

The Messenger
A Publication of
ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Office: 615-893-3455

www.stmarkstn.org

Fax: 615-896-2273

Preschool: 615-895-1803

stmarks@stmarkstn.org

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Issue No. 1

In This Edition...

New Year Brings Change to St. Mark's

Receptions for Incoming and Outgoing Pastors - Below.

Older Adults

News and Events for the Upcoming Year - Page 2.

Upcoming Programs and Bible Studies

New and Returning Programs in 2010 - Page 2 and 3.

Calendar of Events

Check here and on the website for the Who, When, and Where at St. Mark's - Page 4.

From the Pastor



This is the final newsletter article I will write as pastor of St. Mark's. It has been a wonderful and blessed ten years! We've come a long way during that time, having moved from our old location on East Main Street and relocated to our new facility here on North Rutherford Boulevard. God has blessed us in our shared efforts for Christ and his Kingdom. It is gratifying as I conclude my tenure at St. Mark's that I am able to make the following announcement. **WE ARE DEBT FREE!** Because of your faithful giving and generous support of our church, particularly with additional gifts to the Building Fund, as of this month we have completely paid off all indebtedness on our facility! Again, I am pleased to be able to make this announcement during my last month at St. Mark's. Now, the road is clear for you to move forward with future plans under the leadership of your new pastor, Rev. Dr. Craig Goff. I wish him and all of you the very best.

Now, on another note, Debbie and I want to express our gratitude to you for your support over the last couple of weeks in the death of Debbie's mother, Norene Senkbeil. Her funeral service was held on January 6th at the Hillsborough UMC in Tampa, Florida. Your cards and prayers have meant so much to us during this difficult time.

My last Sundays to be with you are January 17 and January 24. Additionally, I have been told that there will be a "Farewell Reception" during the Sunday School hour on January 24. With that in mind, I hope to see many of you then. It has been my great honor to serve as pastor of St. Mark's for the last decade. Know of my continued prayers and best wishes for you and your new pastor!

Grace and peace...

Fred B. Hembree, Jr.

With Appreciation and Thanksgiving

Let Us Join in Honoring

Dr. Fred Hembree

Sunday, January 24, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Church-Wide Reception in the Narthex



With Anticipation and Joy

Let Us Welcome into Our Fellowship

Dr. Craig Goff

Sunday, February 7, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Church-Wide Reception in the Narthex



"Claim The Name"

6th Grade Confirmation Class

Confirmation offers a young person the opportunity to intentionally examine the Christian faith – what it means to believe in God, to love neighbor, and to bear "good fruit" as a disciple of Jesus Christ – and to decide for himself or herself to be confirmed in the faith and claim the name "Christian."

Confirmation classes are being held during the Christian education hour, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. every Sunday, under the leadership of Patti Daws, George Faulk and David and Lindsey Gagnon.

All 6th graders should register for confirmation! For more information, contact Rev. Martha Touchton.



Carolyn Anderson, Peggy Barnes, James Bolling, Jim Carpenter, Pat Cooke, Marge DeBoer, Pauline Ducker, Ryan Duncan, Bob Ellis, Carolyn Festervand, Eska Garrison, John Genet, Bobbie Goodman, Jerry Green, Dick Gregurich, J. B. Heflin, Roy Hicks, Jim Hill, Jessie Jackson, Margie Keith, Jane Lawell, Bil Lien, Mike Long, Gordon Manis, Blake McCormick, Lyn Newman, Earlene Pirtle, Omri Rawlins, Bonnie Sanders, Bertie Siebert, Joan Van Fleet, Jim Vandervort, Larry Ward,

Greta Whiteside.

In the hospital (MTMC) Susan Lynch, Bertha Chrietzberg, David Wall

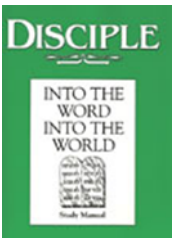
Our prayers and sympathy are expressed to Debbie Church, Fred Hembree and family on the death of Debbie's mother, Norene Senkbeil; to Adam Morton on the death of his uncle Horace Goodwin; to Martha Touchton and family on the death of her uncle, Roy Hicks.

Older Adult News

The Older Adult Ministry Team will meet Thursday, January 21, 2010.

Older Adults are invited to The Carter House in Franklin on January 28, 2010. Cost is a \$10.00 entrance fee plus \$3.00 per person for the bus. Lunch will be at the Puckett's Grocery in Downtown Franklin. Then there will be some time for shopping in the historic area of Franklin after lunch. Please make your reservations through the church office. More information to come.

The AARP Driver's Course will be offered again March 1st and 2nd at St. Mark's. Many insurance companies offer a discount for seniors who complete this course. Please make a reservation for this in the church office.



DISCIPLE II: INTO THE WORD, INTO THE WORLD - OFFERED IN 2010

Persons who have completed "Disciple I: Becoming Disciples" and desire to continue in their studies are invited to participate in "Disciple II: Into the Word, Into the World" in 2010. Disciple II is a 32-week in-depth study of Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts.

Disciple II will meet on Sundays, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. under the leadership of Dr. Jim Clardy. Participants will complete the first half of the study January - May and the second half September – December. There is a materials fee of \$35 and child care is provided. For more information or to register, contact Dr. Clardy.

Job and the Life of Faith: Wisdom for Today's World

Why do bad things happen to good people? Is there a correspondence between sin and suffering, obedience and blessing? Why should we serve God if there are no guarantees? For answers to these and other issues of faith, register now for the Spring 2010 course **Job and the Life of Faith: Wisdom for Today's World** led by Rev. Sue Hicks Caskey, 8 Sessions on Sunday evenings in February and March 2010, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.. Child care provided.

UMW News

Women's Evening Fellowship will be meeting at 6:30 on the third Tuesday of every month in the Narthex at St. Marks. Our next meeting will be:

February 16 Kathy Edwards/Program
Pam Forrest/Devotion/Refreshments

Stewardship Summary

As of January 3, 2010:

Budget Need Each Week - \$20,454

Budget Need YTD - \$20,454

Received YTD - \$22,528

Difference - \$2,074



Lay Speaking Ministries: The New Basic Course

The Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course can be a first step in answering God's call on your life!

The New Basic Course focuses on three primary aspects of lay ministry: leading, caring and communication. The course will give you an opportunity to explore each one of these areas of ministry.

This ten-session course will be offered at St. Mark's on Wednesday evenings, beginning February 3, 2010. The cost for the entire course is \$12. For more information or to register, contact Ann Benson or Rev. Martha Touchton.

Financial Peace University Returns to St. Mark's

Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

13 Sessions, January 14 to April 8, 2010

The FPU Membership Kit is \$93 per family with our church discount (retail cost is \$189). Childcare is provided.

Everyone can be a part of this ministry helping families in the community! You can help facilitate a FPU class or be an assistant or a substitute, attend FPU yourself, or donate to St. Mark's FPU scholarship fund to help members in need. For more info, contact Fred Daniel at 225-8092 or freddaniel@comcast.net.

Breaking Free: The Journey, The Stories

This newest Beth Moore study helps participants break free of that which hinders them from knowing God. It will consist of eleven sessions led by Patti Daws on Thursdays. Join us for this new study, beginning January 14, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Child care provided.



Wednesday Night Together

Food, Faith & Fellowship!

5:30 - 6:15 p.m. Church Family Dinner

*Reservations due by 12:00 p.m. Monday
\$5.00/Adult, \$2.00/Children 10 and under,
\$15.00/Families up to 6 People*

6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Childcare Available

Infants to Age 4 in Rooms 201-204

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

For the Kids, Ages 4 – Grade 6:

*Choir and Musical Rehearsals,
Homework Help, Bookworms, and more!*

For the Youth, Gr. 7 - 12: "Shaped by the Story"

*7th – 8th Grade Bible Study – Y.C.
9th – 12th Grade Bible Study – Y.C.*

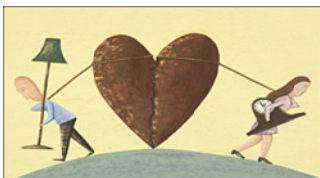
For the Adults,

Murfreesboro "Notables!"

**January 13 - Dr. Linda Gilbert,
New Director of Murfreesboro City Schools**

**January 20 - Mr. Rob Lyons
Murfreesboro City Manager**

**January 27 - Dr. Scott Corlew,
Chief Medical Officer, Interplast**



St. Mark's Offers Divorce Support Group

*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the
Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future." Jer. 29:11.*

This group is for persons considering divorce or currently undergoing divorce, as well as those having difficulty to managing life after a divorce. The course is designed to support, encourage, and enable persons' adjustment to single life beyond divorce.

The Divorce Support Group will meet for twelve sessions on Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. beginning January 14, 2010. This experience will be led by Dr. Keith Carlson and Ms. Ellen Neagle, an MTSU graduate student. The group is limited to 10 participants. Child care is provided free of charge. For more information or to register, please contact Dr. Carlson or Rev. Martha Touchton.

Youth News



Join Us Sunday, 1/17 & 1/24/2010
9:45 a.m. SME Classes

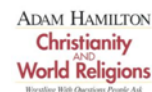
Sundays, 5:00 p.m. - UMYF Youth Fellowship in the Youth Center and Banquet Room.

See all of our activities for January and February in the Youth Calendar insert!

Beginnings: A Study of The Call of God in Genesis

The foundation of Biblical understanding begins with Genesis! Based on Walter Brueggemann's commentary Genesis, "Beginnings" takes a fresh look at some familiar Bible stories, discussing creation and creationism, the rebellion of humankind and the flood.

"Beginnings" will meet Wednesdays, 4:15 - 5:15 p.m., January 13 – April 28, 2010, led by John Womack. \$20 materials fee. For more information or to register, contact John Womack.



Christianity and World Religions



Why should we believe the claims of Christianity over other faiths? This study summarizes the essential beliefs of four major world religions and compares and contrasts them with Christianity.

"Christianity and world religions" will meet Sundays, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. for 6 sessions beginning January 10, 2010, under the leadership of Claudia Hunter. There is a \$12 materials fee and child care is provided.



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DATE AND TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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e-mail stmarks@stmarkstn.org

January 2010 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<h1>Calendar of Events</h1>	January 2010 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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RECURRING EVENTS

SUNDAYS

- 8:30 a.m. Worship - WC
- 9:45 a.m. Christian Education
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - WC
- 4:00 p.m. SONlight - WC
- 5:00 p.m. UMYF Youth Fellowship - YC
Christianity & World Religions-504

WEDNESDAYS

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group - Chapel
- 4:15 p.m. Beginnings Bible Study - 408
- 4:30 p.m. Carol Ringers - WC
- 5:30 p.m. WNT Dinner - BR
- 6:00 p.m. G.R.A.C.E Dance - WC
- 6:30 p.m. WNT Program
Youth Bible Study - YC
Children's Choirs - 209, 212, 304
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
Wesley Covenant Group - 408

THURSDAYS

- 6:15 a.m. Youth Bible Study - YC
- 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - 402/404
- 11:00 a.m. Bible Study - 408
- 5:30 p.m. Strength Training - Narthex
- 6:00 p.m. Walking Exercise
- 6:30 p.m. Divorce Support Group - 504
Financial Peace Univ.- 402/404

DAILY EVENTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

- 9:00 a.m. Gentle Joints - 405

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Emmaus Group - 408

MONDAY, JANUARY 18 M. L. KING DAY

- Office Closed
- 7:00 p.m. BSA Troop 398 at Eagle's Nest

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

- 5:30 p.m. Strength Training - Narthex
- 6:00 p.m. Walking Exercise
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers - 408

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

- 10:30 p.m. Older Adults Team - 506
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Council Meeting - BR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

- 9:00 a.m. Gentle Joints - 405

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Emmaus Group - 408

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

- 9:45 a.m. Reception for Dr. Hembree
- 1:30 p.m. Shepherd School at Tullahoma

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

- 9:00 a.m. Gentle Joints Exercise - 405
- 6:00 p.m. R. C. Laity Club - BR
- 7:00 p.m. BSA Troop 398 at Eagle's Nest

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

- 5:30 p.m. Strength Training - Narthex
- 6:00 p.m. Walking Exercise

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

- 9:00 a.m. Older Adults to Carter House
- 7:00 p.m. Garrison Cove Assn. - WC