LOOKING AHEAD

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Sun. 8/6	10:15a Sunday School 11:30a Worship/Communion		
Mon. 8/7	12:00p Newsletter Deadline		
Tue. 8/8	Back to School		
Wed. 8/9	6:45p Choir Rehearsal		
Thu. 8/10	9:00a Asbury Food Pantry		
Fri. 8/11	Offices Closed		
Sat. 8/512	No Activities		
Sun. 8/13	9:30a UMW Executive Meeting 10:15a Sunday School 11:30a Worship 12:30p Spaghetti Lunch Fund-		



SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO BE GIVEN SOON

raiser for Scholarship

Birthday Bash

Fund and Church-wide

Our collection of cash and supplies for Willow Oaks Elementary will be closing soon. The big, red backpack is in the hall near the office to receive your gifts. Cash is welcomed to purchase pre-packs for all grades.



SHOULD YOU APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP?

Aldersgate UMC has scholarship money available to high school graduates who have been members of Aldersgate for at least one year. Guidelines and application requirements are available in the church office. You may call 683-8861 for more information.







!! REMEMBER !!

...our Spaghetti Lunch Scholarship Fundraiser and the Church-wide Birthday Party is August 13. Lunch is 'free' for your donation to the Scholarship Fund. Sign up sheets are on the office window for lunch reservations and to bring a cake or decorate a table for the birthday bash. You may also email office@agumc.org or call, 683-8861 to be put on either or both lists.



ECLIPSE DAY - AUGUST 21

Sadly, Memphis will not see a total eclipse, but it will certainly be worth watching. Be sure to wear protective glasses through the entire partial eclipse. If you want to experience the total eclipse, take a trip to Clarksville, Springfield, Portland, Lebanon, Sparta, Baxter or Nashville. For other places along its path, visit <u>eclipse2017.org</u>

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE WORDS

by only the last 3pay	letters? lad
ior	eue
rva	day
voc	yss
gun	pty
til	cay
uke	uze
noe	

See next week's newsletter for the answers.



UMW Mission Study August 15

Join us for "Missionary Conferences of the UMC in the U.S.", our geographic Mission Study this year. Men are welcome to attend, and bring a friend or two.

We ask your help in providing juice, fruit and sweets for breakfast and finger sandwiches, chips, and salads for lunch. Beverages will be provided. Registration begins at 8:30a, the program at 9. See you there!



Candle Burning

Time is almost up to get your gifts to mission in for our Candle Burning program. Mary Robbins will gladly accept your information and money. All honorees will included in an insert on UMW/UMM Sunday, September 17, and lifted in prayer.



HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given for **Scholarship Fund**

In memory of Marcelle Farrow by

Carolyn McDougal Jim & Carol Florow Lorelle Woodard Jimmy & Jane Hight

In memory of Paul DeLong by Jim & Carol Florow





FOOD PANTRY FOR AUGUST

Hot or Cold Cereal Cash is also welcome.

Thank you.

(Make checks out to Aldersgate and note 'food pantry' in the memo line.)



CANDLE BURNING GIFTS TO UMW MISSIONS

Please complete this form, enclose payment, and give to Mary Robbins or the church office. (A minimum gift of \$5 per name/event please). Make checks out to Aldersgate **UMW**.

Given by	_
n honor of	
n memory of	_
n celebration of	_

OUR PRAYERS

Our Ministers
Our Leaders
Our Children & Youth
Our College Students
Our Police Dept.
Our City
Our Church
Our Ministry Teams
Our Homebound
Our Missionaries
Our Fire Dept.
Our Military

Homebound and Assisted Care

Martha Allen June Burton Carolyn Escue
Ray Escue Mava Dell Fry Earl Galloway
Janie Heflin Doris Hight Marie Hughes
Wayne Lawrence Ted Lewis Betty Ray
Bernice Shelby Emmett Smith Martha Wallace

Hospice Care
Boyd Pilkinton
At Home

Warren Petty
Betty Smithmier
Teresa McMullin

Vic Petty
John Mason

Special Prayers for

...Clover Lauth ...disaster victims ...immigrants

...the remaining kidnapped

Nigerian girls

OUR PRESENCE - July 30

Sunday School 35 Worship 57

OUR GIFTS - July 30

Offering \$ 432 Month to Date \$ 3,602 YTD \$ 75,486

OUR SERVICE - August 6

Greeters.....Dorothy Christiansen Audrey Weaver

Liturgist.....Jay Finzel

Scripture.....Nubari Deekae

Children's Time......Ed Stanley

Lock-up.....Neil DeLong

OUR WITNESS August Scripture Readers

13 Judy Stanley20 Rose Oyoo

27 Andrew Baker

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

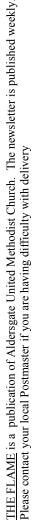
4459 Willow Road

Memphis, TN 38117-6917



OUR PRAYERS (con't)

Brenda Brazile Kristen Boggs Jim Brazile Jaunay Davis Peggy Brightwell Melissa Cole Miriam Davis Corella Edwards Gordillo Family Shanon Groves John Hight Kay Hudak Patty Hudak Jeff Irwin Dennis LeClear Mary Lockhart Ursula Lewis Bill McClain Jesse McClerkin Lou Ella Morris Richard Morris Joe Moseley Karen Mosley **Becky Pennington** Ruth Pilkinton Moira Pomiie Jamie Proctor Wade Reeves Stephanie Roberts Billy Smith David Weaver Shannon Weaver **Brad Weaver** Charlie Whitaker Margie Williamson Kristine Young





Aldersgate United Phone: (901) 683-8861

E-mail: office@agumc.org

Flame

Methodist Church Fax: (901) 683-1374 Website: www.agumc.org

August 2, 2017 Volume 62 Issue 31

Big Is Not Always Better by Ken Barnes

Thus says the Lord, "As the new wine is found in the cluster..." (Isaiah 65:8 NASB)

Everybody wants a bigger church, a more significant ministry. The expansion of God's purpose on this earth is never bad. But sometimes, in His Kingdom, least may be the best.

What was Jesus' strategy for reaching the world? It involved a group of three (Peter, James, and John) and then the twelve disciples.

David had 30 valiant warriors. Gideon had his army trimmed down to three hundred men. God's people have rarely fought a battle where they were not out numbered.

When Jesus spoke of the cost of discipleship the size of His following tended to wane. When he talked about cross bearing you got the impression that he was intentionally trying to winnow His flock.

Are our church growth strategies sacrificing depth for breadth? A surge in the number of bodies in the pews may make us feel good, but does it necessarily translate into forming the life of Christ in His disciples?

Our Lord, who invested his life in a few, started the movement that has changed the world, the church. We can emulate the patterns of this world or we can follow the ways our Lord taught us. It depends on whether we are making disciples or spectators. New wine is always found in the cluster. In God's kingdom, big is not always better and little is much if God is in it.

Blessings,

Virginia

Scriptures Readings:

Genesis 32:22-31 Romans 9:1-5 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 Matthew 14:13-21

