



St. Mark's Remarks

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

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Rev. Jolinne Downey, pastor



Two-year-old Addie already loves to read because people she loves read to her. And the pictures make her laugh.

Power of the Press

Want to change the world? Teach a child to read. Studies show that 85 percent of all youth in the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate, and more than 60 percent of all prison inmates are functionally illiterate. We also know that, every day in the United States, 3,000 students drop out of high school. Most of them are poor readers. In fact, students with below-level reading skills are twice as likely to drop out of school, and 78 percent of juvenile crime is committed by high school dropouts. One reason for the high crime rate among high school dropouts is that employment opportunities are extremely limited. The average annual income for a high school dropout in 2004 was \$16,485, compared to \$26,156 for a high school graduate. And it is estimated that every student who does not complete high school costs our society \$260,000 in lost earnings, taxes, and productivity.

But you can change all that, simply by teaching a child to read. A love for books is instilled early in life when caring adults read to children. Therefore, the Memphis Conference of the United Methodist Church is working to get every church involved in teaching children to read.

Earlier this year, I asked Bonnie Carter to organize a program for St. Mark's because she has 40 years of experience working with children. She directed childcare centers here in Memphis and served on a state-wide early education board for five years. She is also a Tennessee staff and parenting trainer, and I knew of her work with Books from Birth. She has put together a program that will have teams of adults reading to children in daycare for 30 minutes, one day a week, for 12 weeks. Bonnie has also arranged for our teams to receive age-appropriate books from Books from Birth **AT NO COST TO THE CHURCH OR THE CHILDREN**, and we will leave those books and our teaching materials with the day care so that their teachers can continue to use the materials with the children.

In September, St. Mark's will have our first team of volunteers ready to read to the kids at LaPetite Academy, just a few minutes south of the church on Hacks Cross Road. We will go as a group on Thursdays from 9:15-9:45 am. Each volunteer must attend a one-hour training, which will be held at St. Mark's on Thursday,

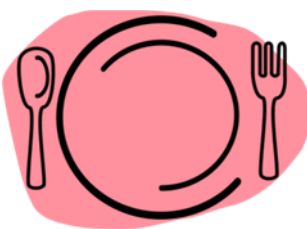
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September Birthdays

Mary Jane Randolph 09/1 Sunshine McKinnon 09/3
Sandra Ramawy 09/12 Peggy Willoughby 09/14
Lee Chandler 09/25

Visitors Last Month

Bitsy Pou Mary Sather
Darrel Barker Edris Barker
Richard Healy Bonnie Nyaard
Ken Nyaard David Melton
Jane Melton Payton & Reilly Burge



United Methodist Men

Our next “steak or chicken” dinner meeting will be Tuesday, September 20, at 6:30

p.m. Please join us for great food and great fellowship! Steak is \$10 and chicken is \$8. Please confirm your reservation with Terry either at church or by calling 901-359-7342. We look forward to seeing you there!

Terry B. Draughon

United Methodist Women

Ready for Fall Y'all? As we get ready for fall, we will be celebrating in September. Sunday, September 11th is the Memphis Metro UMW Annual Day being held at Bartlett UMC this year. Our unit will be receiving Platinum recognition-the highest recognition. These ladies have worked hard this year for St. Mark's and UMW-when you see them, smile and say congratulations!

Our First Sunday Lunch will be September 4th. We are planning a Fall Fundraiser and will have more details later. We look forward to this event and your support! Our next regularly scheduled meeting is Saturday, October 15th. One agenda item will be election of 2017 UMW officers. Ladies, please consider offering your talents and help UMW support missions and St. Mark's. Among other items will be to determine the distribution of funds raised to missions. Please plan to attend.

Grace, Peace, and Blessings to you,
Sheila and Shelly

Choir Notes



Come Join Our Choir!!!

St. Mark's choir could use a few good people to join our choir. You don't have to be a great singer, just enjoy singing and lending your voice. We practice after church service on Sunday so you don't even have to come out an extra night. Think about it!!!

Trunk or Treat

Next month, St. Mark's will be sponsoring the 4th Annual Trunk or Treat. UMW will be providing a hot dog supper. We'll have crafts and plan to have the giant slide and bouncy house. We will need volunteers to help, and of course, folks to decorate those wonderfully scary trunks. Would love to have even more trunks this year! Of course, we'll also be asking for donations of candy and treats (pencils, stickers, etc.) for our Trunk or Treaters. The date is Monday, October 31st. More later-so be thinking of something sweet and spooky!

Thank You

Friends,
Seemingly small things can make a huge difference in people's lives. Thank you for your recent donation to fund a Move-In Kit for our residents who arrive at one of our communities with so little. Your donation will help ease the difficult struggle of acquiring the necessities needed for day to day living.

Kristi Owens
Executive Director,
Golden Cross Senior Residents Fund

Germantown Festival

The 45th Annual Germantown Festival takes place the weekend after Labor Day, Sat., Sept. 10, 9:30a.m.-6p.m. and Sun., Sept 11, noon-6p.m. at the Germantown Civic Club Complex, 7745 Poplar Pike. Arts & Crafts, foods, rides & games for children, entertainment, car exhibits, community attractions and the Running of the Weenies Dachshund Race on Sat. at 11a.m.

Visit www.germantownfest.com or email; info@germantownfest.com for more information

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September 1, at 9 am. There you will be given instruction on how to read and interact with young children, tips on following up the story with a learning activity, and given some basic safety guidelines. Each volunteer must also undergo a background check, but LaPetite will cover the cost.

I am very excited about this program and its potential to reach children and their families with the life-changing love of Jesus Christ. And I can hardly wait to see those little faces light up with joy

when the Little Engine That Could finally tops the hill! If you would like to join Team Read, contact Bonnie. And I will see you at the training on September 1.

Grace, peace & joy!

Paster Jo

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00a Reader Training 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00p Yoga	2	3 9:00a Yoga
4 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a First Sunday Lunch followed by Choir Practice Holy Communion to Ministerial Education Fund	5 6:00p Cancer Support Group 6-9:00p Scouts	6 6:00p Yoga 6-8:00p Weight Watchers 7:15p Cub Scouts	7 6:00p Bible Study	8 9:00a Reader Team 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00p Yoga Mtg.	9	10 9:00a Yoga
11 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	12 6:00p Cancer Support Group 6-9:00p Scouts	13 6:00p Yoga 6-8:00p Weight Watchers 7:15p Cub Scouts	14 6:00p Bible Study	15 9:00a Reader Team 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00p Yoga	16	17
18 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice 10-12a Flue Shots Before & after church 4:00p Lay Leadership Mtg.	19 6:00p Cancer Support Group 6-9:00p Scouts	20 6:30p UMM Dinner 6-8:00p Weight Watchers	21 6:00p Bible Study	22 9:00a Reader Team 10:00a Ladies Bible Study 6:00p Yoga	23	24 9:00a Yoga
25 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	26 6:00p Cancer Support Group 6-9:00p Scouts	27 6:00p Yoga 6-8:00p Weight Watchers 7:15p Cub Scouts	28 6:00p Bible Study	29	30	

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