

OUR PRAYERS

Baptist Memorial

Earl Galloway 2922

Corinth Hosp

Virginia Kemp Jones

Mexico

Misael Hildago
(Gaby's grandfather)

Memphis Jewish Home

Janet Milewski 303

Special Prayers for

...kidnapped girls/Nigeria
...disaster victims

At Home

Peggy Brightwell
Goyo De la Cruz
Antinette Guy-Scott
Wayne Lawrence
Eloise Miller
Richard Morris
Marie Park
Aquiles Quispe
Betty Ray
Lana Solomon
Terry Williamson

Our Sympathy, love and prayers go out to
...former members, G. Perry & Fran Lewis in the loss of
their son, Perry Lewis

Homebound and Assisted Care

Martha Allen	June Burton	Mava Dell Fry
Helen Griffin	Doris Hight	Marie Hughes
Margaret Kenley	Ted Lewis	Doris Palazzini
Bernice Shelby	Chris Simmons	Emmett Smith
Harold Smith	Betty Smithmier	Martha Wallace

OUR PRESENCE - April 17

Sunday School	54
Worship	76
Visitors	4

OUR GIFTS - April 17

Offering	\$	2,530
Month to Date	\$	11,867

OUR SERVICE - April 24

Greeters	Jeanette Leslie Lou Pennington
Liturgist	Andrew Baker
Scripture	Dean Tutor
Children's Time	Virginia Finzel
Lock-up	Aleita Tutor

OUR WITNESS

May Scripture Readers

- 1 Nubari Deekae
- 8 Peggy Brightwell
- 15 Tom Lockhart
- 22 Faith Gbeneneh
- 29 Jane Hight



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

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

The



Flame

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April 20, 2016

Volume 61 Issue 16

WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

It's a clue to what God might have you do.

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Moses, sweltering in the heat of the Sinai desert, is engaged in a pity party. "I can't do what you want, Lord, because of this excuse and that excuse. People won't accept me. I can't talk good. Let somebody else do it."

But arguing with God is never a good idea. You don't win. Even if you say "No" (and God may let you), you lose. When you say "no" or "I can't," you miss out on the great adventure God has for you when you're in the center of His will for your life. But what is that will?

In the barren wastes of the Sinai, God asks Moses a simple question: "What's in your hand?" Moses is a shepherd. That's all he's done for 40 years, and he's ready to retire at age 80. "What's in your hand, Moses?" Moses looks at his hand. "A staff," he tells God — as if God didn't know. Duh!

The Lord says, "Throw it on the ground." Moses does so, and it becomes a snake. God tells him to pick it up by the tail and it turns back into a staff. Hmmm. Over the next 40 years of Moses' life, God uses that simple wooden stick to deliver the Israelites from Pharaoh, to open the Red Sea, to win a battle with the Amalekites, to bring water from a rock. Who would have thought? As Moses learns to use in faith what God has put in his hand, his life is changed — as well as the course of world history.

My question to you is: What has God put in *your* hand? Do you wonder how God might use you? See what He has given you. God equips people in various ways. I like to have people over to my home, you might say. Another might respond, I'm good with my hands. I can help a group get things done. I like to cook. I have the gift of gab. I like to keep things tidy. And so on.

Offer to God in faith what He has given you, no matter how simple, and God will use it — sometimes supernaturally — to do His work. You'll have a new sense of meaning, since you'll begin to realize how God is using simple things in new and wonderful ways.

When Jesus sees a hungry crowd he says to his disciples: "You feed them." They are stunned by the magnitude of the need. So Jesus brings it down to their level. "Okay, Andrew, do a little inventory. Find out what food we have on hand." Andrew checks around. "There's a boy here with five loaves and two fishes. So what?" Jesus ignores his unbelief. He takes the bread and the fish, lifts them to God in thanksgiving, and then begins to distribute them to the people until all 5,000 plus women and children have been fed.

That's how God's work gets done. By weak people doing an inventory, then offering to Jesus what they find.

God has a world to save. You're just one person. What difference can you make? I encourage you to do this simple inventory — count up your blessings, see what God has given you. That way, when God asks you, "What's that in your hand?" you won't answer: "Duh." You'll be able to tell Him — and then you can let Him use the gift / skill / resource / interest / relationship / opportunity to His glory.

Okay. Once more. What's in *your* hand?

Scriptures for the Week:

Acts 11:1-18
Revelation 21:1-6

Psalms 148
John 13:31-35

April
IS
Earth
Month



LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. 4/24	Festival of God's Creation Sunday 10:15a Sunday School 11:30a Worship 12:30p Called Trustees Meeting
Mon. 4/25	World Malaria Day Noon Newsletter Deadline 6:00p Prayer Walk @ Asbury
Tue. 4/26	No Activities
Wed. 4/27	10:00a Bible Study @ Asbury 6:45p Choir Rehearsal
Thu. 4/28	9:00a Food Pantry @ Asbury 10:00a Bible Study 5:00p Girl Scouts
Fri. 4/29	Offices Closed
Sat. 4/30	9:00a AFLS 7:00p Prayer Vigil @ EI Redentor
Sun. 5/1	10:15a Sunday School 11:30a Worship



**THANK YOU EVERYONE
THE BIRTHDAY BASH
!!! WHAT FUN !!!**

Once again, "Thank you Aldersgate", for your generous support of the Kids to Kamp Birthday Bash Benefit! Again, you have made it possible for our children to experience God's greatness and to make memories at Lakeshore that they will long remember.

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS

Would you like a giving statement for the first quarter of the year? Please call the church office, 683-8861, to make your request. Thank you for helping us be good stewards.

A CALLED TRUSTEES MEETING

...to be held on Sunday, April 24, at 12:30p. All members please plan to attend.

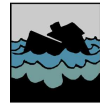


BIBLE STUDY

10:00 a.m. each Thursday. Need a ride? Call the office and let us know, 683-8861.

✝ **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK** ✝

I am a child of God, immersed in His Light and Love. I will share this joy with those around me.



**SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE
NOW REGISTERING LONG TERM
RECOVERY TEAMS**

The next few months will begin the rebuilding process for survivors of the state's 2015 flood. For answers about volunteering for this mission, please contact Stephanie Hunt, 803-960-0359, or online, shunt@umcsc.org. More information is available at the Disaster Response Hotline, 1-800-390-4911, or the SC Conference website, <http://www.umcsc.org/home/ministries/disaster-response/flood-recovery/>

IN THE WORDS OF WESLEY

"Humility and patience are the surest proofs of the increase of love."
~ John Wesley

ARTWALK TO BENEFIT THE GREENLINE

The fifth annual Vollintine & Evergreen Artwalk will feature 70 artists, a silent auction, local musicians, a large children's area, exciting food options, craft beer, and more. Sponsored by Midtown's V&E Greenline, it will take place on Saturday, April 23, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1625 Tutwiler Ave. Complete information may be found at VEGreenline.org.



Our Reading Program

United Methodist Women have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action, for more than 150 years. The Reading Program is a study opportunity that should also lead to action. All are invited to join our Reading Program—men & women, young & old, big & little, tall & short, you & a friend! There are 5 categories from which to read:

- Education for Mission
- Leadership Development
- Nurturing for Community
- Social Action
- Spiritual Growth

Plan 1: 5 books - 1 from each category
Plan 2: 10 books - 2 from each category
Plan 3: 15 books - 2 of each plus 5 from any
Plan 4: 20 books - 2 from each plus 10 from any
All categories require reading "response" magazine and Plans 2-4 also require reading *New World Outlook* magazine.

Some newly acquired Reading List books in the library are: "Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience"; "Nature Girl: A Guide to Caring for God's Creation", and "The Weight of Mercy: A Novice Pastor on the City Streets".

Other suggested titles, available at the public library are: "On God's Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned about Serving the Common God", and "In Capable Arms: Living a Life Embraced by Grace".

What You May Not Know

...is that Mission Studies may be read for credit:
Spiritual growth study for Spiritual Growth
Geographic study for Education for Mission
Issue study for Social Action



FOOD PANTRY FOR APRIL

Canned Fruit
Cash is always appreciated and will help purchase goods at a great discount.

(Make checks payable to Aldersgate and write "food Pantry" in the memo line.)

Thank you.



MULCH GIVE-AWAY

The City of Memphis is giving away mulch, as long as the supply lasts, Saturday/Sunday, April 23/24, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 315 S. Hollywood (near the Children's Museum). Its "load your own" so bring your truck or containers.



What children can learn, see and do at Lakeshore Summer Camp is unique, inspiring, and FUN! Dates, ages and costs are available from Aleita Tutor, 274-0089 or 553-3431, and also in the church office. Make plans now! Some camps fill up very quickly. Choose what fits your family:

- Campemento Espiritu
- Rec Camp-Sports (New for 2016)
- Elementary Camps
- Jr./Sr. High Camps
- Wilderness Camps
- Camp Teen Hope
- Worship & Arts Camps



**Asbury UMC's
Community Flea Market**

Saturday, May 14, 2016 **7 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
No rain date! **Its inside!**

YOU can be a vendor. Rental is only \$20 for an 8x10 booth.

- Outdoor space will be available by request only.
 - Please keep in mind, if the weather is inclement, there will be NO refunds on outdoor spaces, only the option to move inside.
 - If you need access to electricity, please SPECIFY that when reserving a booth.
 - Concessions will be available on site.
 - Booths are only reserved when rent is paid.
- For more info and/or to rent a space, please contact Debbie Williams, 901-355-3597.