

St. Mark's Remarks



St. Mark's UMC
a small church with a big heart

8255 Winchester Road
Memphis, Tennessee 38125
(901) 754-8185
www.stmarksmemphis.org

“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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Rev. Jolinne Downey

Getting to Know St. Mark's

This fall as we were preparing for Charge Conference, I used it as an opportunity to really get to know St. Mark's. The ministry you do each year is impressive. Monthly meetings of the United Methodist Men (and, boy, how we LOVED that Christmas steak dinner!). Quarterly meetings of the United Methodist Women (and the monthly potluck meals support mission and ministry all over the world!). Year-round support for the Food Pantry at Capleville UMC. Trunk or Treat drew 80 children plus their parents (and we need to be reaching out to them regularly). Then there is Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Golden Cross, Reelfoot Rural Ministries, Easter Egg Hunt, Book Club, Family Movie Nights, Blessing of the Animals, Christmas Cantata. You have made a tremendous difference in the lives of many people. You have also opened the doors to Weight Watchers and Selah Yoga, which extends the church's outreach into the community.

In talking with you about these ministries, we discovered that there are many elderly people in our community who are lonely; African-American women are expressing interest in being in ministry with other women; there is a high rate of black-on-black violence in our city; we have dual concerns for the safety of police officers and for justice for the black community; and there is a need for volunteers to help children and adults learn to read.

We also learned that previous efforts to draw families with children have not been fruitful; many older people in the community are not attending church and might respond well to invitations to join us at St. Mark's; we are still learning HOW to reach the community; we need better communication/publicity; we are learning to move beyond our walls and engage people where they are; movie nights have not been as successful as we would like in drawing families with children; if we are going to minister effectively with African-Americans in our community, we will need to develop African-American leadership; and we can form partnerships with other groups in the community to extend our outreach.

So as I prayed about all of this, I felt God giving me a vision for the ministry of our church. St. Mark's is a small church with a big heart. We have a heart for God, a heart for missions, a heart for seniors, and a heart for Windyke. This vision statement will guide us as we move into the coming year. We have already developed a new logo, which you will begin to see on all our material. And we have some specific tasks ahead of us. God is calling us to target retirement communities and elderly in our neighborhood; invest in our Scouting program and their families; develop a reading program, utilizing Dolly Parton's Imagination Library; find more ways to engage people where they are; explore the possibility of offering a second worship service on a different day/time. We have a lot of work to do, and we are going to need all hands on deck to accomplish God's purposes for us. I hope you will be praying for discernment. May God show each of us how and where we can best serve.

Grace, peace& joy!

Pastor Jo



January Birthdays!

Irene Beard	01/05	Dianne Hudnall	01/11
Vernice Phillips	01/08	Jesse Jenkins	01/17
Charles Phillips	01/09	Ricky Reid	01/20
Michael Graff	01/10	Joe Collier	01/29

Visitors in December

Chuch, Kari, Reilly & Payton Burge	Hazel Conar
Daniel, MiKayla, Savannah & Thomas Hardin	Rebecca Downey
Knox Pettinger	Pat Krause
McKenzie & Sierra Howard	Parker Bryan
Danny, Jade, & Parker Bryan	Kathleen Pou
Vesna & Zarko Petronijevic	Mike & Gena Johnson

Grizzlies Faith & Family Night

The Memphis Grizzlies will take on the Toronto Raptors for Faith & Family Night on Friday, April 1. The event will include a postgame concert with Peter Furler, former lead singer for Christian rock band, The Newsboys. Discounted group tickets are available for parties of 15 or more. A limited number of hospitality suite packages are also available. If you are interested in going as a group, please contact the church office by Thursday, Jan. 14. Tickets range in price from \$15 - \$35, depending on seating, so let us know whether you prefer \$15, \$20, \$23 or \$35 tickets. We will have to reserve a block of seats in order to get the discount.

THANK YOU!

Dear St. Mark's Members and Friends,

Please accept our deepest thanks for all the prayers, snacks, cards, calls and contributions. All were deeply appreciated. The snacks and contributions certainly came in handy during our hardship.

Love to all,
Sarah and Larry Hughes

Taking Down the Greenery

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Jan. 7th, at 10:00a.m. We will need all the help we can get to everything put away. We can always use a few strong men, so come on out and enjoy the camaraderie.

St. Mark's United Methodist Women

Thank you to everyone who made UMW such a wonderful, successful, and accomplished 2015! Thanks to those who did the work and those who supported our efforts!

Special thanks to Barbara Jenkins who has served as President of our unit for the past four years! Shelly and I, as co-presidents, have bit shoes to fill.

We sent a UMW Year in Review in last month's newsletter, but since then we have completed our Christmas Post Office! 544 cards were sent to 49 families/individuals within our little church with a big heart! Thank you to all who participated.

We start 2016 with our first meeting on Saturday, Jan. 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be setting our goals, activities, and dates for the year. Please plan to attend!

Also on that date we will be preparing for our Chili Fundraiser. This will be held the next day, on Sunday, Jan. 17, at 11:30 a.m. right Worship in the Fellowship Hall. A bulletin insert on January 3rd will explain our fundraiser and how to participate and order.

We are changing some things this year. This fundraiser will replace our December Bake Sale and our Valentine Candy Sale. Because this one Chili Fundraiser is replacing 2 other fundraisers, please participate and be generous.

Welcome 2016! Here's hoping for another fantastic year serving Christ through UMW! Please keep our service in your prayers!

Love, kindness, and Happy New Year!
Sheila Donaldson

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Tennessee

St. Mark's United Methodist Men

The men of the church want to thank the congregation for their continued support of men's ministry.

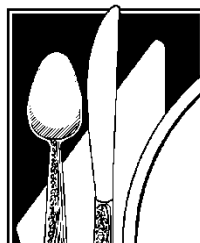
The Annual Christmas Dinner was a huge success. Thank you to the cooks, the set-up group, the ladies who made desserts.

We meet 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 19 in the St. Mark's Fellowship Hall. Please make dinner reservations no later than Sunday, January 17 by calling Terry at (901)359-7342. Dinner is a Fish Fry. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

We still have pecans left to sell! There will be *entertaining* centered around the First College Championship Game in January, the Super Bowl Game, Valentine Day Cooking and pecans will be needed for *munching and cooking!* We have the best still available for \$10.00 per bag. Sorry, we're all out of milk chocolate and dark chocolate.

Don't forget! This year's Annual Pancake Breakfast will be coming up in February! All

proceeds go to our Boy Scout Troop 57 of St. Mark's. Men, we will need your help!



**St. Mark's United Methodist Men
Monthly Steak Dinner Meeting
January, 19th
6:30 p.m. – Fields Hall**

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a 1st Sun Lunch	3 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	5 6-8p Weight Watchers 6:00p Yoga	6 7:00a Emmaus	7 10:00a Taking down the Greenery 6:00p Yoga	1 8	2 9 9:00a Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
10 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice 11:30a Trustees Mtg.	11 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	12 6-8p Weight Watchers 6:00p Yoga	13 7:00a Emmaus	14 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00p Yoga	15	16 9:00a Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
17 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice UMW Chili Dinner	18 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	19 6-8p Weight Watchers 6:30p UMM Meeting	20 7:00a Emmaus	21 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00p SPRC Mtg. 6:00p Yoga	22	23 9:00 Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
24 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	25 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	26 6-8p Weight Watchers 6:00p Yoga	27 7:00a Emmaus	28 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00p Yoga	29	30 9:00 Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
31 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice						

