



# The St. Mark Messenger

July 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*



## *Greetings Church Family!*

This year, St. Mark UMC is sponsoring four church-wide fundraising projects, and members are asked to contribute **above and beyond** individual tithes and proportionate giving. Proceeds from these projects will be used to enhance ministries in the areas of **Outreach**, **Nurture** and **Witness**. These ministries include but are not limited to: Children's Ministries, Christian Education, Conference Apportionment, Family Ministries, Missions Support to Individuals and Families in Need, Power Hour, Vacation Bible School, Worship, Music Ministries, and Youth Ministries.

We are honored and humbled to serve as co-chairpersons of this quarter's project, July 1 – September 30. "Blessing" is our ministry focus and The St. Mark Inspirational Choir (SMIC) is our ministry partner.

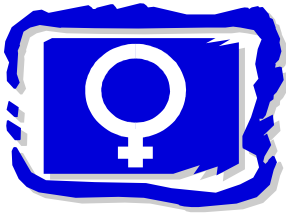
We are working with a dedicated ad hoc committee comprising the chairpersons and representatives of the Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, the Council on Ministries, the Administrative Board, and of course, all of you! A goal of \$20,000 has been set and with God's grace and your support, we will fund the vital ministries of our church. We are asking each member to contribute \$250 above your tithes and proportionate giving. How you ask?

1. You can solicit individual contributions from friends and family members through a "Stay-at-Home-Tea" letter campaign
2. You can solicit contributions for the Patron's List to be published at the SMIC Concert
3. Or, you can solicit advertisements from businesses, families, or organizations also to be published at the concert

Moses was intimate with the Lord. And in Genesis 12: 1 – 3, it was revealed to Abraham, and now to us, that God always connects obedience with blessing, even when he does not "sketch out" the full details of what that blessing maybe. Our sensitivity to God's "will" increases as we obey Him. You can trust Him, obey Him, and be blessed! May the "Blessing of Abraham be upon you!"

Yours in Christ,

*Betty Golden and Joyce Lewis*, Blessing Co-Chairpersons



## LADIES IT'S LOCK-IN TIME AT ST. MARK!!!

Do you need to empower yourself and others in this Christian walk? Is life running you down? Then it is time to "Remove the Mask! Who do you see?" Come join the women of the church for an overnight experience of worship, praise, prayer and fellowship lead by Family Ministries and several anointed women of God.

### "REMOVE THE MASK! WHO DO YOU SEE?"

St. Mark United Methodist Church

911 St. Mark Road

Taylors, SC 29687

6 pm, Friday, July 17 – 7 am, Saturday, July 18,

*Ladies 18 years and over are welcome. Dinner will be served at 6 pm, Friday Evening and breakfast at 7 am Saturday morning.*



#### **Featured Speakers**

**Ms. Sandra Garrett and Ms. Dyanne Dempsey**



*Bring your blankets, pillows, sleeping bags, air mattresses, and most important, your **BIBLE!***



To RSVP or for more information please contact Linda Pendergrass at 864-968-0366 or Twana Cruell at 864-901-3570.

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## A WORD FROM PASTOR WATTS



### Our Continuing Conversation “Making Disciples”

George Barna defines discipleship as “becoming a complete and competent follower of Jesus Christ. It is about the intentional training of people who voluntarily submit to the lordship of Christ and who want to become imitators of Him in every thought, word, and deed...”

These are the remaining insights about discipleship:

4. Disciples must represent God in the World. It is so important for us to live our lives worthy of the calling of Jesus. Rather isolate ourselves, we are to live in the world as witnesses of God’s goodness. We need to search out opportunities to be ambassadors for Christ. As children of light, we are to shine in the darkness, to honor God in the living of our lives through what we say and do. Read these verses: Matthew 10:16, 28:17-20; Mark 5:18-19; John 17:14-18; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 4:1; Colossians 1:10; 1 John 2:15-19.

5. Disciples must serve other People. At the conclusion of Jesus sharing the Passover meal with his disciples, Jesus tied a towel around his waist and washed their feet. That act was symbolic of his life as a servant. As followers of Jesus, we too are to be servants—meeting the needs of those who are hurt and wounded; showing love and compassion. Read these passages: Matthew 6:24-28; 20:25-28; Luke 9:1-6; 10:30-37; Acts 6:1-3; Ephesians 2:10; 4:11-12; Philippians 2:1-4; Hebrews 13:16; James 2:14-24.

6. Disciples must reproduce themselves in Christ. Just as we are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ, so must we introduce others to Jesus. We can nurture others in the faith so that they claim Jesus’ lordship and follow Him. Read these passages: Matthew 28:19; Matthew 9:35-38; Acts 4:1-11; 5:42; 13:47.

In order to make disciples for Jesus Christ, we must be intentional and have a strategic process for doing so. Let us prepare ourselves with prayer as we seek to “direct people’s minds, hearts and energy toward being devoted to a transformed life.”

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## Financial Information for College Seminar

On Wednesday, August 26, Buncombe Street United Methodist Church will be holding Financial Information for College Seminar. It will begin at 5:30 and will end at 7:00. Students in grades 9-12 and parents are invited to this very informative meeting, which is being sponsored by Buncombe Street’s College Age Ministry Board. The following colleges will be represented: Columbia College, Greenville Technical College, Spartanburg Methodist College, Wofford College and Claflin College. Discussion will be focused on preparation of the FAFSA forms, the effect of standardized scores/grades on financial opportunities, special financial assistance offerings and other topics relevant to each specific school. These topics will be helpful whether your student attends one of the above listed colleges or somewhere else. Please encourage your students to attend this very meaningful seminar. Please email Ellen Scott @ [efscott3@hotmail.com](mailto:efscott3@hotmail.com) if you are interested in coming or have questions.

# STRENGTHENING MINISTRIES THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

*"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philipians 4:13 NIV*

This year, St. Mark members are contributing, above and beyond tithes and proportionate giving, through 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 from the Finance Committee, the Stewardship Committee, the Council on Ministries, and other related areas of ministry.

3<sup>RD</sup> Quarter July 1 – September 30, 2009  
Ministry Focus: "Blessing" (Genesis 12: 1 – 3)

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## MUSIC NOTES

**St. Mark Inspirational Choir's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Concert**  
**"The Blessing is on You"**  
featuring  
**Dwight E. Woods and The St. Mark Inspirational Choir**  
**Sunday, August 16, 2009, 5pm**  
**St. Mark United Methodist Church**  
**911 St. Mark Road**  
**Taylors, SC**

**Dwight E. Woods** For the past 25 years, the musical and theatrical brilliance of Dwight E. Woods has been recognized in South Carolina and throughout the United States. Once described by Jacques D'Ambrose, the founder of the National Dance Institute, as "a national treasure," Woods is the director of the Phillis Wheatley Repertory Theater for Youth in Greenville.

A versatile composer and producer of musicals and music, Woods' compositions and theatrical productions are designed to be both entertaining and inspirational. He has written for both musical productions and gospel albums. His primary focus is to make a difference in the lives of people. This philosophy can be directly linked to his upbringing in Birmingham, Alabama, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement.

**The St. Mark Inspirational Choir (SMIC)** Two Sundays each month the Inspirational Choir provides music during morning worship at St. Mark, and is one of upstate South Carolina's most renowned gospel choirs. Under the leadership of Ruby E. Lewers, SMIC was organized in 1980 as a group of young adults who simply wanted to "sing gospel music." Now almost 30 years later this choir has

become much more than a contemporary gospel choir. It is a music *ministry* that touches lives, softens hearts and provides the opportunity for its members to grow in His spirit. Through the years SMIC has shared their ministry with other congregations and at public gatherings in South Carolina; North Carolina; Mississippi; New York; and Washington, DC, including numerous appearances at the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

### **Music Ministry at St. Mark**

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**

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

If you have an interest in joining any of these ministries please contact Margaret Grayson, director of Music at 864-322-0595.

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## **GOT BINGO?**

The "mature" members of the church and community are cordially invited to a "**Bingo Brunch,**" **Thursday, July 9, 11 am** in the **St. Mark Fellowship Hall**. This outing will include games, door prizes, and a light lunch. Transportation will be provided as needed. For more information, please contact Mildred Ballenger at 864-879-7837.

This event is being sponsored by the areas of Adult and Older Adult Ministry.

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## **ATTENTION UMW**

The School of Christian Mission will be held July 23 – 26 at Spartanburg Methodist College. The cost of residential students is \$155 and \$100 for day students. Applications are due **Monday, July 6**. Please see Joyce Lewis or stop by the Church office to secure a copy.

**SAVE THE DATE: UMW Assembly 2010, April 30 – May 2 • St. Louis, Missouri** [www.umwmission.org](http://www.umwmission.org)

The St. Mark Chapter meets every first Sunday at 4 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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The logo for "Power Hour" features the words "Power Hour" in a bold, sans-serif font. "Power" is white with a grey drop shadow, and "Hour" is solid grey. The text is centered within a jagged, starburst-like outline that resembles a lightning bolt or a burst of energy.

*Sixty minutes to teach the people, reach the people and to leave our Mark on the world*

Every Sunday - 10am to 11am

**Children:** 4 – 11 years

**Youth:** 12 – 18 years

The youth and their advisors have planned the some wonderful, exciting, and powerful activities for the month of May. These activities will be fun, interactive and most of all incorporate Gods word.

## **Adults**

### **“Life Lessons”**

**Topic: “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 to 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 **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** in Room 108.

Power Team Leader: 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 Leader Penny Henderson @ 244-0139 or [pehenderson@bellsouth.net](mailto:pehenderson@bellsouth.net)

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## KEEPING YOU CONNECTED!

[www.stmarktaylorssc.com](http://www.stmarktaylorssc.com) Our website has become an important part of our ministry beyond the "four walls" of our church. Over the past two years "traffic" to our site has increased more than 600%, including international visits from Canada, India, the Philippines, Jamaica, The United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Australia, and Iraq. Earlier this year a single visit to our site resulted in an invitation to our youth to present at a national youth summit in Atlanta!

Since 2007, Gena Garrison has worked single-handedly as our volunteer web-technician. However, other obligations prevent her from continuing in this role. So, we're looking for a replacement. The requirements are listed below. **Web-technician training** will be held **Saturday, July 11, 1:30 pm, in the Church Conference Room**. If this work is of interest to you, please contact Juana Slade at 277-2142.

Requirements: Web-Technician

1. **A heart for God!**
2. A heart for a importance and benefit of a presence on the worldwide web
3. Access to a laptop or computer with high-speed internet access
4. Working knowledge of Micro-soft Office software
5. Access to "Adobe" or "Picture-It" Software
6. Familiarity and comfort with the internet
7. Familiarity and (perhaps) access to a digital **video** camera, "up-loadable" to the internet

**Don't forget---the deadline for newsletter articles is the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 copy.**

Church news at your finger tips. Dial into the **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.

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## 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.

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## 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 July 5

### Sunday

8 am	Praise & Worship	
8:15 am	Morning Worship	
10 am	Power Hour – Traditional Class	Fellowship Hall
	Power Hour – “Serious Answers for Hard Questions”	Room 108

### Monday

6 pm	Age Level & Family Ministries Meeting	Conference Room
6:30 pm	St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal	Room 104
7 pm	Inspirational Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall

### Thursday

<b>11 am</b>	<b>Sick &amp; Shut-in Bingo Brunch</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>
11:30 am	Website Deadline	
6:30 pm	Christian Education	Conference Room

### Saturday

7:14 am	7:14 Intercessory Prayer	Sanctuary
10:30 am	VOH Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall
<b>1:30 pm</b>	<b>Web-tech Training</b>	<b>Conference Room</b>
5 pm	Inspirational Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall

## Week of July 12

### Sunday

8 am	Praise & Worship	
8:15 am	Morning Worship	
10 am	Power Hour – Traditional Adult Class	Fellowship Hall
	“One Month to Live”	Conference Room
<b>2 pm</b>	<b>New Member Candidate Class</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>

### Monday

6 pm	Missions Committee	Room 104
6:30 pm	St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
7 pm	Inspirational Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall

### Thursday

11:30 am	Website Deadline	
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### Friday – Saturday

<b>Ladies Lock-In</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>
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### Saturday

7:14 am	7:14 Intercessory Prayer	Sanctuary
12 pm	Vessels of Praise Rehearsal	Room 104
5 pm	Inspirational Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall

## Week of July 19

### Sunday

8 am	Praise & Worship	
8:15 am	Morning Worship	
10 am	Power Hour – Traditional Class	Fellowship Hall
	“Serious Answers for Tough Questions”	Conference Room

<b>Monday</b>		
6:30 pm	St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
7 pm	Inspirational Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>		
5:30 pm	"The Blessing is On You" committee	Conference Room
6:30 pm	Council on Ministries	Conference Room
<b>Wednesday</b>		
5 pm	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall
<b>Thursday</b>		
11:30 am	Website Deadline	
<b>Friday</b>		
6 pm	<b>Inspirational Choir's Spiritual Retreat</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>Saturday</b>		
7:14 am	7:14 Intercessory Prayer	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall
12 pm	Vessels of Praise	Rehearsal Hall
<b><u>Week of July 26</u></b>	<b>CHILDREN'S DAY</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>		
8 am	Praise & Worship	
8:15 am	Morning Worship	
10 am	Power Hour – Traditional Class	Fellowship Hall
	Power Hour: "One Month to Live"	Conference Room
<b>Monday</b>		
6:30 pm	St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
<b>Wednesday</b>		
5 pm	Children's Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall
5:30 pm	Finance Committee	Conference Room
<b>Thursday</b>		
11:30 am	Website Deadline	
7 pm	Administrative Board meeting	Conference Room
<b>Saturday</b>		
7:14 am	7:14 Intercessory Prayer	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall
12 pm	Vessels of Praise	Rehearsal Hall
12:30 pm	Brownie Troop 462 Meeting	Room 104

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## AROUND THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY

*"Keeping you in touch with key events and activities"*

July 9	<b>Senior's Bingo Brunch</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>
July 17	<b>Ladies Lock-In</b>	
July 23 – 26	<b>UMW School of Christian Missions</b>	<b>Spartanburg Methodist</b>
July 26	<b>CHILDREN'S DAY</b>	
August 11, 6-8pm	<b>Back-to-School Parent Night</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>
August 16, 5 pm	<b>Inspirational Choir Concert</b>	
August 23	<b>140<sup>th</sup> Church Homecoming</b>	
August 24 – 26	<b>Fall Revival</b>	
August 28 – 29	<b>COM and Administrative Board Planning Retreat</b>	<b>Fellowship Hall</b>

August 30, 8 am  
September 7  
September 27

Charge Worship Service  
LABOR DAY  
GospelFest

St. Mark UMC  
Sanctuary

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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. *Items will be printed at the discretion of The Messenger staff.*

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## 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, 701<sup>st</sup> MP Battalion  
4<sup>th</sup> Platoon  
Bldg. 822, Colorado Ave.  
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473

### US Marines

Marshall Grayson

### Army National Guard Reserves

Willie P. Rowe

### US Navy Reserves

Bryant Simmons

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## 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)<[http://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)<<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!

## H1N1 (SWINE) INFLUENZA

### What You Can Do to Stay Healthy ?

- **Stay informed.** This abreast of regular updates about the H1Ni1 flu information as it becomes available.
- Influenza is thought to **spread mainly person-to-person** through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- **Take everyday actions to stay healthy.**
  - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
  - Stay home if you get sick. The Center for Disease Control recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- **Follow public health advice** regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.
- **Develop a family emergency plan** as a precaution. This should include storing a supply of food, medicines, facemasks, alcohol-based hand rubs and other essential supplies.
- Call 1-800-CDC-INFO for more information.

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# July At-A-Glance

## Worship Support

### Sunday, June 7

Greeters

Announcer  
Juana Slade

AV Technicians  
William Marshall  
Faurtina Martin  
Calvin Slade  
Sharie Smith

Nursery Attendant

### Sunday, June 14

Greeters

Announcer  
Lasonia Williams

AV Technicians  
William Marshall  
Faurtina Martin  
Calvin Slade  
Sharie Smith

Nursery Attendant

### Sunday, June 21

Greeters

Announcer

AV Technicians

Nursery Attendant



### **July Birthdays**

7/11 Alphelia Duck  
7/13 Martina Cruell  
7/13 Aaron Titus  
7/16 Rodney Freeman  
7/17 Karen Culbertson  
7/18 Lisa Sullivan  
7/19 Mark Jenkins-Dodd  
7/19 Nigel Crawford  
7/19 Jessica Freeman  
7/21 Nantambu Calhoun  
7/23 Anitra Rhodes  
7/24 Joyce Lewis  
7/25 Edwin Dennis  
7/25 Eula Dodd  
7/28 Fred Leggett  
7/29 Tonya Rosemond

### **July Anniversaries Continued**

7/27 Sandra & Steve Cheeks  
7/31 Eula & Willie Dodd

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## **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**

## **SUMMER BREAK**

The following ministries are on hiatus for the months of July and August:

Bible Study  
Companion's in Christ

Please be prayerful for these ministries throughout the summer, see you September.