

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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Rev. Dr. Bradley Gabriel

Dear Friends,

Do you ever feel as though September is the real start of the New Year? After all, we spend a minimum of 12 years beginning new adventures, meeting new teachers and socializing with new classmates (who may become a lifelong friend or even a spouse!) each year around September. Well, as we start this new season of the year at St. Mark's, I want to encourage everyone to try something new; *invite* someone to church. As I told the Church Council at our last meeting, St. Mark's has just about everything good going for us: 1) we have the gospel, the greatest good news ever, why would we not want to share that with someone? 2) we have great singing and special music from our choir 3) our Bible studies are fun, in-depth, and help us build deeper relations with one another as we build a deeper relation with God 4) our food and fellowship events can't be beat 5) we are in a great location with easy access and a beautiful campus. In addition to all those qualities, St. Mark's members have strong, caring friendships with one another. We celebrate each other's joys and help bear one another's burdens. If we are to remain a compact sized church that continues to enjoy all these benefits into the future, then we need to grow now. The reason is simple, with each passing year; more of us will be less able to share in the positive parts of church life. If we are to reach a new age for Christ, then we will have to begin that process now or we will not have the ability to do so then.

A recent article by Chuck Lawless reviewed some of the more common reasons we don't invite more people to join us in church. Lawless found the typical responses included:

“I just don't think about it.” “I'm afraid I'll be rejected.” “The music isn't that good.”
“The preaching isn't strong.” “We've got too many church problems right now.”
“Our church is already too crowded.” “Nobody ever challenged me to invite anyone.”
“I don't know how to start the conversation.” “It's too far for people to come.”
“It's the Spirit's job—not mine—to bring people to church.”

If you've ever used any of those reasons to not invite someone to St. Mark's, let me encourage you to move past them. We need not be reluctant to invite because our church isn't perfect. No church is. Our church is a great place to be, to learn about God and the Christian walk, and to grow in love and Godliness. SO, invite someone. In particular, invite someone to join us October 5. That is our “First Sunday” pot luck so they can eat with us. That is also the day we will celebrate St. Mark's first Blessing of the Animals, in the afternoon at our renovated outdoor worship space. And don't worry if the person you invite declines your invitation, we will celebrate those who accept your invitation, instead. Make your plans, pray about who God wants you to invite. Act on your plan and trust the Spirit. See you Sunday.

Grace for the Way,

Brad

Happy Birthday!



Mary Jane Randolph	09/01
Sunshine McKinnon	09/03
Peggy Willoughby	09/14
Bill Hill	09/19
Lee Chandler	09/25

Visitors in August

Hazel Conar	Reilly Burge
Davis Johnson	Harold Gwatney
Ed Browne	Trent Cox
Ricky & Linda Reid	Pat Krause
Joyce Ritter	Carrie & Braden Rushing
Ashley Mesecke	Liza Southerton
Taylor Dial	Katie Simms
Roy Gookin	

August Average Attendance

Sunday School	17
Morning Worship	75

2014 Budget: \$159,532.00

Budget Required through 8/31/2014:	\$93,058.00
Budget Received through 8/31/2014:	\$91,117.00
Budget Disbursed through 8/31/2014:	\$97,756.00

Thanks Be to God!

Memorial Gifts Received

In Memory of J. J. Jenkins, father of Jim Jenkins

*Given by: Phyllis Folsom
Dianne Hudnall
Dal & Becky Rawlins
Hazel Conar
Bill & Kay Hill
Eddie & Carol Johnson.*

In Memory of Calvin Owen, brother of Lita Owens

*Given by: Bill & Kay Hill
Dianne Hudnall*

In Memory of Patrick Donovan, father of Mike Donovan

Given by: Bill & Kay Hill

**Visit our website at
www.stmarksmemphis.org**



Choir Notes

"What will we be singing next Sunday?" Every week I post our music on Facebook. If you read these, please "like" the posting so we can get an idea of who's following St. Mark's on Facebook. (You don't need to like it each week, just this once.) The listing of music will be posted by Thursday of each week.

September is here and Summer is almost over. We have honored the list of favorites that you gave us early in the Spring, and will continue to use hymns/anthems from that list. We've sung some of the older, most loved hymns. We've presented special music that included southern gospel specials from the choir, and we brought in some guest musicians. It's been suggested that we do more of this type music during the year, so I will work on that for you.

There's been a transformation in the choir room this Summer. A special thanks to Bonnie Carter, Dianne Hudnall and Beverly Hardin for the days you dedicated to cleaning out and straightening up our rehearsal space. It is much more functional!

A Worship Committee meeting last week concluded that our music program at St. Mark's is on the right track. Some suggestions were made to adjust our music in some areas, and I will be observing those suggestions. We hope the music you sing and hear at St. Mark's UMC will lead us in praise, will teach the truths of our faith, and will inspire each of us to live out our commitment to God.

St. Mark's 2014 Unsung Hero

The 2014 Unsung hero for St. Mark's is Larry Hughes. As one respondent wrote, "Although there are numerous deserving members, I choose Larry Hughes due to his hard work in keeping the grounds so beautiful and helping in the Fellowship Hall at meetings, fellowship events and outreach activities." In addition, Larry is a smiling, welcoming presence at St. Mark's every Sunday, greeting members and visitors alike with the same open and genuine delight. Larry provides transportation to church to home bound members, serves as head usher, teller, and in every one of the small places that are essential to the life of a church and success of church activities. We are proud to name Larry Hughes our 2014 Unsung Hero. We will have an opportunity to support and honor Larry at the District Laity Celebration on Sunday, September 14th, 3:00 p.m. at Somerville First United Methodist Church, Somerville, TN. Everyone is invited to this event.

St. Mark's United Methodist Women

The next quarterly meeting of the UMW will be held in the conference room on Wednesday, Sept. 3 at 4:00 p.m. (just before Wednesday night Bible Study) All ladies of the church are invited and urged to attend. Our next project is the 35th Anniversary celebration which will take place Saturday, Sept. 21 and Sunday, Sept. 22. We will be discussing ways to help chairwoman, Jane Conner. Please, don't forget our ongoing projects: the First Sunday luncheons, the Food Pantry, and The Golden Cross baskets! If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Barbara Jenkins: (901) 752-1128 or jenkinsba3@gmail.com.

Sept. 3. Quarterly UMW Meeting
Sept. 7. First Sunday Luncheon
Sept. 20-21 35th Anniversary celebration
Oct. 5. First Sunday Luncheon

Golden Cross News



Faithful Friends,

How truly blessed the residents who come to a Wesley Living Community with little left to their names feel to be welcomed with a beautiful basket sitting on their kitchen counter or a "Move-In Kit" with everything needed to begin once again in life. The continued love and support you all show is an amazing testimony to the work and love of God. We thank you for all you do!

Kristi Owens
Golden Cross Ministry

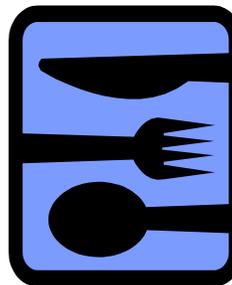
Capleville Community Food Pantry



We always need volunteers to work in the pantry. Any time you can donate will be very much appreciated. As always, the pantry needs peanut butter, chicken and dumplings, cereal, dried beans, beef stew, canned fruit, tuna, canned chicken, pasta, rice, jelly, corn muffin mix, ravioli and soup. Giving is an act of worship. Food Pantry Numbers for August:

Families Served	99
Adults	110
Children	127
Seniors	93

St. Mark's United Methodist Men



Monthly Meeting

Steak/Chicken Dinner

Tuesday, September 16,
2014

6:30 p.m. – Fields Hall

Germantown Festival 2014

One of the region's top Festivals is back.....The Germantown Festival, September 6 and 7 at the Germantown Civic Club Complex, 7745 Poplar Pike. Over 400 vendors offering unique arts and crafts...great food...rides for the kids...and Saturday's famous Running of the Weenies 11:30...Enjoy the Family Fun! Saturday 9:30-6:00 and Sunday Noon to 6.



Free, Fun Movie
Night

Friday

September 12th

6:00 p.m.

Food, Drinks,
Popcorn, Candy, and
Games

If you like Birds and
Rio de Janeiro, You
will love our movie!

Gideons International



Thank you for allowing me to bring the Gideon report to the St. Marks family on 11 May 2014. It is always a joy to be in worship with you and to enjoy the warm hospitality.

Thank you, also, for the love offering of \$152. This will enable us to purchase 113 New Testaments to be distributed in all the major traffic lanes of life.

In our turbulent and hurting world, we can say with the Psalmist, "He sent His Word and healed them." With our Lord we can say, 'I have given them Your Word.' We are grateful that St. Marks helps us to that end.

In Christ,
Nubar Yacoubian

September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day Office Closed 6-7p NA2 6-7:30p Boy Scouts 6:30-8p Cub Scouts	2 6-8p Weight Watchers	3 7:00a Emmaus 4:00p UMW 6:00 p Dinner 6:30 p Bible Study 7:00P Lay Ldrshp Committee	4 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Yoga Class	5	6 9:00a Yoga Class
7 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a 1st Sun Lunch followed by Choir Practice	8 6-7p NA2 6-7:30p Boy Scouts 6:30-8p Cub Scouts	9 6-8p Weight Watchers	10 7:00a Emmaus 6:00 p Dinner 6:30 p Bible Study	11 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Yoga Class	12 6:00p Family Movie Night	13 9:00a Yoga Class
14 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice 3:00p District Laity Celebration – Somerville 1st UMC	15 6-7p NA2 6-7:30p Boy Scouts 6:30-8p Cub Scouts	16 6-8p Weight Watchers 6:30 p UMM Meeting	17 7:00a Emmaus 6:00 p Dinner 6:30 p Bible Study 7:00P Lay Ldrshp Committee	18 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Yoga Class	19	20 9:00a Yoga Class Anniversary Celebration 4:30 p.m.
21 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice Anniversary Celebration	22 6-7p NA2 6-7:30p Boy Scouts 6:30-8p Cub Scouts	23 6-8p Weight Watchers	24 7:00a Emmaus 6:00 p Dinner 6:30 p Bible Study	25 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Yoga Class	26	27 9:00a Yoga Class.
28 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	29 6-7p NA2 6-7:30p Boy Scouts 6:30-8p Cub Scouts	30 6-8p Weight Watchers				

St. Mark's 35th Anniversary Celebration



Plans for the 35th Celebration are marching along. Beginning at 4:30 Saturday afternoon, September 20, we will gather...not too far from the river... for an old-fashioned hymn sing to celebrate the refurbishment of our amphitheater. Our District Superintendent, Dr. Cynthia Davis, will be with us to help mark the occasion. Note: Footwear should be practical for walking on the grass. Also, the seating area is a bit rough. Bring a cushion,

old towel, etc. to sit on to preserve your clothes. After we “sing for our supper,” we will adjourn to Fields Hall for a time of meet and greet followed by dinner and a program. At our 10:30 service Sunday morning, September 21, we will celebrate St Mark’s UMC’s 35 years of service in His name and rededicate our lives to His continued service. Jim and the Choir will be on hand to add their musical talents, and we will enjoy special music by our own talented Dr. Sandra Ramawy. Throughout the weekend we will have a grocery cart available at the church entrance to accept donations of non-perishable items for the Capleville Food Pantry, just one of our on-going ministries at St Mark’s. As we count our blessings one by one and see what God has done, let us remember those in our community who currently endure less than promising circumstances. Invitations are going out this week with contact information for activity reservations. Be sure to advise us of nursery needs when you make your reservations.