

St. Mark United Methodist Church
550 Hwy. 72 By-Pass NW
Greenwood, SC 29649
<http://www.stmarkgreenwood.com>
Church Phone: 864.229.5416
Kids' World Phone: 864.227.2776

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Bypass Campus (BPC)



Rivers Street Campus (RSC)

St. Mark United Methodist Church

www.stmarkgreenwood.com
Volume 19 Issue 5
June 2025





Salkehatchie

This June, we will collect Gatorade, Powerade, and other sports drinks to help our Salkehatchie campers!



CHURCH STUFF





Jason's Journal

“Very truly, I tell you, that one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father...If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it never sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.”
John 14:12, 15-17

June is a busy month for St. Mark UMC. We have a celebration and sending forth for Joey and his family, Annual Conference gathers for four days, Vacation Bible School, our children going to Camp KidJam, and our youth going to Salkehatchie. While the church calendar is packed with so much going on, I am thankful to serve a vibrant and vital church committed to sharing the Good News of Jesus with all people. St. Mark UMC, you do great things in this community and beyond.

As I have been looking at my calendar and reflecting upon all the ministries of St. Mark, I am reminded of the above passage of Scripture from John’s Gospel. John records these words from Jesus as he is preparing his disciples for his going away. I love the promises Jesus gives to his disciples in these few verses. The first promise from Jesus is that those who believe in Jesus will not only do the works that Jesus has done, but will do greater works. The second promise Jesus gives to his disciples is the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate. The Holy Spirit is the power we followers of Jesus need to do ‘the greater works’ Jesus is calling us to do. Sunday, June 8th is Pentecost Sunday, the Birthday of Jesus’ church, as Pentecost is the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit coming to the first disciples, empowering all of the believers to be the church. Today, some 2000 years later, we still depend on the Holy Spirit to empower us, St. Mark.

As I look at my calendar for June that is full of activities and ministries, I pray we all will rely on the leading and empowerment of the Holy Spirit as we all go, serving and sharing with others the Good News of Jesus; not only will we do the works Jesus did, but even greater works because of the Holy Spirit that abides within us.



Worship Attendance Year to Date Average	
As of May 25, 2025	
8:45 AM - BPC	82
8:45 AM - RSC	60
11:00 AM - BPC	93
11:15 AM - RSC	81
8:45 Stream - BPC	60
11:15 Stream - RSC	37
Worship Attendance	398
Sunday School Attendance	68

KREW and EPIC Attendance School Year Average	
As of May 18, 2025	
KREW	49
EPIC	71
HSX	20

The next copy of *The Witness*, the church's monthly newsletter, will be emailed out Thursday, June 26.
Deadline to submit information to the church office for the newsletter is Monday, June 16.

Copies of the June Birthdays list, June Anniversaries list, and Upper Rooms for May/ June are located at the narthex/welcome area at each campus.

Ice Cream Social

To say **THANK YOU!** To
Pastor Joey and his family

Sunday
June 1st
Wayne Goff Hall
2:00pm - 3:00pm

HELP KIDS FIND THEIR TRUE NORTH!

CONTACT
JULIE@STMARKGREENWOOD.COM TO
VOLUNTEER!

JESUS

TRUE NORTH
Trusting Jesus in a wild world



ROOM 104
BYPASS CAMPUS

12:45
WORSHIP COMMITTEE

**SUNDAY,
JUNE 29**

1:30
GROWTH COMMITTEE



Effective July 1, 2025, Debra will no longer have the email address debra@stmarkgreenwood.com. Please use the email address debcol0609@gmail.com if you need to email her.



**Calling all
volunteers!**

We need people to serve our church community and to make a difference by volunteering in our new reception area! We are creating a rotation of volunteers to welcome visitors, answer the phone, monitor the church office door, and check the mail each Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

If you would like to serve in this new welcome ministry, please contact Paige at 864.229.5416 or office@stmarkgreenwood.com. We appreciate all your support and your willingness to serve!



Greetings Saints of St. Mark,

In November, after much prayer, discernment, and reflection, I informed SPRC, Pastor Jason, and Pastor Robby, that it was time to take the next step on my faith journey, and that I would seek a new appointment as a lead/senior pastor in the SC Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. When I had this conversation in November, June seemed so far away. But in the blink of an eye, June arrived, and it's time for me to write one final newsletter article for you. It has been an honor and a blessing to serve as your Parish Pastor. Over the last four years we have worshiped, prayed, and experienced God's hands and feet working in countless ways during our time together. You have taught me more about faith, community, and God's enduring love and grace than I could have imagined as you supported my family and me during the most difficult year of our lives in 2022, you encouraged me to grow as a pastor, and you pushed me to take the next step toward ordination. From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU! Though we will no longer be walking together in daily ministry, please know that my prayers go with you. I believe in my heart that God has great things in store for you. Therefore, I leave you with these words of blessing from the Apostle Paul, *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 15:13), and this closing prayer.

"The time has come, O Lord for us to leave this place; Guide us and protect us and lead us in thy Grace. Wherever life may take us as we go our separate ways, help us share with others the things we've shared today. May the peace of God, the Father, and the love of Christ, His Son, guide us in the days ahead and strengthen us each one. May the blessing of the spirit fill us from within; God bless us and return us to the fellowship once again."

With all my love and deep appreciation,

Pastor Joey



**SUNDAY,
JUNE 8
7:00 pm**

Greenville Center
Greenville, SC

Annual
Conference
Commissioning and
Ordination Service

Rev. Joey Gambrell
will be commissioned
as a Provisional Elder



Hello St. Mark Family,

As summer begins, I can tell that our church is buzzing with energy and purpose. We've just celebrated Graduation Sunday, a meaningful time to honor the hard work and accomplishments of our students. Now, we look ahead to Camp Kid Jam and VBS for our elementary students, Salkehatchie Summer Service for our high schoolers, and Passion Camp in Daytona Beach. It's a full season. And it's a vital one.

Why do we do all this? Because the next generation matters. Because someone once showed up for us, and now it's our turn. Scripture reminds us again and again to pass down the faith. Psalm 145:4 says, *"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."* This isn't just about programs or events, it's about presence. It's about making sure our children and youth know they are seen, known, and deeply loved, by us and by God.

We are incredibly blessed to have what I believe is the best Children and Youth Ministry around, led with passion, creativity, and faithfulness by Julie McLaughlin and Jennifer Lybrand. These two women pour their hearts into helping our kids grow in Christ. And they don't just lead programs, they create spaces where young people encounter Jesus in real and life-changing ways.

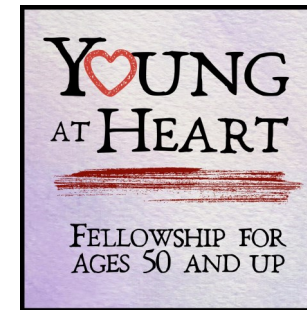
But what makes St. Mark truly special is that our reach goes far beyond just the kids who walk through our doors on Sunday mornings. Through VBS, Camp Kid Jam, Salkehatchie, Passion Camp, community outreach, and more, our church is making a difference in the lives of children and youth throughout Greenwood and beyond. We are a church that invests in the whole community, and that's something to celebrate.

It's easy to think someone else will take care of it. But truthfully, preparing the next generation is everyone's calling. Whether you're a parent, a grandparent, a mentor, a volunteer, or simply someone who prays faithfully, your presence matters. Your encouragement matters. Your love matters. When we pour into young people, we're planting seeds of faith that can grow into something beautiful. We're helping shape lives that will carry the message of Jesus into places we may never go. And that kind of investment? It's eternal.

So, this summer, let's not just send kids off to camp or show up for a VBS shift. Let's be the Church for them. Let's cheer them on, pray for them, listen to them, and show up again and again. Because when we do, we're living out Deuteronomy 6:6-7: *"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road..."*

Thank you for being a church that believes in the next generation. Let's keep showing up, because they're worth it. I hope you have a great month of June, and I hope to see YOU at CHURCH! BRING A FRIEND!

Robby



• **IN SEARCH OF:** We are searching for someone who would be interested in leading the Young at Heart for 2026. This person can start working with Debra and Elaine to "learn the ropes" in preparation for taking over in 2026. If you would rather co-chair, then certainly you could partner with someone to help you. The Young at Heart is a very active group and enjoys going out to eat every other month, having luncheons in Founders Hall in the other months, and likes to go on trips. We have scheduled our own trips and also partnered with Adventure Travels for some trips. Contact Debra Robinson for more information at

(864) 993-2957.

- June 9, **Cookout at the Lake** Ann Broome's house 1139 Frazier Road, Ninety-Six, SC 11:30 a.m. Bring your chairs and join us for a cookout at the lake. Meal will be provided. Contact Elaine Moore at elainejmoore3239gmail.com or (864) 992-9668 to reserve your spot.
- June 14, **The Odd Couple** Milltown Players in Pelzer, SC Cost: \$15.00 Felix Ungar, a neurotic, neat freak, is thrown out by his wife, and has no other option than to move in with his divorced, disheveled pal, Oscar Madison. The two men's conflicting habits, with Oscar's sloppiness classing with Felix's obsessive-compulsive cleanliness, prove to be a hilarious mismatch. Contact Debra Robinson at 993-2957 or debcol0609@gmail.com to sign up.
- July 10, **Old MacDonalds Fish Camp** North Augusta, SC Venture with us to North Augusta for seafood. On the way we will stop at a peach stand to pick up some peaches. We will have coolers to keep them cool while we are eating. Leaving the church in the van at 2:30. Contact Elaine Moore at elainejmoore3239gmail.com or (864) 992-9668 to reserve your spot.
- August 4, **Monthly Luncheon** in Founders Hall 11:30 a.m. Join your friends for some good food and fun. The whole meal will be provided so just bring yourself. Contact Elaine Moore at elainejmoore3239gmail.com or (864) 992-9668 to reserve your spot.
- September 9, **Alpine Helen Georgia** Cost: \$125 In the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Helen takes its inspiration from the villages of Germany. As we arrive in Helen, we will experience the charm of Bavaria as you take in the architectural building style of downtown shops and restaurants. Lunch is included at The Heidelberg (the most photographed building in town and the very first true German restaurant to be built in Helen). You will have a choice of a German or American meal. After lunch our step-on guide will join us in the coach with stories about this charming town. We will drive by Stovell Mill Covered Bridge (smallest covered bridge in Georgia). We continue on through Sautee Nachoochee Valley with a stop at Crescent Hill Baptist Church where you can see and learn about the Indian Mound across the highway. There will be a demo and tasting at Nora Mill Granary. You will enjoy a stop at Bavarian Clockworks, the largest collection of cuckoo clocks this side of the Black Forest. After the tour you will have some time to explore the town of Helen. Then our journey begins back to Greenwood. Contact Debra Robinson at 993-2957 or debcol0609@gmail.com to sign up.



If you can sew, volunteer to help make the quilts. If you can't sew, donations are always needed. If you hear of someone who might need a quilt, please make sure they want it, and then contact Kay Gregory at 864-554-4740 or Patricia Rickenbaker at 864-980-4293 or email Stmarkprayerquilts@gmail.com.



♦ **IN SEARCH OF:** We are searching for a woman of St. Mark who would be interested in leading the Women's Ministries. This involves scheduling activities throughout the year, working with staff to send out emails to the women of the church, and sending information to staff so that slides can be made for announcements. This is a very rewarding mission! Contact Debra Robinson for more information at (864) 993-2957.

♦ **Sourdough 101 Class** June 14 10:00 a.m. LeMesa Boutique, 336 Main Street, Greenwood, SC. Cost is St. Mark members: \$35.00. Non-members: \$50.00. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, this hands-on workshop will guide you through the fundamentals of creating delicious, homemade sourdough bread. In this class, you'll learn: How to maintain and care for a sourdough starter. Techniques for mixing, kneading, and shaping dough. The science behind fermentation and how to achieve that perfect rise. Baking tips to get a golden, crusty loaf every time. Each participant will leave with their own active sourdough starter, a recipe guide, and the confidence to bake sourdough bread at home. All materials and ingredients are provided just bring your enthusiasm and an appetite for learning! Contact Debra Robinson at 993-2957 or debc0609@gmail.com so we will know how many to expect.

♦ **Annual Book Sale** August 9. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Founders Hall While you are spring cleaning, make sure you bring us your books for this sale. They can be brought to the church. Contact Debra Robinson at 993-2957 or debc0609@gmail.com with any questions.

If there is some craft or event you would like us organize or you have a talent you would like to share, please contact Debra Robinson at 993-2957 or debc0609@gmail.com and she will get with the Women's Ministry Committee. We are looking for fun ideas.



JUNE PREACHING SCHEDULE AND SCRIPTURE

This month we will be in a sermon series entitled, "Church Stuff." In our lives we have so much 'stuff' pulling for our attention, and at times we can all become distracted from what it means to be a follower of Jesus. This month, it is our hope that through this series "Church Stuff" we will all refocus our attention on five key areas of our spiritual lives: prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

June 1 - Church Stuff: Prayers - Acts 16:16-34

- Rev. Jason Wilson at the Bypass Campus 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM with Rev. Joey Gambrell assisting at 11:00 AM.
- Rev. Robby Lybrand at the Rivers Street Campus 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM.

June 8 - Pentecost Sunday - Church Stuff: Presence - Acts 2:1-21

- Rev. Robby Lybrand at the Bypass Campus 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM.
- Rev. Jason Wilson at the Rivers Street Campus 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM.

June 15 - Father's Day - Church Stuff: Gifts - Philippians 1:3-11

- Rev. Joey Gambrell at the Bypass Campus 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM.
- Rev. Robby Lybrand at the Rivers Street Campus 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM.

June 22 - Church Stuff: Service - Galatians 3:23-39

- Rev. Jason Wilson at the Bypass Campus 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM.
- Rev. Robby Lybrand at the Rivers Street Campus at 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM.

June 29 - Church Stuff: Witness - Galatians 5:1, 13-25

- Rev. Jason Wilson at the Bypass Campus 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM.
- Rev. Robby Lybrand at the Rivers Street Campus at 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM.

WESLEY COMMONS

St. Mark/Wesley Commons
Fellowship
Thursday, June 5
10:30 AM

Wesley Commons
Library
1110 Marshall Road





OUR EPIC SUNDAY NIGHTS WILL RESUME THIS AUGUST. MEANWHILE, PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THE FAMILIES, ADULTS, AND STUDENTS WHO WILL BE CHANGED FOREVER AT ROCK HILL SALKEHATCHIE, JUNE 21-28



Visit www.stmarkepic.com for all the latest news about our student ministries!



Congratulations to our 2025 Summer Children and Youth Ministry Intern, Eric Philcox. Eric has attended St. Mark most of his life with his family. He is now a rising sophomore at Anderson University, where he is pursuing a double major in Biochemistry and Christian Studies.

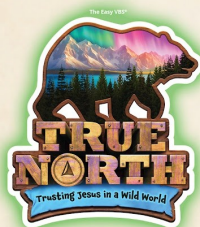
This summer, Eric will assist with VBS decorating, VBS, Camp KidJam, and Passion Camp. Our children and youth will surely benefit from his love for the Lord and enthusiasm for sharing His Word.

Congratulations, Eric! We are so excited for this summer!



Visit www.stmarkbridgekids.com for all the latest news about our children's ministries!

Please join us in praying for our children and adults who will attend Camp KidJam June 22-25 at Presbyterian College!



TRUE NORTH VBS
June 16-20 9:00 - noon
Join us as we adventure through the St. Mark wilderness as we discover our TRUE NORTH!



Contact julie@stmarkgreenwood.com to volunteer.
Register at www.stmarkbridgekids.com/vbs



Prayers of the Church

Prayer requests will remain on this list for three weeks unless we are notified differently.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING

Ansley Glen
(1408 Parkway, Greenwood, SC)
Faye Adams

Emerald Gardens
(201 Overland Drive, Greenwood, SC)
Lorene Waldrep

Magnolia Bridge
(1056 TPC Blvd, Unit 155, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576)
Susan Hood

Wesley Commons
(1110 Marshall Road, Greenwood, SC)
Ruth Clark
Jim and Dodie Conley
George and Betty Crane
Skip Heintzelman
Lee Kruzan
Betty Moss McGuirt
Sam and Gene Zittrouer

Shut-In/Homebound
Mary Ellen Anderson
(864.223.5275)
1830 Alexander Road W
Greenwood, SC 29649

Jean Bedenbaugh
Lexington Medical Center
Extended Care
815 Old Cherokee Road
Lexington, SC 29072

Joyce Campbell
101 Shannon Street
Greenwood, SC 29646

Tom and Beth Dowtin
122 Hemlock Ct
Greenwood, SC 29649

Mary Anna Evans
5800 Old Providence Road
Apt 4310
Charlotte, NC 28226

Evelyn Fennell
308 Marietta Drive
Greenwood, SC 29646

Charlie Helms (704.535.7848)
c/o Teena Williams
4600 Crofton Ct.
Charlotte, NC 28205

Miriam Laswell
122 Leslie Drive
Greenwood, SC 29649

Shut-In/Homebound Cont'd

Bob and Jean Lax
801 Musgrove St
Unit 84
Clinton, SC 29325

Julie McCaffrey
101 Wendover Road
Greenwood, SC 29649

Wilma McCall
228 Rock Knoll Drive
Greenwood, SC 29646

Jackie Menaker
104 Hunters Village Drive
Greenwood, SC 29649

MEMBERS AND REGULAR ATTENDEES

Lauren Austin
Ed Hood
Jim Conley
Dodie Conley
Betty Moss McGuirt

MEMBERS' FAMILY

Whitney Stennett and family
Linton Mann
Harriett Kean

MEMBERS' FRIENDS

Anonymous friend
George Von Glahn
Pat Wilbanks
Josh Buchanan
Durham Bley
Rev. Jim Johnston
Will Coleman
Rebecca Hall
Valerie Hazlett
The Frost family (Will, Carrie, and Alex)

MILITARY

Sgt. Jack Boyd - Army
Christian Furman - Army
Randall Geddings
Joshua Goff - Marines
Kos Kerhoulas - Navy
Mackenzie Latham - Air Force
Will Peeler - Army National Guard
Banner Peksa - Army

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Anderson University:
Eric Philcox

Citadel:
Olivia Murray and Owen Whittington

Clemson:
Adam Prince, Caroline Addis, Chloe Ison, Dawson Hudson, Emma Arnold, Josh Godwin, Julia Creswell, Lexi Layland, and Thomas Goff

Erskine College:
Hampton Ashley

Guilford College:
Jillian Mapes

Lander:
Braeden McDonald, Jordan Mapes, Kylie Camp, and Rhianna Philcox

MUSC Charleston:
Wyatt Prince

Piedmont Technical College:
Savannah Mallon and Rylee McManus

Presbyterian College:
Beatty Murray

University of Georgia:
Haley McLaughlin

University of North Carolina - Charlotte:
Zach Robinson

University of South Carolina:
Caroline Bell and Meg McGovern



St. Mark gratefully acknowledges the following gifts:

- To *The Masters Plan Fund* in loving memory of **Col. Niles Clark** by Ruth Clark and family.
- To *Contributions* in loving memory of **Susan McLaughlin** by Rev. Taylor and Joyce Campbell.



The Growth Committee would like to thank you for the valuable suggestions you have shared with us - You asked, we delivered! We are excited to announce the following priorities and upcoming events:

- New Member Classes
- Sunday evening Bible study this fall
- More Community Outreach Programs

In the next few months, we will also be conducting a Spiritual Gift Inventory/Talent Survey for our congregation.



Healthy snacks (granola bars, nuts, dried fruit).

Items needed at the Food Bank:

Canned tuna, chicken, or salmon, Peanut butter and jelly, Meals in a can (chunky soups, stew, chili), Canned fruits in its own juice or water, Canned food with pop-top lids, Dried beans (pinto, blackeyed, kidney, lima, etc), Pasta (including whole grain), Rice (brown, white, yellow), Low-sugar whole grain cereals, Grits and Oatmeal (bag or box), Powder or shelf-stable milk, Bottled water and fruit drinks,



Dear St. Mark Congregation,
I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing to you today in my role as Chair of the Financial Committee to share an important update regarding our church's finances.

As many of you know, St. Mark established a fund back in 2005 called the Masters Plan. For those who have joined us in the years since, the Masters Plan was created to support the vision of building a new sanctuary, originally intended for the Bypass Compass location, during a time when the contemporary service was rapidly growing in the small hut behind

the Bypass.

Since then, our church has evolved, and we are now blessed to worship in our current building on Rivers Street. With that in mind, and after careful consideration, the Financial Committee has voted to officially discontinue the Masters Plan in its original form.

Going forward, any reference to the "Masters Plan" in our church budget will be repurposed to support capital improvement projects at either of our campuses—Bypass or Rivers Street—as needs arise.

We understand that many of you have contributed, and may still be contributing, specifically toward the original Masters Plan. We want to be transparent about this change so that you can make informed decisions about how to designate your future contributions. As always, we are deeply grateful for your generosity and support in whatever form you feel led to give.

If you have any questions about this decision, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly. I'd be happy to provide further clarification.

Thank you for your continued trust in the leadership of St. Mark. We remain committed to stewarding our resources wisely and leading our church in the direction God has called us.

Thank you,
John Edward Beale Jr.
Finance Committee Chair

June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 2:00 Ice Cream Social	2 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	3 9:00 Women’s Bible Study 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	4 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:30 Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice	5 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA	6 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	7
8 4:00 Annual Conference begins	9 Annual Conference VBS decorating RSC 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	10 Annual Conference VBS decorating RSC 9:00 Women’s Bible Study 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	11 Annual Conference VBS decorating RSC 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice	12 VBS decorating RSC 9:30 Founders Hall in use 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA	13 VBS decorating RSC 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	14 VBS decorating RSC
15	16 Information due for the church newsletter 9:00 VBS 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	17 9:00 VBS 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	18 9:00 VBS 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice	19 9:00 VBS 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA	20 9:00 VBS 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	21
22 2:30 Camp KidJam begins	23 Camp KidJam 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	24 Camp KidJam 9:00 Women’s Bible Study 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	25 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 11:00 Camp KidJam ends 6:30 Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice	26 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA	27 6:30 Men’s Prayer Breakfast 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:00 Founders Hall in use	28
29 12:45 Worship 1:30 Growth	30 Kids’ World is closed 12:30 Staff Meeting 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA					Worship Services are: Bypass Campus:8:45 am & 11:00 am Rivers Street Campus: 8:45 am & 11:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am