



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
 September, 2015

Rev. Jolinne Balentine-Downey

Getting' Real



St. Mark's staffs the food pantry at Capleville UMC on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

We've had time to get acquainted. Now it's time to get real. We've got work to do! The mission statement for the Memphis Conference is: to discover, equip, connect, and send lay and clergy leaders who shape congregations **that offer Jesus Christ to a hurting world, one neighborhood at a time.** We've had time to develop our 72+U strategy, so, as we head into Charge Conference (which will be held at St. Mark's on Sunday, November 8, at 6 pm), the Cabinet wants to know how we are offering Christ to our community. Each church in the Conference is asked to answer these questions:

- What new ministry need(s) have you discovered as you continue to identify with your neighbors? In other words, what do you see/hear that breaks the heart of Christ? What do you see/hear that breaks your heart?
- How have you continued in new ministry/ministries that you began last year in response to the hurt(s) you discerned? What new ministry/ministries have you begun? How have you organized yourself to

respond?

- As you continue to connect with your neighbors, how has it gone? What are you learning? What has worked? What hasn't worked?
- What is God calling you to do next?

Four areas in which the Conference would like for us to focus are: young people; the mission field; leadership formation; fruitful and faithful churches. But every congregation is different, so some key questions for us to consider as we make plans for future ministry are:

- Why do we exist?
- How do we behave?
- What do we do?
- How do we achieve our mission?
- What is most important right now?

I hope each of you will prayerfully consider these questions. We will discuss them more fully in our time together, but you can always call me, send a text or email, or we can get together for lunch or a cup of coffee or tea and talk one-on-one. I still have much to learn from you.

James encourages us to be “doers of the word and not hearers only.” (James 1:22) But to be most effective in our doing, we need to work together and with intention. I look forward to working with you.

Grace, peace & joy!

Pastor Jo

Happy Birthday

Mary Jane Randolf	9/1	Sunshine McKinnon	9/3
Peggy Willoughby	9/14	Bill Hill	9/19
Lee Chandler	9/25		

Visitors in April

Hazel Conar	Rebecca Downey
Sonny & Cynthia Davis	Mikayla Hardin
Savannah Hardin	Thomas Hardin
Daniel Hardin	Mike & Gena Johnson
Reilly Burge	Carmen Kynard
Austin Henderson	

April Average Attendance

Sunday School	19
Morning Worship	79

Memorial Gifts Received

In Memory of Shepard Harkness' daughter
By: Sherry Raggett

In Memory of Beverly Hardin's Uncle
By: Sherry Raggett

In Honor of Margie Collins
By: Sherry Raggett

Music Notes

Some of you may read the Billy Graham column in the Commercial Appeal. You may have read one a week or so ago about church music. For those who didn't, it's worth reading.

The writer asks: **Q:** *Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but from time to time our church's music director introduces new songs into the service, and I don't care for them. I like the old hymns, and wish he'd just stick with them. Should I complain to our pastor?*

A: *I know this has been a controversial issue in many churches, and I don't pretend to have all the answers, especially since I'm not particularly musical! But we have a singing faith, and God has given us the gift of music to praise him. The Psalmist declared, "With singing lips my mouth will praise you" (Psalm 63:5).*

Instead of complaining to your pastor (or anyone else), I urge you to ask God to help you be grateful for all music that points us to God, new or old. No, you may not like some of it, but others do, and God can use it in their lives to encourage them and bring them closer to Christ. Remember: The old hymns

you like were once new, and someone probably didn't like them, either!

Sometimes, I'm afraid, a hymn can become so familiar to us that we sing it without ever thinking about the words. But this is wrong, because then our singing becomes empty and meaningless. Don't let this happen to you, but meditate on the words of the songs you sing, and even turn them into a prayer.

Your music director has probably been wise to introduce new songs slowly; completely changing everything all at once can be disruptive. Pray for him and encourage him, letting him know that you're grateful for his gifts. Yes, let him know you appreciate the old hymns, but support him also as he seeks to reach everyone through music.

I have an obligation to you for us to sing hymns that are familiar, meaningful and encouraging. I also have an obligation to the ministry of Jesus Christ to find new ways to praise and glorify the Father. I will continue to approach my music ministry with this in mind, and I hope that it meets a good balance for all of us.

St. Mark's United Methodist Women

The next quarterly meeting of the UMW will be held Sunday, September 13 in the conference room. We will meet immediately after church and grab lunch before traveling together to the UMW annual Day at St. Paul's UMC located at 2949 Davies Plantation where we will receive the only Platinum designation of any UMW unit in our conference. Registration will be at 2:00 followed by the meeting at 2:30. We should be very pleased that our hard work will be recognized. 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) 378-7990 or jenkinsba3@gmail.com.

First Sunday Luncheon	Sept. 6
Quarterly UMW meeting	Sept. 13
First Sunday Luncheon	Oct. 4

Germantown Festival

The Germantown Festival will be held at the Germantown Civic Club Complex. Dates are Sept. 12th and 13th. FREE admission, parking and shuttle.

Flu Shots

Wellness First will be here Sun., Sept. 27 at 10 a.m. to give flu shots and/or B-12 shots. Bring your insurance information.

St. Mark's United Methodist Men

At our July dinner, Rev. Brad Gabriel was presented a clock-plaque for his service to the men's club over the last three years. Pastor Jo was our guest at the August affair. She spoke about her and her family's life, and shared how she was led to the ministry. Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all! Our September meeting will be Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 pm. Please contact Terry by calling or texting hiat 359-7342. Remember the meat has to be ordered by early Monday morning so please let Terry know in plenty of time! See you there!

Terry B. Draughon

Retreats

A couple of retreats you might be interested in:

Treasure Hunt: Older Elementary Retreat at Lakeshore Camp & Retreat Center, October 23-25, 2015.
www.lakeshoreuma.com

Illuminate: Memphis Conference, Jr. & Sr. High Youth Retreat at Lakeshore Camp & Retreat Center, November 13-15, 2015. www.lakeshoreuma.com

The location is: 1458 Pilot Knob Rd., Eva, TN 38333

September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6p Yoga 6-8p Weight Watchers Sanctuary	2		4	5 9:00a Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
6 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Svc 11:30a 1 st Sun lunch followed by Choir Ptc	7 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	8 6p Yoga 6-8p Weight Watchers Sanctuary	9 7:00a Emmaus 6p Fellowship Dinner 6:30p Bible Study	10 1:00a-Lds Bible Study 6:00p Yoga	11	12 9:00a Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
13 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	14 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	15 6p Yoga 6-8p Weight Watchers Sanctuary	16 7:00a Emmaus 6p Fellowship Dinner 6:30p Bible Study	17 10:00a-Lds Bible Study 6:00p Yoga	18 6:00 p Family Movie Night (FREE)	19 9:00a Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts 3-6p King's Mill Assoc. Picnic2015
20 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	21 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	22 6:30p UMM Meeting Fields Hall 6-8p Weight Watchers Sanctuary	23 7:00a Emmaus 6p Fellowship Dinner 6:30p Bible Study	24 10:00a-Lds Bible Study 6:00p Yoga	25	26 9:00a Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
27 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	28 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	29 6p Yoga 6-8p Weight Watchers Sanctuary	30 7:00a Emmaus 6p Fellowship Dinner 6:30p Bible Study			