



MESSENGER

March 9, 2020

"Snapshots of Love in Action"

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God,
and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well." - 1 John 5:1

Her face beamed. With two hands, she lifted a brand-new Discovery Weekend t-shirt. "Look what I got!" Gelene Matthews is a legend around Saint Mark. She's seen dozens of classes of students graduate through Student Ministry. Her t-shirt was more than a token. It was a symbol of her connection to the church. She glowed as she told me about what happened over the weekend. Some of the students came over to her house to do a little spring cleaning as part of their service component of Discovery. The windows were thrown open on a sunny Saturday. The Christian worship music was pumping from the stereo. Students were laughing and working, wiping down surfaces and helping to clean windows. Gelene told me, "Pastor, the neighbors talked to me later in the day and said, '*What in the world was going on over there?*'" She couldn't have been more proud of the students who had shown her some love.

On my desk is a note from Barbara and Bill Minor, addressed to our Nurture Committee. "Dear thoughtful, caring friends of Saint Mark: Thank you so much for our two Valentine's gifts. That was so special of you all to think of us. It is nice to be remembered. One day I would like to be able to help you all. Love does truly live at Saint Mark. Thank you all!"

During the Wednesday night dinner this week, Saint Mark members doted on two-month-old Ilaria. She was passed around the Fellowship Hall table to "baby whisperers" like Ina Cross and BJ Hamner while her mama was able to eat a meal without a baby in one arm. Sunday morning in the sanctuary, we'll baptize Ilaria and welcome Raela as a new member. You'll promise to surround them with a community of love and forgiveness.

These are snapshots of an intergenerational church doing what she does best. When we are filled with the love of God, we reach out to others with that same love. I see it happen every week here. I'd love to hear your stories of where you're seeing love in action! Remember that in the New Testament letter of 1 John, we're told that our love of God is proven by how faithfully and how well we love God's kids. John writes, "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well."

Thank you for loving God. Thank you for loving God's kids. Let's keep it up, folks.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY... NEWS AND NOTES



Emily and Brandon Shinn
(Calvin & Claire)
1905 Deo Dara Drive
Hoover AL 35226

Wonderful Wednesday Meals

The menu for next Wednesday's meal (March 18th) will be Beefy Mac for adults and kids. Meal reservations are due by noon on Mondays. The meal is served from 5 pm to 6 pm.

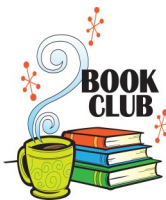
Please make a note on your calendar that there will be no Wonderful Wednesday meals or activities on March 25th or April 8th.

Lenten Bible Study

The Bible study, led by Don Cross and Drew Clayton, entitled *The Incarnate God* continues on the following dates: March 11, March 18, and April 1. The class meets from 6 pm to 7 pm in 204-206.

Lent Chat Live

Join us on Facebook on Wednesdays at noon during Lent. Help spread the word and share it with your Facebook friends.



Come Join the Fun!

The Saint Mark Book Club meets once a month, on the first Wednesday. Our next meeting is April 1st at 11:30 am in Room 202. You are welcome to bring a sack lunch if you like.

We read a variety of books, suggested by those who attend. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Linda Kitchens at (205) 492-9190.

Some who are not able to attend the meetings like to know the books we're reading. Here are the titles for the next 2 books:

April: *The Guardians* by John Grisham

May: *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein

Newsletter Information

Just a reminder that any information for the newsletter is due by noon on Mondays. You can email the info to secruth@saintmarkumc.org or drop it off in the newsletter box just outside the office door.



Celebrating 80 Years!

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." — Matthew 25:35, NRSV

United Methodists will celebrate UMCOR Sunday on March 22, 2020. Eighty years ago, World War II was raging. Millions of people, displaced from their homes, sought refuge and hope. The church responded by creating the Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief (MCOR) and supporting MCOR through an annual offering called "One Great Hour of Sharing."

The 2016 United Methodist General Conference changed the name to UMCOR Sunday to reflect the important work accomplished by the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR Sunday calls the church to share the goodness of life with those who hurt. UMCOR Sunday reaches children, families and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster.

This special offering will be taken up at all 3 worship services on **March 22nd**. Please make your checks payable to Saint Mark UMC and note "UMCOR" on the check. You can also give online at any time. (UMCgiving.org/giveUMCOR)



**Youth Fundraiser
Spaghetti Dinner and Auction
\$5 per plate
Sunday, March 15**

**Silent Auction
5 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

**Dinner and Live Auction
6 pm in the Gym**

Our youth ministry is coming off an amazing Discovery Weekend this past weekend. This year we brought in leaders from SWAT ministries to join us in discipling our students, and it was a huge success. I want to thank all the individuals, classes, and groups who supported us with meals and supplies during the weekend! I especially want to thank the Goodwins, Wades and Amie Smith for housing our students and Ronnie White for transporting our students all weekend.



This Sunday is our Choir Tour Spaghetti Auction Fundraiser! Every year this event is an amazing time of fellowship and fun as our church gathers together for a meal, entertainment, and competitive bidding for generous goods and gifts. Everything that is raised goes toward our Choir Tour to North Carolina this summer. Please join us Sunday night. The Silent Auction begins at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The dinner and Live Auction will be held in the Gym, beginning at 6 pm. Nursery and childcare are provided. *Joshua London*



This week in Kids Ministry we will be starting our series on Lent. This week we will be learning how Jesus prays in the garden. Our scripture for this week is Matthew 26:36-46. We hope during the week you will discuss the lesson with them, ask them what they learned at church, and engage in helping them learn all about Jesus praying in the garden.

Quest, 4th-6th grades student ministry, had a "ball" bowling last night! We had 16 kids and 3 adults for 2 hours of fun at Vestavia Bowl! Due to Spring Break our next scheduled Quest will be April 5th, from 5:30-7:30pm. Meet in the gym!

Wonderful Wednesday will NOT meet on March 25 due to Spring Break. Please remember you must sign your children in each Wednesday night. *Liz Benninger*

Another busy weekend for Saint Mark just happened! Our youth had a successful Discovery weekend growing in their faith and fellowship with God and each other. Their leadership in worship was so effective Sunday! I am thankful for all God is doing in their lives and for the great leadership provided by Joshua London and his team. I am grateful to be in partnership with them. Please come to the Spaghetti/Auction Event on March 15 so you can partner with the youth on their Choir tour/VBS mission!



Music Notes

Our Chancel Ringers did a great job at the Handbell Festival, also. They were well-prepared by Susan Lee! You will hear more from them in the future.

I am leaving on Wednesday for the Regional Conference of the American Choral Director Association. It is always an inspiring event with classes and concerts to challenge and excite all attending. Thanks for all the support! I plan to saturate myself in beautiful music!

On the 15th the rehearsal times are altered in order for all to participate in dinner and auctions. Godspeed meets at 4:15 and adults at 4:45. Men's Club sings at 9:00 am and Chancel at 11:00 on March 15. See you on Sunday! *Ruth K. Miller*

Stewardship and Service

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Morning Worship	282
Sunday School	212
Toward Budget	\$18,863.00
Toward Capital Fund	\$719.00

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Counters

Jimmy Hall
Stan Holloway

Children's Church

9 am Julie Parker
11 am DeAnna Ryan

Monday, March 16, 2020

Visitation

Bonnie & John Gaston



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, MARCH 15

8:00 am Men's Club Breakfast (FH)
 9:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
 9:00 am Modern Worship (Gym)
 10:00 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
 4:15 pm Godspeed Rehearsal
 4:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 5:00 pm Silent Auction
 6:00 pm Spaghetti Dinner/Live Auction
 7:00 pm Men's Prayer/Share Group

MONDAY, MARCH 16

5:30 pm Jim Macrae (Bagpipe Rehearsal)
 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting
 6:00 pm Trustees (202)
 7:00 pm Voices of the South (Gym)

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

8:30 am Feeding the Homeless (Reconciler)
 5:00 pm Wonderful Wednesday
 6:00 pm Lenten Bible Study (204-206)
 6:00 pm Ryan's Bible Study (202)

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

10:00 am Quilting Meeting (208)
 11:30 am Security Team Mtg. (202)
 4:55 pm B'ham Boys Choir
 6:30 pm Modern Worship Band practice (Gym)

FRIDAY, MARCH 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, MARCH 21

1:00 pm Setup for Modern Worship (Gym)

March 2020						
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!