

**OUR PRAYERS**

Our Ministers	Our Church
Our Leaders	Our Ministry Teams
Our Children & Youth	Our Homebound
Our College Students	Our Missionaries
Our Police Dept.	Our Fire Dept.
Our City	Our Military

**Homebound and Assisted Care**

Martha Allen	June Burton	Carolyn Escue
Ray Escue	Mava Dell Fry	Earl Galloway
Doris Hight	Marie Hughes	Wayne Lawrence
Ted Lewis	Betty Ray	Bernice Shelby
Emmett Smith	Betty Smithmier	Martha Wallace

**At Home**

Lana Solomon (eye surg 7/11)  
 Peggy Brightwell  
 Marcelle Farrow  
 Clover Lauth  
 Steve Ragsdale

**Special Prayers for**

...disaster victims  
 ...immigrants  
 ...the remaining kidnapped  
 Nigerian girls

**Our Sympathy**, love and prayers go out to  
 ...Jimmy & Jane Hight and Betty Jones and families in  
 the loss of their sister-in-law, Mildred Hight  
 ...Neil & Jean DeLong and family in the loss of Neil's  
 brother, Paul DeLong

**OUR PRESENCE - July 2**

Sunday School	33
Worship	57

**OUR GIFTS - July 2**

Offering	\$ 4,619
Month to Date	\$ 4,619
YTD	\$ 71,279


**OUR SERVICE - July 9**

**Greeters**.....Gerry Gaines  
 Mireya Ramos  
**Liturgist**.....Andrew Baker  
**Scripture**.....Renee Little  
**Children's Time**.....Andrew Baker  
**Lock-up**.....Tom Lockhart

**OUR WITNESS**

**July Scripture Readers**

16 Faith Gbeneneh
23 Rebeca Ernst
30 Judy Stanley

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


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**OUR PRAYERS (con't)**

Kristen Boggs	Jim Brazile	Brenda Brazile
Melissa Cole	Jaunay Davis	Miriam Davis
Corella Edwards	Gordillo Family	Diane Harrison
John Hight	Kay Hudak	Patty Hudak
Jeff Irwin	Dennis LeClear	Ursula Lewis
Mary Lockhart	Bill McClain	Jesse McClerkin
Lou Ella Morris	Richard Morris	Joe Moseley
Karen Mosley	Becky Pennington	Boyd Pilkinton
Ruth Pilkinton	Moira Pomije	Wade Reeves
Stephanie Roberts	Brad Weaver	David Weaver
Shannon Weaver	Charlie Whitaker	Margie Williamson

The



Flame

Aldersgate United

Phone: (901) 683-8861

E-mail: office@agumc.org

Methodist Church

Fax: (901) 683-1374

Website: www.agumc.org

July 5, 2017

Volume 62 Issue 27

**"I Can Do Nothing Less!"** by [Steve Countryman](#)

The vision was of me standing in front of a threshold with a view, and a perspective of a supernatural reality. One door closes and another opens. Often a door in the Bible represents a declaration, decision, opportunity or an invitation. God opened the door and the invitation is given. He shows you the opportunity and awaits your decision and declaration. Will you decide to trust, believe and have faith in Him? That He will provide the grace that you need to do what He wants you to do? Will you go through the door? The decision to surrender all and let God lead and direct you into a new dimension, a new level of trust, a new level of knowledge, a new level of experience and a new level of power! This requires you to be willing to step out, step up and step in to what God has for you.

At first I was filled with apprehension and fear of the unknown at my vision. Then I realized that if this is what God wants me to do, and knowing that He holds nothing good back from His children, then I had to trust Him to take care of me and provide the grace I needed to enter in. That surrendering to Him allowed God to reveal to me what it was that He wanted to share, "I can do nothing less than what God says that I can do!" Wow, how that changed my thinking.

The more that I thought on it and prayed about it the more He revealed to me. If God deserves our best and He is worthy of our best, then how can we do anything less than what He says that we can do? That brings it into the present, NOW, rather than us "waiting for it" or "someday" being at that level.

More of the obvious...Being human and being born into a sinful life of limits and restrictions, we cannot do anything for God in the supernatural on our own. It can ONLY be done through His grace, power, sovereignty, spirit and our willingness to believe and obey. That makes it obvious that it is God, through us, who does the supernatural! We can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us. Total alignment and unity with and through God the Father, Jesus His Son and the Holy Spirit.

[Proverbs 8:34](#) Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.

We pray to God and tell Him how desperate we are for Him and how much we need God in our lives. With times as tough as they are and all of us needing different kinds of help, praying to God should be an obvious necessity. It doesn't make sense that when you pray for God's help that you aren't willing to surrender your entire life to God. How can you ask for God's help and intervention and not be willing to let go of the sins, bad habits, un-forgiveness, bad friends and "harmful things". That is like holding on to a red hot fire log crying out for help but being unwilling to let go of the log.

Surrender your problems, your worries, your cares, your finances, your troubles, your fears and, most of all, surrender your will to His. For the existence of mankind is for His pleasure. As a child of the Most High God "I can do nothing less".

Blessings,  
*Virginia*

Scriptures Readings: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17 ; Psalm 72  
 Romans 7: 15-25a Matthew 11



**LOOKING AHEAD**

Sun. 7/9 10:15a Sunday School  
11:30a Worship

Mon. 7/10 12 Noon Newsletter Deadline

Tue. 7/11 No Activities

Wed. 7/12 6:45p Choir Rehearsal

Thu. 7/13 9:00a **Asbury** Food Pantry  
11:00a Golden Cross Key Women

Fri. 7/14 Offices Closed

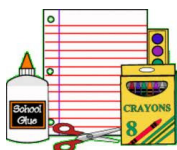
Sat. 7/815 No Activities

Sun. 7/16 10:15a Sunday School  
11:30a Worship

Mon. 7/17 7:00p Trustees Meeting

**DON'T FORGET**

Trustees will meet on Monday, July 17, at 7 p.m.



**SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR WILLOW OAKS**

The red backpack is now in the hall near the office to receive the items for Willow Oaks, our adopted school. Along with the suggested items, if you would prefer to purchase a 'pre-pack' for grades K-5, they are \$53 per pack. Please make checks out to Aldersgate for all or any part of the cost and note Willow Oaks in the memo line.

**NEW ADDRESS FOR AN OLD FRIEND**

Mrs. Doris Bellott  
601 Wolf River Blvd. #115  
Collierville, TN 38107  
901-674-8385

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Lovingly remember those who came before us. As you remember others today, may others remember you in the future.

**THANK YOU NOTES**


Aldersgate Family,  
I just wanted to send a little note thanking you for all the love, caring and support you showed my father in the last few months of his life. He spoke of many of you in our phone conversations and appreciated all you had done for him. It was hard having him far away from me, but he loved Memphis and wasn't about to leave and didn't want to be a burden to anyone. I know, at times, he was not the easiest person to deal with but, somehow, you all knew how to handle him and he was grateful you understood all of his illnesses. Thank you to those who served at his funeral. I know he was grateful to have all of you there. You are such a blessing to me as it was a hard few months for my dad in the end. Your love, generosity and true friendship were all definitions of Christ-like behavior and I thank you.

Love,  
Becky Koenig

Dear Aldersgate Friends,  
Thank you for letting me go to camp. I had a lot of fun. My favorite part was the lake—it was so much fun.

Thank you!!!  
Presleigh Wilson

**CANDLE BURNING GIFTS TO UMW MISSIONS**

 Please complete this form, enclose payment, and give to Mary Robbins or the church office. (A minimum gift of \$5 per name/event, please). Make checks out to Aldersgate **UMW**.

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration of \_\_\_\_\_



**No Sub-group Meetings in July**

**Are You Caught Up On Your Reading?**

Help us remain a Platinum Unit. Our Reading List must be turned in by the end of August. That gives you 2 months to complete Plan 1: read 5 books, one from each category—Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Even if you don't make it through all five, every book counts. Come to the Church Library and see all the options. You will find something you need to read.

**GRACE PLACE UMC CELEBRATES A JOURNEY OF GRACE**

Saturday, August 5, will see Grace Place celebrate 10 years as a church and 5 years as a chartered United Methodist congregation within prison walls. The keynote speaker will be Bessie Dodd. If you heard Bessie speak at Annual Conference, you know how powerful her story is. She was incarcerated for 35 years, is now released on parole and doing very well living in Nashville.

This old fashioned 'dinner on the grounds' will be inside at tables and with a/c. Dress will be casual. The event will take place at 12 Noon at First UMC in Covington, TN, 145 W. Church Street. A lunch of BBQ Pork Shoulder, Fried Green Tomatoes, Skillet Corn and other great southern dishes with, what else but Banana Pudding for dessert, is being catered by Hog Wild BBQ. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$200 for a table of 8. If you are part of a church or group that has supported us, we encourage you to gather a group together and join us. Reservations are needed by July 17 and may be made with Rev. Harrison at 901-301-9689 or 901-647-5185.

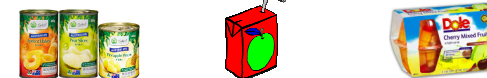
Over the past 10 years, we have had many challenges and, with your help, have met them all. Please join us so we can thank you and share some of the wonderful things we have accomplished.

Rev. Diane Harrison

**HONORING OUR LOVED ONES**

Gifts have been given for  
**Scholarship Fund**  
In memory of Mildred Hight by  
Joyce Kernodle

**Memorial Fund**  
In memory of Mildred Hight by  
Carolyn McDougal



**FOOD PANTRY FOR JULY**  
Canned Fruit Fruit Juice Fruit Cups  
Cash is also welcome.

Thank you.  
(Make checks out to Aldersgate and note 'food pantry' in the memo line.)



**Sun., July 23: 5:00p The Finchers in Concert**  
6:00p Refreshments in FH

If you are able and willing to volunteer your time to greet concert goers or share your talent in making finger sandwiches, bringing fruit and/or cookies, please contact Rebeca Ernst, 484-7385, and let her know how you will help.



**DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE!  
DOUBLE YOUR FUN!**

Remember that old Doublemint gum jingle? That's what it will be at our Scholarship Fundraiser and Church-wide Birthday Party. Both events are the same day — Sunday, August 13, right after our worship service (12:30ish) Sign up sheets will be on the office window for lunch reservations and to choose the birthday month for which you want to decorate a table or provide a cake. Make your plans now to attend!