

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Methodist Germantown**

Duncan Godbold  
(pacemaker replaced)

**Special Prayers** for  
...kidnapped girls/Nigeria  
...disaster victims

**At Home**

Marcelle Farrow  
Virginia Jones  
Wayne Lawrence  
Mike Robbins  
Terry Williamson

**Homebound and Assisted Care**

Martha Allen	June Burton	Carolyn Escue
Ray Escue	Mava Dell Fry	Earl Galloway
Helen Griffin	Doris Hight	Marie Hughes
Virginia Jones	Margaret Kenley	Ted Lewis
Betty Ray	Bernice Shelby	Emmett Smith
Betty Smithmier	Martha Wallace	

**Our Sympathy**, love and prayers go out to  
...Ginny & Wayne Lawrence and family in the loss  
of her son, Chris Simmons  
...Family & friends of William "Jack" Pollard

**OUR PRESENCE - December 4**

Sunday School	43
Worship	79
Visitors	2

**OUR GIFTS - December 4**

Offering	\$ 3,909
Month to Date	\$ 12,859
Apportionments to Date	\$ 6,776

**OUR SERVICE - December 11**

<b>Greeters</b>	Anna Deekae Fortune Gbeneneh
<b>Scripture</b>	Nubari Deekae
<b>Children's Time</b>	Dr. Finzel
<b>Lock-up</b>	Emmett Parrish

**OUR WITNESS**

**December Scripture Readers**  
18 Peggy Brightwell  
25 Tom Lockhart

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



**OUR PRAYERS (con't)**

Kristen Boggs	Tom Boillot	Palma Borgognoni
Jim Brazile	Brenda Brazile	Melissa Cole
Jaunay Davis	Doug Dennis	Corella Edwards
John Elkins	Gordillo Family	Andrew Hamilton
Diane Harrison	John Hight	Mildred Hight
Jeff Irwin	Mark Jones	Freda Lipford
Ursula Lewis	G. Martin Family	Bill McClain
Jesse McClerkin	Lillian McDonald	Glenn Moore
Lou Ella Morris	Joe Moseley	Warren Petty
Boyd Pilkinton	Moira Pomije	Claire Rainey
Wade Reeves	Stephanie Roberts	Marie Souder
Cindy Stanfil	David Weaver	Shannon Weaver
John Williams	Margie Williamson	

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**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**

The



Flame

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Volume 61 Issue 49

Pumpkins Down, Christmas Up

by Keith Tonkel

"We want Christmas; we need Christmas. We must have Christmas," I wrote for the GodStuff piece for today. The piece ends with these words: "Now if we could only learn what Christmas really is..." No small order. I had a small part in a funeral yesterday afternoon and stopped at Barnes and Noble in Ridgeland on the way home. As I walked in, there it was, cheery and bright, "Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus..."

If Christmas became knowledge of the meaning of salvation for us all, a sense of healing in the forgiveness of our sins, that could mean 'the world' to us. A brave new world.

If Christmas allowed us to get a new sense of the kind of God that God is, 'full of tender mercy,' wouldn't that push away a lot of our present darkness, and let in a little more light?

And if one of us, even only one, found him or herself moved 'into the path of peace,' peace would be grown. And if several and more, then...

If we are so caught up in the trials and tribulations of the moment, so caught up in the fears of what might be, if there is no peace of heart and mind and soul, then the Christmas opportunity is lost.

What Christmas is -- is what God is all about. It's about the One who made us, continuing to do whatever is necessary to find ways to call us back to Himself, and yes, to one another.

Oh yes. We want Christmas; we need Christmas, we must have Christmas.

Then learning what it's all about, we take the pumpkins down, and practice ways of putting Christmas up.

I had to go get a bottle of water, and while in the kitchen flipped on the TV. The picture came up and the sound became crisp and clear: "This is exactly what the one you love wants for Christmas this year..."

Happy Advent! Let's go! Let's 'out-Christmas' at least some of the 'Christmasteers.'

Amen to that!

Mercy, Peace and Blessings,

*Virginia*

**Scriptures for December 11:**



Isaiah 35:1-10

Luke 1:47-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11



<b>LOOKING AHEAD</b>	
Fri. 12/9	10:00a Senior Game Day-Asbury 3:00p Fidelis Class Party-FH 5:45p Girl Scouts Offices Closed
Sat. 12/10	No Activities
Sun 12/11	Third Sunday of Advent  10:15a Sunday School 11:30a Worship 12:30p UMW Unit Meeting and Installation of 2017 Officers with Potluck Lunch
Mon. 12/12	Noon Newsletter Deadline
Tue. 12/13	11:00a Koinonia Group meets in Fellowship Hall for Lunch 7:00p Love/Hope Group meets at Sharon's for Potluck Supper
Wed. 12/14	10:00a Bible Study - <b>Asbury</b> 10:30a Hospital Auxiliary 6:00p Finance Committee Meets 6:45p Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thu. 12/15	9 to 12 Food Pantry - <b>Asbury</b> 10:00a Bible Study 5:00p Girl Scouts 6:30p UM Men - <b>Asbury</b>
Fri. 12/16	11:30a Young@ Heart - <b>Asbury</b> 5:45p Girl Scouts
Sat. 12/17	9:30a Choir Rehearsal
Sun. 12/18	Fourth Sunday of Advent  10:00a Cantata @ Asbury 10:15a Sunday School 11:30a Worship & Cantata



**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Candlelight Communion Service  
5:00p Dec. 24  
**At Aldersgate**

Christmas Morning Worship  
10:00a Dec. 25  
**ONE Service only at Asbury**

**THANK YOU NOTES**

Dear Aldersgate,  
Your gracious donation of meat and fruit trays helped ensure a wonderful celebration of Mom's life. She loved her church and being a member of such a lovely congregation. Thank you for the good food, your thoughtfulness and honoring Mom.

Love,  
Mary Goolsby Coughlin

~ ~ ~

Dear Fellow Christians,  
Many, many thanks to each of you at Aldersgate for your generous response to our need for Thanksgiving baskets for our food pantry clients. We are so appreciative for your continued love and support. God bless you and your families always, but especially during this time of thankfulness for all of His blessings.

Asbury UMC

~ ~ ~

Hello Friends,  
I wanted to take this opportunity to thank your Church family and Barry Mathis for treating our Residents to Thanksgiving Lunch. We truly appreciate all that you do for us. Take care,  
**Carol St. Pierre** |Service Coordinator-LPN  
**St Peter Manor**



**UMVIM LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

The Missions Volunteers office, UM Volunteers in Mission, a part of Global Ministries, will hold its next training event in Nashville, TN from January 25-29, 2017. Anyone who is interested in serving as a long-term volunteer (two months to two years) should plan on attending this valuable training event. Opportunities to serve around the world, as well as application forms, can be found at [www.missionvolunteers.org](http://www.missionvolunteers.org). For more information, contact the Mission Volunteers office at [mv@umcmisions.org](mailto:mv@umcmisions.org).



**UNIT MEETING  
DEC. 11 - 12:30p**

Please join us for a short program and as we install our 2017 officers. Bring a dish to share for our pot luck lunch.

**IN THE WORDS OF WESLEY**

"I continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfill God's creational intentions."

~ John Wesley ~



**"REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY"**

Join us on December 18th at 11:30 a.m. for worship and a musical offering especially for Christmas. Created and arranged by Ed Kee, this cantata will stir your heart with some favorite hymns and perhaps some new favorites. Come, rejoice with us in music of the season and worship our king and savior.

**ITS POINSETTIA TIME**

Lovely red poinsettias will adorn our Sanctuary again this Christmas. You may order them to honor your loved ones. They will be placed in the Sanctuary beginning December 11.

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$15 each # Ordered \_\_\_\_\_  
Please complete this form and return, with payment, to the church office. Deadline: Dec. 8.

**HONORING OUR LOVED ONES**

Gifts have been given for

**Honorarium Fund**

In honor of our teacher, Andrew Baker by  
The Fidelis Class

In honor of our teacher, Marcelle Farrow by  
The Fidelis Class

In honor of our teacher, Margaret Ann Ligon by  
The Fidelis Class

In honor of our teacher, Francis Morris by  
The Fidelis Class

In honor of our teacher, Lana Solomon by  
The Fidelis Class

In honor of our teacher, Audrey Weaver by  
The Fidelis Class

**Memorial Fund**

In memory of Chris Simmons by  
The Fidelis Class

Neil & Jean DeLong

**The Scholarship Fund**

In memory of Chris Simmons by  
Joyce Kernodle

In memory of Sadie Tutor by  
Joyce Kernodle

**YOU'RE INVITED**

...to "JOY!", a Christmas celebration, presented by the Colonial Park UMC Chancel Choir. You will love it!

