



# MESSENGER

No. 37, September 9, 2019

## “Hallelujah for the Sinews of the Church”

*“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,  
25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...” –Hebrews 10:25(a)*

During this season of Stewardship, we have been offering stories from the front lines of ministry and giving details about how those ministries are taking place. Sunday morning, Tommy Brown offered a breakdown of our fixed costs within the church. I was reminded how our church is a launching pad for effective ministry in our community. Just this morning, for example, I was able to spend some time with our Serendipity UMW Circle. They were joyfully having breakfast together and sharing a devotional before hearing from one of the leaders at McCoy Adult Day Care Center – a United Methodist organization with deep roots in Birmingham that provides much-needed care for aging people in our city. They were able to gather in an air-conditioned environment (glory!) and welcomed two folks into their group for the very first time.

If you take a moment to reflect on a few of the ways you connect with God and others through Saint Mark, I imagine you’ll begin to grow in your appreciation and pride of what God is doing in our community. How do I know this will happen? Because it’s happening within me as well! I thank God for the numerous teachers in the ELC that can lovingly call my kids’ names and offer a warm hug. I thank God for the missional outreach conversations that are taking place as we plan to share the love of God in Peru, Russia, and inner-city Birmingham. I thank God for Wonderful Wednesdays and every day we get to be in ministry together. The list could go on!

At the heart of what God is doing in our church and in the church globally is the formation of Christians through small groups. I focused on the importance of these groups on Sunday morning during worship. John Wesley, the architect of the Methodist Revival, would go so far as to say that we miss Class Meetings or Band Meetings (18<sup>th</sup> century language for “small groups”) at the peril of the entire church community. Check it out:

*“Never omit meeting with your Class or Band ... These are the very sinews of our Society; and whatever wakens, or tends to weaken, our regard for these, or our exactness in attending them, strikes at the very root of our community” (A Plain Account of Christian Perfection as Believed and Taught by the Rev. Mr. John Wesley, From the Year 1725-1777).*

I spoke with a new member at the church who said, “I only wish I had found my small group sooner!” If you’re not plugged into a small group yet, let’s make that happen. Please notify the office and we will work together to find the right spot for you.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to the small group leadership team led by Bill and Marynell Ford. They have worked tirelessly for months to make possible our weekend with Trevor Hudson. Please remember to join us for a wonderfully enriching time together on Saturday 9/14. Our worship schedule for Sunday (9/15) will include only one service at 11 a.m. so that we can all sit together under Trevor’s teaching.

God bless you, friends!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Drew".

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY... NEWS AND NOTES

## **Sympathy**

To Nancy Mitchell and family on the death of her husband, Jim Mitchell, on September 4th.

To Tommy Parsons and family on the death of his mother, Ann Parsons, on September 9th.

## **Suschaks Are Moving**

Flo and Paul Suschak  
1512 Country Club Drive  
Red Bay, AL 35582

## **Stewardship Campaign**

Our Stewardship Campaign focus this week is on fixed costs, the expenses which are mainly associated with salaries, utilities, office supplies, building operations, and conference askings. These are costs required "to keep the Church running". For the 2019 budget, fixed costs currently total \$860,910. These costs do not include funding for any ministries, missions, or programs that we have within the Church for the members, the community, or the world. The total 2019 budget is \$999,932 and the fixed costs account for approximately 86% of that total. The following is a breakdown of these costs:

Salaries and Benefits - \$518,890

Utilities (Electricity, Gas, Water, Telephone, and Internet) - \$90,000

Office Operations - \$28,000

Building Operations (General Maintenance, HVAC Maintenance, Waste Removal, Cleaning Service - \$97,500

Insurance - \$32,000

Conference Askings - \$90,000

If you have any questions around the fixed costs, you are welcome to reach out to anyone on the Finance Committee. In addition, Tom Brown will be in the Town Hall Meeting on September 22nd to answer any question you may have. We ask that you pray for God's guidance when considering funding these costs.

*Tommy Brown, Finance Chair*

## **Holiday Market Workshops**

Workshops are being held on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm in Room 109. Contact Flynt Connor for more info at (706) 726-0595.

## **Book Club**

The Saint Mark Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2nd at 11:30 am in Room 202. You can bring a sack lunch if you wish. The book for October is *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson and the book for November is *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers. Come join the fun! To learn more, contact Linda Kitchens at 492-9190.

## **Still Time to Register**

If you haven't registered for the upcoming conference on September 14th, there is still time. You can register online or you can fill out a registration form and turn it in to the church office. If you have any questions about this wonderful event, you can contact Bill or Marynell Ford or call the church office.

## **Purses with a Purpose**

Recently I have become involved with the Lovelady Center at 7916 2nd Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35206. For those who are not familiar with the Lovelady Center, they are a Christ-centered mission providing holistic care for women and children who have been broken by poverty, addiction, abuse or past hurts and bad decisions. They provide a home for the homeless, food for the hungry and hope for the hopeless and more. Their Executive Director, Brenda Spahn, is coordinating a hygiene drive called "PURSES with a PURPOSE," Here is how it works:

They are collecting purses, ....NEW or SLIGHTLY used. In those purses you put TRAVEL SIZE hygiene and other useful items. EXAMPLES of items would be:

Shampoo  
Body Wash  
Deodorant  
Small Devotions  
Writing Pens  
Post Its  
Hand sanitizer  
Pair of socks  
Feminine products  
Pony tail holders  
Toothbrushes/toothpaste  
Small items you deem appropriate

You fill the purse yourself. I will be collecting these purses during the month of September. A container has been placed outside the church office and in the ELC Lobby.

If you have any questions about this, feel free to email me or call me. God bless you all and thanks so much! *Anne Cassell Watkins*

205-999-7477    annecwfour@gmail.com

## **Wonderful Wednesday Meals**

Just a reminder to make your meal reservations by noon on Mondays. The entrée for next week, September 18th, is Chicken Enchiladas for adults and Tacos for kids.



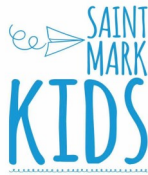
## Student Ministry

Last week we started our new Wonderful Wednesday schedule having Middle School Ministry in the Student Center, and high schoolers joining adult classes, or volunteering to help with children's ministry. The kick-off to Middle School Ministry went great with some fellowship over catchphrase and beginning to teach them about the transition from "knowing about God" to "personally knowing God." Our high schoolers enjoyed Ryan's class last Wednesday. If you see any of our students during dinner or classes on Wednesday, please help us welcome them.

In Sunday School we talked about the Conquest of the Promised Land and how to interpret difficult passages of God's character in the Old Testament.

Sunday night we continued talking about core values and what it means to be in one accord with each other. *Joshua London*

Our first Wonderful Wednesday was a huge success! The kids were so excited to be back and we were all so excited to see everyone! If you would like to join us for Wonderful Wednesdays we would love to have you!! Here is our Wednesday night info: Ages 3k-6th grade all meet in the gym at 5:45pm. At 6pm we will break into our separate age groups for choir, worship arts, and Bible lessons! Pick up is at 7:30pm!



Quest, 4th-6th grade student ministry, Wednesday nights: After choir on Wednesday nights the 6th graders are invited to join the Middle School Bible study in the Student Center. This Bible study will be for kids ages 6th-8th grade! We hope this will create friendships between our current middle school students and our 6th grade students! This past Wednesday night our 6th graders had a great time joining the youth! 4th-5th graders will still enjoy Worship Arts and then Bible lesson in the Quest room with Liz!

Quest Sunday nights kicked off this week and the kids and adults had a blast! It was so good to see all our returning 5th & 6th graders, and to start building friendships with our new 4th graders! Just a reminder Quest Sunday nights are every other Sunday night from 5:30-7:30! Can't wait for our next Sunday night Quest!

Save the Date: Fall Festival will be October 27, 4-6 pm in the upper parking lot! We will need a lot of help, donations, and decorated trunks, so be on the lookout for more info coming soon!

Santa Breakfast will be Saturday, December 7 from 9-11am. Breakfast, activities, games, and of course pictures with Santa!

*Liz Benninger*



## Music Notes

I know the sun is entering my kitchen windows at a different angle, so fall is approaching! It is a signal that there's always something new on the horizon! I hope you are looking for good things to be around us!

Next weekend, September 14-15, we will learn new ways of seeking God from Trevor Hudson and Carolyn Arends. It promises to be exciting for our church! It is not too late to register!

Chancel Choir sings at the combined service at 11:00. See you at the workshop and at worship on Sunday! *Ruth K. Miller*

## Stewardship and Service

### Sunday, September 8, 2019

Morning Worship	262
Sunday School	186
Toward Budget	\$17,186.35
Toward Capital Fund	\$1,080.00

### Sunday, September 15, 2019

#### Counters

Christie Galbraith  
Jimmy Hall

#### Children's Church

Deanna Holmes 11 am

### Monday, September 16, 2019

#### Visitation

Connie Goodwin  
Sally McClanahan



**Please note:** If you see any changes needed in the assignments, please call the office ASAP!

### ON SUNDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AFTER 4:00 PM AND OTHER CHURCHWIDE EVENTS

#### Upper Level Parking

Restricted to Seniors (75 and older),  
People with Disabilities  
& 5 Slots for Parents with Infants



**SAINT MARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**2901 COLUMBIANA ROAD**  
**BIRMINGHAM, AL 35216**  
 CHURCH OFFICE: 822-5980  
 EARLY LEARNING CENTER: 822-1312  
 WWW.SAINTMARKUMC.ORG

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**SENIOR PASTOR:** Rev. Drew Clayton  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Rev. Ryan Karr  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Rev. Don Cross  
**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY:** Ruth K. Miller  
**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY:** Joshua London  
**DIRECTOR OF KIDS' MINISTRY:** Liz Benninger  
**DIRECTOR OF ELC :** Sandy Jenkins  
**SECRETARY:** J. Ruth Miller  
**FINANCIAL MANAGER:** Deanna Holmes  
**FACILITIES MANAGER:** Ashley Kirby  
**DIRECTOR OF MODERN WORSHIP & YOUTH CHOIR:** Dan Cater  
**ORGANIST:** Matthew Toone

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 9 AM to 5:30 PM

## Next Week at Saint Mark

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:00 am Men's Club Breakfast  
 10:00 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Combined Worship (Sanctuary)  
 5:30 pm Chancel Choir  
 5:30 pm UMYF  
 7:00 pm Men's Prayer/Share Group  
 7:15 pm Godspeed Rehearsal

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

5:30 pm Bagpipe Rehearsal (CM2, 109)  
 5:45 pm Chris Stoutermire (BB) (Gym)  
 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Sanctuary)  
 6:00 pm Voices of the South (FH)  
 6:00 pm Trustees (202)

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

8:00 am Feed the Homeless (Highlands)  
 10:00 am Staff Meeting (202)  
 6:00 pm Good Neighbor Fellowship (Gym)

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:30 am Feeding the Homeless (Reconciler)  
 5:00 pm Wonderful Wednesday  
 6:00 pm Adult Classes (202, 204, 208)  
 6:00 pm Holiday Market Workshop (109)

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

10:00 am Quilting Mtg. (208)  
 4:55 pm Boys' Choir Rehearsal  
 6:00 pm Praise Band Practice (Gym)

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:00 am Feed the Homeless (Highlands)  
 9:30 am ELC Chapel (Sanctuary)  
 10:00 am Knitting Fellowship (202)  
 6:30 pm Memory Catchers (202)

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

1:00 pm Gym set up for Modern Worship

September 2019						
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					

#### *Please note:*

If any changes are needed on the calendar,  
 please call the office ASAP! Thanks!