

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- Sun. 8/6 10:15a Sunday School  
11:30a Worship/Communion
- Mon. 8/7 12:00p Newsletter Deadline
- Tue. 8/8 Back to School
- Wed. 8/9 6:45p Choir Rehearsal
- Thu. 8/10 9:00a **Asbury** Food Pantry
- Fri. 8/11 Offices Closed
- Sat. 8/512 No Activities
- Sun. 8/13 9:30a UMW Executive Meeting  
10:15a Sunday School  
11:30a Worship  
12:30p Spaghetti Lunch Fund-raiser for Scholarship Fund and Church-wide Birthday Bash



**SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO BE GIVEN SOON**

Our collection of cash and supplies for Willow Oaks Elementary will be closing soon. The big, red backpack is in the hall near the office to receive your gifts. Cash is welcomed to purchase pre-packs for all grades.



**SHOULD YOU APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?**

Aldersgate UMC has scholarship money available to high school graduates who have been members of Aldersgate for at least one year. Guidelines and application requirements are available in the church office. You may call 683-8861 for more information.



**!! REMEMBER !!**

...our Spaghetti Lunch Scholarship Fundraiser and the Church-wide Birthday Party is August 13. Lunch is 'free' for your donation to the Scholarship Fund. Sign up sheets are on the office window for lunch reservations and to bring a cake or decorate a table for the birthday bash. You may also email [office@agumc.org](mailto:office@agumc.org) or call, 683-8861 to be put on either or both lists.



**ECLIPSE DAY - AUGUST 21**

Sadly, Memphis will not see a total eclipse, but it will certainly be worth watching. Be sure to wear protective glasses through the entire partial eclipse. If you want to experience the total eclipse, take a trip to Clarksville, Springfield, Portland, Lebanon, Sparta, Baxter or Nashville. For other places along its path, visit [eclipse2017.org](http://eclipse2017.org)

**CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE WORDS**

by only the last 3 letters?

- |        |        |
|--------|--------|
| ___pay | ___lad |
| ___ior | ___eue |
| ___rva | ___day |
| ___voc | ___yss |
| ___gun | ___pty |
| ___til | ___cay |
| ___uke | ___uze |
| ___noe |        |

See next week's newsletter for the answers.



**UMW Mission Study August 15**

Join us for "Missionary Conferences of the UMC in the U.S.", our geographic Mission Study this year. Men are welcome to attend, and bring a friend or two.

We ask your help in providing juice, fruit and sweets for breakfast and finger sandwiches, chips, and salads for lunch. Beverages will be provided. Registration begins at 8:30a, the program at 9. See you there!



**Candle Burning**

Time is almost up to get your gifts to mission in for our Candle Burning program. Mary Robbins will gladly accept your information and money. All honorees will included in an insert on UMW/UMM Sunday, September 17, and lifted in prayer.



The ABBA Conference, presented by Memphis Conference United Methodist Men, will be held at First UMC, 200 S. Church St., Jackson, TN, on Saturday, August 12. Check in at 9:00 a.m., the conference begins at 10:00a.m. Open to laity and clergy, registration is limited to 100 guests. Bishop Bill McAllilly will lead the worship service. The fee of \$20 is payable at check-in. For more information, please contact Frank Holbrook at [frankmh52@charter.net](mailto:frankmh52@charter.net) or 731-514-3080

**HONORING OUR LOVED ONES**

Gifts have been given for

**Scholarship Fund**

In memory of Marcelle Farrow by

- Carolyn McDougal
- Jim & Carol Florow
- Lorelle Woodard
- Jimmy & Jane High

In memory of Paul DeLong by

- Jim & Carol Florow



**FOOD PANTRY FOR AUGUST**

Hot or Cold Cereal

Cash is also welcome.

Thank you.

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



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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
- Janie Heflin
- Doris Hight
- Marie Hughes
- Wayne Lawrence
- Ted Lewis
- Betty Ray
- Bernice Shelby
- Emmett Smith
- Martha Wallace

**Hospice Care**

Boyd Pilkinton

**Special Prayers** for

- ...Clover Lauth
- ...disaster victims
- ...immigrants
- ...the remaining kidnapped Nigerian girls

**At Home**

- Warren Petty
- Betty Smithmier
- Teresa McMullin
- Vic Petty
- John Mason

**OUR PRESENCE - July 30**

Sunday School	35
Worship	57

**OUR GIFTS - July 30**

Offering	\$	432
Month to Date	\$	3,602
YTD	\$	75,486

**OUR SERVICE - August 6**

**Greeters**.....Dorothy Christiansen  
Audrey Weaver

**Liturgist**.....Jay Finzel

**Scripture**.....Nubari Deekae

**Children's Time**.....Ed Stanley

**Lock-up**.....Neil DeLong

**OUR WITNESS**

**August Scripture Readers**

- 13 Judy Stanley
- 20 Rose Oyoo
- 27 Andrew Baker

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



**OUR PRAYERS (con't)**

- |                  |                   |                  |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Kristen Boggs    | Jim Brazile       | Brenda Brazile   |
| Peggy Brightwell | Melissa Cole      | Jaunay Davis     |
| Miriam Davis     | Corella Edwards   | Gordillo Family  |
| Shanon Groves    | 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 |
| Ruth Pilkinton   | Moira Pomije      | Jamie Proctor    |
| Wade Reeves      | Stephanie Roberts | Billy Smith      |
| Brad Weaver      | David Weaver      | Shannon Weaver   |
| Charlie Whitaker | Margie Williamson | Kristine Young   |

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

Aldersgate United

Phone: (901) 683-8861

E-mail: office@agumc.org

Methodist Church

Fax: (901) 683-1374

Website: www.agumc.org

August 2, 2017

Volume 62 Issue 31

**Big Is Not Always Better**

by Ken Barnes

Thus says the Lord, "As the new wine is found in the cluster..." ([Isaiah 65:8 NASB](#))

Everybody wants a bigger church, a more significant ministry. The expansion of God's purpose on this earth is never bad. But sometimes, in His Kingdom, least may be the best.

What was Jesus' strategy for reaching the world? It involved a group of three (Peter, James, and John) and then the twelve disciples.

David had 30 valiant warriors. Gideon had his army trimmed down to three hundred men. God's people have rarely fought a battle where they were not out numbered.

When Jesus spoke of the cost of discipleship the size of His following tended to wane. When he talked about cross bearing you got the impression that he was intentionally trying to winnow His flock.

Are our church growth strategies sacrificing depth for breadth? A surge in the number of bodies in the pews may make us feel good, but does it necessarily translate into forming the life of Christ in His disciples?

Our Lord, who invested his life in a few, started the movement that has changed the world, the church. We can emulate the patterns of this world or we can follow the ways our Lord taught us. It depends on whether we are making disciples or spectators. New wine is always found in the cluster. In God's kingdom, big is not always better and little is much if God is in it.

Blessings,  
*Virginia*

Scriptures Readings:

Genesis 32:22-31

Romans 9:1-5

Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Matthew 14:13-21

