



The St. Mark Messenger

September 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*



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church

United Methodists often joke about the many organizational layers of church life, but, as members of other denominations have been heard to say: "If you want something done, get the Methodists to do it." Followers of the Wesleys (John and Charles) are indeed "methodical" about the ways they approach mission and ministry.

One reason United Methodists are able to accomplish great things is the church's emphasis on "connectionalism." It is common to hear United Methodist leaders speak of the denomination as "the connection." This concept has been central to Methodism from its beginning.

The United Methodist Church, which began as a movement and a loose network of local societies with a mission, has grown into one of the most carefully organized and largest denominations in the world. The United Methodist structure and organization began as a means of accomplishing the mission of spreading Scriptural Holiness over the land. John Wesley recognized the need for an organized system of communication and accountability and developed what he called the "connexion," which was an interlocking system of classes, societies, and annual conferences. (UM Member's Handbook, p 24)

No local church is the total body of Christ. Therefore, local United Methodist churches are bound together by a common mission and common governance that accomplish reaching out into the world. United Methodist churches and organizations join in mission with each other and with other denominations.

Connectionalism shows through the clergy appointment system, through the developing of mission and ministry that United Methodists do together, and through giving.

An example of connectionalism: Mission work around the world, whether it is a new university in Africa or bicycles for Cuban pastors, is the work of "the connection," as opposed to the work of a single congregation.

From [United Methodism 101](#), an online introduction to the UMC.

A WORD FROM PASTOR WATTS



THE ANNUAL PLANNING RETREAT

What a joyful gathering---planning for ministry for 2010!

OUR FOUNDATION---The Word of God

Read and reflect on these scriptures. What do they tell us about who we are called to be as the church?

1. Isaiah 58:6-12
2. Matthew 5:13
3. Matthew 5:14
4. Matthew 25:31-46
5. Mark 4:1-9
6. Luke 10:25-37
- 7 I. Corinthians 3:9-11
8. I Corinthians 12:12-27
9. 2 Corinthians 3:3
10. 2 Corinthians 5:20
11. I Peter 2:4-8

After gathering our responses, we evaluated our churches. Here is a sampling of a few of the statements to which we responded true or false. “We have designated members who spot first time visitors in each church service and greet them”. “We have investigated the needs of non-members in our community”... “We have found ways to apply the existing strengths of our church to intensify evangelistic outreach.”

Once we gathered all of the responses, we noted that the mission of the church is found in scripture: : Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28: 19-20)

Every church needs to be clear about its vision and its mission.

The mission of the church is to be and make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

According to George Barna, a mission statement is a general statement about who you wish to reach and what the church hopes to accomplish.

We continued with these questions:

What do we do well?

What needs work?

What do we need to create?

What do we need to let go of?

Afterwards, we reviewed learnings from scripture, each church discussed their answers to these questions and decided on three priorities. These will be shared with you at a later time.

With all of the above information, each church then sought to articulate a vision statement for their respective congregations..

A vision statement is specific, detailed, customized, distinctive and unique to a given church.

Vision ----- creates the future. It challenges, produces spiritual and emotional empowerment, builds on the past, increases commitment from the congregation and unifies God's people.*

Each church formed its own vision statement and then we considered ministries the two churches could join in together. In addition to this, both churches developed their own program of ministry and began identifying dates on the calendar for each event and projected budgets for each program event.

A reminder for all of us --- dream big dreams. God's vision for us will take more than a year or two to accomplish. In fact, it will outlive you. Our responsibility is to embrace the vision and act upon it. Believe that God wants it to happen through us.

* From The Power of Vision by George Barna

ALL MALE CHORUS SONGFEST

Mark your calendar for the St. Mark UMC All Male Chorus Songfest **Sunday, September 20, 4 pm, at St. Mark.** Come and enjoy the spiritually uplifting harmonies of are choirs from Bethel UMC, St. Luke UMC, St. Paul UMC, New Hope Baptist, Jubilee Baptist, Golden Grove Baptist and of course, The Royal Blue Notes.

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
Psalms 95:1 & 2

IT'S TIME TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND?

Got college on your mind? How will you pay for it? Where should you go: HBCU, public university, technical college, in-state, out-of-state? What do you need to do? Who should you talk with to help with your decision? Have you taken the necessary high school course? Have you successfully taken the proper entrance exams? How soon should you begin to plan? Get the answers to these and other important higher education questions at the annual

High School and College-bound Workshop

Saturday, September 12, 2009

9 am – 12pm

No Cost

A continental breakfast will be served

Featured topics for high schoolers: graduation requirements, college admissions course requirements, mandatory testing (PAST, SAT, PACT), college and university admissions, scholarship and grants applications

Featured topics for college/university bound students: spiritual growth, college and university admissions, survival tips for college living, stress management/peer pressure, dormitory living, United Methodist Colleges and much more!

So parents and students, this will be a morning of fun, information and fellowship. Sponsored by Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

(PSSST....It' not too late to contribute!!!)

STRENGHTENING MINISTRIES THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philippians 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.

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

MORE TO EXPLORE!

The Children's Museum of the Greenville began with one mother's wish to create a place where children of the upstate would be inspired to learn in an informal, hands-on environment. That mother's dream is now a reality! With three floors of indoor exhibits, this museum is one of the largest children's museums in the United States and the children of St. Mark will be there, up close and personal.

Thursday, September 17, 2009
Departure Time: 4:30 pm promptly from the Church Parking Lot
\$5 per child

This fun-filled afternoon will include the **museum tour** and **dinner at McDonald's!** Parents, for more detailed information contact Margaret Grayson (322-0595) or Beverly Byrd (884-6233). Let's go exploring!!!!

MUSIC NOTES

By Brenda Benson

THE VESSELS OF PRAISE

The Vessels of Praise begin each Sunday morning service cleansing and preparing our hearts and minds for the intake of God's presence, love promises and blessings through their soul-stirring and uplifting vocal selections.

The Praise and Worship Singers originated with former member Pallie Stoddard McKnight whose passion was praising God to the highest through songs. In 2007, Faurtina Martin crusaded and restored Pallie's vision which is now known as The Vessels of Praise which stands for "we are the vessels and we are here to give Him all the praise."

Their energy, presentation, song selections and spiritual uplift enriches all ages. And whether you are standing and clapping, sitting with hands raised or crying with praise and thankfulness of His love and mercy, The Vessels of Praise recruits us in unity of Praise.

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

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

WHEN PRAISES GO UP, BLESSINGS COME DOWN!

Read and "be a blessing!"

Dear Church Family,

The Cruell Family has truly been blessed! My husband Sammy will be placed on the lung transplant list at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. This is a gift from God; however, the program requires Sammy to live within 50 miles of the medical center. We have leased a 2 bedroom apartment, and on September 19, Sammy will temporarily relocate to Durham for approximately 6 months.

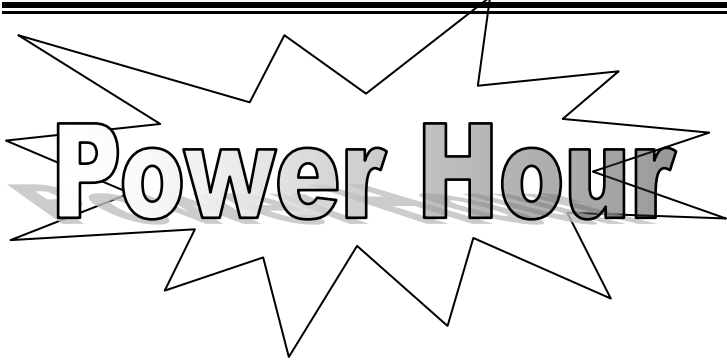
As much as I would like to be with him ever single day, that's impossible! We have family and work responsibilities here at home. Church family, we would welcome your assistance. If you are interest in supporting us as a part-time caregiver, please call. If you can help with household items, or non-perishable food items, please call. Or if you simple want to share a word of encouragement, please call.

Our faith is strong. Sammy's will is strong and we know God has not brought us to this place to leave us. The work areas of Family Ministries and Missions will be coordinating our support; so in my absence, please see Linda Pendergrass or Renee Murry.

St. Mark, we're all going through something, so let's pray, together! Come join the 7:14 Saturday Morning Prayer Group. Prayer is our time to converse with God and He wants to hear from you! Thanks for all you've done and all you will do....

Love and Blessings

Twana Cruell



“See the POWER HOUR & Back-to-School Fashion Show insert!”

Please join us every Sunday, 10 to 11 am for Power Hour. Weekly classes are available for children, youth, young adults, 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

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

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.

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!

September 6

Sunday

8 am	Praise & Worship	
8:15 am	Morning Worship	
10 am	Power Hour	Fellowship Hall
	Power Hour – "Men's Class"	Room 108
4 pm	United Methodist Women	Fellowship Hall

Monday

	LABOR DAY	
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

Tuesday

10 am	Companions in Christ	Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm	Committee on Lay Leadership meeting	St. Matthew UMC

Thursday

11 am	Senior's Bingo Brunch	Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm	Christian Education	Conference Room

Saturday

7:14 am	7:14 Intercessory Prayer	Sanctuary
9 am – 12 pm	College Workshop	Fellowship Hall
10:30 am	VOH Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall
5 pm	Inspirational Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall
6 pm	Usher's meeting	Fellowship Hall

September 13

Sunday

8 am	Praise & Worship	
8:15 am	Morning Worship	
10 am	Power Hour	Fellowship Hall
	Power Hour – "One Month to Live"	Conference Room

Monday

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

Tuesday

10 am	Companions in Christ	Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm	Council on Ministries	Conference Room

Wednesday

5 pm	Family Ministry Committee meeting	Room 104
5:30 p.m.	Membership Committee meeting	Conference Room
6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall

Thursday

6 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall
6:30 pm	SPPRC meeting	Conference Room
Saturday		
7:14 am	7:14 Intercessory Prayer	Sanctuary
12 pm	Vessels of Praise Rehearsal	Room 104
4 pm	Power Hour Kick-Off & Back-School Fashion Show	Fellowship Hall
5 pm	Inspirational Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall

September 20

Sunday

8 am	Praise & Worship	
8:15 am	Morning Worship	
10 am	Power Hour	Fellowship Hall
	Power Hour – “Men’s Class”	Conference Room
2 pm	Membership Class	Conference Room
4 pm	All Male Chorus Singing	Sanctuary

Monday

6 pm	Charge Finance Committee meeting	Room 104
6:30 pm	St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm	Charge Council on Ministry meeting	Conference Room

Tuesday

10 am	Companions in Christ	Fellowship Hall
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Wednesday

6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
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Thursday

6 pm	Children’s Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall
6 pm	Finance Committee Meeting	Conference Room

Saturday

7:14 am	7:14 Intercessory Prayer	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Children’s Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Hall
12 pm	Vessels of Praise	Rehearsal Hall

September 27

Sunday

8 am	Praise & Worship	
8:15 am	Morning Worship	
10 am	Power Hour	Fellowship Hall
	Power Hour: “One Month to Live”	Conference Room

Monday

6:30 pm	St. Mark Orchestra Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
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Tuesday

10 am	Companions in Christ	Fellowship Hall
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Wednesday

6:30 pm	Bible Study	Fellowship Hall
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Thursday

11:30 am	Website Deadline	
7 pm	Administrative Board Meeting	

Saturday

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

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

Sanctuary
Room 104
Rehearsal Hall
Room 104

AROUND THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY

"Keeping you in touch with key events and activities"

September 12	"Dining for Women Rummage Sale info@diningforwomen.org	McAlister Square
September 16	2009 Minority Women Business Owners Luncheon www.mediupstate.org	Westin Poinsett
September 18 – 20	Lincoln High School Reunion	
September 19	Sunday School Kick-off & Fashion Show	Fellowship Hall
September 20	All Male Chorus Gospelfest	Sanctuary
October 17	"The Pink Ghost Luncheon"	Sterling Community Center
October 19	BOO in the Zoo	Greenville Zoo
October 29 – 31	National Shalom Summit	Columbia, SC
November 29	Higher Education Sunday	
January 10	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.*

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

Kiersten Shumpert

US Marines

Marshall Grayson

Army National Guard Reserves

Willie P. Rowe

US Navy Reserves

Bryant Simmons

HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH

Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day

Join Tom Joyner and GHS for **"Take-a-Loved One to the Doctor Day" Saturday, September 19, 2009, at the Haywood Mall 10 am to 3 pm.** Get FREE information on topics ranging from heart disease and diabetes to breast and prostate cancer. Free prostate screenings also will be available on a first-come, first-served basis on the "Drive Against Prostate Cancer" bus outside the mall (near Macy's). Registration is free. For more information, call 1-877-GHS-INFO (447-4636).

"Life Insurance Awareness Month"

September is "Life Insurance Awareness Month." Now is a good time to consider your answers to a few important questions: "In the event of my death, is my family prepared?" "Has my policy kept pace with inflation?" "Do I need to consider a cancer policy?" Sometime during the month, contact your insurance agent to schedule a review of your coverage.

H1N1 (SWINE) INFLUENZA

What You Can Do to Stay Healthy ?

- **Stay informed.** Stay abreast of regular updates about the H1N1 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.
 - **If you get sick, STAY HOME!** 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.

“BARBER SHOP TALK” with Dr. Thaddeus Bell, M.D.

Closing the Gap in Health Care



Friday, September 18th from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at West End Community Center 404 Vardry Street, Greenville SC. This event will include valuable information focusing on health issues for the African American Man. There is no fee to attend, but registration is required. **DINNER WILL BE SERVED.** To register, call 1-877-447-4636 or go to ghs.org/events. Please register to attend as well as inform other men in your church, community and workplace. This event is sponsored by Greenville Hospital System University, the Greenville Chapter of Us TOO International, the American Cancer Society, and WJMJ radio. For additional Information Call: Melinda Hudson 864-455-7895 or Johnny Payne 864-616-0923



Free Screenings Drive Out Prostate Cancer!

Every five minutes, two men are diagnosed with prostate cancer. Risk for developing this disease increases significantly after age 50 for white men and after age 40 for African Americans. Fortunately for all men, that's not the ballgame: Prostate cancer can be cured if caught early.

Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center and our partners invite you to step up to the plate and schedule a free prostate screening at one of these locations:

Tuesday, September 15 • 6:30-8:30 p.m.
North Greenville Hospital

Saturday, September 19 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Haywood Mall

This screening is part of Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day. Screenings will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis on the Drive Against Prostate Cancer bus located outside the mall near Macy's.

Thursday, September 24 • 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Hillcrest Memorial Hospital

Tuesday, September 29 • 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Greer Memorial Hospital

For more information or to schedule a screening, call 1-877-GHS-INFO (447-4636) or go to ghs.org/events. With prevention and early detection, we can make prostate cancer an easy out.



WORSHIP SUPPORT-AT-A-GLANCE

Worship Support

Sunday, September 6

Greeters

Betty Watson

Joyce Lewis

Announcer

Juana Slade

AV Technicians

William Marshall

Faurtina Martin

Calvin Slade

Sharie Smith

Acolytes

Jacob Edwards

Jordan Patrick

Sunday, September 13

Greeters

Twana Cruell

Announcer

Stacey Atkins

AV Technicians

William Marshall

Faurtina Martin

Calvin Slade

Sharie Smith

Acolytes

Alexis Robertson

Brittany Williams

Sunday, September 20

Greeters

Roger & Penny

Henderson

Announcer

Lasonia Williams

AV Technicians

William Marshall

Faurtina Martin

Calvin Slade

Sharie Smith

Acolytes

Erin Dillard

Brooklyn Shumate

Sunday, September 27

Greeters

Peggy Munroe

Tanya Dillard

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 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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

9/1 Sedequa Martin
9/1 Charlotte Stutz
9/2 Marquis Leamon
9/2 Charlene Shumpert
9/3 Scott Montjoy
9/5 Rufus McMahan
9/6 Royce Freeman
9/6 Ronisha Mayes
9/9 Kyah Mason
9/10 Bobby N. Johnson
9/10 Corsetta Morris
9/11 Philip Marshall, Sr.
9/12 Tim Murry
9/13 Steve Cheek
9/14 Bridget Calhoun
9/14 Brian Williams, II
9/15 Betty Golden
9/19 Bryan Talley
9/21 Ronnie Mack Culbertson, Jr.
9/24 Beverly Rowe
9/24 Queena Jones
9/25 Frank Garrison
9/25 Tracy Jenkins
9/27 Patricia Foster
9/28 Ashton Byrd
9/29 Jeffery Ballenger
9/30 Tiquan Lyles

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9/1 Mildred & Jeff Ballenger
9/3 Redonia & James Thomas
9/6 Charlotte & Michael Stutz
9/14 Levelle & William Marshall
9/17 Lucy & Lewis Watson
9/22 Toshia & Shawn Coulter
9/22 Patricia & Jerry Foster
9/22 Estella & Russell Rickenbacker
9/26 Diane & Waymon Talley, Jr.



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