



MESSENGER

No. 46, November 12, 2019

"The Holiday Market: Kingdom Sightings"

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns." -1 Chronicles 16:1

Saturday, my daughters awoke at dawn. Their peppiness was palpable. They bounced into Mommy and Daddy's room and wanted to know if it was Holiday Market day. Sanjana even made up a little song for the Holiday Market. (Copyright pending. Ha!) My girls were excited to see the festive environment, taste the baked goods, and shop for their mommy and their grandmother. I loved that each of the items they found were hand-crafted by the people of Saint Mark UMW. It's mind-boggling to grasp the creativity required for all the necklaces, bracelets, and the hundreds of other items that were produced and sold to support missions in-and-through Saint Mark. I thought of the hundreds of hours required for baking and crocheting. I imagined the prayer and the careful attention to detail that was dedicated to each project. Praise God from whom it all flows!

Our pedigree as followers of Jesus is pretty simple. First, we are committed to the ongoing work of personal spiritual renovation through spiritual practices like scripture study, prayer, and small group accountability. And secondly, we are called to transform our world, so that everything we touch will more fully embody the Kingdom of God. It's important to remember that we do both aspects of this work by *participating* with the Holy Spirit. On our own, our work is built on shifting sands that will crumble with the first tide. But the work we do when in conjunction with the Spirit will both last for eternity and bring God's eternity into the present.

God used a lot of our people this weekend. Our neighbors visited the church. Some asked about worship schedules. And everyone who walked through the door had to grin at the festive environment. Our UMW are a gift to this church and to our city. Carol Moats even came down from her new home in Huntsville a few days early to help out with the market! Please join me in thanking our UMW for their hard work.

We saw many of you respond over the last two weeks to use the finances God has given you to even more robustly support the budget for 2020. We are getting closer to closing the gap! We're not there yet, but our staff and Finance Team are working to run as "lean" of a church as possible while still offering valuable ministry opportunities to our community. You know by now that each dollar will be part of vital ministry efforts. We thank you for your support!

One final note: If you're looking to use your God-given skills during Advent, our worship team will be in need of scripture readers, Advent candle lighters, Hanging of the Green participants, and more! Please contact the church office if you'd like to participate. It's a joy to be in ministry together!

Good Neighbor is one Saint Mark's most impactful ministries. It's a monthly ministry for adults who have special needs. The meetings take place on the third Tuesday of each month. This includes a meal, games and warm fellowship for around 25 to 30 people. Margaret Alexander started this ministry 30 years ago and maintains a team of 7 volunteers monthly. She is looking to transition the leadership to a new person in 2020. If you have a passion for this type of ministry and would like to become Margaret's apprentice for the next few months before assuming leadership responsibilities, please contact Margaret directly at (205) 913-2047 or contact the church office. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY... NEWS AND NOTES

Thank You!

Thank you, Saint Mark Church family, for the shower of love, cards, gifts of food, visits, prayers and the beautiful prayer shawl given to my mother and me after my fall (2 broken elbows). You have no idea how much it means to me. Love, *Jill Mann*

Join the Respite Care Team!

Want to be involved in Mission work but not leave the friendly confines of the community? Saint Mark UMC has the ticket for you already! We host a Respite Care ministry that provides a monthly "night out" for parents of special needs children once a month at the church. We are in need of new volunteers to maintain and expand this ministry. We will be holding an informational meeting on Sunday, December 8 at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall right after the 11 a.m. service. Please plan to attend if you have questions or would like to serve in this mission field.

Early Learning Center Fundraiser

Save your appetite for our final ELC fundraiser of the year—"Nothing Bundt Cakes" - now through November 18th! Please invite your friends and family to purchase a frosted Bundt Cake. Choose from 6 flavors: chocolate chocolate chip, red velvet, white chocolate raspberry, lemon, classic vanilla, and pumpkin spice. The cost is \$27 each. Make checks payable to Saint Mark ELC. You can place your order by calling Amy Wykle at (205) 514-3901 or email amybwillingham@gmail.com.

Info from Ashley

Whenever the fire alarm sounds, Ashley gets a call from the monitoring company informing her. She then receives a call from 911 dispatch asking where people are in the building. It is VERY important that all meetings are scheduled on the church calendar so that Ashley can inform them accurately. So please make sure to schedule all meetings and events, and to cancel them promptly if they are not taking place. Thanks!

Mark Your Calendars!

Act of Congress will be presenting a concert here at Saint Mark on November 22nd at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. No tickets are required, but donations are needed to help cover the cost of the event. Be sure to help spread the word to your friends and neighbors who would enjoy this amazing musical group. Check out their website to learn more about this talented group at actofcongressmusic.com.

Holiday Market

Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Holiday Market - from the donations, to the pricing, setting up, baking delicious sweets, to working before, during and after the market on Saturday! We truly could not have pulled it off without the help of all of the wonderful men and women in our church!! We raised close to \$8000 for missions!!

Mark your calendar now for next year's market, Saturday, November 14th, 2020!

We would love donations for next year's market! Bring your gently used Christmas decorations or attic treasures. Also - the Mexico Mission Garage sale would be happy to have gently used cookware, bakeware or other miscellaneous household items.

Thank you again for making Holiday Market a success. *DeAnna Ryan and Flynt Connor*

Wonderful Wednesdays

Listed below are the meal entrees for the rest of the calendar year. Please note that on December 18th we do not have regular WW activities. This is a special event with dinner and Matthew's concert. So everyone needs to make reservations for this, even if they are "regulars" for WW.

November 13	Spaghetti (Adults & Kids)
November 20	Meatloaf/Hamburgers
November 27	NO WW—THANKSGIVING WK.
December 4	Chicken Enchiladas/Tacos
December 11	Beefy Mac (Adults & Kids)
December 18*	Pork Tenderloin

*No separate menu for kids. Price is \$6 a person. Meal served from 5 pm to 6 pm. Matthew's concert will be held in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm.

Remember that reservations are due by noon on Mondays. Thanks!

Help Needed to Decorate for Advent

We will be decorating the church for Advent on Sunday, November 24th, immediately after the 11:00 service. We would love to have your help! Please join us as we prepare for this sacred season! Thank you! *Bettye Brown and Donna Davitte*

Eagle Scout Project

Clay Wade is currently raising funds to repair the existing sand volleyball court at Saint Mark for his Eagle Scout Project. He anticipates needing \$1000. If you are interested in donating, please contact Clay at ClayWade50@gmail.com.



Student Ministry

This Sunday, November 17th, we have our last UMYF of the year! We will conclude our *Blessed* series by sharing how we can grow our gratitude by learning how to give and serve others. We are blessed to be part of a church where this type of gratitude is embodied every week.

Even though we are ending UMYF we have plenty of youth activities on Sunday night in December. December 1st we are encouraging youth to attend the Modern Worship special service that night. On December 8th Godspeed will be Christmas Caroling. December 15th will be our Christmas Party. *Joshua London*

Breakfast with Santa will be Saturday, December 7, from 9-11 am, in the Saint Mark Gym! Join us for breakfast, crafts, write your letter to Santa, and of course pictures with the big guy himself!

Quest, 4th-6th grade student ministry, will be this Sunday, November 17, from 5:30-7:30. Meet in the gym. If you have a 4th-6th grader, or know one, please invite them to join us for games, snack supper, lesson, and a lot of fun! *Liz Benninger*



Music Notes

I am so grateful for a great team who carries on so well that I am not missed! Thanks Judy, Tammy, Karl, Matthew and choir for leading in worship on the 10th while I was attending a family wedding. Rick Brandt put groups together to present the service flags to celebrate our veterans. Thanks so much for coordinating, Rick!

There are many opportunities to serve in our future for all choirs! Children only have two rehearsals before Hanging of the Green, December 1st, so please make sure your kids are here on Wednesday, so they will know what to do. Youth and adults have rehearsal on Sunday night at regular times.

This Sunday, November 17, the Men's Club Choir sings at 9:00 and Chancel Choir At 11:00. See you in worship!

Ruth K. Miller

"I Cared Enough"

Thanks to everyone who has donated to the "I Cared Enough" mission. As of Sunday, November 10th we have enough contributions to fill over 200 grocery bags. Thank-giving meals for over 200 families.

If you still wish to participate, cash donations must be made by Sunday November 17th; filled bags need to be placed in the area outside classroom 202 by Sunday, November 24th. We will fill the bags after the Wonderful Wednesday supper on November 20th and deliver them to the Bill Harris Fair Park Arena on November 25th.

Stewardship and Service

Sunday, November 10, 2019

Morning Worship	236
Sunday School	170
Toward Budget	\$24,992.00
Toward Capital Fund	\$4,645.00

Sunday, November 17, 2019

Counters

Bonnie Campbell
Ed Craig

Children's Church

9 am Jordan Sterley
11 am Shelley Hamilton

Monday, November 18, 2019

Visitation

Donna Baird
Jean Schor



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
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 EARLY LEARNING CENTER: 822-1312
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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, NOVEMBER 17

8:00 am Men's Club Breakfast (FH)
 9:00 am Modern & Traditional Worship
 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
 2:00 pm Open House at the Randle House
 4:30 pm Youth Praise Band Practice
 4:30 pm Adult Handbells/Youth Praise Band
 5:30 pm YMYF/Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 5:30 pm Quest
 7:00 pm Men's Prayer/Share Group
 7:15 pm Godspeed Rehearsal

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

5:30 pm Bagpipe Rehearsal
 6:00 pm Trustees (202)
 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Sanctuary)
 6:30 pm UMW Executive Committee (208)
 7:00 pm Voices of the South (Gym)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:00 am Feed the Homeless (Highlands)
 10:00 am Staff Meeting (202)
 6:30 pm Church Council (208)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

8:30 am Feeding the Homeless
 5:00 pm Wonderful Wednesday
 6:00 pm Bible Studies

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

10:00 am Quilting Meeting (208)
 10:00 am ELC Thanksgiving Program (Gym)
 4:55 pm Ken Berg (B'ham Boys' Choir)
 6:00 pm Praise Band Practice (Gym)
 6:30 pm Worship Committee (202)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

8:00 am Feed the Homeless (Highlands)
 9:30 am ELC Chapel (Sanctuary)
 6:30 pm Act of Congress (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

1:00 pm Set up for Modern Worship

November 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