

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. 4/21	9:45a Church School 10:55a Worship 12:15p Adult/Family Committee
Mon. 4/22	Noon News Deadline
Tue. 4/23	6:00p Cub Scouts
Wed. 4/24	6:00p Fellowship & Study 7:30p Choir Rehearsal
Thu. 4/25	10:00a Bible Study UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat @ Lakeshore thru 26th
Fri. 4/26	Offices Closed
Sat. 4/27	9:00a AFLS UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat @ Lakeshore thru 28th
Sun. 4/28	9:45a Church School 10:55a Worship

HAVE YOU SEEN ME???

I'm a drink dispenser missing from the Aldersgate kitchen. If you know my whereabouts, please call the church office or return me to the kitchen. Thank you!

Bishop's Blog (continued)

The four days the Area Strategic Mapping Team worked together were productive and clarifying. We raise these questions and ask for your prayerful reflection over the next few months:

1. **What do you believe is the primary mission of the church?**
2. **What does your congregation care deeply about?**
3. **If your congregation disappeared, who would notice?**

As we near Annual Conference in June, we will be inviting you to participate in the conversation. We anticipate that Gil Rendle will be with us for some time of teaching at Annual Conference with regard to the Mission of Church. We do not anticipate any action items to be approved from our Strategic Mapping Team. We do anticipate that we will hear a progress report at Annual Conference and be informed about next steps. Stay tuned!"

THE READING PROGRAM

Do you like sports? Then the UMW Reading Program has a book for you! Or maybe you prefer inspirational books. How about a combination of both? That would be 'Outcasts United', a story of a refugee soccer team that changed a town. Why not check it out?



Regina Diane Peacock
and
Michael Brandon Robbins

Invite you to share with them
The joy of their marriage
On Saturday, the twentieth day of April
Two thousand and thirteen
At two o'clock in the afternoon
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
4459 Willow Road
Memphis, Tennessee
Reception to follow.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Kindness connects us to the light of God within.



SENIOR EXPO COMING UP Lots of Fun with Seniors in Mind!

'Bridging Generations', the 41st Annual Senior Expo will be held at Belleview Baptist Church, 2000 Appling Road in Cordova on Tuesday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Festivities will include lots of good info on all aspects of senior living, great entertainment, free parking, free admission, speakers, and food for purchase, sponsored by the Professional Network on Aging. More information is available at 901-222-4189 or by email at info@pnamidsouth.org, or visit the website www.pnamidsouth.org.

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given for
Homebound Ministries

In memory of Frances Coffman by
Joyce Kernodle

Scholarship Fund

In memory of Frances Coffman by
Pat Savage
Lana Solomon
Richard & Karen Hall
William & Dinah Ruch
Martha Wallace

FOOD PANTRY FOR APRIL

Spaghetti Noodles & Sauce



RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MAY 2

Any member, church or church group may submit a petition to the Annual Conference, the subject being relevant to the Annual Conference. There are no specifications for its format or length. The Committee on Resolutions and Petitions will review all submissions and prepare them for presentation at Annual Conference, June 2-5 at Collierville UMC. Items should be mailed, emailed or faxed to Martha Manuel, Office Manager, Memphis Conference Office, 24 Corporate Blvd., Jackson, TN 38305; Email: office.mcumc@eplus.net; Fax 731-660-5712. For more information about submitting a petition, you may call Martha at 731-664-8480.

THE UPPER ROOM

...for May/June is available on the tables outside the Sanctuary. Pick up your copy today.

SPRINGTIME BY THE SEA AT EPWORTH BY THE SEA

May 20-24

A patriotic time celebrating and honoring our country and those who served in the military. Join us for patriotic music and tours of the nearby military base and museums. You may register on line at www.epworthbythesea.org or request a form at 912-638-8688.



DISCIPLINE FOR DISCIPLES

Articles of Faith of the
Evangelical United Brethren Church

Article V - The Church

We believe the Christian Church is the community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ. We believe it is one, holy, apostolic and catholic. It is the redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by men divinely called, and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit the Church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers and the redemption of the world.

Article VI - The Sacraments

We believe the Sacraments, ordained by Christ, are symbols and pledges of the Christian's profession and of God's love toward us. They are the means of grace by which God works invisibly in us, quickening, strengthening and confirming our faith in him. Two Sacraments are ordained by Christ our Lord, namely Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe Baptism signifies entrance into the household of faith, and is a symbol of repentance and inner cleansing from sin, a representation of the new birth in Christ Jesus and a mark of Christian discipleship.

We believe children are under the atonement of Christ and as heirs of the Kingdom of God are acceptable subjects for Christian Baptism. Children of believing parents through Baptism become the special responsibility of the Church. They should be nurtured and led to personal acceptance of Christ, and by profession of faith confirm their Baptism.

We believe the Lord's Supper is a representation of our redemption, a memorial of the sufferings and death of Christ, and a token of love and union which Christians have with Christ and with one another. Those who rightly, worthily and in faith eat the broken bread and drink the blessed cup partake of the body and blood of Christ in a spiritual manner until he comes.

OUR PRAYERS

Hospice Care

Mary Stanley

At Home

Jimmy Hight

Lorelle Woodard

Homebound & Assisted Care

Martha Ruth Allen

Doris Babb

Joan Clark

Gerry Colosia

Mava Dell Fry

Helen Griffin

Marie Hughes

James Matlock

Martha Meyer

Lorene Nance

Bernice Shelby

Emmett Smith

Harold Smith

Betty Smithmier

OUR PRESENCE

April 14

Church School 46

Worship 53

Visitors 1

OUR GIFTS

April 14

This Week's Offering \$ 2,523

MTD \$ 7,935

Apportionments TD \$ 3,809

OUR SERVICE

Assisting April 21

Greeters Elizabeth Godboold

Jeanette Leslie

Liturgist Bruce Hughes

Scripture Brother Paul

Children's Time Rebeca Ernst

Lock-up Jimmie Bedwell

OUR WITNESS

April Scripture Reader

28 Judy Stanley

ALDERSGATE United Methodist Church
4459 Willow Road
Memphis, TN 38117-6917



THE FLAME is a publication of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. The newsletter is published weekly. Please contact your local Postmaster if you are having difficulty with delivery

The  Flame

*Information for the Family and Friends
of Aldersgate U.M.C.*

Scripture Readings for April 21: Psalm 23; Acts 9:30-43

Sermon: "Miracles and the Power of Prayer"

April 17, 2013

Volume 58 Issue 16

I want to share this message from the Bishop's blog with you:

"These words, from Father John Wesley, came to mind as the Area Strategic Mapping Team continued its work with Gil Rendle, our consultant with the Texas Methodist Foundation.

We continue to seek God's wisdom regarding our vision and our mission for the Nashville Area and specifically the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences.

We have a rich heritage across the two conferences. For over 200 years now, the people called United Methodist have been offering Christ to those who live among us. At times we have seen our churches soar and at other times we have struggled. Yet, God continues to give us opportunity to bear witness to the love of Christ in the world. When we remember our story of who we are and whose we are, our faithfulness grows deeper.

What we know:

We are not sustainable—since 1965 we have been losing members. It is my understanding that our era is the first time in history when we have substantial numbers of 5 different generations alive at the same time. A truly healthy church would have all five generations active in some way in its life, but in most of our churches we have only the oldest two or three involved. Reaching out to as many as three generations at one time is very challenging.

We are living on a changed mission field and deep change is our only choice.

The task that the Strategic Mapping Team is attempting to articulate and lead us toward is a new missional future. The question we are asking and ask of others is this: **Who is our client?** Our client is the mission field.

Our call is to offer Christ to those in our midst—which means coming to an understanding of both mission and evangelism, which are intricately bound together. We are called to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and love our neighbors as our selves.

According to the Call to Action research that was conducted in 2011, there are 33,614 congregations in the United Methodist Church. Of those, 15% are vital (5,042). Applying that ration to the Tennessee and Memphis Conferences, out of 1,100 congregations, only 165 would be vital. I believe that, in our area, the percentage is higher. Nonetheless, there is work to be done.

The harsh reality is this: If we do not come to understand in a very profound and deep way that the Mission Field is our client, and we fail to shift our focus, 300-350 congregations in the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences will disappear.

In our work together, we affirmed two important truths: **1. Nothing sacred but the mission itself**

2. Mission is not a program but a lifestyle—a way of life—a way of living.

(Con't. on next page)