

# August



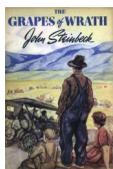
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>  Prayer Team at 5pm Bible Study at 6pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Communion 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  UMM at 6pm	<b>8</b> Bible Study at 6pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Game Night: 6pm 
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Education Team Meeting 6pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Book Club at 5pm Bible Study at 6pm	<b>16</b> UMW at 10am 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> SPRC 12Noon	<b>20</b> Pre-K Open House	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Bible Study at 6pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Newsletter Items Due! 	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>  Fellowship Meal 12Noon	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Scout New Member Orientation 6:30pm	<b>29</b> Bible Study 6pm	<b>30</b>  Soup Bowl 11-1pm	<b>31</b> Soup Bowl 11-1pm	

1. Erskine Smith  
 4. Jack Wurst  
 6. Bill Garland  
 9. John Smythe  
 11. Dee Gorey  
 17. Lynn Toland  
 18. Cheryl Smith  
 19. Brian Walker  
 22. Bill & Toni Garland  
 Richard & Judy Smith  
 24. Sarah Fitzgerald, Tim Kendrick  
 27. Michael Sheffield  
 29. Dee Rochester



Book Club  
will meet  
Wednesday,

August 15 at 5:00 to discuss the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. We invite new members or visitors to join us for an hour of conversation and fellowship!



**Trivia Answer:** Miriam found in Ex. 15:20

### The Pastor Stole Our Spoon!!

A pastor had dinner at the home of a couple in his church. After he left, the wife said to the husband, "I think he stole our spoon!" This bothered her for a whole year.



A year later the couple had the pastor for dinner again. Unable to resist, the wife asked, "Did you steal our spoon last year?" The pastor replied, 'No, I put it inside your Bible.'

The UMW will be hosting a fundraising Soup/Salad Luncheon on Sunday September 16th immediately following the 11am worship. Be on the lookout for more information the closer we get to the event!



The UMW is doing a fund raiser for the Center of Concern for Hygiene Items, Infant Care Items and Household Items. Lists will be distributed **this Sunday** at our second service for items that are in needed. A list will also be on the bulletin board. A collection box will be available outside the church office to put your donations. The fundraiser will continue into October when we will donate the items collected.



He emphasized that Methodist small groups focused on transformation and not just information. He also taught about Wesley's definition of Christian Conferencing. Dr. Watson shared that Christian Conferencing is not just polite conversation about controversial issues, but instead it is the distinctive way Methodist got together to talk about their experiences of God and growing in love of God and neighbor." He encouraged us as Christians to talk about what God's grace has done for us and what he is doing in our lives. Jesus healed the sick and then told them not to tell anybody knowing that they would tell the next person they saw. Dr. Watson concluded that one key of Methodist life is "we need each other."

Bishop Sharma Lewis spoke at our Laity lunch and encouraged us to become energized and "Stir it Up". To not become stale in our Christian walk but get involved and "Stir things up" for Christ.

The Conference closed 7 churches this past year. Four Mile in our district was closed. It was east of Hwy 21 before you get to Jacksonville.

Executive Director of New Church Development Rev. Dr. Richard Hunter and his team shared stories from new congregations and ministries in North Alabama. North Alabama has started 60 new faith communities in 2017, more than any other annual conference in the United States. This includes Celebrate Recovery, Fresh Expressions, Satellites, new worship services, new faith communities and restarts. They also reported there have been 44 [new Celebrate Recoveries](#) started in North Alabama churches in the last three years.

The North Alabama Conference remembered those clergy and spouses of clergy that had passed away this past year. The Conference recognized 22 clergy that had retired.

The conference also recognized four newly ordained elders, three newly ordained deacons, two new associate members, three provisional elders, one provisional deacon, 17 newly licensed local pastors and 19 certified candidates for ministry.

After a lunch break, we gathered for Closing Worship and the Sending Forth. Bishop Sharma Lewis preached the sending forth sermon. She encouraged North Alabama congregations to "take Jesus to the streets." The Conference answered with the hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love."

Not only are we proud to represent St. Mark at conference but are encouraged that St. Mark continues to pay in full all our financial assessment obligations. Thank you once again for allowing us to represent St Mark at the Annual Conference. It is truly a spiritually uplifting experience.

Wavene & Eanix Poole. Lay Member and Alternate Member to Annual Conference.

**North Alabama United Methodist Annual Conference [June 3-5, 2018](#) Von Braun Conference Center, Huntsville, AL**

Eanix and I had the pleasure of representing St. Mark at the North Alabama Annual conference June 3-5 in Huntsville. The conference was well attended with about 1130 people registering.

The meeting was chaired by Bishop Debbie Wallace Padgett. The theme of the Conference was "Singing God's Song in Harmony. The focus was on Ethnic Ministries which took center stage as musical groups from various congregations and ethnic backgrounds sang. The worship included music in Cherokee, Korean, Spanish and in the African-American tradition. The singing gave new meaning to "Lay our Burdens Down" and "I'll Fly Away".

Rev. Dr. Clinton Hubbard, Executive Director of Ethnic Ministries highlighted the various Ethnic Ministries teams and the work they have done to develop spiritual leaders.

The afternoon speaker was Bishop Sharma Lewis from the Richmond Virginia episcopal area. Her message was "Clothed in Love" which is based on Colossians 3:12-14.

As an African American, Dr. Lewis' sermon was quite energized. She posed the question numerous times "North Alabama, what clothes are you wearing?" She referred to scripture and asked us if we were clothed in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, were we bearing a grievance against someone or if we forgave others as the Lord forgave us. "Her Prayer was that each of us are wrapped in the shawl of love." How are we dressed here at St. Mark? Are we wrapped in the shawl of Love?

Rev. Woody Woodin, Director of the Upper Sand Mountain Parish, offered the blessing over dinner and noted before his prayer that the Upper Sand Mountain Parish started as an idea discussed over a meal almost 50 years ago. Woody got his early Christian start here at St. Mark.

Our Laity speaker for the evening was Dr. Rica McRoy who is an optometrist. She was born in India and came from a Hindu background. She shared her testimony of falling in love with Jesus when she was in her late twenties and had reach bottom where her marriage was hanging on by a thread. She shared her passion of "helping people of every nation, tongue and tribe see" the splendor of Jesus and the hope of their calling in him.

Dr. Kevin Watson, Assistant Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, led our teaching sessions. His focus was on 1 Corinthians 1:18 – chapter 2:10. He spoke of the importance of small groups in the Methodist movement noting that in John Wesley's day, "Methodists was those who met together in small groups weekly and talked about how their soul prospered." cont.....

**A Word From The Faith Class**

Matthew 18:8-9 speaks of cutting off any part of your body that causes you to sin (this includes hands, feet, eyes, etc.). Imagine the number of people who would be headed for the Pearly Gates without hands, feet, eyes, or other body parts if we followed these words in a literal manner.

In the same manner, certain religious leaders wanted the mosaic law (and later the oral law), to be obeyed in a strict, burdensome, and literal manner.

Now the mosaic law and the oral law served a purpose, as did the words of Matthew, but it seems to be the consensus of Bible commentators that each of us should be looking at the intent of God's laws and not solely focusing on man's literal interpretation of God's laws.

We must remove "Stumbling Blocks" that cause us to sin, not body parts. These stumbling blocks are anything that hinders spiritual growth, affects our relationship with each other and Jesus, and in general helps cause our sin. Stumbling blocks are addressed in the following verses: Lev. 19:14, Ezek. 7:19, Jer. 6:21, Jsa. 8:14, Rom. 14:13, 1 Cor. 8:9, Rom. 9:32-33, 1 Cor. 1:23, 1 Peter 2:8.

Trivia Question: This woman was a prophetess and the sister of Aaron. Who is she?

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«AddressBlock»

August, 2018

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
 Communion is observed the first Sunday of each month.  
 Early Service: 9:00 am  
 Sunday School: 9:45 am  
 Worship Service: 11:00 am

**CHOIR:** The St. Mark choir is open to all.  
 Practice is Sundays at 4:00. Tony Wood-Music Director  
*St. Mark has assistive listening devices available during  
 worship service for those with special needs.*

**Wednesday's Activities**  
 10 a.m.: Bible Study will resume after Labor Day

5p.m.: Book Club on the 15th

6p.m.: Evening Bible Study with Richard Hodges

**Sunday Morning  
 Bible Study Classes  
 9:45-10:45**



Adult Classes	Teacher	Room
Agape		A
Faith	Richard Smith	201
Wesley		101
Youth Classes	Teacher	Room
Junior High	Len Motz	205
"All in One"	Mandi Lashley	209
Nursery	Wendy Walker	



# St. Mark United Methodist Church Newsletter

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**“Growing in Christ, Reaching others!”**

Summer has been too exciting. Looking at changes, dealing with loss, celebrating the new and grieving those moving to new places. Exciting can be a good thing or a bad thing depending on how it affects us and our loved ones.

I’m looking forward to my first extended vacation with Liz in many, many years as I also celebrate my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday but I want to let our staff and congregation know how much I appreciate you before we go. It’s nice to have a time apart for renewal and perspective but that doesn’t mean I won’t miss being here.

I hope you come to Church while I’m gone. Pray for worship leaders. Compliment them. Build them up... ..or the next time I go somewhere I will ask YOU to lead worship!!!

Let’s get ready for Fall, Winter and Spring when we will once again welcome new families into our Church facilities. Take time, visit the Pre-school families, the Scouting leaders, kids and their families. You can be an evangelist just by coming to Church and meeting these new people.

The Lord bless us and keep us... Amen.