

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

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*From the
Pastor*



I have heard that in some circles it has been argued that given enough time a monkey with a typewriter could produce by chance all the plays of Shakespeare... All I can say is it would certainly take a long time (maybe

billions and billions of years) and a lot of pecking on keys—but, given enough time, maybe it is possible all those characters would line up. I'm not sure. What I don't think people advancing that particular theory ever explain is how the monkey comes up with the typewriter in the first place! I guess that would take billions and billions of more years.

Some people do believe our lives can be reduced to mechanical chance and that ultimately any meaning to life is an illusion, just one random occurrence after another....

Lent is a time in the church when we focus on the purpose and meaning Jesus Christ brings to our lives. As Jim reminded us this past Sunday "we do not live by bread alone but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4). In Sunday School we discussed how even times of suffering can help us grow as we recognize God's ongoing love and faithfulness toward us.

The Apostle Paul says, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is admirable---if anything is excellent or praiseworthy---think about such things" (Philippians 2:7).

I want to invite you to find ways to focus on how Christ brings meaning to our lives during this Season of Lent. The church offers Sunday School classes, mid-week studies, volunteer opportunities and other ways to focus on those things that are worthy of our highest thought. Look forward to seeing you on Wednesday nights and/or Sunday morning and I'm not just "monkeying around..."

Blessings,

Craig

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**JAM SESSION
PHAZER CRAZE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

3:00 Meet at Phazer Craze
(252 River Rock Blvd.)

\$12.00 per person includes

Three 20-minute Games of Phazer Craze

Bring Additional \$\$\$ for Snacks and/or Drinks

Wear Black Clothing and Athletic Shoes

5:00 p.m. Be Picked up at Phazer Craze

Open to all 5th and 6th graders. All Participants must have a 2009-2010 Jam Session Parent Permission Form on file. Please turn in your \$12 (and Form if needed) to Rev. Martha Touchton or Tammy Howell by Wednesday, February 21st Register Early - Space is Limited! - Parent Chaperones/Participants Welcome Call Tammy at 895-2618 to Volunteer!



**St. Mark's Preschool
Fall 2010 Registration**

Members of St. Mark's who are not already a part of the preschool program, are invited to register for the 2010-2011 preschool year on Tuesday, March 2nd from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Click on the preschool link on our church website for more information, or call the preschool at 895-1803.

**AARP Driver Safety Program
at St. Mark's**

The AARP will sponsor a Driver Safety Program at St. Mark's on March 1st and 2nd from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. both days. Completion of the course may save you up to 10% on your car insurance. The cost of the program is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. Payment is due on the first day of class.

For more information, or to sign up, stop by or call the church office at 893-3455.

"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"



Janie Blair, James Bolling, Jim Carpenter, Tommy Cousar, Myrtle Draper, Pauline Ducker, Vickie Fox, Eska Garrison, Bobbie Goodman, Dick Gregurich, Cranford Jennings, Debby Lamb, Blake Long, Abigail Moore, Nancy Olson, Earlene Pirtle, Evelyn Roesler, Dot Smith, Mary Teeder, Whitney Tew, Joan Van Fleet, Greta Whiteside.

In the hospital Jim Vandervort - MTMC

Russ Delong - Vanderbilt

Older Adult News

The next meeting of the Older Adult Team will be March 18 at 10:30. Just prior to this at 9:30 there will be a film about the Children's Holocaust Memorial Rail Car in Whitwell, Tennessee, which has in it 11 million paper clips collected by two faculty members and students of the Whitwell Middle School. These represent victims of the Holocaust. We'll see this sight as part of our trip to Whitwell on March 30.

On Tuesday, March 30, 2010, 9:00 A.M. the church buses will leave for the Button Willow Theater in Whitwell, Tennessee. The theater and shows have been chosen as among the top five attractions in the Chattanooga Area by The Travel Channel. The theater production is advertised as a moving two hour show all based on actual historic events. It is further described this way: "A brother and sister, meeting by chance during the war, set the story. He is a career Army Officer, a West Point graduate and a confirmed Unionist. His sister, a die-hard Confederate, shows up in his camp and reveals she is secreting medicines to the Rebels. Their encounter is full of drama, laughs, and a few tender tears. Their conversation will amaze and amuse you." The cost is \$32.95, which includes lunch at 11:15 a.m., the gratuity, and the show. There will be an additional \$3.00 donation requested for fuel costs. The meal includes baked chicken, trimmings and vegetables, cobbler and pan biscuits. Please register through the church office at 893-3455.

Our next trip to the Cumberland Playhouse, Crossville, Tennessee is Thursday, April 8, 2010, to see "Annie," one of the top family musicals ever. The cost is \$21.00. Please pay this and make reservations through the church office (893-3455). There will be a \$3.00 donation for the bus fuel to be paid the day of the trip. The bus will leave at 8:30 promptly from the church. We'll take a rest break in Sparta, Tennessee. We will arrive at the Cumberland Mountain State Park Restaurant for lunch at 11:00 A.M. Then, it's on to the Playhouse in time for the 2:30 P.M. matinee. This is always a great trip. Please go ahead and sign up as soon as possible.

Get Ready, Get Set, Let's Cook!

Not a lot of time left at the end of your day? Want to learn some tricks to get that meal on the table quick? Join Tammy Howell for some good food, great fun and clever cooking tips that are easy and family friendly!

This class will run for four Wednesdays beginning February 24, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Room 213.

UMW News

The Jane Moss/Glenn Robinson Circle has a new name. It is now the Mary - Martha Circle. Meeting time and place remain the same.

Monday, March 8th, 7:00 p.m.
Lois Shipp Circle at St. Mark's

Tuesday, March 9th, 10:00 a.m.
Mary - Martha Circle - BR

Stewardship Summary

As of February 21, 2010:
Budget Need Each Week - \$20,454
Budget Need YTD - \$163,632
Received YTD - \$143,123
Difference - (\$20,509)

Simplify Your Giving!

Use Electronic Funds Transfer to automate your offerings to St. Mark's. See Kathryn in the church office for more information.

St. Mark's Preschool Presents

Kevin Kidd's

"Cowpokes Don't Poke Fun at Each Other"

**Thursday, February 25, 2010
6:30 p.m.**

Please join the families of St. Mark's Preschool for an evening of music and fun, as we learn about using kind words. Admission is free. This program is geared for children through 3rd grade.

Come dressed as a cowpoke!

UMM News

The St. Mark's United Methodist Men welcomed Dr. Craig Goff with a steak and eggs breakfast at their monthly meeting on February 7th. Approximately 60 men heard Dr. Goff emphasize the importance and significance that an active UMM can play in many aspects of our lives, as well as a discussion of several volunteer ministries sponsored by St. Mark's.

Next month's UMM meeting will be March 6th, at 7:30 a.m. and as customary, will be preceded by a free, full breakfast. The featured speaker will be Mr. Mike Juneau, Director of the Good Shepherd Children's Home in Murfreesboro. This orphanage, founded 45 years ago, has as its mission, to provide a Godly Christian home for girls and boys, provide a saving knowledge of Jesus, and to teach and train in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus. This promises to be an inspiring and uplifting gathering and we welcome all men of St. Mark's to join us.



Wednesday Night Together

Food, Faith & Fellowship!

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

2/24/2010: Chicken Breast Filet, California Blend Veggies, Baked Beans, Roll, Salad Bar, Dessert

3/3/2010: Breakfast - Eggs, Sausage, Biscuits and Gravy

(Note: Menus are Subject to Change!)

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,

New Lenten Study led by Dr. Craig Goff
"Embracing the Cross and Finding Life!"

In today's culture, any reference to "bearing a cross" is almost always described in negative terms. In Scripture, however, to bear one's cross is a liberating experience. During the season of lent, Dr. Goff will be leading a Lenten study on the liberating nature of bearing one's cross and following Jesus. February 24th - March 17th in Room 403.

Basic Course in Lay Speaking
Room 504, Led by Ann Benson

Revelation Bible Study
Room 402/404, Led by Dr. Bill Mullins

Moms on the Run:
Meet at the Preschool Door.

Parent Chill and Chat: Room 213.

Coffee Talk: *In the Narthex*

St. Mark's Women's Retreat 2010 March 5-6, Beersheba Springs Speaker: Rev. Sandra Griggs

Do you sometimes find it hard to manage the many transitions that present themselves in your life? New baby? Job change? Empty nest? Loss of a loved one? Managing work, your family and feeding your spiritual soul can be tough.

Join St. Mark's women of all ages in a relaxing location for lots of laughter and endless yummy snacks while we figure out to become the best women we can be. It's only 24 hours out of your busy schedule for constructive approaches that will stay with you every day!

REGISTER TODAY! Registration forms available at the Welcome Center or in the church office. Call Patti Daws for more information (849-3507). See you there!



VBS 2010 Save the Date!

June 21-25, 2010

Co-Directors:
Tracy Ervin and Courtney Pack

Lenten Prayer Calendars and Devotional Booklets Available

"Have a Heart for Haiti" Daily Prayer and Giving Calendars and Offering Boxes to guide you through Lent are available in the Narthex. Offering boxes will be collected Sunday, March 21st, with monies split between UMCOR'S One Great Hour of Sharing campaign and UMCOR's relief campaign for Haiti. You are welcome to a copy of "The Sanctuary for Lent," a daily devotional booklet for adults which is available in regular and large print.



St. Mark's Golf Tournament

May 8, 2010
7:30 a.m.

Old Fort Golf Course

Registration info
coming soon!

Youth News



Join Us Sunday, 2/28 & 3/7/2010
9:45 a.m. SME Classes

Every Sunday
5:00 p.m. - UMYF Youth Fellowship
(No UMYF on 2/21/2010)

Sunday, March 7th
5:00 p.m. Free Dinner
5:30 p.m. Parent Mission Trip Meeting in
the Banquet Room

Save the Date! April 25th - Youth Auction

Grades 2 - 5 Study "Peter's Story"

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you!" John 21:15

The Easter story tells us that Jesus loved Peter, forgave Peter for denying him, and asked Peter to care for God's children. The story also teaches us that Jesus loves us, forgives us, and asks us to care for others.

During the month of March, children in Grades 2 - 5 classes will study the story of Peter in preparation for Easter. Thanks to our volunteer workshop leaders:

Cooking - Butler Touchton
Storytelling - Forest Ward
Music - Bonnie Ward
Video - Tracy Ervin



Sunday, February 28th
8:00 a.m. to Noon

In the Red Cross Bus



1267 N. Rutherford Blvd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

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Murfreesboro, TN

DATE AND TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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e-mail stmarks@stmarkstn.org

February 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	<h1>Calendar of Events</h1>	March 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. Disciple II - 506
Job and the Life of Faith - 402/4
UMYF Youth Fellowship - YC/BR
- 5:15 p.m. Chancel Ringers - WC

WEDNESDAYS

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Group - Chapel
- 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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

- 6:30 p.m. Kevin Kidd Family Night - Narthex
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees Meeting - 408

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 3:00 p.m. JAM Session to Phazer Craze

MONDAY, MARCH 1

- 8:00 a.m. Preschool Registration-Current
- 9:00 a.m. Gentle Joints Exercise - 405
AARP Driver Training - BR
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers - 408
- 7:00 p.m. BSA Troop 398 at Eagle's Nest

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

- 8:00 a.m. Preschool Registration-Members
- 9:00 a.m. AARP Driver Training - BR
- 5:30 p.m. Strength Training - Narthex
- 6:00 p.m. Walking Exercise

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

- 8:00 a.m. Preschool Registration-Former

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

- 8:00 a.m. Preschool Registration-Public

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Emmaus Group - 408
- 7:30 a.m. Confirmation Day @ Springfield

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

- 5:00 p.m. Youth Parents Dinner/Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 8

- 9:00 a.m. Gentle Joints Exercise - 405
- 7:00 p.m. BSA Troop 398 at Eagle's Nest

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

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