



The St. Mark Messenger

Monthly Edition

April 2009

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10: 24-25

Sacred Mysteries



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. Jesus entered into Jerusalem to teach the ways of peace. Within the week acclaim turns "into humiliation and mockery." During the week there is feast and a call to service, betrayal, false judgment, violence, and death. From death there emerges the

"ultimate power of life." It is a tale of sorrow that transforms our lives.

We begin with the Easter Vigil. In the daylight before the Easter Vigil, the last preparations for Easter are cared for.

Some of our traditions include **the egg, the candle, and the water**. From *To Dance with God* we read the following: "The egg is a symbol of new life and the breaking through from imprisonment to freedom. Egyptians buried an egg in the tomb with their dead. Ancient Germanic peoples did the same as a germ of hope for a new life hereafter. Greeks, even today, put painted eggs on the graves of their relatives."

Candles signify the sacred fire lit at Easter to be used in the season to come. "The Easter blessing of water urges us to reacquaint ourselves with its daily power. Water symbolizes our common experience. "Lent prepares us for the water of rebirth, as well as the reaffirmation of our baptism."

When the candle representing Easter fire is blessed, we speak the words:

*"Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end,
the Alpha and the Omega. Christ our light. Thanks be to God."*

The risen Christ appeared first to a woman, Mary Magdalene. She in turn is sent to the disciple to announce the Easter message. "Bernard of Clairvaux calls Mary and the other women at the tomb the "apostles to the apostles."

Throughout the week and beyond, let us sing the Alleluias. Lent, if we have let it, has taught us more about ourselves. Our turning away from sin and turning towards God. Easter then "inspires us to get on with our work of becoming whole." Just as we remember Christ's wounded-ness, we remember our own. Sue Monk Kidd reminds us ... "comes out of death and healing comes out of scars and wounds." Our wounds become transformed through Easter joy. So let us celebrate with joy the resurrection of our Lord!

Munday Thursday Services, the worship experience commemorating Jesus' sharing of the "Last Supper" with the disciples will be observed **Thursday, April 9, at 7 pm**. Music will be rendered by the Inspirational Choir.

“WE’RE HAVING A FISH FRY”

We’re having a fish fry! St. Mark’s first fish fry of the season will mark the beginning of our second quarter stewardship campaign...More on the fish fry in a moment!

This year, St. Mark members are contributing, above and beyond tithes and proportionate giving, to a four-part church-wide fundraising campaign: “**Strengthening Ministries through Stewardship.**” Proceeds from these efforts are being used to collectively enrich ministries in the areas of **Nurture, Outreach** and **Witness**. These broad ministry areas cover virtually every area of the church including: Children’s Ministries, Christian Education, Conference Apportionment, Family Ministries, Missions Support to Individuals and Families in need, Power Hour, Vacation Bible School, Worship and Music Ministries, and Youth Ministries.

Each quarterly campaign has a particular ministry focus selected and coordinated by an ad hoc group consisting of the chairpersons and representatives of the Council on Ministries, the Finance Committee, the Stewardship Committee, and other related areas of ministry.

“Hospitality” is the focus for the second quarter campaign, April 1 – June 30, 2009. No group knows more about hospitality than our Ushers! Usher President Mae Troy Murry and other members of the Usher Board are working with the ad hoc group to develop a list of activities and events celebrating the gifts of hospitality and service. So, no better way to begin our celebration of hospitality than with an old time favorite:

A Fish Fry and Car Wash!
Saturday, April 18, 2009, 11 am – Until
St. Mark Community Center

***Fish Dinner - \$7**

***Hot Dog Dinner - \$5**

(*Dinners include fried fish or hot dog, baked beans and slaw.)

Fish Sandwich - \$4

Hot Dogs - \$2

Homemade Desserts - \$2

Soft Drinks - \$1

CAR WASH - \$10

(Exterior only)

See any member of the Usher Ministry to place your pre-orders. Mark your calendar for the Usher’s Anniversary Sunday, May 17!

“Strengthening Ministries through Stewardship” - “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”
Philippians 4:13 NIV

“CELEBRATION OF LIFE”

Our First Lady Michelle Obama has nothing on the women of St. Mark! The ladies of St. Mark have an appreciation for high fashion too!

“**Celebration of Life: An Evening of Hair & Fashion**” will be held **Saturday, April 18, 6:30 pm** in the church Fellowship Hall. Scenes inspired by today’s latest fashions will feature “Little Buds & Flowers,” “A Day in the Park” and “A Night to Remember.” The show will also feature hair designs for all occasions. St. Mark member Linette Sawyer, owner of “The Dressing Rooms,” one of the Greenville’s newest fashion and interior design salons, will emcee. The event is free, but donations are encouraged.

Celebration of Life: An Evening of Hair & Fashion is sponsored by the Work Area on Family Ministries.

Power Hour

Engaging God’s Power to teach the people, reach the people and to leave our Mark on the world
Every Sunday - 10am to 11am

Power Learning Room

Take a tour of “The Power Learning Room” a special children’s area designed to enhance their learning of the Books of the Bible, the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments, the 23rd Psalms and much, much more! The Learning Lab will be open every 4th Sunday during Power Hour.

Coins for Caring

It’s never too early to become a good steward. Each Sunday, two “Coins for Caring” containers --- one for youth and one for children---are placed in the Educational Wing to receive contributions from our “young saints.” At the end of each quarter coin are counted and donated to our mission ministry.

Adult – Classes

“**One Month to Live**” – *If you knew you only had one month to live what would you do to make what’s left of your life really matter?* This six-week session will give you eye-opening insights and soul- inspiring truths that will challenge you to live each day to the fullest. If you are ready to learn how to Live Passionately – Love Completely – Learn Humbly and Leave Boldly then I encourage you to participate. The classes are held **every 2nd & 4th Sunday** in Room 108. All adults are welcome

Power Team Leader: Ruby Lewers

“**Serious Answers for Hard Questions**” – This class is designed for **men** who want to study and find the answers to the unique challenges and questions life presents them. In this thought-provoking and inspiring course, attendees are discussing ten issues that present serious obstacles to many both in and outside of the church. This class is held every **1st & 3rd Sunday** in Room 108. **Sorry ladies; this course is for men only.**

Power Team Leaders: Chris Thompson & Mack Culbertson

A Traditional Adult Class is offered every Sunday in the Fellowship Hall for traditional study.
Power Team Leaders: Aaron Fuller, Redonia Thomas & Mack Culbertson

Our **Young Adult Class** is designed for young adults 19 – 35 years and meets every Sunday in Room 108.

Power Team Leader: Rodney Dinkins

For more information contact Power Team (Sunday School Superintendent) Leader Penny Henderson @ 244-0139 or pehenderson@bellsouth.net

“Power Hour Team Meeting” – Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 pm, in the Conference Room

THE GREAT GOSPEL EXPLOSION!!!!

The Fall Group of the United Methodist Women will host a Gospel Explosion **Sunday, April 5, 5pm, in the Sanctuary.** Featured gospel groups included

The Spiritual Seven
The Gospel True Notes
Valley Brook Young Adult Choir
And many more!

FOR THE CHILDREN

Parents and grandparents, after you're done preparing your young ones "Easter," take them over to the church for a **"Hot Dog Lunch," Saturday, April 11, at 12 noon, in the Church Fellowship Hall.** The traditional "Easter Egg Hunt" will begin at 12:45. For more information contact Children's Ministries Co-Coordinator Margaret "Mickey" Grayson or Beverly Byrd.

7:14 INTERCESSORY PRAYER

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
II Chronicles 7:14

Corporate prayer is an essential part of church life here at St. Mark. Each Saturday morning the 7:14 Intercessory Prayer Group meets to pray for wisdom, guidance, direction and blessings for our church. Now is the time to lift up the needs of our church and community. It is also a time to join with fellow believers in a time of thanks and praise for all of the things God has done.

Please commit; make the sacrifice. We need you there at 7:14 am.

THE HOPELESSNESS OF HOMELESSNESS

Imagine what it feels like to have no home, no shelter, no place to protect you from the elements, no place to bathe or shower, simply no place to call your own. Unfortunately, more and more residents of Greenville County are experiencing the hopelessness of homelessness. Members of Lee Road UMC are addressing this issue and Margie Wilkie of Lee Road will meet with members of our Mission Committee **Monday, April 13, at 6 pm** to discuss opportunities for St. Mark's involvement in this issue. Other interested members of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Missions in Action

In August, our Missions Work Area has volunteered to supply water for area Habitat Construction site

Through our resources are limited, we continue to provide confidential, emergency assistance to families in need throughout our community

FLOWER FUND

Help beautify the sanctuary, contribute to the "Flower Fund!" For a \$50 donation, flowers can be placed on the altar in honor, memory, or celebration of a loved one or special event. Orders must be placed, **paid for** in advance, and all checks should be made payable to St. Mark UMC. For more information, contact the Church Office.

MUSIC NOTES

The St. Mark Male Chorus is a group of all ages with an appreciation and love for the well-known tradition of male vocal music.

We have all bought or listened to professional male quartets or groups and attended other churches to support and enjoy local male chorus programs. (See "The Great Gospel Explosion" article) There's special enjoyment in hearing the rich harmonic tones, whether a cappella or with music, and to watch the charisma, fortitude and pride with which they minister their music.

Through the years, our male chorus has been blessed with men of great talent. Men like William Louthier and John Bowers whose love for singing was as big as their love of life, always committed and ready to lead or to "back up" other members. Their physical presence is sorely missed but they, like many before them, are present in the hearts and ministry of the St. Mark Male Chorus.

The Male Chorus is in ministry for church programs, all-male chorus anniversaries and revivals and periodically, they minister during Sunday Morning worship at their beloved St. Mark.

Gentlemen, if you have the gift of singing you know where you belong!

If you have an interest in this ministry, please contact Margaret Grayson, director of Music at 864-322-0595.

Our Music Ministry

Every Sunday: The Vessels of Praise (Praise Team)
First Sunday: The Chancel Choir, Anthony Jackson, Musician
Second Sunday: The Voices of Hope (Youth), Brenda Benson, Director and Musician
The Inspirational Choir (Contemporary Gospel), Dwight Woods, Musician; Ruby Lewers, Director
Third Sunday: The Chancel Choir, Anthony Jackson, Musician
The Inspirational Choir, Dwight Woods, Musician; Ruby Lewers, Director
Fourth Sunday: The St. Mark Orchestra, John DeVore, Conductor
The Children's Choir, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician

Fifth Sundays 2009

May: The Male Chorus, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician
The Voices of Hope, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician

August: The Male Chorus, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician
The Children's Choir, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician

November: The Male Chorus, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician
The Voices of Hope, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician

FIRST, THE WORD!

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15 (King James)

Bible study is an important aspect of Christian life. God charges us to be "workers" for Him; so we should build His word into our lives. "The Word" alone tells us how to live for Him and serve Him. Consistent and diligent study of God's word is vital; otherwise we will be lulled into neglecting God and our true purpose for living.

There are three options for weekly Bible Study on the St. Mark – St. Matthew Charge:

Tuesday, 10 am, St. Mark – "Companions in Christ"
Wednesday, 1 pm, St. Matthew – Bible Study
Wednesday, 6:30 pm, St. Mark – Bible Study

Please pray God's blessings on the study life of St. Mark and our "sister church" St. Matthew

EVANGELISM OUTREACH

The Evangelism team ministers to the residents of SpringBrook Behavioral Health Residential Center every 1st and 3rd Thursday. This ministry will consist of a bible study to various groups: children ages 7-11, teens, young veterans from Iraq, and adults.

Don't forget please donate your expired Sunday School books to this ministry.

THE MONTH AT-A-GLANCE.....

Stay informed! Post "St. Mark on the Move" on your refrigerator, message board or any noticeable location. See you there!

Week of April 5

Sunday

8 am
8:15 am
10 am

3 pm
4 pm

PASSION SUNDAY

Praise & Worship
Morning Worship
Power Hour – Traditional Class
Power Hour – “Serious Answers for Hard Questions”
United Methodist Women’s Meeting
The Great Gospel Explosion

Fellowship Hall
Room 108
Fellowship Hall
Sanctuary

Monday

6 pm
6:30 pm
6 pm
7 pm

Worship Committee Meeting
St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal
Children of the World Committee
Inspirational Choir Rehearsal

Room 104
Fellowship Hall
Conference Room
Rehearsal Hall

Tuesday

10 am
6:30 pm

Companions in Christ
Power Team Meeting

Conference Room

Wednesday

5 pm
6:30 pm
6:30 pm

VOH Rehearsal
UM Youth Meeting
Bible Study

Rehearsal Hall
Rehearsal Hall
Fellowship Hall

Thursday

11:30 am
7 pm

Website Deadline
Munday Thursday Worship Service & Communion

Sanctuary

Saturday

7:14 am
10:30 am
12 pm
5 pm
6 pm

7:14 Intercessory Prayer
VOH Rehearsal
Children’s Hot Dog Luncheon & Easter Egg Hunt
Inspirational Choir Rehearsal
Family Night

Sanctuary
Rehearsal Hall
Fellowship Hall
Rehearsal Hall
Fellowship Hall

Week of April 12

Sunday

6 am
8 am
8:15 am
10 am

EASTER SUNDAY – RESURRECTION SUNDAY!

Sunrise Service
Praise & Worship
Morning Worship
Power Hour – Traditional Adult Class
“One Month to Live”

Bethel, UMC, Greer

Fellowship Hall
Conference Room

Monday

6 pm
6:30 pm
7 pm

Missions Committee Meeting - Homelessness
St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal
Inspirational Choir Rehearsal

Fellowship Hall
Rehearsal Hall

Tuesday

10 am

Companions in Christ

Fellowship Hall

Wednesday

6:30 pm

Bible Study

Fellowship Hall

Thursday

11:30 am

Website Deadline

Saturday

7:14 am
12 pm
5 pm
6:30 pm

7:14 Intercessory Prayer
Vessels of Praise Rehearsal
Inspirational Choir Rehearsal
Celebration of Life Hair & Fashion Show

Sanctuary
Room 104
Rehearsal Hall
Fellowship Hall

Week of April 19

Sunday

8 am
8:15 am
10 am

9:45 am

Praise & Worship
Morning Worship
Power Hour – Traditional Class
“Serious Answers for Tough Questions”
Usher’s Meeting

Fellowship Hall
Conference Room
Sanctuary

Monday

6:30 pm
7 pm

St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal
Inspirational Choir Rehearsal

Fellowship Hall
Rehearsal Hall

Tuesday

10 am
6:30 pm

Companions in Christ
Council on Ministries

Fellowship Hall
Conference Room

Wednesday

5 pm
6:30pm

Children’s Choir Rehearsal
Bible Study

Rehearsal Hall
Fellowship Hall

Thursday

11:30 am

Website Deadline

Friday

United Methodist Men’s Retreat

Asbury Hills

Saturday

7:14 am
10:30 am
12 pm
12:30 pm

7:14 Intercessory Prayer
Children’s Choir Rehearsal
Vessels of Praise
Brownie Troop 462 Meeting

Sanctuary
Rehearsal Hall
Rehearsal Hall
Room 104

Week of April 26

Sunday

8 am
8:15 am
10 am

11 am
4 pm

Praise & Worship
Morning Worship
Power Hour – Traditional Class
Power Hour: “One Month to Live”
Stress Free Sunday
Greer/Taylor’s Choral Union

Fellowship Hall
Conference Room

Monday

6:30 pm

St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal

Fellowship Hall

Tuesday

10 am

Companions in Christ

Wednesday

5 pm
6:30 pm

Children’s Rehearsal
Bible Study

Rehearsal Hall
Fellowship Hall

Thursday

11:30 am

6 pm

7 pm

Website Deadline

Finance Committee

Administrative Board

Saturday

7:14 am

7:14 Intercessory Prayer

Sanctuary

AROUND THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY

"Keeping you in touch with key events and activities"

May 1 – 3		UMW Spiritual Life Retreat	Lake Junaluska
May 3 – 9		Christian Family Week	
May 9		Mother's Day Brunch	
May 13	6:30 pm	Songfest	
May 16	9am – 12 pm	Higher Education Workshop	
	7 am – 12pm	UMM – "Junk in the Trunk" Sale	
May 17	4 pm	Usher's Anniversary Celebration	
May 30	11 am	Inspirational Choir's "PRAISE IN THE PARK & Health Fair"	
May 31		NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY	
May 31 – June 3		Annual Conference,	
June 8 – 13		VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	
July 22 – 25		UMW School of Christian Missions	Spartanburg
August 16	5 pm	Inspirational Choir Concert	

If you have information that you would like to share with the St. Mark Church family, please submit all information to the church secretary or any member of The St. Mark Messenger staff no later than the 4th Sunday of each month. *Items will be printed at the discretion of The Messenger staff.*

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

St. Mark United Methodist Church salutes the brave men and women in the armed forces and around the world. We remember them in our prayers. These are the members of SMC in active duty.

US Army

PFC Kiersten Shumpert
CO. A, 701st MP Battalion
4th Platoon
Bldg. 822, Colorado Ave.
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473

US Marines

Marshall Grayson

Army National Guard Reserves

Willie P. Rowe

US Navy Reserves

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH

Safety Seat Inspections

Free safety seat inspections for children ages 13 and under are available at several locations throughout the Upstate by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 454-1109 or go to www.safekidsupstate.org/inspection_station.php<http://www.safekidsupstate.org/inspection_station.php>. Inspections take 20 to 30 minutes per seat and include teaching caregivers how to install the car seats correctly.

Activate Upstate

Sign up at www.activateupstate.org<<http://www.activateupstate.org>> for this free, year-round healthy living program of health talks, counseling and monthly weigh-ins. The goal is to get 30 minutes of exercise a day, five days a week.

Spring Training

Walk the Greenville Drive's warning track at Flour Field at the West End between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (non-game days only). One mile equals 4.5 laps!

April 2009 At-A-Glance

Worship Support

Sunday, April 5

Greeters

Robert & Rene Murry

Announcer

Rosylin Weston

AV Technicians

William Marshall
Faurtina Martin
Calvin Slade
Sharie Smith

Nursery Attendant

Sunday, April 12

Greeters

Waymon & Diane Talley

AV Technicians

William Marshall
Faurtina Martin
Calvin Slade
Sharie Smith

Nursery Attendant

Sunday, April 19

Greeters

Sheree Smith
Vardrey Spruill

AV Technicians

William Marshall
Faurtina Martin
Calvin Slade
Sharie Smith

Nursery Attendant

Sunday, April 26

Greeters

Announcer

AV Technicians

Nursery Attendant

Tim & Cicely King

Lasonia Williams

William Marshall

Faurtina Martin

Calvin Slade

Sharie Smith

TAKE NOTE

Take note of the Trustee's Weekly Schedule. For more information contact Margaret V. Freeman at 244-0673

Monday	Royce Freeman	244-0640
Tuesday	CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE	
Wednesday	Twana Cruell	268-7476
Thursday	Margaret V. Freeman	244-0673
Friday	CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE	
Saturday		
Sunday		

***For special access on Tuesday or Friday contact Margaret V. Freeman at the number listed above.*

Sick & Shut-Ins

Please remember our sick and shut-in members with your prayers, cards, telephone calls, and visits. **Contact the church office administrator at 848-7141** with information regarding all church family illnesses and bereavement.

Mr. Harold Cheeks – Belaire Place, 23 Southpointe Drive Rm. # 115, Greenville 29607	234-9542
Rev. Oliver N. Greer – 317 Garrett Street, Mauldin 29662	234-7341
Mrs. Minnie Louther – Residence Unknown	
Mr. Donald Talley – 3204 Culpepper Crossing, Duncan 29334	486-9472
Mrs. Ella Mae Whiteside – 202 Frank Street, Greenville 29601	271-1537
Mrs. Lillian McKinney- 5501 Hwy 101 North, Taylors, 29687	895-1933

April Birthday's

4/1 Julia Murry
4/1 Cameron Atkins
4/1 Peter Lechner
4/2 Estella Rickenbacker
4/3 Eugene Smith
4/4 Kaylem Murry
4/6 Donna Dawkins
4/6 Pearl Walker
4/7 Cassandra Brackett
4/9 Dajiah Kelly

April Anniversaries

4/6 Margaret & Cal Jones
4/9 Mildred & Leland Martin
4/9 Holly & Ahmad Grant
4/12 Lasonia & Brian Williams
4/14 Charnelle & Ronald Gaillard
4/21 Shekedra & Darren Rickenbacker
4/30 Sharon & Frederick Fuller

4/9 Daveion Jackson
4/10 Takeysha Jenkins
4/10 Lynda Gary
4/11 Redonia Thomas
4/12 Nelson Weston
4/15 Willie Rowe
4/17 Margaret V. Freeman
4/18 Jerald-Arden Freeman
4/22 Tammy Murray
4/22 Dreamess Pruitt-Bowers
4/23 Tracy Griffith
4/23 Donna Mattison
4/24 Andrea Mason
4/24 Jermaine Johnson
4/26 Christopher Thompson
4/28 Jerry Foster
4/29 Herman Freeman
4/29 Roosevelt Pope
4/30 Cal Jones, Jr.
4/30 Marcus Shumpert

GETTING YOU CONNECTED!

All student recognitions, achievements, and other accomplishments will be announced on 4th Sunday only. Parents and students please get this information to the Church office by Thursday before the 4th Sunday

If you're interested in receiving church information via the **Internet** please e-mail your request to stmarkkc@charter.net.

DEADLINES! Don't forget---the deadline for newsletter articles is the 4th Sunday in each month. Articles may be submitted to any member of the Messenger Staff, and we respectfully reserve the right to review and edit all copies.

Church news at your finger tips. Visit the new **St. Mark Info Line**. This telephone service features voicemail, weekly activities and Sunday school updates. Simply dial the church's main number, 864-848-7141, and follow the prompts.

Visit St. Mark United Methodist Church on the web www.stmarktaylorssc.com
Web News:

PRAYER

Just call---someone will answer. The Upper Room Prayer Center is only a call away. Call anytime/anywhere and someone will pray with or for you.

1-800-251-2468