

Remarks

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”



St. Mark's

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Rev. Dr. Bradley Gabriel

Dear Brothers and Sisters on the Way;

Blessings to each of you as we enter this season of Lent. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of this part of our walk through the Gospel in 2014, let's remember what Lent is and why it matters. Rev. Dan Benedict of our General Board of Discipleship, reminds us that for most church today Lent is "...a time for the church to journey together toward Easter and the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant. Lent is not about being miserable, sad, and funereal in anticipation of Good Friday. The Sundays of Lent are not part of the forty days of Lent and so remaine "little Easters," as are all Sundays. Fasting and giving up something can be part of Lenten disciplines, but so can taking on some things."

Lent is not a prelude to Easter, but, rather, a time to prepare for the wonder that Easter is. Over the next six weeks, as each of us remembers the gift of salvation offered to us in Jesus' sacrifice, we might find useful, some specific acts that help us get ready to appreciate fully the joy of Easter. For example, you may want to:

Spend time in solitude each day.

Read a book for inner growth.

Begin to keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, reading.

Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer.

Make a list of people with whom I need to be reconciled. Pray for them and let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them.

Go to all of the Holy Week services as an act of love and waiting with Jesus.

Give up a grudge.

Forgive someone who has hurt me.

Plan to visit a "shut-in" neighbor or church member weekly.

Write a letter of affirmation once a week to a person who has touched my life.

Begin to recycle waste from my home and workplace.

Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time.

Decide to become a member of the church and speak to a pastor or lay leader.

Rebuke the spirit of criticism and my own tongue out of control.

Blessings for the Way,

Brad



Choir Notes

Richard Moore	03/02	Darren Moore	03/07
Bill Demestre	03/08	Ken Hardin, Sr.	03/08
Scarlette Rose	03/11	Bob Willoughby	03/12
Max McMullin	03/17		

Visitors in February

Max & Laura Quilici	Reilly Burge
Hazel Coner	Jane Mazer
Mary Sather	
Boy Scout Troup 57	

February Average Attendance

Sunday School	20
Morning Worship	75

The Capleville Community Food Pantry

Thanks to Crossroads, St. Marks and Capleville for their continued support of the Capleville Community Food Pantry. Without **YOU** this needed ministry would be impossible. Following are the numbers for December 2013 at the Capleville Community Food Pantry.

Golden Cross

Thank you so very much for the always appreciated gift baskets.

You all have set quite a bar as we are now getting inquiries from others on how to create this unique expression of love. The candy jar will be a sought after bingo prize, to be sure. The books will provide needed outlets for recreation.

You all should have seen the excited expressions of joy on the faces of our managers this morning as they were snatching up all they could carry of your generosity. In unison, they said to tell you all, "thank you" and that you are very much appreciated.

Take a look at our choir! Take a listen to our choir! What do you think? What do you think the St. Mark's Chancel Choir will look like in five years? Who will still be singing? Who will have deceased? Who will have moved away? What new faces will there be?

And there's my question... "what new faces will there be?" Where will they come from? Should **YOU** be one of the faces in the choir?

Currently we have twelve singers in the choir. We are so blessed by each person in our choir and hope each one of us has the health to sing as long as we have breath. But the reality of the situation is so that in certain vocal sections, if we lost one key singer we would probably have to find 3-part music to sing. We don't like to think about it, but death and any other attrition of any one person in our choir will make a difference.

Let's not fret, let's take action about our future and take positive action to "insure" our future. I'm not just calling for recruiting help from our current choir members, but also from the members and friends of St. Mark's. If you have ever sung in a choir in the past, or if you have ever thought about it, God might be naming you. If you've never thought about choir but like to sing, go ahead, think about choir. We're not asking how good your voice is. We're not asking what you know about music. All we ask is that you like to sing and that you're willing to commit 2 hours on Sunday mornings.

Don't worry about your voice...let God use you anyway!

"God doesn't always call the able; He calls the willing."

Thank You

From Margie Collins for the food items and kind expression of sympathy.

From Larry & Sue Christian for everything we did for their family.

Donations

Donations were received by the church in memory of Sarah Hughes' brother by Dal & Becky Rawlins and Lew & June Hardy.

Mission Planning Opportunity

The Pastors of Capleville UMC and Crossroads UMC, are looking for a few people to join in conversation about how our three churches might collaborate to engage, serve, or otherwise reach out to our common mission field. We will be facilitated in our conversation by Mark Matheny. Please contact Pastor Gabriel or the church office if you are open to engaging in the conversation and helping express the gospel through service in our community.

St. Mark's United Methodist Men

We will meet Tuesday, March 18. We expect to have Lt. Lee Hawkins and six crew members from the B shift of our firefighters. They will eat with us and talk about what they do and what we can do to stay safe. Make your reservations with Terry Draughon as soon as possible. Be sure to join us and show your appreciation for what these brave souls do for us and our community.

From Pat Whaley, our missionary in Ukraine

Please continue to pray without ceasing and to have your churches, Sunday School classes and friends to continue to pray! Hear me now; the worse days of Ukraine are still in the days and weeks to come!!!! We need to PRAY!!! PLEASE have EVERYONE PRAY!! Our Ukraine churches had 24 hour prayer vigils last week. Through SASHA Ministry plea I heard from churches in Maryland, Ohio, Alabama, Oklahoma and Tennessee that were having 24 hour prayer vigils. I have said before Putin does not lose. The large protest and violence have moved to cities in eastern Ukraine, the former president home base and where people are extra ordinarily loyal to him, his political party-the Party of Regions and to Russia. These eastern Russia cities do not accept the new leaders and changes in Kyiv. On every Russia tv news and newspaper it says Russia will go to war for Crimea and the other Russia cities that are loyal to them. They have new maps that have all the eastern Ukraine and ALL the Black Sea coast including Odesa as either new country or a part of Russia. All of western Ukraine expecting Russian gas to be turned off today. The crisis is only becoming worse and more widespread. Huge crisis in our churches and church

members as pastors have different view....Please pray for peaceful resolution no matter what the final map would look like.

Together in Ministry,
Pat

St. Mark's United Methodist Women

We want to thank the church for their support of our Valentine Candy sale which was a huge success. Our next big project is the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, April 19th at 10:00 in Fields Hall and the church grounds. We are asking the members of the church to donate candy and plastic eggs. We already have a donor who is providing a breakfast for the children! Our Easter Egg Committee is meeting this month, and we will be publishing more information and opportunities for volunteers. Don't forget the First Sunday luncheons, 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 Mar. 2
First Sunday Luncheon Apr. 6
Easter Egg Hunt Apr. 19

Follow us on Facebook
Our Facebook address is: St. Mark's United Methodist Church – Memphis, Tennessee

Spring Cleaning

When you are spring cleaning this year don't forget the Golden cross. The following items are needed:

Hats	Jackets	Yarn	Games
	Throws	Caps	Jewelry
Material	Blankets	Scarves	Books
	Coats	Puzzles	Knick Knacks

Gently worn clothing

Just place the items in the Golden cross room in Fields Hall on the couch. If in doubt, bring it!

Bless you

March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a 1 st Sun. Lunch followed by Choir Practice	3 6-7p NA Meeting 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	4 6:30-8p Cub Scouts	5 7:00a Emmaus 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service	6 6:00p Yoga	7	8 9:00a Yoga
9 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	10 6-7p NA Meeting 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	11 6:30-8p Cub Scouts	12 7:00a Emmaus 6:00 Fellowship Dinner Followed by Bible Study	13 6:00p Yoga	14	15 9:00a Yoga
16 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	17 6-7p NA Meeting 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	18 6:30p UMM Meeting	19 7:00a Emmaus 6:00 Fellowship Dinner Followed by Bible Study	20 10:00a Lds. Bible Study Financial Seminar 6- 6-9 p.m.	21 6:00p Yoga	22 9:00a Yoga Financial Seminar 9-12 a.m.
23 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	24 6-7p NA Meeting 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	25 6:00p Yoga	26 7:00a Emmaus	27 10:00a Lds. Bible Study Financial Seminar 6-9 p.m.	28 6:00p Yoga	29 Financial Seminar 9-12 a.m.
30 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	31					