

# The Parish Visitor

## January, 2016



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## AULD LANG SYNE

by Rev. Mark

*"Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, and days of auld lang syne? For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne."* You've heard those words countless times...but do you know what they mean? Where they came from? Let me tell you! "Auld Lang Syne" is an extremely old Scottish folk song. The words, handed down orally for many years, were first written down in 1788 by legendary Scottish poet Robert "Bobby" Burns. Scottish musician George Thomson set those lyrics to the tune of "Can Ye Labour Lea", a Scottish folk melody. As Scots emigrated around the world, they took the song with them.

The song was played by Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians as a New Year's Eve song for the first time on December 31, 1929- it was the band's theme song for years. The song still kicks off the Times Square celebration every New Year's Eve. In the movie "When Harry Met Sally", Harry (Billy Crystal) talks about never fully understanding what the song means. *"I mean, 'Should old acquaintance be forgot'? Does that mean that we should forget old acquaintances, or does it mean if we happened to forget them, we should remember them, which is not possible because we already forgot?"*

As much a drinking song as a song of remembrance, the title literally translates "old long since"- the equivalent of "long long ago", "days gone by" or even "once upon a time." When we sing this song, we are saying, "We'll drink a cup of kindness yet for times gone by." The song speaks of fondly and resolutely remembering the past...while we face the future. I fear, especially at the beginning of a new year, too many of us not only remember the past, but dwell there. We labor over decisions we've made, paths we've taken, things we done...or left undone. The reality is that we cannot go back and change ONE THING that has already happened. All we can do is move forward appropriately. That means we remember the good times with fondness in our heart and we learn from the hard times with resolve in our outlook.

When you "drink a cup of kindness yet for times gone by" this year, what will follow? Will it be swimming in a sea of "what if's" and "might have been's"? Or will it be a commitment and dedication to being the best... YOU...you can be in the eyes of God? To quote that great theologian Billy Joel, *"the good old days weren't always good, and tomorrow ain't as bad as it seems"*! Make 2016 the year you completely step out of the boat, in water over your head, knowing God will be there to keep you afloat!

### SPECIAL DATES:

- January 3-16 Prayer & Fasting
- January 3 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- January 4 Finance Meeting 6PM
- January 4 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- January 7 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- January 12 Miriam Circle 6PM
- January 15&16 24 Hour Prayer Vigil 5PM -5PM
- January 17 Commitment Sunday
- January 17 Administrative Council Meeting 7:15PM
- January 18 Office closed for birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- January 18 UM Men Meeting 6PM
- January 21 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- January 22 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- January 24 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- January 25 Relay for Life Meeting 6PM
- January 25 PPRC Meeting 6:30PM

## NEW SERMON SERIES(S)!

by Rev. Mark

This month, we start...a whole lot of things! At the morning services (8AM & 10:15AM), we will begin the new year with something that shouldn't happen in church...bad words!



- **Sunday, January 3- A Dirty Word** (Isaiah 58:6-7)

Prayer and Fasting can be HARD to wrap your head around! (Matthew 6:16-18, 1Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Then, beginning on January 10, we start a 7-week journey that will not only lead us partway into Lent- the season leading up to Easter- but also cause us to ask some challenging questions and look at some challenging guidelines for life as we walk through 3 Simple Questions, 3 Simple Rules. The weeks of that series are:

- **Sunday, January 10- Who Is God?** (Exodus 34:5-7a)  
Is it possible to adequately describe God? (Deuteronomy 32-3-4, Revelation 1:17-18)
- **Sunday, January 17- Who Am I?** (Job 14:1-2, 7-12)  
How does the world see us? How does God see us? (Genesis 1:26-28a, John 15:13-16))
- **Sunday, January 24- Who Are We Together?** (1Corinthians 3:1-7)  
What does a relationship with God actually look like? (Psalm 2:7-8, Romans 8:31-39)
- **Sunday, January 31- Do No Harm** (1Corinthians 3:16-20)  
What IS the least you can do? (Galatians 5:13-16, Luke 17:1-5)
- **Sunday, February 7- Do Good** (Colossians 3:12-17)  
What's the MOST you do? (3John 1:11, Luke 6:27-31)
- **Sunday, February 14- Stay In Love With God** (Psalm 31:21-24)  
What does "in love" actually mean? (Deuteronomy 6:5-9, John 3:16-17)
- **Sunday, February 21- Praying It, Living It** (Philippians 4:4-8)  
How do we wrap this all up together? (Psalm 40:1-2, 4a, Isaiah 41:9-10)

At The Point, our 6PM Sunday worship service, we will spend some time looking at plans for the New Year that can actually make a difference as we navigate Resolutions. The weeks of this series are:

- **January 3- Stay Positive** (Philippians 4:4-8)  
Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.
- **January 10- Be Thankful** (1Thessalonians 5:15-19)  
Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness.
- **January 17- Understand the Difference Between "Get To" and "Have To"** (1Peter 1:2-5)  
When you get up in the morning, think about what a precious privilege it is to be alive.
- **January 24- Mentor and Be Mentored** (1Thessalonians 5:9-11)  
The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves.
- **January 31- Bloom Where You're Planted** (2Timothy 2:15)  
When we are no longer able to change a situation - we are challenged to change ourselves.
- **February 7- Enjoy the Ride** (Matthew 11:27-30)  
A lot of people don't appreciate the moment...until it's passed.

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

## **PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES**

### **Revelation: In Christ You Are an Overcomer**

**WHAT: Rev. Mark's current 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

### **His Name is Jesus**

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

**WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM, beginning December 8th**

**WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'**

**WHY:** Get to know Jesus---and discover what it means to follow him as Savior and Lord! This back-to-basics interactive study helps you understand the Gospels chronologically; see how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy; and explore how his ministry enacted the saving reign of God.

**WHAT ELSE:** The books are \$10

### **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 10 Commandments**

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

**WHEN: Sundays @ 9:15AM**

**WHERE: In the Dining Room**

**WHY:** God's rules do more than restrict--they give freedom. They are words of prevention and protection. They define identity--ours and God's. Each of the weeks in this study by Rob Suggs looks at one of God's commandments and a Bible passage that will help you better understand how to apply God's law. As you study these laws, you will encounter God himself.

**WHAT ELSE: We would LOVE to have you join this class.** Books are \$8.

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**Thank You! Thank You!**

by Rev. Mark

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone for the way you shared of yourselves during the Christmas season- the many cards and gifts we received were greatly appreciated. The Harris/Allan family feels truly blessed to serve God as a part of the Aledo United Methodist Church!

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN FELLOWSHIP FORMED

2016 brings a change to the organization of the Aledo UMC women. In a move to increase participation and attendance, Miriam Circle will be dissolved and a new "United Methodist Women Fellowship" will be established. There will be no monthly meetings; however, many favorite activities will be continued. ALL women of the church will be invited to attend 4-5 events scattered throughout the year.

We are very excited about the changes and opportunities that lie ahead. Be looking for details on our February fellowship activity, preparing and delivering Valentine plates for nursing home residents, shut-ins, and many others.

Naomi-Wesleyan Circle will continue meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month (except Jan. and Feb.) at Doug's T & C at 11:30.

UMW co-presidents,

*Mary Flint and Molly Joseph*

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### Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 7th. We had a wonderful day. Thank you for cards, greetings, attending our open house, helping serve that day.

*Richard & Martha Rittenhouse*




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## STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

by Rev. Mark

Have you noticed how busy the church is these days? Our custodians tells me that they are having an increasingly difficult time even finding opportunities to clean because there are ALWAYS folks in the building! That is a GREAT thing! And it's great because we not simply busy for the sake of being busy. Instead, we are busy connecting people to Jesus Christ. It's the yardstick by which we measure everything we do here. As the number of ministries grows, so does the need for funding. A church that averages 250 people each Sunday in worship and continues to add a great many new ministries has a higher budget than a church that doesn't do those things.

The membership vows of the United Methodist Church challenge us to support the church through our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. And I would argue that those are ALL important...not just the "gifts" part. The church works at its best when we lift it up through our prayers, through our presence (literally being here), our gifts (both monetary and otherwise), our service (rolling up our sleeves and being about God's business) and our witness (sharing with others the difference God has made in our lives).

In late December, you should have received a packet in the mail- a letter encouraging you to pray about your financial support of the church in 2016. I would encourage you to do just that- pray about it. Ask God how He is calling you to support your church this year. Then, on Sunday, January 17 at all 3 worship services, we will all be invited to come forward and offer our commitment to God. Great things are happening at AUMC- I'm excited to see where God takes us next! Will you join me?

### Call-Em-All

Did you know that your church has a notification service named Call-Em-All? We use it to notify church members, both through automated phone calls and/or text messages, of a variety of things. Do YOU get texts and/or phone calls from Call-Em-All? If not, would you LIKE to? Whether you are a committee member, a member of a group like United Methodist Men or Women or you would like to receive all-church news or prayer requests, Call-Em-All can help keep you informed. If you are not currently receiving Call-Em-All notifications or would like to receive more of them, simply call the office. We can help!

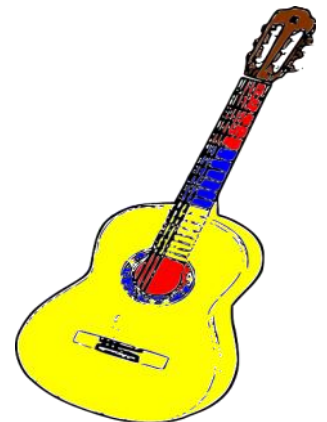


## MUSIC MINISTRY

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 an electric 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](mailto:revmark@stickwithjesus.com).



## THE RETURN OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP!

Wednesday Night Fellowship is coming BACK from hiatus! On Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, everything starts back up! The dinners have been spectacular, the rest of the evening has been great and the fellowship has been outstanding!

The evening starts with dinner from 5:15-6PM. Then, everything else starts!! At 6PM, your choices include:

- Nursery for birth-3 years old
- FUEL for kids through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Junior/Senior High Bible Study
- Rev. Mark's class, **Revelation** (see accompanying article)
- Bell Choir
- Choir

See you on Wednesday evenings!



I want to say "Thank You" for the tray of delicious Christmas cookies. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

*Bonnie Ricketts*



We want to thank you very much for the gift baskets. We really appreciated it.

*Dave & Bev Haney, Kathy Haney*

Thanks to all who gave in Memorial to my dear friend Walter Marshall's passing. He was a good Christian and faithful friend. He's missed here very much.

*Aileen Andress*

I would like to express my thanks to all who remembered me at Christmas! Your cards, gifts, and warm greetings are so appreciated. Again, I need to remind you all of how much I love working for my Church family! I am truly blessed!

*Debbie Swank*



## 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *FOLLOW THE STAR* HOLIDAY BAZAAR FOLLOW UP REPORT

Thank you to the Holiday Bazaar committee for their dedicated service to this event, the entire church family for your support and donations, the many workers at the bazaar, all of those who prepared for and cleaned up after, and everyone that attended our family-oriented, old-fashioned bazaar.

Through your efforts, we connected about 130 people to Christ as they walked through the doors, viewed our 128 beautiful displayed Nativities, visited our thirteen unique booths and ate our delicious meals. ***We shared our love for Jesus through our fellowship with others, which is priceless!***

We were fortunate to have a profit of over \$4,200 which we will give to the following missions in our community and within our church as follows:

### Community Missions

Food Pantry:	\$500
Crisis Center:	\$500
Adonai	\$250

### AUMC Missions

Network of Caring:	\$1,000
Caring Hearts Program:	\$750
Wednesday Night Fellowship	\$500
Fellowship Café:	\$250
Youth Programs:	\$250

Remainder in United Methodist Women Treasury for their many missions.

The Holiday Bazaar committee has some fresh, new ideas for the 2016 Follow the Star Holiday Bazaar and we look forward to everyone's participation next year!

It takes a whole church family to make an event like this a success and YOU made it happen! God is Good, All the Time!!  
Thank you, *Ruth Dulaney*

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

01/03/1998– Blair & Sara Blaser  
 01/13/2005– John & Beverly Carlin  
 01/18/1953– John & Frances Blick  
 01/30/1988– Randy & Jennifer Mattson



## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

January 10– Gloria Morgan  
 January 10– Beverly Norton  
 January 18– Ethel (Tommy) Greer  
 January 27– Dee Dellitt



**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**“THE JOURNEY” WOMEN’S EVENT  
 WILL BE HELD APRIL 9TH AT  
 ALEDO UMC.**

**INVITE  
 SOMEONE!**

## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Scott Balmer  
 Linda Bierbaum  
 Dola Boals  
 Patty Bruner  
 John & Bev Carlin  
 Shirley Chrisman  
 Hurley Crossman  
 Ellie Davis  
 Rev Barbara Dinne  
 Jim Earl  
 Ron/Diane Engstrom  
 Melissa Farrell  
 Lyn & Don Franks  
 Lavern Fuller  
 Larry Griffith  
 Carolyn Hanson  
 Jim Hanson  
 Rev Harris & family

David Hemphill  
 Katie Hermanson  
 Tammy Hirst  
 Linda Hoy  
 Judy Inman  
 Craig Kelly  
 Fred Kernan  
 Vickie Kornes  
 Alison Kuk  
 Nadine Liby  
 Becky Long  
 Jean McAffey  
 Jerry McAlister  
 Edna McCreight family  
 Roger McIntyre  
 Kathy Melton family  
 Joyce Michael family  
 Connie Midkiff

Linda Patsche  
 Chad Peterson  
 Bryce Rathje  
 Brent Rillie  
 Pastor Toni Ross  
 Pam Russell  
 Janet Smith  
 Ron Taylor  
 Carmen Techau  
 Teresa Thomas  
 Marilyn Wagler  
 Ethel Welch family  
 Eric Zimmerman  
 Shut Ins/ Nursing Homes  
 Military & families  
 All ill/in hospitals  
 Our nation & world  
 Our church & members

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



## EPIPHANY

January 6th is Epiphany (Greek for “appearance or manifestation”), also known as the 12th Day of Christmas or Three Kings Day. Epiphany is a Christian feast which celebrates the revelation of God to mankind in the person of Jesus Christ. According to various traditions, it recognizes both the coming of the Wise Men to Jesus and the baptism of Jesus- both revelations of God in their own way. On Sunday, January 3rd at all 3 services, we will celebrate the revelation of God Incarnate, Jesus the Christ, Emmanuel!

**Thank You!**  
**The Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry would like to thank the churches and their congregations for all of your support in 2015... money, food items, and volunteers at the Food Pantry. It was all very much appreciated. May God bless you all!!**



## JANUARY- A SEASON OF PRAYER AND FASTING

A great thing is happening this month! On Sunday, January 3rd, the sermon focus will be on the power of prayer and fasting. We will talk about what fasting IS and “bust some of the myths” of what fasting ISN’T. Then we will begin a 2-week period of prayer and fasting. Everybody in the church will be encouraged to participate as God leads you.

That time of prayer and fasting will be brought to a close in a powerful way. From 5PM, Friday January 15<sup>th</sup> through 5PM Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, we will host our 4th annual 24-Hour Prayer Vigil. You will be given the opportunity to sign up to lead and/or attend one or more hours of prayer. The hours will rotate back and forth between the sanctuary and the chapel. Communion will be available each hour.

Then, on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday. Late last month, each household received a packet about committing our time, talent and tithes to God. And on Commitment Sunday, at all three services, we will all have the opportunity to bring our Commitment Card to the front and place it on the altar. Please keep this powerful and important time in the life of our congregation in your prayers!

## SPECIAL DAYS IN JANUARY

Where you aware that January is Eye Care Month? How about Hot Tea Month? Braille Literacy Month? Soup Month? Oatmeal Month? In addition, here are some special days in January: the 1st- New Year's Day, the 2nd- Run up the Flagpole and See if Anyone Salutes Day, the 3rd- Fruitcake Toss Day, the 4th- Trivia Day, the 5th- Bird Day, the 6th- Epiphany, the 7th- Old Rock Day, the 8th- Bubble Bath Day, the 9th- Apricot Day, the 10th- Peculiar People Day, the 11th- Step in a Puddle and Splash Your Friends Day, the 12th- Pharmacist Day, the 13th- Make Your Dream Come True Day, the 14th- Dress Up Your Pet Day, the 15th- National Hat Day, the 16th- Nothing Day, the 17th- Ditch New Year's Resolutions Day, the 18th- Winnie the Pooh Day, the 19th- Popcorn Day, the 20th- Penguin Awareness Day, the 21st- National Hugging Day, the 22nd- Blonde Brownie Day, the 23rd- Measure Your Feet Day, the 24th- Compliment Day, the 25th- Opposite Day, the 26th- Spouse's Day, the 27th- Chocolate Cake Day, the 28th- National Kazoo Day, the 29th- Puzzle Day, the 30th- Inane Answering Message Day, and the 31st- Backward Day. This month, celebrate the best, the worst, and the weirdest January has to offer!



## Did You Miss Sunday's Sermon?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. Simply go to [www.stickwithjesus.com](http://www.stickwithjesus.com). Scroll down the main page until you find the date you missed- that day's blog will be a transcript of the sermon! If you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at [revmark@stickwithjesus.com](mailto:revmark@stickwithjesus.com). Please share these links with your friends and family.



## I Have a Dream

On Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of slain civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. For our kids, it's a day off from school. My experience is that for many of them, that's all it is. Why DO we celebrate this man's birthday?

Although he is often labeled as simply an advocate of African-American rights, Dr. King's message truly transcended any notion of merely being a spokesman for a particular group. His was NOT simply a message of race and color; his was a message of hope- grounded in strong Biblical principles. When he delivered what was arguably his most famous speech, he said, "I have a dream." His dream was NOT that we would let ethnicity separate us. His dream was NOT that people of a particular skin color would strike out against those of another color. His dream was NOT that children would learn to hate others because of their physical appearance. His dream was that ALL people could live together in peace and harmony, regardless of the color of their skin. When that glorious day happened, he said, we would be able to quote the old spiritual and exclaim, "Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

We are all unique and we are all different. That's NOT our weakness- it's our strength! Our diversity makes us strong. We are all children of God- made in His image. This month, take a moment and reflect on Dr. King. Tell your kids or grandkids about him. My prayer is his prayer- that one day we will live in a world where people aren't judged by the color of their skin, but the content of their heart.

Thank You!

From all of us at Brookstone who received Christmas cards and gifts:

Thank you all and may you have a blessed Christmas.



## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Have you felt God tugging at you, urging you to take a leap of faith and become a larger part of something bigger than yourself? Have you been considering joining the church, but just haven't taken the plunge! There is no time like the present! Contact Rev. Mark (582-2169, [revmark@myaledoumc.com](mailto:revmark@myaledoumc.com)) and set up a time to visit with him. This 30-minute meeting will allow you to get to know each other better. At the end of the meeting, you'll decide which Sunday you would like to join the church...and the rest, as they say, is history! Pray about it- are YOU ready to step out in faith?

## THE NURSERY

Perhaps one of the best-kept secrets at AUMC is our Nursery Program. Professionally staffed and lovingly tended, our Nursery is a great place to take your children! The main focus of our nursery is simple...care. Our goal is to provide a loving environment where the youngest among us can feel comfortable and safe. At the Aledo United Methodist Church, we truly believe that the children of our congregation are NOT simply the future of the church- they are very much an active, important part of the PRESENT of the church! We strive to take good care of them while offering them a glimpse of ...THE KINGDOM!



## Connection Coins For January

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 (January 10th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward another important ministry, the Youth Scholarship Fund. 100% of the money that is collected in the cans on the 10th of January 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 January 10th!

The deadline for the next  
Parish Visitor is  
**Friday,**  
**January 22**  
**at 8am.**  
Please have all  
articles  
submitted  
by this date!

## Cooking For Wednesday Night Fellowship

We all LOVE to eat! But maybe you also love to cook! We could use your help. Ruth Dulaney is scheduling groups to provide Wednesday Night meals for the “Spring semester”. We need individuals, groups, or families to sign up for those 2016 WNFs. There IS a budget, so if covering the cost of the food is a problem...don’t let it be! It is a true joy to be able to provide dinner for others. The sign-up board has empty spots just waiting for YOU to be the hands and feet of Jesus!



## FUEL- Our Wednesday Night Children’s Ministry

by Rev. Mark

Our Wednesday Night Children’s ministry- FUEL- is off and running. And the leadership couldn’t be more excited! The emphasis is built around “Hands-On Bible”. The kids have fun while they learn more about the great stories of the Bible...AND how those stories impact their lives! We are SO excited about the positive impact this ministry has 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!



To my church family, thank you for the thoughtful monetary Christmas gift. Chancel choir’s ministry in music is a joy for us to be a part of and we pray a joyful offering to God. Your loving support is a vital part of what we do and how we are able to fulfill our church’s mission of connecting others with Jesus Christ.

God bless each of you and pray for us as we start the Easter cantata practices in 6 WEEKS !

Remember – there is always room for more in the choir loft!

Molly Joseph



## RESOLUTE RESOLUTIONS

New Year's Day is a perfect time for a fresh start. It's one of the less busy times of the year as everyone recovers from Christmas. Many people are on holidays and have time to reflect and to think about things, and of course, to make new year's resolutions.



What's your new year's resolution going to be? I know I really should hit the gym more regularly in 2016. Though the temptation to hit the chocolate is a strong one (here's a hint: if you're on a diet, stay away from the bottom drawer in my office). Should I resolve to spend more time catching up with old friends, read more books, climb Mount Everest? I don't think that last one is a realistic goal for this year. Maybe next year.

So what are you going to do in 2016?

Here's a suggestion. In 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Paul said to the Corinthians *"When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."*

Paul resolved to let nothing get in the way of telling people about Jesus. This would be a very worthy New Year's resolution - to tell your friends, family, neighbors, anyone who will listen about Jesus. To live your life in such a way that nothing can get in the way of introducing people to the Savior King.

Now's the time to make the resolution. Now's the time to make preparations. Now's the time to be ready. Read some good Christian books. Attend a training course. Practice on a Christian friend. Do whatever you need to do to tell people that Jesus is the promised one of God and that he died to save us from the punishment we deserve.

### What's Coming Up,

#### VAG:

**2/3rds of God-**

**Jan 16th,**

**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 Sunday,**

**6:00-7:15pm**

**Youth Bible Study-**  
**Wednesdays, 6-7pm**

In 2016, make a New Year's resolution that will make an impact for the Kingdom!!

It's that time! CONFIRMATION, when young people dig into what it means to be a Christian and prepare to become full members of their church, will start in early February. This opportunity is for youth 7th Grade and older. They will spend 7 Sunday afternoons, 1PM starting January 17th and ending March 6th with Rev. Mark and Melissa, learning more about what it truly means to be a Christian. There will be lots of conversation and reflection, but there will also be music videos and fun "game shows"! Then on March 13th, they will be baptized (if they have not been), Confirmed and become full members of the church! If you have a youth who is in 7th Grade or beyond, let Rev. Mark or Melissa know that you are interested in this great opportunity!!

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



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

**C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) Luncheon January 24**

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, January 24th, 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 24th of January at 11:30AM!

**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](http://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 your 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 checkbook 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?

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(WEEKLY NEED \$6,082)

Date	12/06	12/13	12/20	12/27
Attendance	249	405	260	
Receipts	\$7,734.03	\$5,663.00	\$6,611.65	

