

**OUR PRAYERS**

**At Home**

Marcelle Farrow  
Duncan Godbold  
Virginia Jones  
Wayne Lawrence  
Terry Williamson

**Special Prayers** for

...kidnapped girls/Nigeria  
...disaster victims

**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  
...Diana & Jimmie Bedwell and Family in the loss  
of her mother, Harriet Kicklighter.

**OUR PRESENCE - December 11**

Sunday School	46
Worship	70
Visitors	2

**OUR GIFTS - December 11**

Offering	\$ 2,265
Month to Date	\$ 15,124
Apportionments to Date	\$ 6,776
Pledges to Date	\$134,780

**OUR SERVICE - December 18**

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

**OUR WITNESS**

**December Scripture Readers**  
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	

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

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**

The



Flame

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December 14, 2016

Volume 61 Issue 50

**GOD-TRACKING IS BEING DELIGHTED IN THE HAPPINESS FOUND IN FOLLOWING CHRIST**

by [Dudley Anderson](#)

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

I realize there are people who go through life with very little difficulty, but these are the exception. For most of us, life is filled with ups and downs (sometimes more downs than ups). However, the secret of being happy is not in looking for happiness itself. Some think happiness is found in pleasure, possessions or people, while others look for happiness in riches. Happiness is illusive and transient. True lasting happiness can only be found by delighting oneself in the Lord.

We all have needs and desires in life. God knows our needs, even before we know them. Jesus taught us not to run after natural pleasures or even natural needs. He said, "Do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For your heavenly Father knows that you need them all." This is why he told us to look for God's goodness and God's Kingdom before looking to meet our own needs or wants. Indeed, God is our Father and no father will spitefully withhold good things from his child.

Whatever your need may be, turn to Abba before you turn anywhere else and trust him to meet that need. Your Father is the Father of heaven and has all power and resources to meet your every need. More than this, he loves you and delights in granting you the desires of your heart. First seek his righteousness so that your desires will line up with his purposes for you. Then delight yourself in the Lord and he will grant you the desires of your heart.

So, be delighted to follow his plan for your life; be delighted to spend time with (your) Father in worship and prayer and be delighted to read the Bible, meditating on his Word day and night. Do this and God will fill your life with a contented happiness. Delight yourself in Jesus today and he will make you happy.

God-tracking is being delighted in the happiness found in following Christ.

Fix your eyes on Jesus.

**Scriptures for December 18:**

Isaiah 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Matthew 1:18-25



**LOOKING AHEAD**

- Sun. 12/18 Fourth Sunday of Advent   
10:00a Worship & Cantata @ Asbury  
10:15a Sunday School  
11:30a Worship & Cantata
- Mon. 12/19 Noon Newsletter Deadline
- Tue. 12/20 No Activities
- Wed. 12/21 No Activities
- Thu. 12/22 No Activities  
Offices Closed  
Offices will be closed Today through Monday in Observance of the Christmas Holidays
- Fri. 12/23 Offices Closed
- Sat. 12/24 **Christmas Eve**  
5:00p Candlelight Communion Service
- Sun. 12/25 **Blessings of the Season to all**  
10:00a Worship @ Asbury  
**One Service only**
- Mon. 12/26 Offices Closed

**THE UPPER ROOM**

...for January/February is now available on the tables outside the Sanctuary. Pick one up today and don't miss a single day of these great devotionals.



**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

- "REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY"  
11:30 a.m. December 18th
- Candlelight Communion Service  
5:00p December 24  
**At Aldersgate**
- Christmas Morning Worship  
10:00a December 25  
**ONE Service only at Asbury**

**THANK YOU NOTES**

**Thanksgiving Day**

This was Aldersgate's 4th year for our Thanksgiving Day Lunch. What a "blessing" to the many who were served and the opportunity we had to serve others. Our invitees came from senior living facilities, the neighborhood schools, the homeless, and our first year for opening up to all our community families. The fabulous volunteers from Aldersgate members, family and friends provided valuable help in the kitchen, baked pies and cakes, brought clothing items for our "Clothes Closet" and helped distribute them to our guests, put together take home bags with toiletry items, obtained bibles and had them available to our invitees, provided entertainment in music and songs, drove our vans, served meals, desserts and beverages, provided clean up help at the end of the day, decorated our church and fellowship hall and the list goes on and on. Thank you all for your time and prayers on this special day. A special thanks goes out to Mrs. Proctor for providing the awesome main course and her time and talents. Also, many thanks to our church friends from St. Luke's, Emmanuel and Asbury for allowing Aldersgate to use their vans for the day providing needed transportation. And we cannot forget a big "thank you" to Aldersgate's Festival Committee for helping underwrite many of the expenses for this wonderful event. A glorious day for all.

To God be the glory.

Aldersgate provided 40 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thanks to all who participated by purchasing gifts, filling boxes, paying for postage and praying for the precious children who will receive them this Christmas.



Church Family Calendars

**ORDER YOUR 2017 CHURCH PHOTO CALENDARS NOW**

Order forms are available outside the Sanctuary, in your Sunday School room and in the church office. If you prefer, you may call the church office, 683-8861, to place an order. Calendars are \$15 each.

**CHRISTMAS PRESENTATIONS COMING UP**



**"REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY"**

...December 18 at the 11:30 service at Aldersgate

**"AN AMERICAN CHRISTMAS"**

...featuring the men, women, and children of Memphis ChoralArts performing music from the American Christmas Songbook. This seasonal highlight will include classics like "White Christmas", and movie tributes from "Home Alone" and "Polar Express". Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles, 1380 Wolf River Blvd. in Collierville, December 17, 7:00pm. Admission is FREE. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

**YOU'RE INVITED to "JOY!"**

...a Christmas celebration, presented by the Colonial Park UMC Chancel Choir and ensemble at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary on December 18th at 5330 Park Avenue.

**"ONE SMALL CHILD"**

...will be presented by Colonial Baptist Church's Adult Choir and special guests on Sunday evening, December 18, at 6 p.m. 1503 Colonial Rd. You will enjoy traditional and contemporary favorites and a carol sing-a-long at this performance. Join us!

**A second presentation of "An American Christmas"** will be on Monday, December 19th at St. Peter Catholic Church, 190 Adams Ave. (at Third St.), at 7:00pm.

**"MESSE de MINUIT pour NOEL" (Midnight Mass for Christmas)**

The Calvary Episcopal Choir and Chamber Orchestra will offer this charming music by Marc-Antoine Charpentier at 10:30pm on December 24, preceding the Festival Eucharist at 11pm. 102 N. Second Street.

**HONORING OUR LOVED ONES**

Gifts have been given for **Scholarship Fund**  
In memory of Chris Simmons by  
Keith Coffman

**IN THE WORDS OF WESLEY**

**"Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church... nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that every where I am in Thy Presence."**



SUSANNA WESLEY.



**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2017**

...are available for pick-up on the table outside the Sanctuary. If you would like yours mailed to you, please call the church office, 683-8861.

**2016 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Be sure to have your 2016 contributions in the church office before 3:00 p.m. on **Thursday, Dec. 29**, to have it included on your 2016 giving statement. The New Year begins on Sunday, Jan. 1.



HOWARD SPRINGER  
WHY WERE THE SHEPHERDS OUT WASHING THEIR SOCKS BY NIGHT?