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The St Marker

“Bible Fed and Spirit Led”

A Family and Community Church Here to Serve For Kingdom Excellence

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Vision
 Transform Our Lives
 Revitalize Our Faith
 Influence Our Community

Inside This Issue:

Women’s Community
 Event.....1
 UMM Good Friday Chicken
 and Fish Fry.....1
 Resurrection Sunday.....2
 COSROW Retreat.....2
 UMW Legacy Cruise..... 3
 Mother’s Day.....3
 BRGE 74th Anniversary.....3
 St Rest Memorial Day.....3
 Biz Kids Award.....3
 Endless Boundaries Dance
 Recital.....4
 Father’s Day.....4
 Community Pantry Day...4



Let me hurry up and
 get married cause
 I’m not trying to be
 in nobodies obituary
 as a
 “special friend”

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Women’s Community Event - April 6, “SPIRIT Open, EYES Open, HEART Open”

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me” *Psalm 51: 10 NIV*

On April 6, a sunny spring day, Friends and Friends sponsored the 2019 Women’s Community Event chaired by Ms. Pat Hamilton and Ms. Geraldine Bates. Guests were greeted at the door with such a warm welcome that let you know you were going to enjoy the *Afternoon Delight*. The event started with a fellowship of lunch, fun games and presentations. The first presentation included a reading of a poem on addiction. This was followed by talks on healthy eating and exercise led by the Healthy Coalition of St. Mark. After enjoying the physical food, the ladies moved to the sanctuary to receive spiritual food. The program opened with the reading of Psalm 51:9-11, prayer and musical selections by The Bruton Sisters of Washington, DC. The speaker of the afternoon, the Reverend Angela Nelson, Associate Minister of Central Baptist Church – Baltimore, spoke on the need for a fresh start. The event was indeed delightful.

by Yvonne Pelham



Good Friday Chicken & Fish Fry - April 19

It was a cool and rainy day. The sun never came out, but the people did. They came in droves with hearty appetites for the chicken and fish dinners prepared by the United Methodist Men (UMM). At times the lines were long. It’s no secret that St Mark has the flavor you want when it comes to fried chicken and fish and folk know you better get there early. As soon as you pulled into the parking lot you could smell the aroma in the air. Enough to let you know that there was something good cooking on the inside.

While some folk chose carry-out, others chose to dine in. It was a relaxing atmosphere in which to Chat & Chew. The staff of men and ladies were busy as bees as they each manned their assigned stations. They worked diligently to get orders out in a timely manner. In addition to walk-ins there were a number of pre-ordered dinners that were delivered to Scholastic Books, PNC Bank, Kevin’s Barbershop, Odenton Florist, National Security Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Gone but not forgotten was past member Darvin Hebron. To honor his memory a picture of him was on display in the fellowship hall. As people paused to view his picture memories were shared.

Though the time was from 11am to 6pm, unfortunately before the end of day the fish ran out. All that was left was the aroma. Needless to say the UMM had another successful year.



Resurrection Sunday Cantata - April 21



It was a beautiful, bright and sunny day outside and a glorious day inside the sanctuary of St Mark as worshippers gathered to celebrate Resurrection Sunday. The audience was witness to a very wonderful Cantata that held their attention from beginning to end.

"A Mother's Love at Calvary" was written by our very talented Director of Music, Regi McClurkin. He wrote the narratives and arranged the musical scores, some of which were his very own compositions. He's a man of many talents. The choir started the program off with a very rousing rendition of Emmanuel. The ladies looked angelic dressed in white, and the men looked very regal dressed in black and white.



"A Mother's Love at Calvary" was based on the life, crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as written in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, as being witnessed by his mother Mary. Narrator John Hawkins, with his booming voice was very descriptive as he guided us step by step. His delivery of every word made us see through his eyes all that was taking place. The very energetic (as always), First Lady Rochelle Watson portrayed Mary. Through her oration and physical presentation (facial expressions included) we could visualize Mary's every move and feel her pain as she openly wept for Jesus. Rochelle and John held the audience captive with their performance. The choir sang perfectly chosen songs during the narration. The lyrics of each song aided in describing each scene.

Cindy Sewell gave a strong solo dance performance to "All to Thee," sang by Darlene Morrison. Cindy was dressed in a purple gown with a silver cross so vividly displayed each time she stretched out her arms.

In Rev. Watson's sermon he spoke of God's plan for us. He reminded us that we didn't choose God, God chose us. He also gave us food for thought when he stated, "What you believe impacts how you act." It was a great resurrection Sunday.

by H.E. Brown

COSROW Retreat , April 26 – 29



The hotel lobby of the Hilton Doubletree Hotel, Lancaster, PA was flooded with a sea of peach and shades of orange as approximately 130 participants attended the 19th annual Women's Spiritual Retreat. Rev. Joye Hill, the worship leader, kicked off the weekend with the theme "God's Healing Power Can Break Every Chain". The keynote speaker for the opening session Friday evening was First Lady Sharon Webster of Rooted Fellowship Church- Edgewood, MD. She spoke of how bondage is a choice and freedom comes in the form of Jesus Christ when you cry out and God will answer. The evening culminated with communion.



Saturday morning after a good night's rest and a filling breakfast, the session began with a soul stirring rendition by God's Glory of "My soul says yes". Workshop #1 "The Lord Stood by My Side and Gave Me Strength" was facilitated by Rev. Montez Nicholson, associated minister and director of women's ministry at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA. She emphasized that the wings beneath our wings is within us. The Lord is our strength. Romans 8:31- If God is for us then who can be against us. After a few hours of rest, relaxation, a little shopping which is good for the spirit, and dinner we were ready for workshop #2" Life hurts, God Heals".

Facilitator Elder Gequita Gray of Cornerstone Peaceful Bible Baptist Church - Upper Marlboro, MD raised the roof off the room with her powerful words of "Put down your issues and go to God. When God speaks he will deliver. Matthew 11:28 -"Come to me all ye heavy laden and I will give you rest". The keynote speaker for Sunday Morning Worship Service was First Lady Dr. Gwendolyn O. Young, Silas Baptist Church, Severna Park, MD. She brought it all home with "Daughters It's Time to Soar." Life chains can be demons, stress, illness, hate, and non-forgiving just to name a few. To get your peace and joy back, there is power in the name of Jesus who can break every chain. Everyone left revived, renewed and returning to their destinations EXPECTING GREAT THINGS seeing the hand of God moving in a mighty way.

Special thanks to Co-Chairs Dorothea Hebron, Charlotte Blackstone, Consultant Rosalind Thompson, COSROW members, retreat choir, musicians and directress. Plan now to attend in 2020 the retreat's 20TH ANNIVERSARY.

by Adrian Thompson

UMW Living Out Their Legacy While Cruising



On May 11th, St Mark UMW members Beverly Warren, Donna Queen-Williams and myself, Yvonne Pelham (pictured left with Beverly and Deborah Powell) joined several other UMW members on a trip of a lifetime. We cruised

onboard the Norwegian's Pride of America to Hawaii. The trip included overnight visits to Maui and Kauai as well as visits to Oahu and the Big Island (Hilo and Kona) of Hawaii. Beaches, sightseeing, shopping, relaxing and fine-dining was the agenda for the week.

A Meet and Greet was held giving everyone the opportunity to make new friends, enjoy fellow travelers whom we engaged with fervor, try new things, explore the islands and bond with family members. The group also had opportunities to witness to others. When a restaurant server needed a Bible, a UMW member gave up her own and another brought the server a New Testament pocket version that was offered by an island church. The trip was one of several fundraising activities held over the last 5 years to support the UMW Legacy Fund.

In 2014, the Board of Directors launched the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign, setting a goal to raise \$60 million. To date, over \$26 Million (43% of Goal) has been raised. For more information on the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign or to make a personal donation, go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/give

by Yvonne Pelham

Mother's Day May 12



On this day honor was given to all mothers. The greeting hymn was "Faith of Our Mothers."

Min. Michael R. Simms Sr., delivered the message entitled "Not Your Typical Mother's Day Message." He made reference to a lady who said to him that she did not like a manuscript preacher. He advised that his manuscript

was the Bible.

Gifts were given to Ms. Lillian Hebron as the oldest mother present, Ms. Julia and Valerie Bland, as visitors, (pictured above with Mary Dailey), and Ms. Wendy Simms as first Lady for that Sunday. At the end of service all mothers were given gifts of bookmarks and pens.

by Mary Dailey

"If you can't go back to your mother's womb, you'd better learn to be a good fighter."

— Anchee Min, [Red Azalea](#)

Biz Kids Hands Out Annual Award

St Mark's own Super Teen featured in *The Business Monthly*. May 21, 2019.



Congratulations to Makayla Martin, Teenpreneur, CEO & Founder of Golden Hands Jewelry (All Handmade) for winning the \$500.00 Frances Barber Educational Scholarship. Makayla won the scholarship for composing an outstanding 500-word

essay that detailed how Golden Hands Jewelry helps the community.

Visit www.goldenhandsjewelry.com or www.facebook.com/goldenhandsjewelry/ to discover more about this young up and coming entrepreneur.

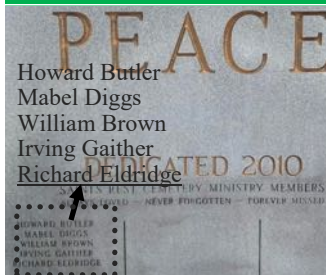
BRGE 74th Anniversary - May 26



Bertina Randle Gospel Ensemble (BRGE) under the leadership of Mary Dailey was acknowledged by Dorothea Hebron as observing 74 years of service singing God's praises. As customary, wreaths were placed at the graves of Bertina Randle and musician Laverna Jones. It was a quite celebration. However, there is much anticipation of a bigger celebration in 2020 commemorating BRGE's 75th anniversary. Stay tuned.

by Adrian Thompson

St Rest Memorial Day Service - May 27



The Cemetery Ministry celebrated the history and honored the legacy of the dearly departed but not forgotten. This year's service was dedicated to the beloved and departed Irving Gaither and Richard Eldridge who were members of the ministry. Their names were inscribed on the large PEACE MONUMENT erected in the cemetery joining past members Howard Butler, Mabel Diggs and William Brown. Carl Rutledge paused to pay homage to our nation's veterans who lost their lives in active military service. The Men's Choir rendered musical selections. Throughout the cemetery, family members and friends placed flowers and items of remembrance and love on graves.

by Adrian Thompson



NaTayia Riley



It was standing room only at stage & Sound Studios in Millersville, Md as Natayia Riley, owner of Endless Boundaries Dance Studio (EBDS), LLC presented her very first Spring Recital. The audience let Natayia and her staff know just how much they enjoyed the program as they voiced their approval. In the end a rousing standing ovation was given to performers and staff.

In addition to students of EBDS, there were performances by Waiting 2Xcel HipHop Dancers, Curls & Coils Dancers, and St Mark's own God's Glory.

Natayia brought tears to the eyes of many as she paid homage to her grandfather Mr. Richard Eldridge who recently passed away. As she performed her special dance a video presentation played in the background. At the end Natayia gently slid into her grandfather's Washington Redskins Jacket. It was loving and poetic.

Before the program, during intermission and after the program the audience had the opportunity to shop from an array of very colorful and unique vendor items. Displays were presented by Cakeologist/Artis - Tinay, Owner of 10-A Caketique; Pamela A. Jackson, Owner/Creator of Glasses with A twist; and Stephanie Galloway owner of Papparazzi Jewelry.

Congratulations to Natayia and her staff, Catherine Robinson, Briana Mathis, Jalisa Taylor and Kierra Wingfield for all their hard work in putting together a great recital. Kudos to all students for their great performances and much love to family members and others who helped with the success of the program. As we all know.... *It takes a Village* by H.E. Brown

Father's Day June 16



Worship Leader Ron Davis invited all fathers to the altar for a special prayer. Pastor Watson's sermon entitled "Justify By Faith" made reference to how people determine things differently with "who, what, when, where, why and how things happen." He also distinguished the

difference between a father and a dad. He pointed out that God was daddy to us all. Mr. Louis Dailey (88) and Mr. Jack Dailey (87) were given gifts as the oldest fathers present. The youngest age 28, was also given a gift. At the end of service all fathers received gifts.

I gave my father \$100 and said, "Buy yourself something that will make your life easier." So he went out and bought a present for my mother.
— Rita Rudner

by M. Dailey and H. E. Brown

The hugs and thank yous shared were priceless. The true spirit of giving was evident as once again volunteers of all ages so graciously gave of their time. They unloaded the delivery truck, sorted, bagged and directed people to the various food stations. They also helped to push carts and carry bags for those who needed assistance.

We have Ramona Burnett along with Diana Taylor of AACO PCYF and members of the Luther O. Hebron Food Bank (LOHFB) to thank for bringing the Pantry to the front door of the community. Let's not forget.....
"Hunger Lives Next Door."

by H.E. Brown

Community Pantry Day June 19

For the second time this year the Maryland Food Bank (MFB) and AACO Partnership for Children, Youth and Families (PCYF) came together to show the community that they care by sponsoring a Pantry Day held at St Mark. Over 6000 pounds of food was donated. It was as successful as the first held in February. There were no coupons to clip and no money to spend. All you had to do was show up and food items were yours for the asking. The smiles on the faces of the recipients were priceless.

