

St. Mark's Remarks

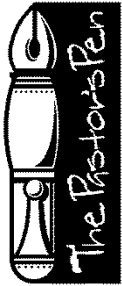
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**“Live your life in such a way that those who know
you but don't know God
will know God because they know you.”**



Published Monthly by St. Mark's United Methodist Church
March 1, 2015

Rev. Dr. Brad Gabriel



Dear Friends,

March is here. This is the month that comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. That was supposed to be about weather, but the words work with church life as well. Our bible readings for the first Sunday of March have some fierce challenges. In Genesis, God tells a 99 year old Abram that he and his wife will be the ancestors to a great nation. This, by the way, is before they have children. To seal this tremendous news, God changes both Abram's and Sarai's names to Abraham and Sarah. I don't know about you, but I got used to my name before grade school started and might have some problem if God changed it now. Then, in Mark, Jesus predicts that his ministry will get him killed. He has to quash an attempted coup by Simon Peter. He confronts would be followers with harsh, unyielding standards. This is not "gentle Jesus, meek and mild." This is a lion on the loose.

March continues with more readings of fierce challenges, harsh sayings, and fearsome and confusing challenges and proclamations. Suddenly, just when we may feel that we can go down this road no more, that something has to give, either worldly revolution or holy collapse, the winds shift. Jesus is arrested, tried and crucified. He goes without violence on his part. He goes without summoning fighters to his side. He goes out like a lamb to the sacrifice. The gospels direct our vision to the sacrifice. We, the heirs of the covenant, children of the promise, we must make what sense we can of Jesus' life and death. The end of March and the beginning of April leave us stunned, quiet, and wondering. What are we to do with the message and life of Jesus of Nazareth?

Our choir will lead us in reflection with the Easter cantata, Sunday, March 29. We will reflect on Jesus' last teachings at our Wednesday dinner and bible study on April 1. We prepare, once again, to attempt to grasp the ferocity of the God incarnate who willingly dies for us.

Grace for the Way,

Brad

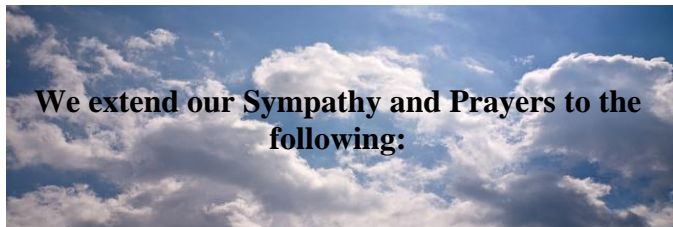


March Birthdays!

Richard Moore	03/02	Bill Demestre	03/08
Ken Hardin	03/08	Scarlette Rose	03/11
Bob Willoughby	03/12	Sue Nixon	03/14
Max McMullin	03/17		

Visitors in February

The Lankapalli Family	Hazel Conar
Nancy & Roy Gookin	Liza Southerton
Mike & Gena Johnson	Reilly Burge
Steve Carter	
Boy Scout Sunday: 25 Family Members & Troop Members	



- ❖ Brad Gabriel and Family in the recent death of Brad's father, Norris Gabriel
- ❖ Laura Veersart and Family in the recent death of her father and member of the St. Mark's Church Family, Jim Mitchell.
- ❖ Paul Melton and Family in the recent death of Paul's father, Glen Melton



In Memory of Ronnie Ward

Given By: Phil & Jane Conner

In Memory of Mrs. Jewel Raggett

*Given By: Diane Smiley
Jeff & Heather Raggett*

In Memory of Jim Jenkins Brother

Given By: Bill & Kay Hill

In Memory of Hazel Conar's Brother

Given By: Larry & Sarah Hughes

In Memory of Norris Gabriel

*Given By: Hazel Conar
Phyllis Folsom
Phil & Jane Conner*



Thank You For Your Faithfulness!

2015 Budget: \$151,000

Budget Required through 02/28/15: \$25,166

Budget Received through 02/28/15: \$19,041

Budget Disbursed through 02/28/15: \$22,985

McKendree District of The United Methodist Church

Friends,

Thank you so very much for paying 100% of your apportionments. Because of your generosity, schools and hospitals, missionaries and ministries have been refreshed, energized and resourced. Thank you for your servant spirit and outstanding leadership. Blessing and gratitude,

Dr. Cynthia Davis
District Superintendent
McKendree District



Order Your Easter Lily

If you would like to have an Easter Lily placed on the altar during the Easter Season "in honor of" or "in memory of" a friend or loved one,

please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate with your check marked "Lily". Cost is \$9.00 each.

Deadline is March 22. These Easter Lilies will be used in the sanctuary March 29th through April 5th.

Name: _____

Number of Easter Lilies: _____

Amount Paid: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

St. Mark's 72 Plus You February 26, 2015

During the meeting of our Memphis Annual Conference, Bishop McAlilly challenged churches to become part of the 72+ U movement of modern day apostles, taking the good news out to the community. St. Mark's 72 Plus You group had its first meeting February 26. Here are our initial hopes for St. Mark's and our community:

April 4 is our Second Annual Easter Egg Hunt: Barbara Jenkins and Sandy Harris have agreed to chair this year's hunt. A meeting will be held Wednesday, March 4th to finalize plans.

April 25: St. Mark's Neighborhood Rummage sale to support missions from Memphis to around the world. People may begin bringing items beginning April 12th. All proceeds will go to church missions. The one exception will be Golden Cross. Due to an abundance of items donated to them, they will be able to keep their monies to fund this ministry. Also, if someone wants proceeds of their donated items to go to Golden Cross, this can be designated. A committee will need to be set up to arrange and price items. We need someone and someones to volunteer to direct his event.

VBS: There will be an organizational meeting in early May to discuss VBS for 2015.

Movie Night: Movie Night will be permanently placed on the calendar for the 3rd Friday of each month. At the next movie night, March 20th, we will ask for volunteers to learn and be backups for:

- Movie projection and sound
- Drinks
- Dinner
- Snacks (popcorn, goldfish, candy, etc.)

Afterward, a list will be compiled and distributed with names and contact information for these.

We have tackled these items over the past two years. Only the Rummage sale is new. Please pray carefully and allow God to lead you into one or more areas of leadership in this first half of 2015.

St. Mark's United Methodist Women

McKendree District UMW Meeting

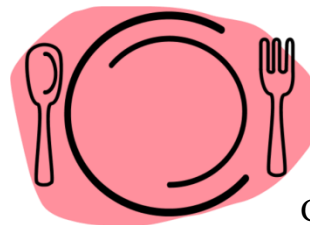
The St. Mark's UMW hosted over 50 women from a dozen churches in the McKendree District Saturday, February 28. Gathering at 9 for conversation, the meeting reviewed the soul of historic Methodism. Let us be proud of the women of St. Mark's!

St. Mark's United Methodist Men

Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. March 17th in Fields Hall. We will welcome our guest speaker, Ed Frank, Special Collections, University of Memphis. Ed will be making a presentation on digitized photography featuring scenes from old Memphis. We are looking forward to this program which will evoke pleasant memories of the city in which we live.

Thank you for participating in our Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast. We have such an active Scouting Program and feel honored to be a part of such.

We are almost ready to bring our Pecan Sale Fundraiser to a close. There are still less than a dozen bags that need to be sold. Cost is \$10.00 each. Pecans will be available for purchase at our meeting.



UMM Monthly Meeting

March 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Fields Hall

Steak \$10.00

Chicken \$8.00

Call Terry Draughon or Church Office (754 8185) for reservations.



I want to thank my St. Mark's Family for all of the prayers and support during my father's illness and passing.

Your cards, comments and attendance touched me and my family deeply.

On behalf of the Melton family and myself, I sincerely thank you.

Paul Melton

March 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	3 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers	4 7:00a Emmaus 6:00p Weds. Dinner 6:30p Study	5 10:00a Lds. Bible Study 6:00 p. Yoga	6	7 9:00 a. Yoga 10:30-Noon Cub Scouts
8 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	9 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	10 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers	11 7:00a Emmaus 6:00p Weds. Dinner 6:30p Study	12 10:00a Lds. Bible Study 6:00 p. Yoga	13	14 9:00 a. Yoga 10:30-Noon Cub Scouts
15 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	16 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	17 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers 6:30p UMM	18 7:00a Emmaus 6:00p Weds. Dinner 6:30p Study	19 10:00a Lds. Bible Study 6:00 p. Yoga	20 5:30p Movie Night	21 9:00 a. Yoga 10:30-Noon Cub Scouts
22 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	23 6-7:30p Boy 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	27	28 9:00 a. Yoga 10:30-Noon Cub Scouts
Palm Sunday 29 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice Choir Cantata	30	31 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers	April 1 7:00a Emmaus 6:00p Weds. Dinner 6:30p Study	April 2 10:00a Lds. Bible Study 6:00 p. Yoga	April 3	April 4 9:00 a. Yoga 10:00a Easter Egg Hunt 10:30-Noon Cub Scouts