



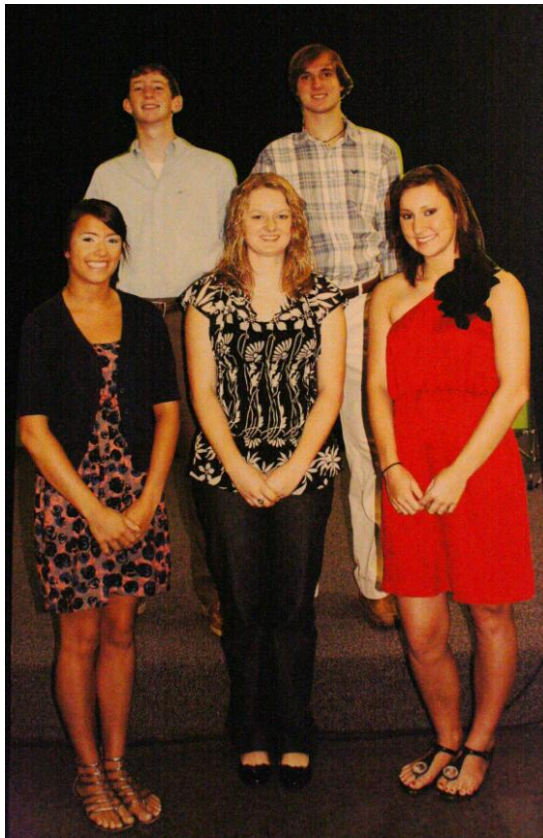
Saint Mark's United Methodist Church

The Beacon

No. 50

Shining Christ's light in the community

May 27, 2011



These graduating high school and college seniors attended the brunch in their honor Sunday, May 15, in the Youth Building. They are Cooper Little, Elliot Pettus, Mary Elizabeth Peacock, Megan Wheat and Courtney Ross.

Saint Mark's Northwest Rankin high school seniors and their parents plus students' college plans:

Camille Dumas

daughter of Russ and Cindy Dumas
Mississippi State University

Kelly Jones

daughter of Amy Jones
Holmes Community College

Cooper Little

son of Brad and Beth Little
MSU School of Forestry

Olivia McCain

daughter of Mike and DeAnn McCain
MSU Biomedical Engineering

Emily Ousterhout

daughter of Keith and Lisa Ousterhout
MSU Biochemistry

Mary Elizabeth Peacock

daughter of Ken and Lisa Peacock
Mississippi State University

Elliott Pettus

son of Arlene Pettus
son of Gary Pettus
Hinds Community College

Courtney Ross

daughter of Greg and Becky Ross
University of Alabama
Biology-Pre-Med

Hallie Veeder

daughter of Tom and Deb Veeder
Hinds Community College

Morgan Weems

son of Bill and Lanelle Weems
Mississippi School for
Mathematics and Science
MSU Electrical Engineering

2011 College Graduates

Justin Cox, son of Chet and Beth Cox, received an Associate Nursing Degree from Hinds Community College. He is now training Crew-chiefs and medics at Hawkins field. In November he will be deployed overseas on an Army Medivac helicopter. After returning he plans to be a nurse in an ER or trauma unit.

Ashley McCain, daughter of Mike and DeAnn McCain, received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology (concentration: Health Fitness Studies) from Mississippi State. She was active in Phi Mu Sorority, Sigma Alpha Lunda, Exercise Honorary Society, Alpha Epsilon Delta, Future Educators of America, College Republicans and the Student Association. She will attend Cardiac and Vascular Sonography School.

Megan Wheat, daughter of John Wheat and the late Colleen Wheat, has graduated from Mississippi State with a Bachelor's of the Arts in History degree with a minor in German. She was in Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society and the "Famous" Maroon Marching Band and Symphonic Band. She was inducted into the Society of Scholars, graduated summa cum laude and will attend Baylor University in Waco, TX, for a Master's degree in Museum Studies.

Casey Powell, son of Curt and Carrie Powell, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and will be an ensign in the U.S. Navy.



Monday, May 30, 2011

Go M.A.D. this Summer!

by Jeanne Chapman

There is a fantastic opportunity for you to Go M.A.D. this summer. That's right, for one week you can Make A Difference in the lives of students and the Jackson community by being a leader at MissionFest. Here's the deal:

I need additional leaders for Mission Fest and am reaching out to you adults. The dates are Sunday, June 5 - Thursday, June 9, and it will be held at Millsaps College. At a minimum I need one additional male and female leader, but really could use two of each for a better ratio.

Requirements: Love God,

Love teenagers,

Heart of Service and Available!

Your registration will be paid from budget funds. Please pray over this opportunity and then contact me at your earliest convenience if you are interested! We must have leaders to make this trip possible!

Blessings, Jeanne Chapman, Saint Mark's Youth Director: 601-992-9554



Ken Peacock placed the Coins for Christ container on the altar Sunday, May 15, kick off day for the congregation to collect and save their coins and bring them to church. It's part of our Extravagant Hospitality plan.

Here are our
Relay for Life totals:

Saint Mark's offering - \$5,281

Luminaria/Torches - \$1,595

Relay totals as of May 12 - \$70,000

Thanks to everyone who participated
and/or contributed.

Sharon Clark - Saint Mark's
Team Captain

Ellen Jackson - Luminaria/Torches

Deb Veeder - Logistics Chairman

*Ladies Summer Bible
Study starts June 7*

A summer ladies Bible Study will begin Tuesday, June 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the third and fourth grade Sunday School classroom. The study will be on Kay Arthur's Covenant book.

Those attending should pick up their own book at Lifeway and do the first lesson prior to June 7.

For more information call Denise Parker at 601-951-0836 or e-mail her at Parkerdbp@aol.com

In support of our youth going to MissionFest, we would like for our youth to have prayer partners. Maybe you once had youth blessed by church retreats and mission experiences and would like to be an encouragement to another youth.

We will give you a name of a youth to pray for or send a card to and let them know you are praying for them.

We need 30 people to fulfill this prayer opportunity.

Call Sandra 601-992-2131 or

e-mail her at sandra@saintmarksum.org

We have our own t-shirts

Saint Mark's Children's Ministry has designed a t-shirt for our children and adults. We would like to encourage you to purchase one of these shirts for our outings and just to wear around our community. Order forms may be picked up in the church office at any time. The cost is \$10.00.

Honduras Mission Trip is June 16-23, 2011

We can help build a home by buying a \$30 block
(237 are needed)

and for \$40 you can feed a family for a month.

We need 30 food bags in the town of Las Lomitas where our group will go this year.

On June 15 the entire group will be here for consecration and final instructions.

This is the 50th issue of the Beacon which has been the project of the Women With Faith class for the past two years.

Volunteers tab and label on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month.



Ellen Jackson, Pam Jeffcoat, Bonnie Matthews, Jerry Klomparens, Donna Bishop, Janice Larson and Patty Campbell volunteered on May 12. Helpers on other days include Anne Reed, Carolyn Ponder, Cynthia Morgan, Linda Bane, Brenda Roberts, and Jane Dunaway. June Miracle edits, prints and folds the 675 copies that are mailed to our Saint Mark's church families. Cost is about \$120.00 per mailing.

Wednesday night activities have come to an end - with the exception of Contemporary practice at 6:00 p.m. and Sanctuary Choir at 7:00.

Supper and activities will begin again sometime in August....watch for more information.



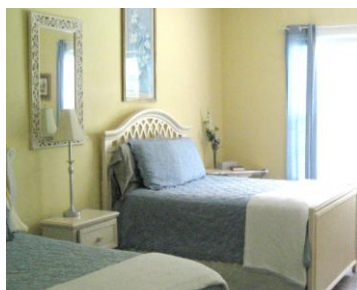
Hope House of Hospitality was the Second Saturday project for the first time. Saint Mark's members were given a tour of the Northside Drive facility then worked at projects suggested by the staff. With Director Wanda Pitts are June and Phil Miracle, Leslie McGinnis, Anne Reed and Glynnna Garrott. Since 1985 Hope House has provided free weekday housing for cancer patients undergoing treatment at Jackson hospitals. A trunk load of fresh fruit, staples and paper products were furnished this day by Saint Mark's Abigail Circle. Sunday School classes and circles may contribute by calling Wanda Pitts at Hope House. Photo by Mia Martin



Wanda and Mia are with Alton Lewis, architect of Hope House and a member of the board of directors. He cleaned gutters and replaced outside lights the day we Saint Mark's people worked.



Glynnna vacuumed all the carpets in the residents' area. Also helping that day was Kathy Lewis. Hope House is like an adult Ronald McDonald House and is a non-profit group that works with Christ UMC and other churches to provide comfortable housing for out-of-town cancer patients requiring treatment at our Jackson hospitals.



Patients eat in a large, cheerful dining room with a kitchen furnished by Viking, stay in beautiful rooms furnished by various church groups, enjoy a recreation room and screened in porch overlooking a large yard. "Rules include don't be depressed, come out of your room and eat," says Mia Martin, full time assistant.



One of Phil's jobs was blowing and sweeping sidewalks.



Among Anne's, June's and Leslie's jobs were weeding the gardens and watering plants. Photo by Alton Lewis.



Summer activities will be fun for our children

- May 29 - Wet & Wild for K5-5th Graders.** Waterslides, food and fellowship from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Wear swim suits and sun screen. No cost but sign up in the church office.
- June 1 - Wacky Wednesdays for K5-5th Graders.** Activities are planned each Wednesday morning in June from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the CLC. There will be games, activities and crafts.
- June 9 - Grand Paradise Water Park for K5-5th Graders.** Fun in the sun. Cost is \$10 per child and will include lunch and a snack. Space is limited, sign up is in the church office. Adult volunteers needed and no cost to them.
- Monday afternoons in June and July - Millcreek Pool** Monday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 p.m. A lifeguard will be on duty. Adult volunteers are needed. No cost, but sign up is required in the church office.
- June 19-23 - Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:30 p.m.** Neighborhood blitz will be Sunday, June 5, at noon.
- July 14 - Jellystone Park -** Spend the day in Pelahatchie, leaving church at 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$10.00 for admission, lunch, and snack. Volunteers are needed, let Amie Taylor know if you can help. Sign up is a must.

Everyone had a ball (or a hula hoop) at Spring Fling on



Kevin and Amie Taylor
Amie is Director of Age-Level & Family Ministries



Youth played the steal the bacon with Rev. Rob.



Left: Dana Cline, Above, Sandra Thomas enjoyed their hula hooping. There was a vote that said Sandra was "Queen of the Hula Hoop."



Left: Carter Thompson works and plays with the youth. **Right: Jacob Thomas and Evan Ratcliffe** try to keep their hula hoops spinning.



There were smiles and laughter everywhere.



Everyone gave it a try and Youth Director, Jeanne Chapman, got it mastered....



...and so did our pastor, Rev. Rob Gill.

Children gathered for the balloon toss.

In the background is one of the inflatables that our preschoolers enjoyed.



Wednesday, May 11 at Pelahatchie Shore Park



Fred Garrott grilled at his hot dog stand.



Bruster's brought their ice cream and it was a sweet treat!



Linda Thomas, Robin Sessums, and Frances Upchurch enjoyed just sitting and talking.



Abby Murphey



Neely Moak



Caroline Embry



Leslie McGinnis



James Brown



Ann Clayton Cain
Everyone of all ages had a great time at the Spring Fling.



Brenna Little and Tanner Smith and a friend.



Lauren Noe and Marganie Dumas



Dixie Miller and Ben Curry

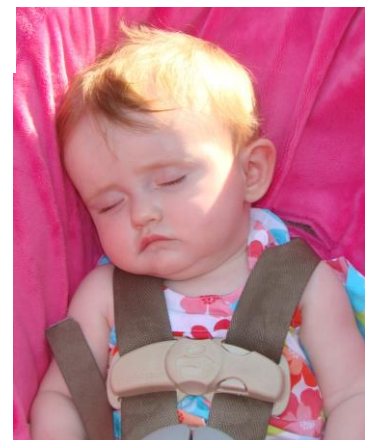


Russ Dumas
Elizabeth Taylor



Barrett Brown, Mason Brown, Conner Bryan and Will Broocks took a break from games and enjoyed their hot dogs and soft drinks.

"It was a lot of fun but I'm tired and I want to go sleep."-- Kate Rivers Keeton



**Saint Mark's
Youth Group
May 2011**



Row 1: Taylor Morgan, Jordan Smith, Graham Gill, Charlie Ladd, Bailey Bracken, Olivia Ladd, Shelby Stanard, Youth Director Jeanne Chapman, Jordan Barlow, Kelli McBeth, Elizabeth White, Jewel Hinton, Tinsley Taylor, Brenna Little. **Row 2:** Paige Hollingsworth, Allie Achord, Hailey Sinyard, Libby Dove, Taylor Butts, Jordan Colbert, Sarah-Kelly McGinnis, Michelle Hill, Grace Stringer, Emily Ursine, Savannah Bizzell, Avery Bracken. **Row 3:** Sam McDevitt, Jacob Thomas, Mary-Haden Hogue, Michelle Dove, Tanner Smith, Drake Bolland, Zac Zachow, Jacob Schmitz, Elizabeth Taylor, Erin McDevitt, Bailey Harper, Katherine Ursine.

Photo by Gigi Sinvard

Back row: Sam Achord, Christopher Lewis, Kyle Hart, Alex Harvey, Taylor Bolland, Cooper Little, Austin Puckett, Ben Thomas.

Having a good time at the May 7 Garage Sale were Tanner Smith and McKenzie Carney. Far right: Paige Hollingsworth, Sarah-Kelly McGinnis, Allie Achord and Olivia Ladd. Many items were contributed and as a result, the youth earned \$2,700 which will be used for summer camps and mission trips. Thanks to all who participated and contributed.



Youth schedule offers variety of opportunities

Youth Group will NOT meet Sunday, May 29, because of the Memorial Day holiday weekend and will NOT meet the next week because of MissionFest.

Sunday Night Youth Group - On the following dates in June, all students will meet from 6:00-8:30 p.m. for dinner, Bible study and fellowship. Bible studies are based on scenes from the movie "Soul Surfer." They'll have fellowship right after Bible study. The schedule for June is below:

- June 5 - No meeting because of MissionFest
- June 12 - Lesson: "Perspective" - Fellowship: Frisbee Golf
- June 19 - VBS (no regular youth group)
- June 26 - Lesson: "Priorities" - Fellowship: Bingo with cool prizes

SUMMER TRIPS

June 5-9 - Millsaps College, MissionFest. Leave from church at 2:00 p.m.

June 28-29 - M.S. Great Escape Trip (Geysers Falls Water Park). Sign up by June 15.

July 10-17 - Student Life at the Beach Camp, Daytona Beach, FL. Cost: \$325.

For High School youth only. Worship Leader: Chris Tomlin Speaker: Louie Giglio \$60 non-refundable deposit due NOW. Deadline to register is June 15.

July 27-31 - Student Life Camp, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA. Cost: \$250. \$60 non-refundable deposit due NOW.

For Middle School youth only. Deadline to register is June 15.



MS Braves baseball game.
Wednesday, June 1 - Middle School.
Meet at church at 5:15 p.m. Cost \$10.00 for ticket, hot dog, chips, drink. Sign up by May 29.

Monday, June 27 - High School.
Meet at church at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.00 for ticket, hot dog, and 16-oz soft drink. Sign up by June 19.

Youth summer brochures are available in the church office and Youth Building.



Thirty-seven Saint Mark's members and friends, led by Rev. Sandra Thomas, toured the picturesque Hindu Temple located just off Old Fannin Road on Thursday, May 5. Below is a photo of just a part of the huge temple.



The Trendsetters found the tour very interesting. Above are Anita Womack, Jane Becker, and Clarene Reynolds listening to the priest guide. In the front area is the prayer area with all the gods or idols which could not be photographed. They also had to remove their shoes and place them in a special cabinet. In the back was an area for education, singing and fellowship. The sign at the left gave strict instructions to the people touring the temple.

(Story and photos by Barbara Jackson.)

Hear about the comparison of Hinduism and Christianity

The summer Trendsetter potluck luncheon will be Wednesday, July 20, in the CLC. Guest speaker will be Lola Williamson, Professor of Religion at Millsaps College. She will discuss the Hindu religion and help us understand the meaning behind the symbols the Trendsetters saw when they went to the temple on May 5. Even if you didn't go on the trip, it would be good to hear about the comparison of Hinduism with Christianity. A \$2.00 donation will be appreciated for speaker's honorarium. Look at website, flyer and next "Beacon" for events in June.

The Trendsetters will attend a Mississippi Braves game on July 15.

Saint Mark's United Methodist Church
400 Grant's Ferry Road
Brandon, MS
Phone: 601-992-2131 Parsonage: 601-919-9770
Website: www.saintmarksum.org to see the Beacon in color

Dated Material
May 27, 2011

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CHURCH STAFF

Rob Gill, Senior Pastor.....x103
Keith Keeton, Teaching Pastor.....x105
Sandra Thomas, Minister of Worship & Music...x104
Amie Cain Taylor, Dir. Age-Level/Family Ministries...x109
Jeanne Chapman, Youth Director.....992-9554
Delores Seward, Administrative Assistant.....x101
Martha Toombs, Business Office.....x106
Preschool Office.....x110
Darlene Baker.....Pianist
Jason Boyd.....Organist

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Check the church website or Sunday bulletin for times of events and further information. See the bulletin for all on the caring list. Worship is each Sunday at 8:20, 10:45 and 11:00 a.m.; Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m.

Mississippi Conference United Methodist Women
Women's Luncheon At Annual Conference

"Reconciliation as Mission"
2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (NRSV)

Keynote Speaker: Dana L. Robert, Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission, Boston University School of Theology
Author: "Joy to the World" (UMW Mission Study for 2010-2012)
Saturday, June 11, 2011 - 12:30 - 2:00 PM (time is tentative)
Jackson Convention Center, Jackson MS
Send registration fee of \$20.00
Cindy Mason, 100 Overlook Drive, Brandon MS 39042
(Checks should be made out to MS Conference UMW)
NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

Send this portion to register:
 Name: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail _____
 Church/District: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____



*We extend
 our sympathy
 to*



*Jean Lancaster at the death of her mother,
 Burdett Patterson, May 16, in
 Kilmichael, MS*

*Curt Powell at the death of his brother,
 Danny Powell, May 17, in Atlanta, GA.*

HOSPITALIZATION OR REHAB

Steve Sturdivant Baptist
 Seth Johnston UMC
 Rick Dutton UAB

Henry Laird Brandon Court

Congratulations

To Chris and Johanna Williams upon the birth of their daughter, Lyla Kate, born May 12.

*To Chris and Jessica Milone, upon the birth of their son, James Noah, born May 17.
 Paternal grandparents are Ron and Pam Milone.*

*To Rusty and Nan Moak upon the birth of their son, Everett Emerson, born May 23.
 He's welcomed by big sister, Neely.
 Maternal grandmother is June Rogers.*

The June flower calendar has openings. Cost can be divided between two people to make it more economical.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR APRIL

TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$1,347,595.00
AMOUNT RECEIVED YTD	415,310.00
AMOUNT EXPENDED YTD	365,597.00
OFFERING FOR APRIL	124,174.00
GIVEN FOR DEBT REDUCTION	1,523.00
DEBT REDUCTION SINCE 1/102	150,818.00