

The Parish Visitor

May, 2015



THE ALEDO UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Visit us at myaledoumc.com

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT CHURCH GROWTH?

by Rev. Mark

Last month in this space, I asked a simple yet deep question- where will we head as a congregation- post-Easter? As you have probably figured out by now- I am a "church growth" guy! It stems from "cutting my teeth"- ministerially speaking- in a church that was experiencing exponential growth. Before that, my experience was in a church that was A. full of absolutely awesome people and B. always stayed the same. But at the first church I served, I got a front-row seat to see a church grow from 200/Sunday in worship to 800/Sunday in worship in 7 years! (They have since gone to 2,000/Sunday in worship...,and NO, that is NOT a misprint!)

There are lots of pastors who seem to want to diminish or de-value the idea of church growth. I've heard pastors say things like, "I don't pay any attention to attendance and giving numbers- it's not all about the numbers." And I will agree with a portion of that statement- it is not ALL about the numbers. Instead, it is ALL about connecting people to Jesus Christ. Everything we do at this church is measured by that yardstick. It's who we are. It's the core of our collective DNA.

But how do you know how you are doing at connecting people to Jesus Christ? What are ways you can measure your effectiveness in that area? Well, you can certainly see lives being changed. And that, for my money, is an AWESOME thing to see. But if it's awesome to see lives changed, then it must- by default- be MORE awesome to see MORE lives changed! And how do you know if that's happening? You pay attention to the numbers!

The numbers of a church tell a story. And there are 4 primary numbers that are important indicators:

1. Average Worship Attendance- How many people are participating in worship services in an average week? Worship is, or at least should be, the core around which a congregation builds their ministries. And therefore how many people are actively engaging in that activity is a good indicator.
2. Average Christian Education Attendance- How many people are participating in some type of Christian Education (Sunday School, Bible Studies, etc.) in an average week? While worship is (usually) the first contact people have with a church, Christian Education is the logical next step. Digging deeper into God's Word and seeing what it can mean in your life is a powerful move forward. And therefore how many people are actively engaging in that activity is a good indicator.

(continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- May 3 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- May 4 Relay for Life Survivor's Dinner 6PM
- May 4-7 Men's Retreat
- May 6 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- May 9 Relay for Life Pork Chop Fundraiser @ Mercer Market
- May 10 Mother's Day
- May 11 Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Banquet 6PM
- May 12 Miriam Circle 6PM
- May 13 Last Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal until Fall! 5:15PM
- May 14 Finance Meeting 6PM
- May 16 UM Men Work Day 8AM-noon
- May 17 Administrative Council Meeting 7:15PM
- May 18 SPMS Relay for Life Meeting 4:30PM
- May 18 UMM Meeting 6PM
- May 20 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- May 21 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- May 21 Naomi Wesleyan Circle @ T&C 11:30AM
- May 24 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- May 25 Office Closed for Memorial Day
- May 26 Relay for Life Meeting 6PM

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN MAY

Did you know that May Is American Bike Month? It is also Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. What about Asparagus Month? Or Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month (makes sense!)? It is also National Bar-B-Q, Egg, Hamburger, Salad and Strawberry Months! Here are some special days in May- May 1st- Mother Goose Day, May 2nd- Baby Day, May 3rd- Lumpy Rug Day, May 4th- National Teacher Day, May 5th- National Hoagie Day, May 6th- International No Diet Day, May 7th- Space Day, May 8th- Tulip Day, May 9th- No Socks Day, May 10th- Mother's Day, May 11th- Twilight Zone Day, May 12th- Clean Up Your Room Day, May 13th- Kite Day, May 14th- National Dance Like a Chicken Day, May 15th- Armed Forces Day, May 16th- Peace Day, May 17th- Pack Rat Day, May 18th- Visit Your Relatives Day, May 19th- Circus Day, May 20th- Be a Millionaire Day, May 21st- Lindbergh Flight Day, May 22nd- Buy-A-Musical Instrument Day, May 23rd- Penny Day, May 24th- National Escargot Day, May 25th- Memorial Day, May 26th- Blueberry Cheesecake Day, May 27th- Ham Sandwich Day, May 28th- Sun Screen Day, May 29th- International Jazz Day, May 30th- Hug Your Pet Day and May 31st- World No Tobacco Day. Celebrate all that May has to offer!

MOTHER'S DAY

Do you have your greeting card picked out? Are the lunch reservations made yet? **Sunday, May 10th is Mother's Day!** Those tireless, often thankless women who brought us into this world (and can take us back out if we don't stay in line!) are honored on that day. The women of the church will be recognized that day in all 3 worship services, and the men of the congregation will be giving each of them a special gift as well. If your mother is no longer with us, say a special prayer of thanksgiving for her that day. If she IS with us but lives too far away, make sure you call her to tell her how much she means to you. If she lives nearby, bring her to church to be a part of the celebration. Then, take her to lunch and tell her in person the impact she has had on your life!



(Continued from page 1)

3. Average Youth Group Attendance- How many young people are participating in some type of Youth Group activity? Reaching out to, and helping develop the spiritual lives of, our young people is absolutely essential. And therefore how many people are actively engaging in that activity is a good indicator.

4. Average Weekly Giving- How well does the congregation financially support the ministries of their church? Physical, spiritual and prayer support of the ministries of a church are of the utmost importance. But the reality is that, without financial support, most of them simply cannot be sustained. Ministry takes money- plain and simple. And the more a congregation supports their church financially, the more ways that church can connect people to Jesus Christ. And therefore how many people are actively engaging in that activity is a good indicator.

Amazing things are happening here. What we are in the middle of is nothing short of a miraculous gift from God. Most churches/congregations/pastors never get to experience this sort of growth. We are truly blessed. How we respond to that blessing will, in large part, dictate how long this blessing will last and how far it will go. Growth means change. And change is hard- let's be honest. But healthy living organisms grow.

As I have said MANY times over the past almost three years, I am all in. I don't have a gear for turning around or backing down. If God is for us, then who can possibly stand against us? I wait with GREAT anticipation to see what He has in store for us!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP WRAPPING UP FOR THE SEASON

The 2014-2015 edition of Wednesday Night Fellowship is drawing to a close! The dinners have been spectacular, the rest of the evening has been great and the fellowship has been outstanding! Here's the schedule for the month:

Wednesday, May 6: Dinner at 5:15PM- The Praise Band and Tech Team are cooking. FUEL, Rev. Mark's class, Youth Bible Study, Choir and Bell Choir all meet.

Wednesday, May 13: Dinner at 5:15PM- The members of the Administrative Council are cooking. FUEL, Rev. Mark's class, Youth Bible Study, Choir and Bell Choir all meet. This will be the LAST WNF event of the spring. We will start things back up in the fall.

Thank you to ALL the people who helped make WNF a huge success this year! Please come and help the program finish strong! See you on Wednesday evenings!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On Tuesday, April 21, Joanne Harris started a new Women's Bible Study- **Ruth and Esther: Doing God's Will Whatever the Cost.**

WHAT: Joanne's Women's Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 2PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: What is it about these women that makes them different? What can we learn from their stories? Structured to be user-friendly to Christians of all ages, this new Bible study from trusted author Warren Wiersbe strikes the perfect balance of expositional commentary from the Scripture text and introspective questions for practical application. Study the lives of two women who boldly followed God's will, even when all seemed lost.

WHAT ELSE: It's NOT too late! The books are \$8



CONNECTION COINS FOR MAY

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 (May 10th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward the Fellowship Cafe'. One of the fastest growing and most-used ministries on Sunday mornings, the Fellowship Cafe' offers a place for people to get some gourmet coffee and a bit to eat (chosen from the WIDE variety offered) while they share in some powerful fellowship. As our Sunday morning attendance grows, so does the number of people reached by the Cafe'. So all proceeds collected from the May 10th Connection Coins will go toward helping fund the cost of the Fellowship Cafe'! What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on May 10th!



NEEDED! TECHS FOR THE SOUND BOOTH!

Are you wanting to serve our church in a different or additional way? Why not consider serving in the tech booth for worship services? We have positions open now for computer or sound technicians.

We have people who are willing to give you the necessary training and guidance. You can join the tech team schedule rotation and enhance our worship with your talents!

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF LEAVING A LEGACY OF FAITH?

Come, learn more about it. Join the Bible Study “Your Legacy”. It will be a four-week Bible Study beginning Thursday, June 4th at 9AM in the Fellowship Cafe. It will be led by Martha Rittenhouse, and each session will last one hour. For more information, call Martha at 582-7927.



RELAY FOR LIFE



A big “thank you” goes out to our AUMC Relay for Life team and also to the many women in our church who baked items for our bake sale fundraiser. Thanks also for continuing to collect your loose change for the prescription bottles. Awesome job!

We would like to let you know that members of our team will be grilling pork chops on Saturday, May 9th at Mercer Market, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come out for a pork chop sandwich and help support our church team. We sincerely appreciate all the donations.

Aledo UMC Relay for Life Team

Thank you to the Journey Team and the many women and men who gave of their time, energy, and talents to make this year's Journey such an awesome day. The many hours of preparation helped make this event a way to connect women to Jesus Christ. We humbly thank our speakers as they shared their journeys- each one truly blessed our hearts and touched our lives as they stepped out in faith to share how they "Find Joy in the Journey". A huge heartfelt thank you to the men of our church, as we couldn't do it without you. We can always depend on you to work behind the scenes with setup, parking, cleanup, dishes, takedown, bus ministry, etc. It was a Spirit-filled, Yay God day. To God be the Glory! This year we have chosen the Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry and Feeding America to be recipients of our worthwhile cause. God is good!

In His Love,
The Journey Team





Jesus & Snapchat?!

Snapchat is a great way to connect with your friends. You can send them a photo, video, add a caption, and send the snap off to a friend. Snapchat is a great app to use and a lot of fun.

Have you ever thought about the fact that Jesus is a lot like Snapchat? No, Jesus isn't an app or a way to communicate with your friends, but we can learn about Jesus from Snapchat.

Once a snap is sent, it can be viewed for a limited amount of time. Then the snap deletes. Its never seen again. This is a lot like what Jesus did for us on the cross. Our sin was a barrier to get to God. We couldn't come to God on the basis of our works, because any sin, no matter how small keeps us from knowing God. What we needed was a solution to our sin. The solution was Jesus.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. – Romans 3:23

Jesus Fixed The Problem

Jesus was able to delete sin, permanently. Once we ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins, they're gone, deleted once and for all. Just like the snaps in snapchat. They can't be viewed again once they're deleted. And that's what Jesus did for us. He deleted the sin out of our lives by dying on the cross. His death and resurrection caused the sin problem to be destroyed. When we accept Jesus in our lives, all our sins are deleted. They're gone. We can go to God as if sin never existed in our lives.

Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. – Romans 8:2

So the next time you use Snapchat, let it be a reminder to you of how Jesus WAS and IS the solution to sin.

What's Coming Up, VAG:

2/3rd of God: May 16th, 10am-12pm

ATTN, 6-8th graders, Join us on every Tuesday from 5-6:15pm

Senior High (9-12th), come learn and fellowship with us every Sunday from 6:00-7:15pm

When you use
the gifts God gave you,
He will give you more
and more.

Anna Noble

Happy Anniversary

MAY

05/03/2014– Jose & Kaitlyn Marceleno
 05/13/1950– David & Joan Lawson
 05/16/1970– Michael & Barbara Millar
 05/17/1980– Roger & Jackie Maynard
 05/20/1978– Mike & Vicki Peterson
 05/25/1996– Bill & Jane Stropes
 05/26/2001– Paul & Louise Engwall
 05/28/2005– Steven & Renee Lloyd
 05/29/1993– Jeff & Trisha Hank

Thank You

I want to thank my church family for all the cards, calls, and gifts given to me on my 90th birthday. God bless my church.

Florence Louck



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

5/19– Louise Engwall
 5/30– Clara McCreight



GRADUATION SUNDAY

On **Sunday, May 17th**, we will recognize High School and College graduates at both morning services. The Church Scholarship(s) will be awarded at the 10:15AM service. Please encourage your graduates to attend church that day to receive a special gift and so their church family can rejoice with them on this momentous occasion!



THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



Roger Andress
 Shelly Adee
 Joanne Beard
 Ruth Bowie
 Kayla Briesch
 Lucy & Tom Ceurvorst
 John Cromer
 Joe D
 Dalton & Angie
 Ellie Davis
 Lance Dowsett
 Margie & Jim Earl
 Mark Farrell
 The Fitzsimmons

Zach Glenn & family
 Tom Haines
 David Hutchins
 Roxanne Hanson
 Delmar Harmon
 Rev Mark & family
 Jim Headley
 Linda Hoy
 Chuck Inman
 Lyle & Leveta Kenney
 Ken Kisling
 Vickie Korn
 Marsha (hospice)
 Eilene Miller

Bryce Rathje/6 yrs old
 Curt Richardson
 Martha Rittenhouse
 Elizabeth Schroeder
 Janet Smith
 Carmen Techau
 Charley Thomas
 Susan Washburn
 Ashley White
 Gabby Whitehall
 All in Nursing Homes
 All who are ill/hospitals
 Our world, nation, state
 Families

Mercer County Schools: Administration, Teachers, Students, Staff
 National and Local Governmental Leaders, Military, Security Officers
 FUEL, Bus Ministry, College Students, Shut Ins, the lost

MOTHER DAUGHTER SISTER FRIEND BANQUET

Our church's annual **Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Banquet is Monday, May 11th at 6:00 p.m.** Always a wonderful event, the meal will be catered by Doug's Town & Country Restaurant. We will also be enjoying a "family-style" style show entitled, "**Faith...A Pattern for Life.**" Door prizes will be given out.

Tickets for the event will be \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 4-10, and free for ages 0-3. Our meal will consist of either ham or lemon-herb chicken, tossed salad, au gratin potatoes, green beans, and dinner roll. This year, children can select either ½ of an adult meal or the hot dog meal with their child's ticket. Dessert is served with all meals.

This promises to be a relaxing, entertaining evening which will honor our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends. Tickets are available from Mary Flint, Molly Joseph, or the church office.

Tickets must be purchased no later than **Tuesday, May 5th**. Late ticket orders may not be honored. We need to know a definite count on Tuesday so that the correct amount of food may be ordered.

C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS) LUNCHEON

by Joanne Harris

C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) continues to flourish!. This group is open to both mature men and women who live alone. This includes anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. Once a month, at 11:30AM, the Caring Hearts ministry provides a luncheon for CIA. **The May luncheon is set for Sunday, May 24th.** 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 at the next CIA luncheon!

EIGHT REASONS CHURCHES DON'T BREAK THE "200 IN ATTENDANCE" BARRIER

THE hardest barrier for any church to break is the "200 in average worship attendance" barrier. Here are 8 reasons who churches DON'T break that barrier:

1. The pastor is the primary caregiver.
2. The leaders lacks a strategy.
3. True leaders aren't leading.
4. Volunteers are unempowered.
5. The leadership team micromanages.
6. Too many meetings.
7. Too many events and programs that lead nowhere.
8. The pastor suffers from a desire to please everybody.

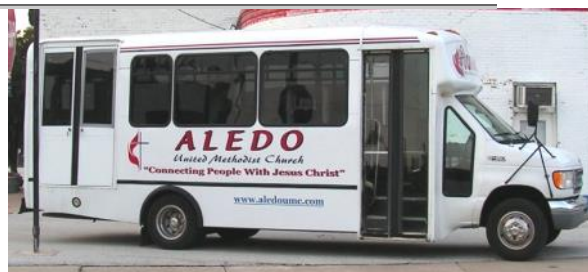
We have, for the 3rd year in a row, broken that barrier! It is officially **BUSTED!** Thank you for being a part of that. We now look ahead to see what other amazing things God has in store for the Aledo United Methodist Church!



www.shutterstock.com 50692053

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.





SPRING SAFETY TIPS FROM YOUR AUMC SAFETY TEAM

YARDWORK SAFETY:

- ☐ Limber up. Yard chores may seem easy, but they involve muscles you probably haven't used in a while.
- ☐ Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers.
- ☐ Rake before you mow to prevent any stones or loose debris from launching into the air.
- ☐ Never operate a mower in your bare feet and avoid wearing loose clothing.
- ☐ Never start a mower indoors.
- ☐ When refueling your mower, make sure the engine is off and cool. Don't spill gasoline on a hot engine and don't smoke while pouring gasoline.
- ☐ Never leave your mower operational while unattended.
- ☐ Don't use electrical mowers on wet grass.



OUTDOOR SAFETY:

Springtime can be severe weather time. If the skies look threatening, check to see if a storm watch or warning has been issued before you initiate outdoor activities.

If you're already outside and thunderstorms threaten, go immediately into a building or enclosed vehicle. For tornadoes, go to the nearest safe structure, or the basement or interior first-floor room of your home. If there's no time to follow these precautions, take cover in a ditch or depression in the ground.

It's a great time to replace your smoke detector batteries, make sure your fire extinguishers are placed in proper locations around your home, and ensure you have a working flashlight and battery-powered radio for spring storms. By taking the right precautions as warmer weather is here, you and those around you can enjoy a safer, healthier spring.

Items needed by Churches of Mercer County Food Pantry:

Cream of celery soup

Cream of mushroom soup

Chicken noodle soup

Cheesy Type Hamburger Helpers



Boxed potato mixes

Canned potatoes

Brownie Mixes

Baby food



Small bars of soap

Shampoo/medium

Feminine hygiene-products

PARKING

By now, you've probably noticed that the parking area on 3rd Street just outside the Church Office has been re-painted. The goals that the Trustees have for that area are:

1. to offer two spots (all the way to the west) that are reserved for vehicles that have lifts which need extra space to load and unload
2. to offer a few parking spots that are designated for people who need to park as close as possible.

The nine spots in that stretch that are to the east ARE marked (on the pavement) as "handicapped" spots. They are, however, not "legal" handicapped spots, due to space requirements. Therefore, what the Trustees ask is that, if you HAVE a handicapped parking designation for your vehicle OR you simply need to park that close...please park there! On the other hand, if you are able/comfortable to park across the street and walk over, then please save the other spots for folks who need them! Parking is CERTAINLY a problem here at AUMC- and what a GREAT problem to have!

CURRENT AND NEW SERMON SERIES(S)!

At the two Sunday morning worship services, we wrap up what it means to be United Methodist as we finish **The Greatest Story Never Told**. Based on the book by author (and United Methodist minister) Leonard Sweet, this series has asked the question, “What makes a United Methodist?” The final week of the series is:

- **Sunday, May 3- The Song of Earth** (Matthew 28:16-20)
The World is Our Parish (Jeremiah 29:11-13, Matthew 10:5-8)
- At the Sunday evening Point service, we also wrap up our current sermon series- **Three D.O.T.S. (Difficult Old Testament Stories)**. The last week of the series is:
- **Sunday, May 3- You Want Me to Do WHAT?!** (Genesis 22:1-14)
God asks Abraham for the WORST possible thing.

Then, on Sunday, May 17th, we begin not one but TWO new sermon series! At the two morning Services, we begin a rather...unusual look at faith with **Toy Box Leadership**. Based on a book by Ron Hunter Jr. and Michael E. Waddell, this series invites us to forget the latest trends and theories for a moment and focus on the fact that everything we need to know about showing leadership through faith we learned from the toy box. The weeks of the series look like this

- **Sunday, May 17- Slinky Dog: Vision** (Romans 8:22-25) Having vision is more than looking on the bright side- it's looking on God's side. (Habakkuk 2:1-3, Matthew 28:16-20)
- **Sunday, May 24- Little Green Army Men: Strategy** (Mark 14:12-16) Success is often found in the set-up. (Proverbs 16:1-3, Luke 14:28-35)
- **Sunday, May 31- Legos: Relationships** (Matthew 22:37) It's easier to give money to people on the other side of the world than it is to deal kindly with someone next door. (Matt. 18:21-22, 1Cor. 13:4-8a)
- **Sunday, June 7- Mr. Potato Head: Communication** (Proverbs 12:18, 15:2) Poor communication is the chief cause of many of the problems in the world. (Psalm 141:3-4a, 2Timothy 2:15-16)
- **Sunday, June 14- Rubik's Cube: Ethics** (Exodus 20:1-17) A moral framework within which we choose to live our lives is essential to faith development. (Psalm 25:20-22, Romans 6:1-4)
- **Sunday, June 21- Weebles: Endurance** (1Timothy 4:15-16) In an Instamatic generation, the hardest thing to develop can be endurance. (Isaiah 40:28-31, Romans 5:1-5)

On that same day, Sunday, May 17th, we also start a “sequel” to our recent Sunday evening series- 6 Di.N.T.S. (Difficult New Testament Stories). This series will look at 6 passages from the New Testament that seem to tell us things that don't make sense. The weeks of this series are:

- **Sunday, May 17- Angels...in Hades?** (2Peter 2:4-9)
God condemns angels to eternity...in Hades.
- **Sunday, May 24- Dead Man Preaching** (1Peter 3:17-20a)
While dead, Jesus drops in on “imprisoned spirits” for some preaching.
- **Sunday, May 31- Jesus Gets Mad at...a Tree** (Mark 11:12-14)
Jesus throws a temper tantrum at a fig tree.
- **Sunday, June 7- DON'T Pray in Public!** (Matthew 5:5-8)
Jesus tells us to NOT pray out loud.
- **Sunday, June 14- Give It ALL Away** (Matthew 5:38-42)
Don't defend yourself and give everything...to everybody.
- **Sunday, June 21- Hate Your Family!** (Luke 14:25-27)
Above all else...despise those closest to you.

Come each week expecting to have God open your eyes!



MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May (Monday, May 25th this year). Formerly known as Decoration Day, it commemorates U.S. men and women who died while in military service to their country. First enacted to honor Union soldiers from the Civil War (it is celebrated near the day of official reunification after that war), it was expanded after World War I to include American casualties of any war or military action.

On Sunday, May 24th, we will honor those men and women who gave their lives for our country during both morning worship services. Please remember the ultimate price these brave people paid so that we might have freedom- including to worship as we see fit.

We will also remember our church and family members who have died. Names of loved ones who have died in the past year will be read and a bell will be tolled. Also, each family in attendance will have the opportunity to come forward and light a candle in memory of a loved one that they have lost. Plan on attending this powerful service...and bring someone with you!

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?!

by Mary Rillie, Visitation Team Leader

The Aledo United Methodist Church continues to “Connect People to Jesus Christ” with its newly forming Visitation Team Ministry! What an exciting time for all of our members to reach out and bring our ministry to those in their homes, extended care facilities, or wherever they are in our community. The Visitation Ministry is an interactive program with our church members and those in the community who are not currently attending or involved in our church services/programs/experiences: home visiting, phone calls, Communion served in one’s home; prayer and Bible verses enriching one’s life and spirit, fellowship with each other, showing that Christians do care & share with each other. Our options are limitless – let’s challenge our personal creativity and imagination! The team is getting ready for their launch into this new endeavor- I am leading the team with many church members coming forward to join this ministry. As we grow, stepping into the lives of others, our team will expand with members who will be there to offer their time, talents, and love for one another. So often we say, “I’m so busy and can’t do one more thing”, but the reward you receive from reaching out will far outweigh the efforts expended. The time involved will be determined by you – whatever time you have to give to others will be exactly what is needed! Join now – call the church office, 309-582-2169 or Mary Rillie, 309-582-4194 – simply leave your name and contact information and become a team member. We want YOU on board! We know that “we are the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus Christ” -- now is the time to reach out and walk with another sharing the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

TOP TEN THINGS YOU NEVER HEAR IN CHURCH

10. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew.
9. I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
8. Personally, I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
7. I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.
6. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class.
5. Forget the denominational minimum salary, let's pay our pastor so he can live like we do.
4. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
3. Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
2. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
1. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!



PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES



Revelation: In Christ You Are an Overcomer

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

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

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

Fruit of the Spirit

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

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Café next to the sanctuary

WHY: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. To be spiritually mature is to show the fruit of the Spirit of Christ in our lives. The New and Old Testament passages we are studying highlight each quality and help allow the Spirit's fruit to ripen. This study features additional questions for meeting God in personal ways and an extra "Now or Later" section for deeper study.

The Sermon on the Mount

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

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Area next to the sanctuary

WHY: United Methodist founder John Wesley's desire was to present "plain truth to plain people." Editor Clare Weakley has attempted to help him do just that by updating his original 18th century commentary for the modern reader. As you read *The Sermon on the Mount*, you will see that the Beatitudes are to be the attitude of believers. This study will show you how.

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.

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) 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?

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



WORSHIP TIMES:

Sundays 8AM &
10:15AM

Sunday School 9:15AM

“The Point” 6PM

AN OUTREACH IDEA

Here's a low-risk, easy way to introduce others to faith- share Rev. Mark's website with them. Described as “a daily look at life as a shaved-headed, earring-wearing, rock-drumming United Methodist minister”, www.stickwithjesus.com features a “thought for the day”, written by Rev. Mark- a new one is literally added daily! There is also a daily Bible verse AND a Prayer Request page, where you can (anonymously if you want) ask for prayer! Check it out- if you would like to subscribe and receive a daily email link, email Rev. Mark at revmark@myaledoumc.com and let him know.



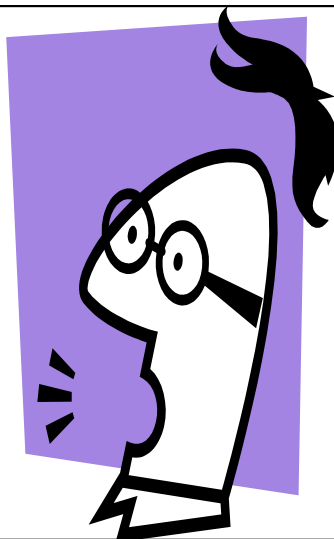
The deadline for the
next Parish Visitor is

Thursday

May 21st

at 8am.

Please have all
articles
submitted
by this date!



DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. Simply go to 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. Please share these links with your friends and family.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

(WEEKLY NEED \$5,833)

Date	04/05	04/12	04/19	04/26
Attendance	455	474	264	251
Receipts	\$7,358.35	\$5,018.66	\$6,064.26	\$4,240.00

