



MESSENGER

No. 49, December 9, 2019

Church Family.Life.Retreat.

“With one accord they continued to meet daily in the temple courts and to break bread from house to house, sharing their meals with gladness and sincerity of heart...” - Acts 2:46

The Church Family Life Retreat is a long-standing tradition at Saint Mark. I’m excited about what our planning team has organized! Rev. Monica Harbarger, the Executive Director of United Counseling, will lead our retreat again this year. Our theme is “Boundaries for the Soul” and it’ll be enriching for all ages! The date for the coming year’s retreat is January 31 to February 2, 2020. You’re probably aware that for over 40 years we have gone to beautiful Camp Sumatanga for our retreat. Due to renovations/repairs currently taking place at Sumatanga, our team (including Brian Parker, John and Bonnie Gaston, Margaret Alexander, Judy Weismann, BJ Hamner, Kirk Parker and Mara Hamner) has chosen to shift to Shocco Springs for our location this year. When I think about the things that inspire me to attend this retreat, I think of three things:

(1) **FAMILY.** Come gather with your Saint Mark family. Our Baptism creates a bond that’s as definitive and bonding as blood relation. (Galatians 3:27). Come enjoy time with your church family in God’s creation.

(2) **LIFE.** Jesus promised to usher in abundant life (John 10:10) through the power of the Holy Spirit. Through scriptural teaching and worship, we enter deeper into the kind of life Jesus promised!

(3) **RETREAT.** It’s easy to overlook that keeping Sabbath is one of the Ten Commandments. Rhythms of rest and restoration are built into creation, and God himself rested after making the world (Genesis 1 & 2). Jesus himself, God-in-the-flesh, retreated to the mountaintop to pray regularly (Luke 6:12). God needed it. Jesus needed it. We need it too!

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

Matthew Toone in Concert

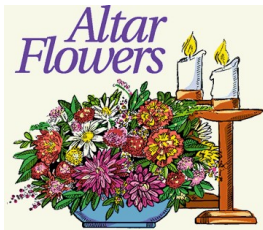
On Wednesday, December 18th, Matthew Toone will present a concert in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm. Prior to the concert a special Christmas dinner (pork tenderloin) will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 5 pm to 6 pm. Reservations are needed by noon on Monday, December 16th. The cost is \$6 per person.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY... NEWS AND NOTES

Sympathy

To Jennifer Colbaugh and family on the death of her mother, *Susie Culp*, on December 2nd at DCH Regional Medical Center.

To Chris and DeAnna Ryan and family on the death of his father, *Gary Ryan*, on December 6th, at St. Vincent's Hospital.



Calendar Posted

Thanks to everyone who provided the beautiful altar flowers this past year. Some of you are eager to sign up for special dates in 2020. The new calendar has been posted on the bulletin board just outside the church office. We are especially

in need of filling the January dates.

Registration Beginning Soon!

Registration for the 2020 Saint Mark Church Family Life Retreat (Jan 31-Feb 2) will begin soon. This year- we are holding the retreat at Shocco Springs (while Sumatanga is completing renovations). Shocco Springs, near Talladega, is close-by, and we have a lot of new activities planned! This retreat is for our entire church family- hold the dates! Please contact Brian Parker if you have any questions.

Thanks!

We are so grateful for the service and commitment Larry Ball and Jim Sledge have given to our visitation team for so many years. There's a good chance that many of you were visited by them after your first visit to Saint Mark. They will no longer be out visiting, but we appreciate their hearts for serving.

If you are interested in joining the Visitation Team or would like to know more, please contact Donna Baird at dbot4kids@icloud.com.

Calling All College Kids!

Come join the fun at the Saint Mark UMC College Christmas Party on December 22nd! Bring a Dirty Santa Gift. The party will be held at the home of Steve, Rebecca and Hannah Jones at 6:30 pm:

105 Maple Trace, Hoover AL 35244

Join us

IF: Table Social

Sunday, December 15th, 2-4pm

Saint Mark Fellowship Hall

Are you interested in getting to know other women at Saint Mark and having a monthly small group to gather with for dinner? Come join us to have some sweet treats and find out more about IF:Tables. This is a come and go social event. A great opportunity to meet other ladies and find a group where you can get connected! If you have any questions you can contact Lindsay Lauderdale or Alison Nelson or email stmarkinfo@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

White Christmas Offering

This coming Sunday, December 15th, we will be taking up the White Christmas offering. Special envelopes will be provided. Inside the envelope flap there is an option to give your donation in honor or memory of someone. Checks should be made payable to UMCH (United Methodist Children's Home) and sealed up in the special envelopes. The church will mail them. Please DO NOT make your checks payable to Saint Mark. Thanks!

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

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. Nursery care will be available for children 3 and under.



Dec. 15	Journey to the Manger (9AM & 11AM— TW) (9AM—MW)
Dec 22	Cantata (9AM & 11AM TW) (9AM—MW)
Dec 24	Christmas Eve - MW 4PM & TW 530PM & 11PM
Dec 29	Singalong Service + Story of Hymns Combined Service 11AM in Gym

MW = Modern Worship TW= Traditional Worship



Student Ministry

There are only a few more angels to adopt on our angel tree! Please help us serve these last few children by providing them Christmas gifts! You can sign up to adopt an angel in the church office. You will be provided with the child's name, age, and sex to help you shop for age appropriate gifts for the child. Gift total should not exceed \$100 per child. Please place gifts in labeled

black plastic bag and bring to the church office. Gifts are due back at the church by December 16th.

This past Sunday Godspeed had the opportunity to spread Christmas joy to a few members of our church family at their houses and at Morningside. It was a privilege to be Saint Mark's ambassadors bringing fellowship and song to those who have been unable to worship and fellowship in person.

We have two big Christmas Parties coming up! Saint Mark's Youth Christmas Party will be this Sunday, December 15th, 5:30-7:30pm for all students 7th-12th grade at the church. Please bring a sweet or salty treat to share and a Dirty Santa gift worth \$10 or less.

Our College Christmas Party will be December 22nd at 6:30 at the Jones' house (105 Maple Trace, Hoover AL). Come for a time of food and fellowship and bring a gift for Dirty Santa. *Joshua London*

Breakfast with Santa was so much fun! We had people from the church, ELC and around the community come and enjoy the morning! Thank you to everyone who came out! A special thank you to our Kids Ministry Team! They worked hard to make it the most magical morning for the kids! Thank you Kids Ministry Team!



Quest, 4th-6th grade student ministry, is this Sunday night, December 15, from 5:30-7:30pm. This will be our annual Quest Christmas Party! We will be having a "Sock Exchange". Fill a new pair of socks with treats, bring your socks to trade, and we'll all have cozy feet! (Please make sure all socks and treats are gender neutral) We will also have a snack supper and sing Karaoke! *Liz Benninger*



Music Notes

So many opportunities for Christmas Cheer are everywhere! There are times when I would love to be several people so I come do all the things! I was privileged to go caroling with Godspeed yesterday afternoon and that was a blessing! I know it was for the kids, and I think for the people who allowed us to sing for them, also! Sing Noel! Good job, Godspeed, Dan, Carolyn, Joshua, Hannah and Ronnie!

Wednesday night will be a special event for the children, so plan on being here. The next Wednesday, December 18th is Matthew's concert at 6:30, following dinner. He has wonderful music planned for us. Please come and support him.

This Sunday, December 15, the Men's Club sings at 9:00 and Chancel Choir at 11:00 worship. I am praying for our church as we anticipate Christmas. Emmanuel! *Ruth K. Miller*

Stewardship and Service

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Morning Worship	253
Sunday School	200
Toward Budget	\$19,493.00
Toward Capital Fund	\$2,450.00

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Counters

Jennifer Colbaugh
Christie Galbraith

Children's Church

9 am Kim Lyndon
11 am Deanna Holmes

Monday, December 16, 2019

Visitation

Connie Goodwin
Sally McClanahan



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, DECEMBER 15

8:00 am Men's Club Breakfast
 9:00 am Modern & Traditional Worship
 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
 2:00 pm IF Social (FH)
 4:30 pm Adult Handbells/Youth Praise Band Pr.
 5:30 pm Quest Christmas Party
 5:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 pm Men's Prayer/Share Group

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 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, DECEMBER 21

9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
 1:00 pm Set up for Modern Worship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

6:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Sanctuary)
 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting (202)
 7:00 pm Voices of the South (Gym)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

8:00 am Feed the Homeless (Highlands)
 10:00 am Staff Meeting (202)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:30 am Feeding the Homeless
 5:00 pm Special Christmas Dinner (FH)
 6:30 pm Organ Concert (Matthew Toone)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:00 pm Praise Band Practice (Gym)

December 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	31				

Please call the office if any changes are needed on the calendar!