

OUR PRAYERS

Methodist G'town

Bernard Rainey 310 West
(Lorelle's brother)

Special Prayers for

...kidnapped girls
from Nigeria
...earthquake victims
in Nepal
...flood victims in
Texas

St. Joseph-Paterson, NJ

Irvin Scheirer

At Home

Darwin Shipley, Sr.

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 - September 20

Sunday School 38
Worship 68
Visitors 6

OUR GIFTS - September 20

Offering \$ 2,253
Month to Date \$ 10,082
Apportionments To Date \$ 6,776

OUR SERVICE - September 27

Greeter Frances Molnar
Liturgist Bruce Hughes
Scripture Warren Petty
Children's Time Brother Goyo
Lock-up Emmett Parrish

OUR WITNESS

October Scripture Readers

4 Barry Mathis
11 Nubari Deekae
18 Renee Little
25 Judy Stanley



ALDERSGATE United Methodist Church
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Aldersgate United Methodist Church

The



Flame

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Pastor's Ponderings

Oscar Romero, martyr of the church in El Salvador, said, "A church that suffers no persecution but enjoys the privileges and support of the things of the earth — beware! — is not the true church of Jesus Christ. A preaching that does not point out sin is not the preaching of the gospel. A preaching that makes sinners feel good, so that they are secured in their sinful state, betrays the gospel's call." – Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals Well, those are pretty strong words!

We live in a time when many feel that the church is suffering persecution – even in the United States. But are we really? Not when we compare ourselves to the situations of Christians in the Middle East, the Far East, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and other places throughout the world – even as near to us as Mexico. And certainly not when we compare our situation with the hundreds of thousands of refugees who are fleeing from their homelands and entering the European Union to escape religious conversion or death. Comparatively speaking, you might say that we in these United States are still enjoying the "privileges and support of the things of the earth."

We may be confusing persecution with losing ground. We don't carry the clout we once did. We don't have the power and authority to influence others that we once did. We share the nation with people who hold beliefs other than Christian. Surely our faith can withstand the changing landscape in which there is more religious diversity than before – and even when there is a growing disdain for any religion at all among some. But are we being persecuted?

The more pertinent question is why are we losing ground? Why is it that the church isn't held in the high regard it once was? Why is the church not as relevant as it once was? Could it be that our privileged position is what is really costing us our faith?

Sometimes we need to face the truth of the matter – and especially in church. We need to face the truth about ourselves. And the truth of the matter is that we still have it pretty good in this country. It's not so much those who are overtly against the church who are creating problems and diminishing the power of the church as it is those of us within the church who are comfortable with the way things have always been and the privileged position we have enjoyed. We like our comfort. While people around us suffer – still we like our comfort. Beware! Lest we betray the gospel's call.

In the words of John Wesley, "I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power."

Blessings always,

Virginia

This Week's Scriptures: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:39-50

- LOOKING AHEAD**
- Sun. 9/27 10:15a Sunday School
11:30a Worship
12:30p Anniversary Committee
- Mon. 9/28 Noon Newsletter Deadline
6:00p Prayer Walk @ **Asbury**
- Tue. 9/29 No Activities
- Wed. 9/30 10:00a Bible Study @ **Asbury**
6:45p Choir Rehearsal
- Thu. 10/1 9-Noon Food Pantry @ **Asbury**
10:00a Bible Study
- Fri. 10/2 Offices Closed
- Sat. 10/3 9:00a AFLS
NO Spanish Service or Children/
Youth Fellowship. Join
services at El Redentor/Asbury
- Sun. 10/4 **World Communion Sunday**
10:00a Worship Service/Asbury
Festival of Cultures @ Asbury



**2nd ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF CULTURES
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**

...will open with one service for all three churches of our parish, at 10 a.m., at Asbury UMC, then food and fun from 11 to 3. Nothing will be 'for sale'. All will be shared among Parish brothers and sisters from Asbury, El Redentor and Aldersgate. You may call Debbie Williams, 901-355-5397 or the Asbury office, 363-1135, for all the details. Bring a lawn chair and be prepared for World Communion, great worship, and lively entertainment!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Prayer— It does not matter when you begin, or when you end, only that you bend a knee and say the words.

— Roy Disney

CHOIR NOTES

YOU are invited to join the Choir just to sing in the Christmas Cantata! Beginning now through December 20, everyone may join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:45 to 7:15 for 'Christmas music'. Rehearsal for Sunday mornings will begin at 7:15 for all who wish to stay. This is a great opportunity for all who love to sing to raise their voices in praise of our Lord and Savior!

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ILETHA AT UMNC**

Please join us in congratulating Iletha Washington, of UMNC, who was named one of the HARC Angels on Sept. 10. Mark Matheny as Director of the Highland Area Renewal Center and associated with the United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, (who is one of HARC's community partners), offered and inspiring program in awarding this honor.

Iletha is very busy, wearing many hats right now, one of which is teaching 20 students in the UMNC Pre-K Program. She went from 9 students to 20 in one week. Please pray for her and thank her when you see her.

**Come Back Home to
LAMBUTH TRUE BLUE DAY
Saturday, October 24, 10 am to 6 pm
University of Memphis Lambuth Campus**

Join the Lambuth Alumni Chapter to honor outstanding Alumni & Friends, the Class of 1965 and Coach Vic Wallace. Following a complimentary luncheon, the gym will be rededicated to Coach Pepper Bray. Enjoy a Blue Lantern Tour, planetarium show and kids' carnival area. It will be a great day!

!!! MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!!
60th Anniversary Celebration
October 25, 2015
Memories and Merry Making

A catered lunch will follow our 11:30a service. Please make your reservations by October 12. You may call the office, 683-8861 or sign up on the office window.

UMW/UMM NEWS

UMW Conference Annual Meeting
...is Saturday, Sept. 26, First UMC in Jackson, TN.

TIME TO PREPARE FOR MOR

The weekend of November 7-8 will be upon us before we know it. The time is now to prepare for our **Mission Outreach Retreat—"Hands in Mission"**, at Lakeshore. Each District is being asked to bring a display of mission work they have done this year. If you have a portable sewing machine, please bring it. If you have school kits, health kits, cleaning buckets or sewing kits for UMCOR, bring them. If you are making cancer caps or pew babies, bring them. If you like working outside, please bring gloves, black garbage bags, a yard rake and wear your work clothes. Each local Unit is invited to sponsor 1 or 2 "young" women and encourage all ages to attend. And remember, there are District and Conference Scholarships for first-timers. Lana will have that information.



**GRACE PLACE UMC
COULD USE A HAND**

Being a church inside a prison, Grace Place members could use your help in their outreach ministries. Unable to shop for themselves, these women are in need of supplies. Some of the things you might provide are yarn, especially Christmas colors; birthday cards, stamps, embroidery thread and aida cloth, and subscriptions to the Upper Room. Items may be brought to the church and placed in the shiny, blue box outside the office. Any help you can give will be very much appreciated.

FOOD PANTRY FOR SEPTEMBER
Please help with our most needed items:

- Canned Meats and Fish
- Chili Stews Ravioli
- Peanut Butter

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given for
Honorarium Fund
In honor of Terry & Margie Williamson by
Neil & Jean DeLong

Scholarship Fund
In memory of Lone Turner by
Neil & Jean DeLong
Joyce Kernodle

**CENTENARY UMC CELEBRATING
150th ANNIVERSARY**

You are cordially invited to join Centenary UMC in 'Celebrating God's Evolving Grace—150 Years and Beyond', at the 150th Anniversary Gala at the Holiday Inn University of Memphis, on Friday, November 6, 2015. Tickets for adults—\$100; 12 & under—\$50; table for 10 if purchased before 9/27—\$750 or \$1000 after Sept. 27. Special guests, music and entertainment are on the menu. Please contact Kimbra Toney-Bernard, at 496-3480 or kimbrabernard@gmail.com for more info.

**— SOLAR FUN —
MLGW 'A-BLAZING RACE'
GETS NEW LOCALE AND SPONSOR**

For all 6th thru 12th graders interested in solar energy, the MLGW A-Blazing Race model solar car race will be held on Oct. 23, on the U of M campus. Kits are available from MLGW, and cars will race on a 20 meter course. More information is available from Beverly Perkins, 528-4820 or at www.mlgw.com/ablazing



THE FLEA MARKET AT ASBURY

...is coming up November 7, from 7 am to 2 pm. and it will be **inside!** Booth rental is \$20. Helpers are needed. To rent a booth, volunteer your services or for more information, contact Debbie Williams, 901-355-5397. She will give you all the details.