## Newsletters

Anyone who would like to have your newsletter sent to you by email, please let the office know either by calling, 901-754-8185, or email; [stmarksmem@bellsouth.com](mailto:stmarksmem@bellsouth.com). This will help with postage. Also, if you are no longer interested in receiving the newsletter, let us know so we can remove you from our mailing list.

## Lawn Care

Larry could use some help with the upkeep of the lawn, since his helper quit. If you know of someone, we can pay \$10 an hour.



## Fall Arts & Crafts Fair

Don't forget our Arts & Crafts Fair, Saturday, September 22, from 9 a.m. til 2 p.m. We are getting a lot of response, so this should be a fun event and good for our church. We will need volunteers to work this event, so please get in touch with Sherry Raggett at 489-1538.

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Methodist Church - Memphis, Tennessee

## August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6:00p Yoga	3	4 9:00a Yoga
5 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship 11:30a First Sunday Lunch Communion to Lawn Care	6	7 6:00p Yoga	8	9 6:00p Yoga	10	11 9:00a Yoga
12 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service	13 6-9:00p Scouts	14 6:00p Yoga 7:15p Cub Scouts	15	16 6:00p Yoga	17	18 9:00a Yoga
19 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service	20 6-9:00p Scouts	21 6:30p UMM Dinner	22	23 6:00p Yoga	24	25 9:00a Yoga 1-5:00p Alana Baby Shower
26 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service	27 6-9:00p Scouts	28 11-1:00 Food Pantry 6:00p Yoga 7:15p Cub Scouts	29	30	31	

## Focus and Leaves....Cont'd

Idea about different ministries and missions we can participate in together as a congregation. Each leaf is an opportunity to breathe new life into St. Mark's UMC and work toward having our God-based desires fulfilled as we minister to the people to which God has called us.

And each of you gets to be a part of this. Please, bring your ideas and write them on the leaves provided. Attach them to the wall, and we will spend time praying over each leaf and looking at how we can incorporate every idea into the ministry and mission of St. Mark's UMC. Now is not the time to be squeamish. If you have ever seen an idea work, or have ever heard of an idea working, let us know. Ask your neighbors and friends, and don't be afraid to tell them why you are asking. Hopefully they will want to add a few ideas as well. Each idea is an opportunity for God's vision to be revealed to us through the mission and ministry of St. Mark's.

Give us as many ideas as possible, and we will see where God takes us into the future. We are only able to fully embrace God's vision when we work together as a congregation (Oops, I may have given too much of my August 5th sermon away. Oh well.).

Peace and Blessings to you all as we continue our 2nd month together.

In Christ's love,  
*Rev. Greg Taylor*

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