

The Parish Visitor

September, 2015



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

50,000 RED-HOT POPPIN' WATTS!

by Rev. Mark

Did you know that we had NOT ONE Sunday this summer that was under 200 in weekly worship attendance? Did you know that we are averaging JUST under 250 folks/week in worship for the year? Did you know that we are averaging JUST under 120 folks/week in Christian Education attendance? Did you know that we are now the third largest United Methodist congregation in our District? Did you know that our District Superintendent, Rev. Sylvester Weatherall, is very excited about what's happening at 301 N. College Ave., Aledo, IL? Did you know that he is NOT the only one?!

Great things are happening here. God is moving in ways that cannot be overlooked and cannot be denied. I have had the extreme pleasure of being involved in a decent amount of church growth. And it NEVER gets old! Why is that? Some might think it's about bragging rights- so that a pastor can boast to his clergy brothers and sisters around the ol' church water cooler. And while I can't speak for anyone else, for me that is simply not the case.

Both of my sons ran cross country. And one of the many things their involvement in that sport taught me was that they were never competing against anybody else. They were ALWAYS competing against themselves. There is a term in cross country- PR. It stands for "personal record". It is the BEST you have done at that particular thing. And at every race...EVERY race...the runners were trying to PR- break their personal record.

That's exactly what we're trying to do here. We are trying to PR- break our personal best. Why? Because we should ALWAYS strive to be the best we can be. We should always be pushing toward more fully becoming the people and the church that God is calling us to be. And as soon as we are satisfied with where we are and who we are...as SOON as...then God's blessing begins to diminish.

We are not a complacent congregation, content to simply stay exactly the same and never change. We are the 50,000 red-hot poppin' watt church of Jesus Christ. And that means that change is not only inevitable- it is to be expected and embraced. How do we measure the growth of a human being? What is the yardstick by which we say someone is growing up, maturing? Change. That's how we measure life- change. And as long as we keep our message rock-solid, then we should be flexible to change as we grow, adapting to new circumstances and new challenges.

Few churches get the opportunity that we are experiencing right now. There are a lot of churches out there who are dying...literally...for purpose. For forward momentum. And we have it. We are truly blessed by God. Therefore, I for one intend to buckle up, hang on tight and enjoy the wild ride that's ahead! Who's with me?

SPECIAL DATES:

- September 6 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- September 7 Office Closed for Labor Day
- September 8 Miriam Circle 6PM
- September 9 Wednesday Night Fellowship Kick-off 5:15PM
- September 10 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- September 14 Finance Meeting 6PM
- September 14 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- September 17 Naomi Wesleyan Circle @ T&C 11:30AM
- September 19 UMW Annual Meeting @ Bethel Wesley 9AM
- September 20 Administrative Council Meeting 7:15PM
- September 21 UMW Men's Meeting 6PM
- September 22 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- September 24 Caring Hearts Food Prep 2PM
- September 27 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- September 28 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES

Revelation: In Christ You Are an Overcomer

WHAT: Rev. Mark's NEW Wednesday Evening Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: The Book of Revelation is one of the most intriguing books of the Bible. It's also one of the most mysterious. Filled with vivid imagery, rich themes, and deep spiritual insights, it can be challenging to read and understand. Yet woven throughout Revelation's sweeping tapestry is a unifying message: The victory found in Jesus Christ. This Bible study takes an in-depth, yet practical, look at the book of Revelation, and shares how we can experience a victorious life.

WHAT ELSE: It's NOT too late! The books are \$9

Angels

WHAT: Rev. Mark's NEW Tuesday morning Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: What - or who - are angels? Where did they come from, and what is their purpose? What is their relationship to us as human beings? This study explores the numerous Bible passages that reveal the services these heavenly beings perform, the part they play in spiritual warfare, and how they differ from other beings in God's created order.

WHAT ELSE: It's NOT too late! The books are \$9

The Twelve: The Lives of the Apostles After Calvary

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: What did the twelve apostles do after Calvary? Where did they go? Author C. Bernard Ruffin has woven Scripture, tradition, and historical documents to re-create and outline the lives of each of Christ's closest followers.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$12



The Letters of John and Jude

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Sunday Morning Bible Study

WHEN: Sundays @ 9:15AM

WHERE: In the Chapel next to the sanctuary

WHY: New Testament scholar William Barclay walks us through the letters of John and Jude. These books deal with dissenting teachings within the early Church.

WHAT ELSE: We would LOVE to have you join this class.

WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES

Do you like electronics? **Then your church needs YOU!** We need people to help operate the sound system and/or the computer during Sunday worship services. What do you need in order to run these things? The list is LONG- a willingness to serve, and...that would be about it! The systems, designed specifically for churches, are quite simple to operate. (Don't let all the knobs and switches intimidate you!) The great part about this ministry is that it happens during worship, when you're in church anyway! Do you feel God calling you to step up and help? Talk to Rev. Mark or Ruth Dulaney.

CURRENT AND NEW SERMON SERIES(S)!

by Rev. Mark

On Sunday, August 9th, we began two sermon series! Both wrap up on Sunday, September 6. At both 8AM and 10:15AM on Sundays, we finish **The Psizzlin' Psummer Psalm Psermon Pseries Psequel**. The last week of the series looks like this:

Sunday, September 6- God is Good, All the Time (Psalm 108) We are encouraged to sing praises to our God at all times and in all places. (Deuteronomy 10:20-21, Hebrews 13:15-16)

At The Point, the 6PM service, we have been walking through I Didn't Know THAT! The last week of this series looks like this:

Sunday, September 6- The Disciples DIDN'T Know About the Virgin Birth! (Matthew 16:13-16)

Not ONCE do they mention it in the 3 years they spend with Him.

Then, on Sunday, September 13th, we begin not one but TWO NEW sermon series. At both 8AM and 10:15AM, we dive into **The Compass: A Vision Quest**. When business consultants try to help companies improve, many of them start with two simple questions: 1. What is the vision of your company? and 2. How well are you doing at accomplishing that vision? A company without a clear vision lacks purpose and direction. The same is true of churches. And yet, many churches don't have a clear vision for their ministry. Churches should be about worship, nurture, discipleship and outreach, but vision is what brings those things to life and puts them into action.

WE will spend 4 weeks talking about vision- what it is in general and what I feel God's vision for The Aleo United Methodist Church over the next 18 months is. WE will dig into the future of our church- what it looks like and what we need to do to be ready for God's call! The weeks of this series look like this:

Sunday, September 13- Worship (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Worship is more than what we do on Sunday- it's a way of life. (Proverbs 29:18, Psalm 66:1-5)

Sunday, September 20- Nurture (Ephesians 4:30-32)

If you nurture the body, the spirit can expand. (2Peter 3:17-18, Habbakuk 2:2-3)

Sunday, September 27- Discipleship (Romans 12:2-3)

Discipleship isn't imitation but instruction. (Matthew 5:13-16, Joel 2:28-30a)

Sunday, October 4- Outreach (1Peter 2:9-12)

Outreach is reaching beyond our walls to connect people to Jesus. (Jeremiah 29:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20)

Then, at 6PM, we will start **6 Steps to Grace**. Grace is, no pun intended, an amazing thing. But what IS it? Author Max Lucado says, "The meaning of life. The wasted years of life. The poor choices of life. God answers the mess of life with one word: 'grace.'" Grace is the free and unmerited favor of God, as shown through salvation and blessing. We will spend 6 weeks walking through what grace is and how you achieve it in your life. The weeks of this series look like this:

Sunday, September 13- Hearing (Matthew 7:24-29)

God's Word is more powerful than a double-edged sword.

Sunday, September 20- Believing (Romans 1:14-17)

Faith is the key that unlocks the door.

Sunday, September 27- Repenting (Luke 5:29-32)

We come to God to be cleansed of our sins.

Sunday, October 4- Confessing (Romans 10:4-11)

Thinking it isn't enough- we need to confess our faith in God.

Sunday, October 11- Baptizing (Romans 6:1-4)

When we are baptized, we become new creatures in Christ.

Sunday, October 18- Committing (Luke 10:1-9)

Stepping out in faith makes all the difference in the world.

Come each week expecting God to speak to you in powerful ways!

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN SEPTEMBER

Are you aware that September is Classical Music Month? What about Hispanic Heritage Month? Or Fall Hat Month? It's also International Square Dancing Month, Blueberry Popsicle Month, Chicken Month, Little League Month and Better Breakfast Month! In addition, these are some of the special days in September: the 1st- Be Late For Something Day, the 2nd- Emma Nutt Day (1st woman telephone operator), the 3rd- Peanut Butter Day, the 4th- Newspaper Carrier Day, the 5th- Skyscraper Day, the 6th- Read a Book Day, the 7th- Labor Day (see accompanying article), 8th- Grandparent's Day, 9th- Date Nut Bread Day, 10th- Sewing Machine Day, the 11th- Make Your Bed Day, the 12th- Chocolate Milkshake Day, 13th- Teddy Bear Day, the 14th- Cream-Filled Donut Day, the 15th- Felt Hat Day, the 16th- Play-Doh Day, the 17th- Citizenship Day, the 18th- Miniature Golf Day, the 19th- Butterscotch Pudding Day, the 20th- Punch Day, the 21st- POW/MIA Recognition Day, the 22nd- Elephant Appreciation Day, the 23rd- Dogs in Politics Day, the 24th- Cherries Jubilee Day, the 25th- Count the Stars Day, the 26th- Johnny Appleseed Day, the 27th- International Rabbit Day, the 28th- Ask a Stupid Question Day, the 29th- Confucius Day and the 30th- National Mud Pack Day.



Bibles For Third Graders

On Sunday, September 20th at both morning worship services, our United Methodist Women will carry on a proud and long-standing tradition. Children who have just started 3rd Grade will receive a Bible at the service they normally attend. (The Bibles this year are...in a word...AWESOME!) If you have a child who just started 3rd Grade or was in 3rd Grade already but didn't get a Bible, please don't hesitate to contact the office. (We don't want to miss anybody!)

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

By AUMC Safety Team

As a new school year begins, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Administration reminds parents, students and motorists to be alert and to put safety first in school zones and near school bus stops.

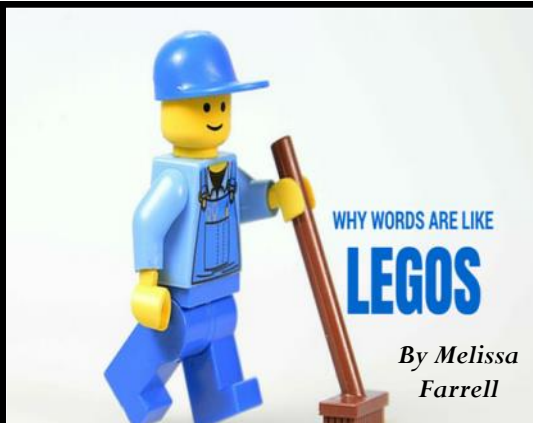


Teach children how to stay safe around a school bus:

- Stand at least six feet (three giant steps) from the approaching school bus while waiting at the bus stop.
- Wait to board the bus until the driver says it is safe.
- When getting off of the bus, cross the street in front of the bus and make sure the bus driver sees you.
- Always watch for oncoming traffic when approaching or leaving the bus.

How motorists can keep kids safe around the school bus:

- When driving in neighborhoods with bus stops, schools and school zones, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- Slow down. Look for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood.
- Remember, children do not easily estimate vehicle speeds and often misjudge when it is safe to cross the street when a vehicle is approaching.
- Learn and obey the school bus laws. Obey the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions:
 - Yellow flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop to load and unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop their vehicles.
 - Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate that the bus has stopped, and that children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they can start driving again.



Did you ever play with Legos as a kid? I remember when I was growing up that playing with Legos was one of my favorite things to do. There wasn't enough time in a day to build all the towers, houses and cars I wanted to build. I just loved building stuff with Legos.

In a way, the words that we speak each day are a lot like Legos. Our words can build or create new things. Each word we speak creates what we see each and every day.

The Bible says in Mark 11:23 that we can have whatever we say: "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done,

he will have whatever he says." Mark 11:23

Our words build or create where we go in life, good or bad. The Bible says in Proverbs 18:21 that death and life are in the "power of the tongue."

The words we speak build what we have today. If you don't like what you're seeing in your life, check up on what you are speaking each day. If you speak words of defeat, words that say you're worthless, that you're a mess, and that you'll never amount to anything, that is exactly what you will build in your life. I encourage you to realize the power of your words and to make the decision to speak words that build good things in your life.



TAG FACT: Did You Know?

TAG Members receive a meal EVERY Sunday & Tuesday evening at NO cost!

What's Coming Up, TAG:

2/3rds of God—

Sept 19th,

10-12pm

ATTN, 6-8th

graders, Join us on every

Tuesday,

5-6:15pm

Senior High

(9-12th), come learn and fel-

lowship with us every Sun-

day, 6:00-7:15pm

Youth Bible Study—

Wednesdays, 6-7pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP IS HERE!

We are currently planning for the kick-off of Wednesday Night Fellowship! Beginning on Wednesday, September 9th, Wednesday Night Fellowship will be offered EVERY Wednesday night! The evening begins with dinner at 5:15PM, with FUEL Children's Ministries (for kids Pre-School through 6th Grade), a Youth Bible study (for grades 7th through 12th), an Adult Bible Study (see accompanying article) and Bell Choir rehearsal from 6:PM-7PM. The Chancel Choir rehearses from 7PM-8PM. The nursery will also be available. Pray about your commitment to Wednesday Night ministries. If you or your group would be willing to provide a Wednesday Night Fellowship meal, please contact Ruth Dulaney (309-738-6151 or ruth-dulaney@gmail.com) We would love to have you for dinner...and more!

Thank You!

A huge Thank You to my church family and friends for your thoughts, prayers, visits, phone calls, cards and food since my accident. I am so grateful for these many kindnesses. Looking forward to the day I return to church to thank you in person. Thanks again.

Phyllis Batson



UMW DISTRICT FALL MEETING

The UMW District Fall meeting will be September 19th at 9AM at Bethel Wesley UMC.

We are asked to bring the following items:

- Boxtops for Education
- Cunningham Children's Home— toothpaste, gift cards to Walmart, Target, Dairy Queen, KFC, Culvers, Hardees, Burger King, Taco Bell, Wendys, Pizza Hut. Monetary donations are also appreciated.
- Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House— diapers, wipes, baby lotion.

Thank you for supporting these ministries.

MIRIAM CIRCLE RESUMES

Miriam Circle resumes monthly meetings starting September 8th at 6:00 PM. Our first meeting for the second half of 2015 will be at Ruth Dulaney's house with a potluck picnic. Barbequed chicken sandwiches and dessert will be provided. Bring a side dish to share. Bob Hoffman will provide music for a sing-a-long. We urge all Miriam Circle members to come, bring a guest, and enjoy the fun and fellowship!

FUEL- OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Rev. Mark

Our Wednesday Night Children's ministry- **FUEL**- starts back up on Wednesday, September 9. And the leadership couldn't be more excited! The emphasis is built around "Hands-On Bible". The kids will have fun while they learn more about the great stories of the Bible...AND how those stories impact their lives! We have also streamlined the time- the kids will meet from 6PM until 7PM every Wednesday evening to better coincide with the rest of the evening's programming.

We are SO excited about the positive impact this ministry will have on our children! If you have children or grandchildren, please consider helping them be a part of this exciting new program. If you have friends or neighbors who have kids, please invite them. Let them know that they are welcome to come for dinner at 5:15PM, stay for an adult Bible study while their kids are ministered to from 6PM to 7PM and be home, working on homework and getting everybody ready for bed, by 7:15PM!



SEPTEMBER

09/01/2001– Bob & Andrea Parker
 09/07/2007– Brian & Carol Parchert
 09/09/2000– Joshua & Michele Joseph
 09/20/2014– Andy & Jaci Weidner
 09/24/1983– Mark & Brenda Dunn
 09/25/2004– Doug & Kelsey Huston
 09/26/1992– Rick & Diana Eggen
 09/28/1957– Arthur & Patricia Olson



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

09/05– Doreen Bailey
 09/07– Marian Nesbitt
 09/10– Janet Hunter
 09/11– Katharine Jones
 09/17– Pat Olson



THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Don Abel	Katie Hermanson
Hank Allan	Noah Huston
Roger/Jodie Address	Ron Hutchins
Phyllis Batson	Jane
Lenny Bowlyou	Connor Jochim
John & Bev Carlin	Fred Kernan
Cheryl & family	Kevin & family
Charlie Coulter	Kimberly
Ellie Davis	Wayne King
Mike Dawson	Vickie Korns
Donny	Karen Lawson
Ron Engstrom	Florence Louck
Melissa Farrell	Marsha/ hospice
Jayne Fitzsimmons	Jerry McAlister
Bodhi Gildea	Melissa's Aunt Kay
Amy Glenn	Ed & Marion Nesbitt
Rev Harris & family	Butch Ottoson
Emily Heard	Cole Peterson

Donna Pinger
 Frank Prouant
 Bryce Rathje
 Reid/ Pam's nephew
 Curt Richardson
 Maxi Salmon
 Elizabeth Schroeder
 Holly Scott
 Janet Smith
 Carmen Techau
 Jim & Sheri Thomas
 Jeff Wells family
 Shut Ins/ Nursing Homes
 Military & families
 All ill/in hospitals
 Those seeking work
 Families & marriages
 Our nation & world

Mercer County Schools
 Administration, Teachers, Students
 and Staff
 National and Local Governmental
 Leaders



LOST AND FOUND:

The abandoned dishes and pans will now be placed on a table in the back of the basement. Please check to see if you are missing any from your kitchen. The "orphans" which are not claimed will be placed in the church kitchen for general use.



UMW CHARITY PROJECT



United Methodist Women are collecting clean plastic lids for a District UMW Charity Project. Please save your lids and place them in one of the marked collection containers in the Fellowship Room or in the kitchen.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

As you are shopping for your children's "back -to-school" supplies for their classrooms, why not pick up a few extra items (at SUPER CHEAP PRICES) to put in your Operation Christmas Child shoebox? The prices can't be beat! There will be free pencils available in the Fellowship Room. Collection of the boxes will begin October 4th, and **all boxes are due here at the Church by Sunday, November 8th.** There will be more information in the near future.

Joan Reynolds

Scott Spencer



ONLINE GIVING

by Rev. Mark

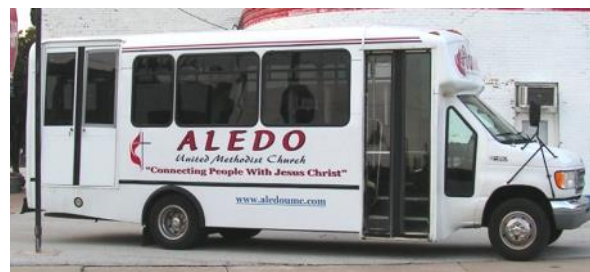
More people are now making their weekly/monthly/yearly offering to your church online! If you go to our home page (www.myaledoumc.com) and choose "giving" from the Navigation Bar near the top, it will take you to a page that will provide the opportunity for you to give electronically. You can either do a one-time gift or a recurring monthly gift.

"Pastor, why would that be good for the church?" Thanks for asking! It's SO easy to forget your check-book at home one week. It's also so easy to forget to give your offering when you are out of town. But the truth of the matter is that the financial commitments of the church...the bills, if you will...don't decrease on those weeks when people forget to tithe. Our financial commitments are steady all year long. Therefore, having a steady, dependable stream of giving helps us better plan for next week, next month and next year!

In addition to through our website, MANY banks now offer online "bill pay". With that service you can set up your church giving for whenever and however much you want it to be. Either way, it's simple, easy and dependable. Won't you consider electronic giving?

ALEDO UMC BUS MINISTRY

We'd love to come pick you up and bring you to any of our services. Just make arrangements with **Greg Cobert** in advance by **calling (309) 737-5621** and we'll put you on our "Pick Up" list.



How Are We Doing Financially?

by Rev. Mark

Summer's over, Fall's here- kids are back at school. Soon, leaves will turn and temperatures will drop. And that means- "get back to church" time. In the Summer, church attendance and giving typically go down. And while attendance hasn't dropped much at all this summer, regular giving HAS been down-enough that we've had to make weekly decisions about which bills to pay. This has caused us to be three months behind on the support we send to our United Methodist Conference...not a position in which we want to be!

But one thing I've learned in 19 years of ministry is to trust God. Therefore, I'm NOT entering this Fall in "panic mode". Instead, I'm entering Fall with a bucketful of hope, joy and excitement! Are we where we want to be, financially? No. Am I confident that we'll get there by the end of the year? Absolutely!

Pray for your church. See if God is calling you to step out in faith and increase your giving. If it was simply about electric bills and Conference claims, I would say...no! But it's not. It's about doing ALL we can to better connect people to Jesus Christ!

C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) Luncheon September 27th

by Joanne Harris



CIA continues to flourish! This group is aimed folks who often find themselves eating alone. This includes (but is NOT limited to) anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. The CIA luncheon happens once each month. This month, the luncheon will be on Sunday, September 27th, immediately following the 10:15AM worship service. You don't have to bring anything except yourself. Feel free to invite a friend to share the meal and fellowship. I will look forward to seeing you on the 27th of September at 11:30AM!

Bus Update



Three words- **we made it!** How amazing is that?! God moved in POWERFUL ways and, in just 3 weeks, we raised a bit MORE than the \$65,000 we were trying to raise. The old bus has been sold- it's gone. The new bus was ordered and arrived in late August- it's here! And...it is amazing! Thank you, thank you, thank you for your amazing commitment and dedication! God is good, all the time!

Labor Day

The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. The first proposal of the holiday described it as a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations," followed by a festival for the workers and their families. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations and on June 28, 1894, Congress made it a federal holiday. It originated as a "day off for the working citizens" and now is celebrated by most Americans as the symbolic end of summer. In addition, Labor Day marks the beginning of the NFL and college football seasons. The NCAA usually plays their first games the week before Labor Day, with the NFL traditionally playing their first game the Thursday following Labor Day. Celebrate the working men and women of our country on Monday the 7th!

Connection Coins For September- FUEL

The Connection Coins (or as Rev. Mark calls them, the “thinly-veiled Pringles cans”!) are doing great things in the life of the Aledo UMC! On the 2nd Sunday of each month, during the Children’s Moment, the ushers pass around those cans. You are encouraged to drop your change in- although we WILL accept “folding money”! And that change goes toward helping fund a ministry within the church.

This month (September 13th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry. As you probably know, we offer a Children’s Ministry opportunity every Wednesday evening during the school year- FUEL. The emphasis is built around “Hands-On Bible”. The kids will have fun while they learn more about the great stories of the Bible...AND how those stories impact their lives! We have also streamlined the time- the kids will meet from 6PM until 7PM every Wednesday evening to better coincide with the rest of the evening’s programming. Any money put in the Connection Coin cans on the 13th of September will be used to help cover the costs of this powerful ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on September 13th!

New Women's Bible Study

WHAT: Twelve Women of the Bible, Joanne Harris’ new Women’s Study

WHEN: Tuesdays at 2PM, starting September 8th

WHERE: Fellowship Cafe

WHY: In this 12-session small group Bible study, *Twelve Women of the Bible*, we will look at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve biblical women and what they mean for your life today. We will learn about the triumphs and failures of Mary Magdalene, Rebekah, Hannah, and nine other women, studying their lives and learning how to:

- Apply biblical lessons to their own modern-day struggles
- Live through their failures as well as successes
- Draw near to God in a world filled with trials
- Find lasting contentment
- Overcome rejection and insecurity and much more.....

WHAT ELSE: Books are \$10

I am excited to be able to dig deeper into the Word and learn about these women and see how it applies to my life today. Come and join me! - Joanne



Music Ministry

What untapped musical gifts do YOU have? Perhaps you sing or play a musical instrument? If so, perhaps God is calling you to a greater commitment in our worship services. Here is a list of the current music ministry opportunities available:

- The Praise Band is looking for a “lead” guitarist, a bass guitarist and a pianist.
- The Vocal Choir always has room for more singers.
- The Bell Choir is looking for more ringers, including substitutes.
- Do you play the piano? We could use your gifts!

Pray about stepping out in faith. If you feel God calling you to join the music ministry of the church, talk to Rev. Mark- stop him at church, call him at the office or e-mail him at revmark@stickwithjesus.com.



Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar

Friday, November 20, 2015 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Saturday, November 21, 2015 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

(And new this year, we will be offering early visits for Genesis Senior Living, Brookstone, and Aledo Rehab & other church members needing bus transportation at 2:00 PM on Friday)

It's time to start thinking and *taking action about how you can share your talents* by participating in the family- oriented Holiday Bazaar. The core Bazaar team has met and has great new ideas for the fifth annual event. Each booth area needs many workers, crafty items and donations. If you would like to make some items to donate, but just do not feel your budget can support all of the supplies needed, contact Ruth Dulaney who will see that you are reimbursed. All profits from the Bazaar are given to local charities and church programs.

Our popular basement booths will include the Candy Cane Café for delicious snacks, Country Store with home baked goodies, Sweet Shoppe with lots of cookies and candies, Creative Hands with all sorts of hand sewn items, Love Notes with great paper gift items, Pampered Pets with goodies for the four-legged friends, The Cutting Edge selling Rada cutlery, Dinner to Go with a frozen casserole or soup for a quick and delicious meal, and Secret Shoppers will help the children make surprise purchases. **New booths** this year will include a Kid's Korner filled with inexpensive gift items for children to purchase and Appreciation Creations which will have lots of hand crafted creative thank you gifts for teachers, bus drivers, mail carriers or any friend or neighbor.

The main focus of the event is the Nativity displays. Last year we had 125 Nativities for our guests to "Follow the Star" to the Christ child. The Nativity Room will be beautifully decorated with the Nativity sets which you are willing loan out for the two-day event. (Anyone bringing their Nativity set(s) will need to be responsible for setting up and taking down their own sets.)

Upstairs in the sanctuary we will be taking professional-looking family photos where "A Star is Born". Nativity costumes will be available if desired for the photo shoot. Each group will receive a CD to use for designing a Christmas card or a family album.

The Fellowship Café area will serve pulled pork sandwiches and two different kinds of soup on Friday evening and biscuits and gravy on Saturday morning. The whole family can come and eat and enjoy the festivities.

This event has grown to involve the whole church family. Join the fellowship & fun at these group preparation times!

Thursday, October 1 st at 1:00 PM in the kitchen:	Ham and Bean Soup Preparation
Thursday, October 15 th at 1:00 PM in the kitchen:	Casserole Preparation
Monday, October 26 th at 5:00 PM in the basement:	Noodle Preparation

What can YOU do NOW to participate?

1. Donate old "button down the front" shirts to be made into aprons.
2. Donate used T-shirts to make dog tug toys.
3. Donate pint or quart jars for "gifts in a jar". (*Place these items in marked bin in Fellowship Room*)
4. Make items to sell – need ideas? Contact Ruth Dulaney 309-738-6151
5. Volunteer to help in a booth, assist in planning, setting up, cleaning up – there are opportunities for all!

**PRAYER WALK
THROUGH THE
CHURCH EVERY
SUNDAY MORNING
AT 7AM.**



WORSHIP TIMES:
Sundays 8AM &
10:15AM
Sunday School 9:15AM
"The Point" 6PM

Fellowship Café

Are you looking for an opportunity to be the "hands and feet of Jesus" for **one hour one Sunday a month**? Do you like to be able to visit with your church family while serving them a snack and coffee?

The Fellowship Café needs more volunteers to assist during shifts on Sunday mornings.

A Café lead person will also be working during these times:

- 7:00 – 8:00 AM to set up the café and serve before 8 AM church service
- 9:05 – 10:05 AM to serve in between church services
- 11:15 AM – Noon to serve after 10:15 service and clean up.

Please contact Ruth Dulaney or the church office if you would like to join in this special ministry.



The deadline for the
next Parish Visitor is

**Tuesday,
September 22nd
at 8am.**

Please have all
articles
submitted
by this date!



Church Website

Have you looked at your church's web-site? If not, go to www.myaledoumc.com and see what's going on! Not only can you see the "basics" about the Aledo United Methodist Church, you can find the most church current calendar. In addition, the 2-minute "call to worship" videos that start our 8AM service every week are available. Also, the monthly newsletter AND the weekly bulletin (complete with the current version of the Prayer List) can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED \$5,833)

Date	08/02	08/09	08/16	08/23
Attendance	210	241	240	252
Receipts	\$6,707.85	\$4,469.00	\$4,598.00	\$3,822.00

