

OUR PRAYERS

Methodist North Betty Smithmier 334	Special Prayers for ...kidnapped girls from Nigeria
Jewish Home Bernard Rainey	...earthquake victims in Nepal
At Home Rev. Joe Moseley	...flood victims in Texas

Our Sympathy, love and prayers go out to
...Frances Molnar and Family in the loss of her daughter, Becky Roberts

Homebound and Assisted Care

Martha Allen	June Burton	Jack Eaton
Mava Dell Fry	Earl Galloway	Helen Griffin
Marie Hughes	Margaret Kenley	Doris Palazzini
Mary Grace Petty	Jane Pifer	Betty Ray
Bernice Shelby	Chris Simmons	Emmett Smith
Harold Smith	Betty Smithmier	Martha Wallace
Bill Whitaker		

OUR PRESENCE - August 2

Sunday School	48
Worship	77
Visitors	12
Saturday Service	20

OUR GIFTS - August 2

Offering	\$ 3,387
Month to Date	\$ 3,387
Apportionments To Date	\$ 6,776

OUR SERVICE - August 9

Greeter	Margie Williamson Lorelle Woodard
Liturgist	Bruce Hughes
Scripture	Dean Tutor
Children's Time	Dr. Finzel
Lock-up	Jimmie Bedwell

OUR WITNESS

August Scripture Readers

16	Nubari Deekae
23	Peggy Brightwell
30	Tom Lockhart



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



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Aldersgate United Methodist Church

The



Flame

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Pastor's Ponderings

Sometimes I wish I'd said it that way. Sometimes we simply need to hear it again with the hope and the prayer that it'll sink deeply into our spirits. And so, I commend to you this addendum to last Sunday's message based on John 6:24-35 entitled Following Jesus, and written by Kayla McClurg, Executive Director, Servant Leadership School, The Church of the Saviour, Washington, DC. ~

The crowds are so impressed with Jesus that they want to take him by force and make him their king. Isn't this a hopeful sign, that they are deepening their understanding of who he is and want his leadership and wisdom? Jesus doesn't think so. After escaping their political scheming by going again to "the other side," he turns and sees another crowd forming. He confronts those who keep following him wherever he goes, who keep crossing the water when he crosses, climbing the mountain when he climbs. He says, "You are looking for me not because of miraculous signs, but simply because you have eaten all your bread [and don't want to miss out on getting more?]."

This indeed is food for thought. Why are we following Jesus? Are we wanting to grow into the fullness of our humanity, to be baptized again and again into the muddy river of life's pain and possibility, or are we just hoping for more of the abundance we've heard God is apt to give? Maybe we want a better future, a lighter load, another distribution of bread. So we stay just close enough to grab our share, to say he is our friend, to get whatever benefits might come. Sometimes, sad to say, following Jesus doesn't necessarily mean we are actually following Jesus.

Jesus warns them: "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life." What does this mean, they wonder, to work for the food that endures? "This is the work of God," Jesus answers, "to believe in me." Not only to look for benevolent gestures or remarkable signs, but to believe that *I am* the bread for which you hunger, the drink for which you thirst. Jesus is trying to move us from a grasping mindset that trails after him demanding GIVE US BREAD, to a real relationship in which we recognize that God IS the bread. Is our faithfulness rooted in staying just close enough to Jesus to get him to do for us what we want? Or is it found in the slow work of being in relationship with the eternal God, who eases open our clutched hearts and helps us to receive what can never be measured or bought? Bread of heaven, the only food that satisfies. Just a little more food for thought.

Blessings always,

Virginia

Weekly Scriptures: II Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5-2, John 6:35, 41-51

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. 8/9 10:15a Sunday School
11:15a Coffee in Fellowship Hall
11:30a Worship
Last day of Tax-free Weekend

Mon. 8/10 Noon Newsletter Deadline
6:00p Prayer Walk @ **Asbury**

Tue. 8/11 Gift Wrap @ **Asbury** open any day by appointment

Wed. 8/12 10:00a Bible Study @ **Asbury**
10:30a Hospital Auxiliary
5:30p Youth
6:30p Choir Rehearsal

Thu. 8/13 9-Noon Food Pantry @ **Asbury**
9:30a Trip to Bass Pro Shop
10:00a Bible Study

Fri. 8/14 Offices Closed

Sat. 8/15 No Activities

Sun. 8/16 10:15a Sunday School
11:15a Coffee in Fellowship Hall
11:30a Worship
12:30p Teacher Appreciation
Pot Luck Lunch



THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY AT ALDERSGATE

Join us at 10 a.m. each Thursday. Our Study is "Learning to Walk in the Dark (Because God Sometimes Shows Up at Night)" by Barbara Brown Taylor. Books for this study are available in the church office for \$11.

If you are unable to make it on a Thursday, you are invited to Asbury on Wednesday mornings at 10, to catch up.

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE PLANT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Students may now apply to the Plant Scholarship Fund for assistance with their educational expenses for the coming school year. Applications are available in the church office or from Renee Little, 737-9899 or rwlittlepd@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your thoughtfulness and prayers for my brother-in-law, Jack Baker. Where could I ever find another church with such wonderful people like all of you? Thanks also for the cards and the calls. They were appreciated. My sister, Claudette, and I really appreciate our friends and our minister coming to the funeral home. You don't know how much it lifted us up to see Tommy, Sharon, Mary, Peggy and Virginia, there. Thanks to all of you. This is the Church with the Warm Heart!

Lorelle

The Youth Group extends many thanks to Milton Craft, Gaby Gordillo, Tillie Speraw, Judy Stanley and Dean & Aleita Tutor for the food and serving the youth during July. If you are interested in giving, serving or supporting the youth with a meal on Wednesday nights, please call Jimmy or Jane Hight, 737-9053.

\$ \$ \$

SAVING MONEY ON BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING Tax-free Weekend - August 7-9

Clothing under \$100 per item, school and art supplies under \$100 per item, and computers for personal use under \$1500, can be purchased tax-free from 12:01 a.m. on August 7th to 11:59 p.m. on August 9th.

PACK THE BACKPACK

"Never get tired of doing little things for others. Sometimes, those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts."

Time is nearly up to 'Pack the Backpack' for Willow Oaks Elementary. And who better to show your 'warm hearts' to than the children of our adopted school. Thank you for your generosity!

Lunch

Teacher Appreciation Pot Luck Lunch
Sunday, August 16, 12:30 p.m.

UMW NEWS

Mission Study - August 18 - 9 a.m.

Invite some friends and strangers to join us for our Mission Study, **Latin America: People and Faith**. Hear an overview of the richness of Latin America and its people. Learn some history from pre-Columbian days to colonization, their struggle for independence, and about current challenges. Understand their rich heritage of art and culture, the contributions of women and how Latin America has been influenced by various religions and faith traditions.

This is a one day event.

Send a Card

You never know how a heart can be touched by as simple a thing as a birthday card.

Katelyn Davis, a Global Mission Fellow, spent three years in Hong Kong, away from home on her special day. "What if no one wishes me a happy birthday?" However, she found those three birthdays to be unique and special. And what made them even more amazing were the cards she received from dozens of UMW Groups across the United States, because of the United Methodist Women's Prayer Calendar that lists the birthdays of every missionary currently serving around the world. Katelyn was struck by the power of connection and felt supported and cared for, and for the first time, felt connected to the global church. The act of sending birthday cards expresses one way that United Methodist Women seek to be in relationship with missionaries around the globe.

(Excerpts from *New World Outlook*)

Social Action Day

Saturday, August 22, 2015
9:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church
500 W. Church Ave., Medina, TN 38355
731-783-3230



FOOD PANTRY FOR AUGUST

Hot or Cold Cereal Jams or Jellies

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given for

Memorial Fund

In memory of Jack Baker by

Terry & Margie Williamson
Carolyn McDougal



CALLING ALL ALDERSGATE BRIDES AND GROOMS

Photos Wanted for 60th Anniversary Book

We want to create a venue at our 60th celebration for those who have been married in our church. Please mail your wedding photos to the church, 4459 Willow Rd., Memphis 38117, or email them to Perri Mathis at bamathis@att.net. Be sure to include your names and wedding date with the photo.

If you know someone who married at Aldersgate but has moved out of town or they have lost touch with us, please encourage them to send in a photo. The more the merrier! We would like the photos to be inside the church or outside with the church in the background. Photos may be any variation—bride only, bride and groom, the wedding party or the traditional family wedding photo. Thank you for being part of our celebration!

TRAVEL TIME

Deadline extended for the day trip to the Bass Pro Shop at the Pyramid on August 13.

The Autumn in Arkansas Tour on October 12-15 is still open for sign-up.

Brochures are available on the bulletin board or call Carolyn for more information, 861-0841.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Help one another; there's no time like the present and no present like the time.

— James Durst