



St. Mark's Remarks

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**“Live your life in such a way that those who know
you but don't know God
will know God because they know you.”**

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February 1, 2015**

Rev. Dr. Brad Gabriel

Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

February is the “love month” they tell us. Whoever “they” are. Well, maybe they are right. In some Christian traditions, the month begins with remembering Saint Brigit of Kildare, Ireland. Tradition holds that Brigit was an early nun, founder of many nunneries and monasteries, leader of communities and shaper of Celtic Christianity. Celtic Christianity (the British Isles, portions of modern France and Germany) strongly emphasized the practice of loving actions, especially in regards to the more vulnerable members of society. The end of the month is the day to recall the life of a 17th century Welsh poet and clergyman named George Herbert. Poets are often romantics at heart. And we must certainly remember St. Valentine, he of the roses and chocolates, right? Maybe not, but he did, according to legend, restore sight to a young girl and lead many high Roman officials to the faith, and provide a means for Christians to tame the much wilder aspects of a day devoted to expression of love. So, maybe the “they” are right. If that is the case, then how do we live in love during these 28 days?

On Saturday, February 7, St. Mark's is invited to join with Capleville and CrossRoads at CrossRoads UMC for a conference on end of life decisions. Called “When We All Get to heaven” the day will run from 9:30-1:00 and cover several important topics.

Sunday, February 8 will be the great Valentine's Day candy sale by our UMW. Love the wonderful treats they prepare and buy some! Love the mission work the women of the church fund with events like this and buy some more!

February 8 is also Scout Sunday. Love seeing future leaders as they lead worship.

Tuesday, February 17 our Men will meet for dinner and to hear from the University of Memphis Wesley Foundation, our United Methodist student ministry center. Love learning how the church is active on the campus enough to be here.

February 18 we begin this season's Wednesday programs with our Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. As we love our Lord, let us gather to begin this journey of reflection, self-denial, and renewal that leads to the cross of Good Friday and finally the joy of Easter.

Every Sunday is an opportunity to gather with other followers of the Christ, praise God's presence in our community and seek God's guidance in ways we can witness and serve. Love your life here and your life to come enough to show your love of God with other members of this church. See you in February.

Grace for the Way

Brad



February Birthdays!

Jamie Harmon	02/05	Kay Hill	02/06
Anaka Bracho	02/13	Lita Owen	02/16



Choir Notes

You've seen her. You've heard her. Who is she?

Liza Southerton is our newest choir member. We are blessed to have Liza share her voice with us. In addition to having a wonderful voice, she is very versatile: sometimes you will see her in the soprano section; sometimes you may see her singing with the altos; she can also sing tenor and will help us out there some. Liza, thank you for your willingness to help us wherever we need you. Who said our choir couldn't grow?! Will you be the next new choir member?

Jim Lovelace

Pastoral Emergencies

Reverend Gabriel is out of the office February 2-11. In case of pastoral emergency, please call the Rev. Dennis Neenan at 378.7505

**Thank
You**

Dear St. Mark's,
Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. Candace and I appreciate your kindness. Wishing you a blessed New Year!

Thank you again,
Hope Walker

Dear People of St. Mark's
It is such a joy to work at St. Mark's and enjoy the loving way in which the people here support their staff. Thank you so much for the monetary gift and the beautiful cards. I pray for this lovely church and the work that takes place here as you glorify God and serve Him every day.

With love and thanksgiving,
Margie

72 + U

We first heard of 72 Plus You at our Charge Conference in November. We've heard 72 Plus You swirling around in conversation and mentioned a few times. But what is it? The idea of this initiative is from the Gospel of Luke:

Luke 9 starts with Jesus sending out the twelve disciples, in twos, to preach the gospel and to heal. This chapter ends, after much success by the disciples, with Jesus warning them of the cost of following Jesus. Chapter 10 begins with Jesus choosing and sending another 72 "others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go..."

The term 72 Plus You was coined by our Bishop with the purpose of strengthening our personal walk with Christ and leading others to Christ, through our love, our prayers, and our service in His name.

With that in mind, how can we, the individual and collective, body of St. Mark's accomplish this? Everyone has ideas, and good ideas, of how we can do more and do things better in serving and following Christ. Often that is where it ends, a good idea and good intentions. 72 Plus You will provide a voice and a structure to your ideas.

Often ideas are mentioned, but there has not been a formal structure or format to prayerfully consider and make it happen. The 72 Plus You initiative will ensure all ideas are considered and that resources and support are available for ministries moving forward. This approach will also ensure that our church and opportunities for participation in ministries are inclusive – including everyone, with everyone having a voice.

Some of initiatives falling under the umbrella of 72 Plus You are:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Vacation Bible School
- Trunk or Treat
- Movie Night
- New Member Recognition

Once an activity is added to the 72 Plus You umbrella, a committee and leadership will be formed, with support and resources available when needed.

There will be an introductory meeting on Thursday February 26 at 6:30 pm. We will look at Eater activities, new member receptions, and try to answer any questions anyone has about this initiative and to hear your ideas!

Lent Starts with Ash Wednesday Worship:
February 18, 2015

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection. (copied; UMC web site)

St. Mark's United Methodist Women

February is shaping up to be a busy month for the UMW. We will sponsor our Valentine Basket sale on Sunday, Feb. 8. Also we will have a work session Saturday, Feb. 7, at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall to put the baskets together. Any lady of the church who can attend is invited to come help and bring homemade goodies for the baskets. All candy and goodies should be at the church no later than 10:30 a.m. On Saturday, Feb. 28 we are hosting a district wide mission study again in the fellowship hall from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will be serving a light breakfast and lunch for about 80 ladies. We will have a work session to prepare the food on Friday, Feb. 27 at 10:00 a.m. Anyone who can help set up or cook, please be at the church at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 27. Please don't forget our ongoing projects: the First Sunday luncheon, the Food Pantry, and The Golden Cross baskets! If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Barbara Jenkins at:

(901) 752-1128 or jenkinsba3@gmail.com.

- First Sunday Luncheon Feb. 1
- Candy Work Session Feb. 7
- Valentine Basket Sale Feb. 8
- Mission Study Work Session Feb. 8
- District Mission Study Feb. 28
- First Sunday Luncheon Mar. 1

David Kabakoff to Speak
At St. Mark's UMC

David Kabakoff current President of the Wesley Senior Ministries Foundation/GOLDEN CROSS Senior Residents Fund™ will speak at St. Mark's UMC during worship on Sunday, March 15. Wesley Senior Ministries actively cares for the needs of the elderly residents of Wesley Living communities in West Tennessee, Jonesboro, AR and Murray, KY. In addition, David was recently named General Manager of Homecare by Wesley serving the in-home personal care needs of the elderly.

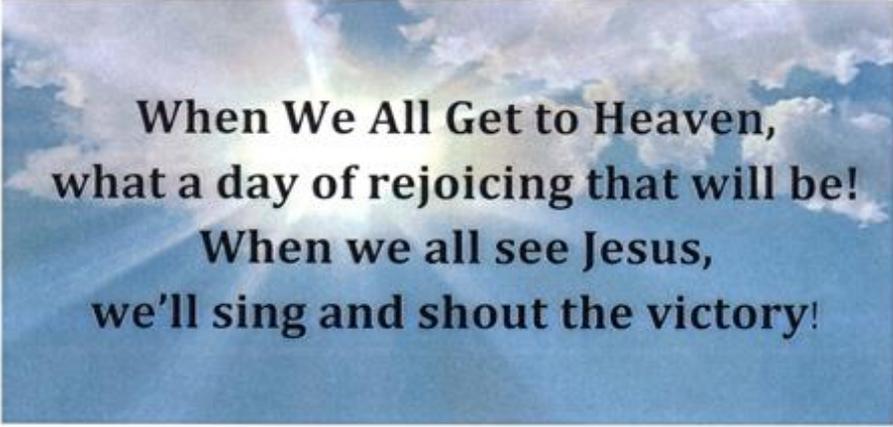
David grew up in Memphis and graduated from Memphis State University with a degree in Marketing and specialty in Sales. David spent over 25 years in the radio broadcast industry. He was the General Sales Manager for a top 3 billing radio station in Atlanta for 15 years where the station set corporate revenue and profit records. Dave also served as General Manager for a group of 5 stations in Lexington managing a large diverse group of employees.

His career has spanned assignments in south Florida, New York City, Atlanta, Lexington, KY and now finally back in Memphis. He has over 33 years of marketing, sales, sales management, administration, personnel management, training/coaching, non-profit and public speaking experience. David has been an integral part of the launch of three start-up companies and understands the challenges new companies and their personnel face in a competitive marketplace. He has been a Certified Trainer of the Dale Carnegie Courses in public speaking/human relations/customer service and sales success for over 33 years. He is skilled in the evaluation, selection, development and retention of top talent in a variety of industries.

David and Carol, his wife, reside in Collierville, TN with their three dogs. They have three grown children between them. They are active partners at Heartsong UMC.

St. Mark's United Methodist Men

We will meet Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 pm for dinner with a program to follow. Our guest that evening will be one of the board members of the University of Memphis Wesley Foundation, our United Methodist Campus ministry for colleges and universities in the Memphis area. As always, you may order steak (\$10) or chicken (\$8) for dinner. Please call the church office (754-8185) or Terry Draughon no later than Thursday, February 12 to make reservations.



**When We All Get to Heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
we'll sing and shout the victory!**

Dear members of St. Marks, Capleville and CrossRoads United Methodist Churches:

You are invited to a workshop on
Making End-of-Life Choices

Saturday, February 7, 2015, 9:30 AM to 1 PM
CrossRoads United Methodist Church, 9315 E. Shelby Dr.

This workshop will guide us in making end-of-life decisions while we are still able to do so.

For example, we will learn:

- How to plan for assistant living, a nursing home, and/or hospice care
 - What kind of medical and personal treatment wanted
 - What to do with material possessions, including the house
 - What are the tax advantages of estate planning

Facilitators:

Chaplain Rev. Jonathan Lewis, Methodist Hospital South,
Rev. Rhonda Gilligan-Gillespie, BCC, ACPE Supervisor at Methodist Hospital,
Rev. Dr. Phil Jamieson, President of the United Methodist Foundation for the
Memphis and Tennessee Conference,
Mr. David Reed, Lay Leader of the Memphis Annual Conference and Vice-President of the
United Methodist Foundation,
Mr. Kevin Floy, Conference lawyer and
Rev. Brad Thomas from the Congregational Health Network, Methodist Hospital North

This workshop is free and open to the public.

Reservations are required so that lunch can be planned.

Call 901/737-3776 by Wednesday, February 4th.

Questions or concerns? Contact Rev. Birgitte T. French at 901/484-1576 or
btfrench@crossroadsumc.com

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a 1 st Sun Lunch	2 6-7:30p Boy Scouts 6:30-8p Cub Scouts	3 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers	4 7:00a Emmaus	5 6:00 p. Yoga	6	7 8:00a til Completion UMW Prep for Candy Sale 9:00 a. Yoga 9:30-1: Conference at CrossRoads
8 Boy Scout Sunday 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice UMW Valentine Candy	9 6-7:30p Boy Scouts 6:30-8p Cub Scouts	10 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers	11 7:00a Emmaus	12 10:00a Lds. Bible Study 6:00 p. Yoga 7:00p SPRC Meeting	13	14 9:00 a. Yoga
15 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	16 6-7:30p Boy Scouts 6:30-8p Cub Scouts	17 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers 6:30p UMM	18 Ash Wednesday 7:00a Emmaus 6:30p Ash Wednesday Worship Service	19 10:00a Lds. Bible Study 6:00 p. Yoga	20	21 9:00 a. Yoga
22 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	23 6-7:30p Boy Scouts 6:30-8p Cub Scouts	24 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers	25 7:00a Emmaus 6:00p Weds. Dinner 6:30p Study	26 10:00a Lds. Bible Study 6:00 p. Yoga 7:00p 72+U Meeting	27 UMW-Fields Hall	28 District Mission Study-UMW 9:00 a. Yoga