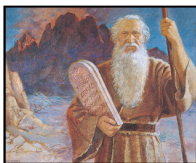


LOOKING AHEAD

- Sun. 8/27 9:30a Fellowship Time Sponsored by the Choir
10:15a Sunday School
11:30a Worship
- Mon. 8/28 12:00p Newsletter Deadline
- Tue. 8/29 No Activities
- Wed. 8/30 6:45p Choir Rehearsal
- Thu. 8/31 9:00a **Asbury** Food Pantry
5:45p Girl Scouts
- Fri. 9/1 Offices Closed
5:45p Girl Scouts
- Sat. 9/2 No Activities
- Sun. 9/3 10:15a Sunday School
11:30a Worship



JOIN US FOR MOSES: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE RELUCTANT PROPHET

...on Thursday, September 7th, at 10:00 a.m., as we begin our fall term Bible study. "Once again, Adam Hamilton shows he's a master teacher who guides his audience into lively conversation and deep thinking. 'Moses' is a model of what it means to focus on the Bible's bold content with honesty and faithfulness. This is Bible study as it should be." *Matthew Schlimm, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary*
Study books are available in the office for \$12.



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.)

GRACE PLACE MADE IT TO THE BIG TIME!

The current edition of the Memphis Conference News carries a story about the anniversary celebration of the prison-based congregation, Grace Place UMC. "Journey of Grace" was the theme for the event celebrating 10 years as a Methodist church and 5 years as a chartered United Methodist congregation. Now housed near Fort Pillow, TN, Grace Place began life at the Mark Luttrell Corrections Center in Memphis.

Bessie Dodd, a former inmate, a Grace Place member, and the keynote speaker at the celebration, spoke about what Grace Place meant to her while incarcerated and after she was released. Calling it her 'home', she said it had transformed her life. Even though she was physically in prison, her new-found faith provided her a different kind of freedom.

Some of our Aldersgate members and supporters of Grace Place, Diana Bedwell, Lynn Coffman, Rebecca Ernst, Perri Mathis and Lana Solomon celebrated the event with Dr. Virginia and Jay at First UMC in Covington, TN. Dr. Virginia, a close friend of Grace Place's pastor, Rev. Diane Harrison, remarked that the church's birth and growth within the walls of a prison couldn't be done, but for God. Mary Mortenson, executive director of Prison Congregations of America, stated, "As long as there are prisoners, our work will continue. Grace Place is what a healthy prison congregation should look like. It has touched people on both sides of the razor wire".



BIBLE STUDY, BINGO AND BBQ

On September 14th you are invited to join us for Bible Study at 10 a.m. then Bingo & BBQ at 11:15. Lunch of BBQ, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Chips, Cookies and a Beverage, will be by donation only. You are asked to bring a gift or two, beautifully wrapped, as bingo prizes. The more prizes we have, the longer we play. There is a sign-up sheet on the office window to give us a count for ordering lunch.

We must have a count early so please sign up by Sept. 7th.



**Conference Social Action Day
Saturday, August 26**

...at Aldersgate-Jackson, 1050 N. Parkway, Jackson, TN. Registration/refreshments at 9 a.m., workshops begin at 10.

**Registration for Assembly 2018
Opens September 1st**

'Its too early!' you say. Not at all. Take advantage of the early bird discount by registering between September 1 and November 30, 2017, for \$295. After that, the fee is \$330. Lunch on Friday and Saturday is included in the fee. Plan to spend May 18-20, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio, at the UMW Assembly, "The Power of Bold", acquiring the knowledge, courage and determination to change the world. Info can be found on line at umwassembly2018.org.



**CHILDREN'S CONSIGNMENT SALE
By Germantown UM Women
Aug. 25-26**

Items for sale will include clothes, shoes, furniture, toys, sporting gear, baby equipment, books, games and more. This 28 year tradition is an opportunity for residents to shop while also benefiting the community. Proceeds benefit local mission projects of Germantown United Methodist Women.

Presale: Thursday, Aug. 24, 5:30-8 p.m.
Public Sale: Friday Aug. 25, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Public Half-price Sale: Friday, Aug. 25, 5-7 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 26, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Join us at the Owings Life Enrichment Center gym, 2323 West St., Germantown, TN.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Offering love and kindness comes naturally to Christians. Share a smile, a helping hand or a hug.

**DELTA FAIR AND MUSIC FESTIVAL
COMING TO THE AGRICENTER**

The Delta Fair and Music Festival is a 10 day event being held from September 1-10, 2017, at the Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove Road. It showcases great music, fair food from Pronto Pups to Funnel Cakes and everything in between, drink, crafts, clothes, games, & much more. It also features a 50+ ride Midway with rides for all ages! You won't want to miss the helicopter rides, pig races, red neck yacht races, bike night, street performers, and petting zoo. For more information, call 901-867-7007 or visit <http://www.DeltaFest.com>.



**BROWN BAG LUNCH
September 1**

Germantown UMC, 2331 S. Germantown Rd., will host "Scams Against Seniors", on Friday, September 1, at 11 a.m. Nancy Crawford of the Better Business Bureau will be the guest speaker. The event is free, no reservations needed. Just bring your sack lunch. Beverages will be provided. Questions??? Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, or Beverly Rhoads, 754-7216 ext. 107.

TO TICKLE YOUR FUNNY BONE



YOU BE THE BAD GUY. I'LL BE THE CIRCUIT RIDER PREACHER.

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 |

Methodist University
(Kenneth) Neal Carter
927 Tower

Special Prayers for
...Clover Lauth & family
...immigrants & families
...disaster victims
...the remaining kidnapped
Nigerian girls

Baptist Rehab
Coach John Nix 103

Ephraim McDowell Hosp.
Dorothy Pruitt

At Home
Henry & Jesslyn Sammons

Hospice Care
Betty Smithmier

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 |

Our Sympathy, love and prayers go out to
...Barry, Cindy & Tyler Pilkinton & family in the loss of
Barry's father, Boyd Pilkinton
...Patrick Mason & family in the loss of his brother, Frank

OUR PRESENCE - August 20

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Sunday School | 43 |
| Worship | 70 |

OUR GIFTS - August 20

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Offering | \$ 1,450 |
| Month to Date | \$ 7,023 |
| YTD | \$ 82,509 |

OUR SERVICE - August 27

Greeters.....Dorothy Christiansen
Audrey Weaver

Liturgist.....Jay Finzel

Scripture.....Andrew Baker


Children's Time.....Dr. Finzel

Lock-up.....Neil DeLong

OUR WITNESS

September Scripture Readers
3 Jay Finzel
10 Dean Tutor

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 |
| John Hight | Kay Hudak | Patty Hudak |
| Jeff Irwin | Dennis LeClear | Ursula Lewis |
| Mary Lockhart | John Mason | Bill McClain |
| Jesse McClerkin | Teresa McMullin | 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 | | |

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The



Flame

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August 23, 2017

Volume 62 Issue 34

Follow Your Gift

by *Cate Russell-Cole*

When I was a new Christian, one of the popular songs we listened to was David Meece's "Count the Cost." The song talked about how you need to give your whole heart to the Lord and serve: the focus was intense.

Over the years I joined churches which intensified the focus even more. You had to be in ministry all the time. If you spoke to someone with a ministry of prayer, you had to be a prayer warrior. If you were around people with a music ministry, they thought you were lax if you didn't slip in and out of praise and worship all day. The Bible scholars were on you to study, study, study!

It took me a few years to work out that those who had a passion for their gift, sometimes couldn't see past it: thus pressure was passed on to others to use the gift the same way. I understand. I get passionate about my gifts too and don't know how others can possibly function without them.

However, the trap for me was when the pressure to always be in ministry became guilt, when God had me taking time out. Sometimes I have had seasons away from God's work. I always felt condemned when that happened. I thought I was a fat, spiritually lazy, gospel blogger.

Then a fellow blogger put this message on her blog and it spoke to me: "God doesn't want something from us, He simply wants us." That was not the way I had been brought up to think in church... but it did make sense from the Biblical perspective God was slowly teaching me. "Spiritual peer pressure" to perform had to be put into perspective. The Bible often refers to seasons. There is a time to rest; a time to work. I had to work with His plan at any given time.

So if you don't fit other's gifts, or have a formal ministry, don't fret about it. If God has a ministry vision for your future, one will come along in His own good time. We have strength and bread for this day and that's what we always need to work on: what He is teaching us now as we focus on simply just being with Him.

Blessings,
Virginia

Scripture Readings for August 27: Genesis 1:8-2:10
Romans 12:1-8

Psalm 124 (UMH 846)
Matthew 16:13-20

