

## OUR PRAYERS

### Methodist University

Charlene Watkins surg 9/12  
(Bill McMullin's Mom)

### Christian Care Center

Betty Smithmier 230

### Special Prayers for

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

### At Home

Marcelle Farrow  
Gordillo Family  
Wayne Lawrence  
Frances Molnar  
Warren Petty  
Audrey Weaver  
Terry Williamson

### Our Sympathy, love and prayers go out to

...Mary Coughlin & family in the loss of her mother,  
Dorothy Goolsby  
...Ed, Pat & Mike Miller & family in the loss of his mother,  
Eloise Miller  
...Family & friends of Debbie Mendoza  
...Kathy & Tom Earl & family in the loss of her father,  
Edward Caine

### 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
Doris Palazzini	Betty Ray	Elmer Ray
Bernice Shelby	Chris Simmons	Emmett Smith
Betty Smithmier	Martha Wallace	

### OUR PRESENCE - September 11

Sunday School	36
Worship	62
Visitors	7

### OUR SERVICE - September 18

<b>Greeters</b>	Jeanette Leslie Lou Pennington
<b>Liturgist</b>	Jay Finzel
<b>Scripture</b>	Jane Hight
<b>Children's Time</b>	Rev. De la Cruz
<b>Lock-up</b>	Aleita Tutor

### OUR WITNESS

September Scripture Readers  
25 Barry Mathis



ALDERSGATE United Methodist Church  
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Memphis, TN 38117-6917



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# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

## The



## Flame

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September 14, 2016

Volume 61 Issue 37

### What Kind of Relationship?— Luke 14:25-33

by Kayla McClure

Wherever Jesus goes, large numbers of people follow him. Are they drawn by the charisma of his personality, the hope of God's blessing and healing, a desire for adventure in their otherwise bleak lives? Maybe they crave a brush with greatness, to be able to boast that they are close to someone who might be the messiah. Or maybe they are truly dedicated to his cause, ready to lay down all they possess to follow him. What about us? Why do we want to affiliate with Jesus and his crew of seekers, scoundrels and saints? Maybe it's time to find out.

Jesus turns and says to the crowds, "Do you know what it means to follow me? It means hating your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—even life itself!" What?! I thought following Jesus meant love, sweet love, welcoming everyone into ever-expanding circles of compassion and camaraderie. Could my definition of love be too small? Standing with Jesus sometimes requires standing in opposition to some of the standards and values we previously prized—even to the point of hating life itself, at least the paltry kind of existence we used to have, the life that never was Life.

But Jesus doesn't get to be the boss of everything, does he? We still have some rights, don't we? We can possess and pursue whatever we choose, can't we? Well, maybe not. Jesus seems truly to want it all. All the things we love—our possessions, our relationships, our inalienable rights, our sense of right and wrong. By the way, Jesus, what are you doing with those pieces of wood? Are you making us some cute little crosses to wear on the way to Jerusalem?

There comes a tipping point in any relationship that determines what kind it will be, whether it will be a simple acquaintance or a radical commitment. Will we stay as long as we enjoy ourselves, or will we have the courage to embrace whatever comes, to love even the parts we hate?

It's time to decide: Will we be his casual friend, or will we be closer-than-family, bonded more deeply than blood? We can hang out in the crowd, listen to his teachings, applaud his healings, or we can check the depth of our own commitment. We can count the cost, open our hands and hearts, and pick up our cross. Or not. The choice is ours.

**Scriptures for the Week:**

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

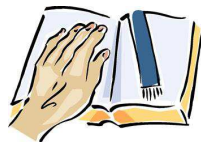
Psalms 79:1-9

I Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- Sun. 9/18 **UMW/UMM Sunday**  
10:15a Sunday School  
11:30a Worship  
12:30p UMW Unit Meeting/Lunch
- Mon. 9/19 Noon Newsletter Deadline  
**7:00p Nominating Committee**
- Tue. 9/20 No Activities
- Wed. 9/21 10:00a Bible Study -**Asbury**  
10:30a UMNC Key Women  
6:45p Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thu. 9/22 9:00a Food Pantry-**Asbury**  
10:00a Bible Study  
5:00p Girl Scouts
- Fri. 9/23 Offices Closed  
11:30a Young at Heart-**Asbury**
- Sat. 9/24 7:00p Spanish Prayer Vigil @  
**El Redentor**
- Sun. 9/25 10:15a Sunday School  
11:30a Worship  
12:30p Potluck Lunch then leave  
for concert at St. Ann's in Bartlett



**JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY  
On Thursdays**

Join us every Thursday morning, September through May, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Invite a friend, as well. Study books are available in the church office for our current study, "Invitation to the New Testament".

**IN THE WORDS OF WESLEY**

*"The Bible knows nothing of  
'solitary' religion."  
~ John Wesley ~*

**REMINDER**

The Nominating/Leadership Committee will meet on Monday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m.

**THANK YOU**

Dear Aldersgate Friends,  
We would like to thank you for your calls, cards, prayers and visits. You are always there when we need you.

Thank you, Virginia, for your visit and prayers.

Love,  
Richard & Frances Morris



**CHILDREN'S CONCERT  
(For Kids 1 to 100)**

**Memphis Wind Symphony**

Presents  
**FREE**

**Children's Concert**

Featuring

*Peter and the Wolf*

Sunday, September 25  
3:00 p.m.

St. Ann Catholic Church  
6529 Stage Road  
Bartlett, TN  
901-373-6011

Join us for a potluck lunch after worship and we will carpool/caravan to St. Ann's for the performance.



**United Methodist Women  
United Methodist Men's Sunday**

September 18  
Worship 11:30a  
and

September UMW Unit Meeting 12:30p

Ms. Ileatha Washington will be our guest speaker at the Unit Meeting. She has been a godsend to United Methodist Neighborhood Centers, and will share her story with us.

We will also have a "Gift Shower" for the Food Pantry at UMNC. Suggestions: non-perishables such as canned meats, canned vegetables, canned or boxed complete meals, pastas and sauces. **NO glass containers, please.** Cash is always welcome. No need to 'wrap' your gifts.

~ ~ ~  
**UMNC Key Women**

Meet on Wednesday, September 21 at 10:30 a.m.

**SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH**

More than 50 million people in the United States today are hungry or food insecure. Yet we will throw away over 133 billion pounds of good food this year alone.

Let us stand together, especially this month, to help see that every person in this country has healthy, nourishing food.

Whether its actual food donations or cash to purchase food, your gifts will make a difference.

**FOOD PANTRY FOR SEPTEMBER**



**Macaroni & Cheese  
Baked Beans  
Canned Tuna**



Cash is also welcome.

Cash is used to purchase goods by the pound, at a great discount. Please make checks out to Aldersgate and note 'Food Pantry' in the memo line.

**HONORING OUR LOVED ONES**

Gifts have been given for

**Memorial Fund**

In memory of Harold Smith by  
Jimmy & Jane Hight

In memory of Dorothy Goolsby by  
Jimmy & Jane Hight

**OUR PRAYERS (con't)**

Kristen Boggs	Tom Boillot	Palma Borgognoni
Birdie Boyd	Jim Brazile	Brenda Brazile
Phil Cannon	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
The Martin Family	Bill McClain	Jesse McClerkin
Helen McClure	Lorraine Mitchell	Glenn Moore
Lou Ella Morris	Joe Moseley	Moiria Pomije
Claire Rainey	Wade Reeves	Stephanie Roberts
Marie Souder	Cindy Stanfil	David Weaver
Shannon Weaver	John Williams	Margie Williamson



**SENIOR SAFARI AT THE ZOO**

**Coming Up October 5th**

Join us from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a leisurely walk through the zoo, visit the many vendors with great information for the 'over 50' crowd, and enjoy the entertainment on a day filled with fun for everyone.



*"Remember when we could count our blessings without a spreadsheet program?"*