

OUR PRAYERS

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Meth. Germantown</u> | <u>At Home</u> |
| Jane Hight 454 West | Jeanette Leslie |
| <u>Poplar Point Rehab</u> | <u>At Teresa's</u> |
| Tom Boillot 104 | Betty Smithmier |
| <u>Mphs Jewish Home</u> | <u>Special Prayers</u> for |
| Betty Ray 111 |kidnapped girls from Nigeria |

Homebound/Assisted Care

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Martha Allen | June Burton | Gerri Colosia |
| Jack Eaton | Mava Dell Fry | Earl Galloway |
| Helen Griffin | Marie Hughes | Margaret Kenley |
| Doris Palazzini | Jane Pifer | Betty Ray |
| Bernice Shelby | Chris Simmons | Emmett Smith |
| Harold Smith | Betty Smithmier | Martha Wallace |
| Bill Whitaker | | |

OUR PRESENCE

April 5

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Church School | 63 |
| Worship | 79 |
| Visitors | 6 |

OUR GIFTS

April 5

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| This Week's Offering | \$ 3,524 |
| Month to Date | \$ 3,524 |

OUR SERVICE

April 12, 2015

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Greeters | Lorelle Woodard Margie Williamson |
| Liturgist | Bruce Hughes |
| Scripture | Faith Gbeneneh |
| Children's Time | Dr. Lester |
| Lock-up | Jimmie Bedwell |

OUR WITNESS

April Scripture Readers
19 Jane Hight
26 Barry Mathis

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



**VIA CON DIOS
JO ANN**

Sunday, April 12, is the last day for Jo Ann Shelton as our Music Director. Join us for lunch at 12:30p, and wish her love and blessings as she begins an exciting new chapter in her life in Florida.

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

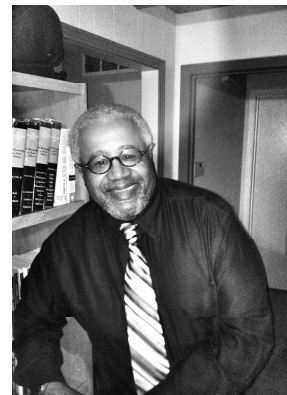
The  Flame

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THE WRITE REVEREND



Today I went and sat with a member of the parish in hospice care as she prepares to transition to the church triumphant. As I entered her room, a gospel video was playing with Johnny Cash singing:

I'm just an old chunk of coal
But I'm gonna be a diamond some day
I'm gonna glow and grow
Till I'm so blue pure perfect
I'm gonna put a smile on everybody's face
I'm gonna kneel and pray everyday
Lest I should become vain along the way
I'm just an old chunk of coal now Lord
But I'm gonna be a diamond some day

Diamonds are some of the rarest and most precious stones on the earth. Diamonds are formed about 90 miles beneath the earth's surface under tremendous pressure and in heat exceeding 1500 degrees. They are brought near the surface through volcanic activity. While modern science has pretty much moved away from the idea that coal is involved in the process since diamonds predate the plant life needed to make coal, it still takes lots of heat and lots of pressure. The implications in Johnny's song are pretty much the same: despite the pressures and stress of this life that shaped us into who we are and have us where we are, we can smile and pray and be better every day.

As the Apostle Paul put it in II Corinthians 4:8-12: If you only look at *us*, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us. As it is, there's not much chance of that. You know for yourselves that we're not much to look at. We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken. What they did to Jesus, they do to us—trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, he does in us—he lives! Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus' sake, which makes Jesus' life all the more evident in us. While we're going through the worst, you're getting in on the best! (The Message)

Herbert



LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. 4/12 10:15a Church School
 11:15a Coffee in Fellowship Hall
 11:30a Worship
12:30p Lunch Honoring Jo Ann Shelton

Mon. 4/13 Noon News Deadline

Tue. 4/14 10:00a Koinonia Group
 1:00p Gift Wrap open @ Asbury
 7:00p Love/Hope Group

Wed. 4/15 10:00a Bible Study at Aldersgate
 5:30p Youth Fellowship
 6:00p Fellowship & Study
 7:15p Choir Rehearsal

Thu. 4/16 9-12 Food Pantry @ Asbury
11:30a Box Lunch & Bingo

Fri. 4/17 Offices Closed

Sat. 4/18 9:00a AFLS
6:00p Spanish Worship Service

Sun. 4/19 10:15a Church School
 11:15a Coffee in Fellowship Hall
 11:30a Worship
12:30p Birthday Bash

**FOOD, FUN AND BINGO
 April 16 - 11:30a**

Sign up now for your \$5 box lunch from Chick-fil-A which includes a sandwich, chips & cookie. Drinks will be provided. Sign up on the office window or call the office, 683-8861. You may pay in advance or at the door. And don't forget your white elephant gifts, beautifully wrapped.



**RECIPES
 REQUESTED**

The least we can do for our 60th Anniversary Cook Book is 60 recipes. And why not double that to 120 or more? We can do it! We have some of the best cooks in town. Give us your favorites or something great you've just tried. Please turn recipes in at the office or to Aleita Tutor, either by hand or by email.

Office email: office@agumc.org
 Aleita email: rdeantutor@bellsouth.net

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends at Aldersgate,
 Friends are angels in disguise and you have been angels to us in our sorrow, holding us close to your hearts. Your gifts of food, flowers, remembrances and love have helped us through this difficult time. May God hold you close to His heart always.

Marie Park & Family

~ ~ ~

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Easter Egg Hunt—those who donated eggs, candy and money, helped set-up and clean up, helped with games and crafts, provided prizes or served cookies and drinks. And a special thanks to our very own Easter bunny!



**APRIL 19th IS THE DAY
 FOR OUR BIRTHDAY BASH**

Fundraiser for Aldersgate's "Kids to Kamp"
 Join us right after worship on April 19. Our Birthday Bash will help send our elementary kids to summer camp. Here are notes from two of last year's campers.

This from Rose Oyoo: "My favorite thing at camp was the boat ride. I want to go back to find more friends." And from Faith Gbeneneh: "My favorite things at camp were swimming, worship, and arts and crafts. I want to go back to camp for every-thing!"

Every camper is loved unconditionally as they learn and grow in their life experience and in loving God. Your donations will make a life-long difference in the heart of a child.

There is no charge for the spaghetti lunch. Your donations to the Lakeshore Fund for the service the children will provide during your meal will be appreciated. (Please make checks out to Aldersgate and note "Lakeshore" in the memo line.)

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Bakers and Decorators Needed

The Birthday Bash sign-up sheet is on the office window to bake a cake or decorate a table. We need our amazing cooks and talented crafters to sign up. Please sign up for dinner reservations, as well.

UMW NEWS

Ubuntu Journeys for 2015

Ubuntu Journey = Short-term mission opportunity for UMW members to serve alongside sisters in mission across the country and around the world. Not many of us will be traveling to Cameroon or Costa Rica for the 2015 Ubuntu Journeys, but what a wonderful way, for those who can, to experience those ministries and learn first-hand how our mission giving has supported local efforts. The 'journey' to Cameroon is set for August 4-17. The team leader is Marcia Florkey. Contact her at 937-232-6990 or mlbflorkey@gmail.com. The trip to Costa Rica will be August 6-15, and will include a side trip to Puerto Viejo to visit with the Red Mujeres (Women's Network). The team leader, Rosie Guadarrama, may be reached at 909-981-3720 or r.guadarrama@att.net. Additional information about Ubuntu Journeys will be found at Ubuntu@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God has picked you to be His own dear child.
 You are His work of art!



FOOD PANTRY FOR APRIL

Dried Beans Rice Canned Fruit
 Cash is always appreciated.

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

Thank you!

JOIN US FOR 'FAITH IN ACTION' CLEANUP

Mayor Wharton's Faith in Action Cleanup Week is April 18-26. Aldersgate will be participating on Saturday, April 25. We will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. and concentrate on the area around Willow Oaks School and Godwin Park. Many hands (and gloves) make light work, so invite a friend or two to bring their gloves and join us as we put our Faith in(to) Action.

Want more details. Contact Diana Bedwell by email at diana.bedwel@earthlink.com or by phone at 761-1934.

SCRIPTURES

...for the week: Acts 4:32-5; Psalm 133; I John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

HONORING OUR LOVED ONES

Gifts have been given for

Honorarium Fund

In honor of Neil DeLong for his birthday April 5 by
 The United Methodist Men

Scholarship Fund

In memory of James Matlock by
 Tom & Sharon Lockhart

In memory of James Varner by
 Tom & Sharon Lockhart

In memory of Lynda Park by
 Duncan & Elizabeth Godbold
 Tom & Sharon Lockhart

Memorial Fund

In memory of James Varner by
 Mary Robbins
 Cathy Boice
 Terry & Margie Williamson
 Keith Coffman

In memory of James Matlock by
 Terry & Margie Williamson
 Keith Coffman

In memory of Lynda Park by
 Mary Robbins
 Cathy Boice
 Terry & Margie Williamson
 Keith Coffman

Maintenance Fund

In memory of James Varner by
 Carolyn McDougal

In memory of James Matlock by
 Carolyn McDougal

In memory of Lynda Park by
 Carolyn McDougal

BRING CHANGE THIS WORLD MALARIA DAY

Want to be part of something amazing...a truly world changing moment in history. You can!!! You can help UMCOR raise \$75 million to end the needless death and suffering from malaria—a treatable and preventable disease. April 25 is designated "Bring Change this World Malaria Day", and you will find all the facts, news and information at imaginenomalaria.org. Across the country, United Methodists are making a difference. Spread the word—Bring Change this World Malaria Day!