

OUR PRAYERS

At Home

Lou Pennington
Tom Boilliot

Special Prayers for

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

Jewish Home

Bernard Rainey

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 16

Sunday School	48
Worship	108
Visitors	35
Saturday Service	18

OUR GIFTS - August 16

Offering	\$ 2,592
Month to Date	\$ 7,089
Apportionments To Date	\$ 6,776

OUR SERVICE - August 23

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

OUR WITNESS

August Scripture Readers
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

As we enter into our preparatory work for Charge Conference, when we cast our vision for the direction of the church for the coming year and elect church leaders to guide us into that vision, I'd like to share with you a few excerpts from a good article I recently read by Ron Edmonson.

Five Secrets of Church Revitalization

I've written frequently about church revitalization. I know the challenges are unique. One thing I've noticed is the number of pastors who enter revitalization thinking the church just needs new leadership. Or better sermons. Or them. I've learned there is so much more.

Here are five secrets of church revitalization:

Have a clear vision.

You have to clearly know where you are heading. What does a revitalized church look like? Specifically what does this church look like? In my experience, unless you are starting over completely, people need to be able to "connect the dots." It must make sense where you are going. That means whatever is next will likely have some similarity to the past.

Honor the history.

You simply cannot be successful if you don't at least attempt to honor the past. I frequently say "Rediscover, don't reinvent."

Innovate.

What can you do new that will reach new people without hijacking the church? How can you build momentum?

Whatever you do it will almost always involve change. In fact, I'm not sure you can define revitalization without some form of change. The end goal should be to create a healthy environment for sustained change and growth.

Ask questions such as:

What are we doing that requires more effort than the results produced?

What are people no longer excited about doing?

What is something everyone gets excited about at this church?

What is one thing we can try next?

If money weren't an obstacle, what would we do?

(con't. →)

This Week's Scriptures: I Kings 8:22-30,41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

(Con't.)

This is where you get the best minds in the room and brainstorm. These people may or may not be the current leaders. I wouldn't even be shy about inviting people from outside the church.

Attack your fears.

It can seem daunting to revitalize a church, especially once you actually start making hard decisions. People can be intimidating. In fact, when you change some things, you'll find people can be mean. You will likely have to face some direct confrontations.

Forgiveness and repentance.

If things were done wrong in the past, lead people to recognize and admit them. I felt the need to preach on forgiveness and unity — a lot — in the early days of church revitalization. And I challenged people when I heard bitterness or anger. Church revitalization is hard. But it is so needed. And, there are so many kingdom opportunities out there.

Blessings always,

Virginia

THE UPPER ROOM

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

ALDERSGATE WEDDING PHOTOS WANTED



We encourage you to share pictures of your wedding at Aldersgate, and to ask your friends and family to do the same, for the special exhibit at our 60th Anniversary celebration! If mailing, send your wedding photos to the church, 4459 Willow Rd., Memphis 38117. If emailing, send to Perri Mathis at bamathis@att.net. Be sure to include your names and wedding date with the photos.

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!



**!!! MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!!
60th Anniversary Celebration
October 25, 2015**

More details to follow.



LOOKING AHEAD

- Sun. 8/23 9:30a Scholarship Committee
10:15a Sunday School
11:15a Coffee in Fellowship Hall
11:30a Worship
12:30p Special Event
- Mon. 8/24 Noon Newsletter Deadline
6:00p Joint Staff/Parish Cmte.
6:00p Prayer Walk @ **Asbury**
- Tue. 8/25 Gift Wrap at Asbury open any day by appointment, 901-363-1135
- Wed. 8/26 10:00a Bible Study @ **Asbury**
5:30p Youth
6:30p Choir Rehearsal
- Thu. 8/27 9-Noon Food Pantry @ **Asbury**
10:00a Bible Study
5:00p Girl Scouts
- Fri. 8/28 Offices Closed
- Sat. 8/29 6:00p Spanish Service
- Sun. 8/30 10:15a Sunday School
11:15a Coffee in Fellowship Hall
11:30a Worship



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
BIBLE STUDY, BOX LUNCH AND BINGO**

...will be the order of the day. Bible Study at 10a, lunch will be at 11:30a, with BINGO following lunch! Be sure to sign up on the office window or call the office, 683-8861, for a reservation for a Box Lunch from Chick-fil-a. The cost of \$5 covers lunch. Beverages will be provided. Prizes will also be provided, BUT, if you have a "white elephant" surprise or two you'd like to bring, that would be great. The more prizes we have, the longer we get to play!

UMW NEWS

Memphis Conference UMW Social Action Day

Saturday, August 22, 2015

Registration 9:00 a.m.

First United Methodist Church

500 W. Church Ave., Medina, TN 38355

731-783-3230

UMW Conference Annual Day Coming Up

Saturday, September 26, 9:30a, Jackson, TN

Mark your calendars now!



Charge Conference

SET FOR SEPTEMBER 21

Aldersgate and Asbury will hold a joint Charge Conference on Monday, Sept. 21, at 6 p.m. at Aldersgate. All are invited to attend. Church Council members, (those who hold an office), are expected.

As a foreign language congregation, El Redentor's Conference will be on a different date.

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS SCHEDULED

To be ready for our Charge Conference, there are several meetings that must take place. Being a Parish means we have two churches that must be prepared. Below is a list of upcoming meetings:

- Aldersgate Staff/Parish Thurs., Aug 20, 6 p.m.
- Joint Staff/Parish Mon., Aug. 24, 6 p.m.
- Asbury Church Council Sun., Aug. 30, @ Lunch
- Aldersgate Church Council Mon., Aug. 31, 6 p.m.
- Parish Council Thurs., Sept. 3, 6 p.m.

All meetings will be at Aldersgate.

As all reports are supposed to be in the District Office 2 weeks prior to Charge Conference, we are under a bit of a time crunch.



FOOD PANTRY FOR AUGUST

Hot or Cold Cereal

Jams or Jellies

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given for

Scholarship Fund

In memory of Becky Roberts by

The Koinonia Group of UMW

Memorial Fund

In memory of Rev. Bill McClarin by

Joy Mitchell

Johnny Mitchell

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

It is the heart that does the giving;
the fingers only let go.



**GOLDEN CROSS GOLF CLASSIC
September 17th**

Join the fun at Wyndyke Country Club on September 17, for the 15th Annual Golden Cross Golf Classic and help raise funds for Wesley Senior Ministries. You can have a great day and assist some great people in the Wesley Living Communities. The fee is \$125 per person and includes lunch and mulligans. You may register online at www.goldencrossfund.org.



TRAVEL TIME

Its time to sign up for our wonderful Christmas Tour to Branson, MO, December 1-4. A tribute to Fred Astaire, great music by Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and George Gershwin, the famous Lettermen, and the Andy Williams Christmas Show with the Osmonds and the Lennon Sisters, are some of the entertainment to be enjoyed.

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