



The St. Mark Messenger

December 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



A Waiting Moment

By Pastor Janice L. Fredrick Watts

"...The symbol of Christmas --- what is it? It is the rainbow arched over the roof of the sky when the clouds are heavy with foreboding. It is the cry of life in the new-born babe with forced from its mother's nest, as it claims its right to live. It is the brooding Presence of the Eternal Spirit making crooked paths straight, rough places smooth, tired hearts refreshed, dead hopes stir with newness of life. It is the promise of tomorrow at the close of every day, the movement of life in defiance of death, and the assurance that love is sturdier than hate, that right is more confident than wrong, that good is more permanent than evil."

(Excerpt from The Growing Edge by Howard Thurman)

Our lives are pregnant with waiting moments, moments in which we anticipate the presence and movement of God. The season of Advent is a waiting moment that leads us to the celebration of Christmas. In a waiting moment, Jesus was born. Indeed in the fullness of time. As God's children, we also enter the fullness of time as "we become the complete expression of the will of God at the level where we live and work and play and function..."

These waiting moments of which we are a part are an invitation to offer ourselves as a living offering to God. Instead of the world's question "what did you get?" we place ourselves in a posture of giving, evidence of "the touch of the spirit and the life of God."

Prayer: Lord, in our waiting moments, draw near.

Open our hearts and minds and spirits to Your grace and love.

Let us share the gifts You've given us. Grant us a larger love and a deeper peace

In the fullness of your time, let us give way to that which is waiting to be born in us.

In the Name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

THE YEAR IN SERVICE

"When you give to the poor it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back!"

Proverbs 19:17

The Work Area on Missions at St. Mark has a very simple yet powerful statement of purpose. The members have vowed

"To serve our congregation and community in the best way possible"

With standardized policies in place, Renee Murry, Mae Troy Murry, Royce Freeman, Sharon Simmons, Tina Martin, and Lynda Byrd accomplished their mission with Christian love, respect, dignity and confidentiality. Here are a few examples of the service provided in 2009:

January: Aid to two families for assistance with utilities, rent and medicine

February: Valentine gift bags of toiletries and sweets for the patients at Reid's Nursing Home in Welford

March: 100 cans of tuna donated to the Greer Community Ministries

April: Donations of coffee and DVDs to the Men's Homeless Shelter

June & July: Joined Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (GAIHN) a group established to give aid to the homeless

August: Provided bottled water donations to the SAIKEHATCHIE Summer Service Program

September: Participated in a GAIHN poverty simulation

October: Assisted one family with assistance for utilities

November: Collected canned goods and non-perishables for distribution during Harvest Sunday
Assisted one family with utilities
Distributed five \$50 grocery gift cards
Donated 30 meals to the Homeless
Provided AIDS/HIV Awareness information

These blessings, and many others, were made possible through your weekly mission contributions and your generous donations throughout the year of food, clothing and supplies. Remember, we are all God's hands and feet, the body of Christ. Ladies, thank you for helping make disciples for Jesus Christ and for serving as ambassadors for St. Mark.

"AN EVENING OF JAZZ"

With Saxophonist Ray Jackson



Saturday, December 12, 2009

7 pm

Fellowship Hall

St. Mark UMC

911 St. Mark Road – Taylors, SC

Individual tickets - \$25 per adult

Couples - \$40

Students (17 – 21 years) - \$15

***This is an adult event*

Live Jazz Music and Dinner included in ticket price. This is a benefit supporting of St. Mark high school seniors and college students. Please see any member of Higher Education Committee to purchase tickets.

James Murray, Chairman of Higher Education Committee

Levelle Marshall, Banquet Co-Chair

Cynthia Thompson, Banquet Co-Chair



100 Voices of Christmas

A Joyful Celebration

*...and He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
~ Isaiah 9:6*

Sunday, December 20, 2009

5:00 pm

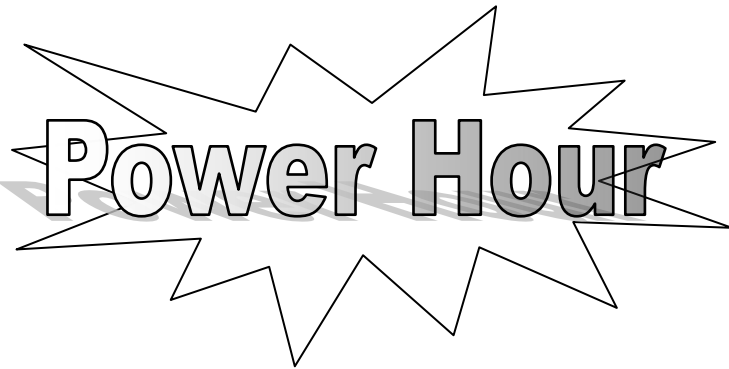
St. Mark United Methodist Church

911 St. Mark Rd.

Taylors, SC 29687

(864) 848-7141

An evening of music, dance and drama featuring
·St. Mark United Methodist Church & Community 100-Voice Choir
·Girls of Glory Praise Dancers
·Boys of Praise Mimes



**Sixty minutes to teach the people, reach the people and to leave our Mark on the world
Every Sunday - 10am to 11am**

Please join us every Sunday, 10 to 11 am for Power Hour. Weekly classes are available for **children, youth, young adults, men, and adults**. A thought-provoking and inspiring men's topical discussion group meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday.

Remember, it's more than Sunday school it's.... Power Hour

Children (4 – 11 years)
Youth (12 – 18 years)
Traditional Adult Class

Men's Topical Discussion
Young Adult Class

For more information contact Power Team Leader Penny Henderson @ 244-0139 or pehenderson@bellsouth.net

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!

December 6 **Sunday**

8 am	Praise & Worship	
8:15 am	Morning Worship	
9:45 am	UM Men's meeting	Conference Room
9:45 am	UM Youth meeting	Room 104
10 am	Power Hour	Fellowship Hall
3 pm	United Methodist Women Executive Committee	Fellowship Hall
4 pm	United Methodist Women	Fellowship Hall

Monday

6 pm	Age Level & Family Ministries Meeting	Conference Room
6:30 pm	St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
7 pm	GFG Praise Dance Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7 pm	100 Voices Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Tuesday

10 am	Companions in Christ	Fellowship Hall
6 pm	Year-end Finance Committee Meeting	Conference Room
7:30 pm	Year-end Administrative Board Meeting	Fellowship Hall

Wednesday

6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
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Thursday

6 pm

V.O.H. Rehearsal

Rehearsal Hall

Saturday

7:14 am

10:30 am

3 pm

5 pm

7 pm

7:14 Intercessory Prayer

VOH Rehearsal

100 Voices Rehearsal

Inspirational Choir Rehearsal

An Evening of Jazz

Sanctuary

Rehearsal Hall

Sanctuary

Rehearsal Hall

Fellowship Hall**December 13****Sunday**

8 am

8:15 am

10 am

4 pm

Praise & Worship

Morning Worship

Power Hour

Second Sunday Chorale

Fellowship Hall

Aiken Chapel

Monday

6 pm

6:30 pm

7 pm

7 pm

Missions Committee

St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal

GFG Praise Dance Rehearsal

100 Voices Rehearsal

Room 104

Fellowship Hall

Sanctuary

Sanctuary**Tuesday**

10 am

Companions in Christ

Wednesday

6:30 pm

Bible Study

Fellowship Hall

Thursday

11 am

6 pm

Senior's Bingo Brunch

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Fellowship Hall

Rehearsal Hall

Saturday

7:14 am

12 pm

5 pm

7:14 Intercessory Prayer

100 Voices Dress Rehearsal

Inspirational Choir Rehearsal

Sanctuary

Sanctuary

Rehearsal Hall

December 20**Sunday**

8 am

8:15 am

10 am

5 pm

Praise & Worship

Morning Worship

Power Hour

100 Voice Christmas Concert

Fellowship Hall

Sanctuary**Monday**

6:30 pm

St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal

Sanctuary

Thursday**6 pm****Charge Christmas Eve Service****St. Matthew UMC****Saturday**

7:14 am

10:30 am

12 pm

7:14 Intercessory Prayer

Children's Choir Rehearsal

Vessels of Praise

Sanctuary

Rehearsal Hall

Room 104

12:30 pm Brownie Troop meeting Fellowship Hall

December 27

MESSENGER DEADLINE

Sunday

8 am Praise & Worship
8:15 am Morning Worship
10 am Power Hour Fellowship Hall

Monday

6:30 pm St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

Thursday

11:30 am Website Deadline
11 pm Watch Night Service Sanctuary

Saturday

7:14 am 7:14 Intercessory Prayer Sanctuary
12 pm Vessels of Praise Rehearsal Room 104
10:30 am Children's Choir Rehearsal Rehearsal Hall
12:30 pm Brownie Troop 462 Meeting Room 104

AROUND THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY

"Keeping you in touch with key events and activities"

December 12	An Evening of Jazz	Fellowship Hall
December 20	100 Voices of Christmas: A Joyful Celebration	St. Mark
December 24	Charge Christmas Eve Service	St. Matthew UMC
December 31	Watch Night Service	St. Mark UMC
January 10	Greenville District 2010 Leadership Orientation	Buncombe St. UMC

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.

WE SALUTE YOU

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

Kiersten Shumpert

US Marines

Marshall Grayson

Army National Guard Reserves

Willie P. Rowe

US Navy Reserves

Bryant Simmons

US Air Force Reserves

Quentin M. Griffin



WORSHIP SUPPORT-AT-A-GLANCE

Worship Support

Sunday, December 6

Greeters

Announcer
Juana Slade

AV Technicians
William Marshall
Faurtina Martin
Calvin Slade
Sharie Smith

Acolytes
Jacob Edwards
Jordan Patrick

Sunday, December 13

Greeters

Announcer
Sharie Griffin

AV Technicians
William Marshall
Faurtina Martin
Calvin Slade
Sharie Smith

Acolytes
Alexis Robertson
Brittany Williams

Sunday, December 20

Greeters

Announcer
Lasonia Williams

AV Technicians
William Marshall
Faurtina Martin
Calvin Slade
Sharie Smith

Acolytes
Erin Dillard
Brooklyn Shumate

Sunday, December 27

Greeters

Announcer
Lasonia Williams

AV Technicians
William Marshall
Faurtina Martin
Calvin Slade
Sharie Smith

Acolytes
Brittany Williams
Sierra Carter

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	Aaron Fuller	283-0744

***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 Louthier – 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
Mrs. Doshia Sherman – 817 St. Mark Road, Taylors 29687	244-3262

December Birthdays

12/2 Sandra Marshall
12/3 Lucy Watson
12/3 Shuarica Watson
12/3 Sekedra Rickenbacker
12/4 Brenda Benson
12/5 Ruby Lewers
12/7 Donald Talley
12/8 Nantambu Calhoun, II
12/8 Bryce Jackson
12/8 Everlyn Wright
12/9 Christian Bradley
12/11 Penny Henderson
12/12 Jacqueline Byrd
12/13 William Moseley
12/15 William Marshall
12/15 Davina Pendergrass
12/15 Martha Phelps
12/16 Jennifer Clinkscates

December Anniversaries

12/4 Rachel & Scott Montjoy
12/10 Cicely & Timothy King
12/17 Betty & Louie Golden
12/18 Juana & Calvin Slade
12/23 Rene & Robert Murry
12/23 Tiffaney & Marcus Shumpert
12/24 Ruth & Clinton Foster
12/24 Mae & Ronnie Murry

12/16 Sammy Cruell
12/17 Sharon Fuller
12/17 George Rose
12/17 James Thomas
12/17 Ella Ruth Watson
12/18 Brian Dilliard
12/19 Harold Freeman
12/19 Margaret D. Freeman
12/20 Tyre Sullivan
12/21 Ronnie Murry
12/22 Logan King
12/24 Shelia Bradley
12/24 Elaine Sherman
12/26 Sharon Crawford
12/26 Audra Jones
12/27 Felica Jones
12/29 Briana Benson
12/29 Ajia Culbertson
12/29 Angela Harrison
12/29 Arden Montjoy
12/30 DeShawn Coulter
12/31 Darlene Dawkins
12/31 Jazmon Henderson
12/31 Faurtina Martin

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.

PRAYER Life

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

The 7:14 Prayer Ministry
Every Saturday Morning at "7:14" in the Sanctuary

MUSIC MINISTRY

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 Children's Choir, Brenda Benson, Director and Musician

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED!

Church news at your finger tips:

- **The deadline for newsletter articles is the 4th Sunday in each month. Articles may be submitted to any member of the Communications Team and we respectfully reserve the right to review and edit all copy.**
- **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.
- **On the "world wide web":** www.stmarktaylorssc.com

Dear Church Family:

Thank you! In the ten years that you have allowed me to serve as your Communications Coordinator, I have been moved to personally author a message to you only twice. Each time, was to share a story about some aspect of Christian service through the UMC. However, message is different. I simply want to say thank you. Thank you for allowing me to help spread the word about St. Mark United Methodist Church and our work to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Thank you for allowing me to help us become one of the most connected United Methodist Congregations in our district, particularly through our website and monthly newsletter. Since the launch of *The Messenger*, we've only missed one issue!

Finally, allow me to thank those who have worked with me throughout the years:

Newsletter Staff

Brenda Benson

Karen Culbertson

April Lewis

Joyce Lewis

Linette Sawyer

Cynthia Thompson

Announcers

Stacie Atkins
Mildred Ballenger
Betty Golden
Sharie Griffin
Joyce Lewis
Donna Mattison
Rosylin Weston
Lasonia Williams

Marquee

Karen Culbertson
Kymara Culbertson Ely
Royce Freeman
Levelle Marshall

Website

Kalea Culbertson
Karen Culbertson
Tanya Dillard
Gena Garrison
Kelly Garrison
Mark Garrison

Ministers of Sound and Light

Christian Bradley
Solomon Bradley
Kalea Culbertson
AJ Dendy
Scotty Freeman
John Garrison
April Lewis
Faurtina Martin
William Marshall
Calvin Slade
Sharie Smith
Christopher Thompson

Thank you for sharing your God-given talents with St. Mark.

Peace and Blessings.....Juana Slade

Flu Season is here!

Read these tips on how to take care of a sick person in your home and protect yourself and others who are not sick:

**Important
Information!
Please Read!**

- ❖ Keep the sick person away from others as much as possible, in a room separate from the common areas of the house, with the door closed.
- ❖ Remind the sick person to cover their coughs, and to **wash their hands with soap and water often.**
- ❖ Have only one adult in the home take care of the sick person. The sick person should have no visitors other than the designated caregiver.
- ❖ Have everyone in the home wash their hands often with soap and water. Children may need reminders or help keeping their hands clean and away from their eyes, nose and mouth.
- ❖ The caregiver should avoid being face to face with the sick person. If holding a small child who is sick, place their chin on your shoulder so they will not cough in your face.
- ❖ Keep surfaces (especially bed side tables, in the bathroom, and toys for children) clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant according to directions on the product label.
- ❖ Throw away tissues and other disposable items used by the sick person in the trash. Wash linens, such as sheets and towels, by using household laundry soap and tumble dry on hot setting. Avoid "hugging" laundry prior to washing.
- ❖ Eating utensils should be washed either in a dishwasher or by hand with soap and water.
- ❖ Ask your health care provider if the family members of the sick person should take antiviral medications.
- ❖ Monitor yourself and household members for flu symptoms and contact your health care provider if symptoms occur.



Posting Date: 10/5/09

Removal Date: 12/31/09