

The Parish Visitor

August, 2017



Visit us at myaledoumc.com

TONGUES OF FIRE

by Rev. Mark

An interesting thing has happened around here in the past 2 months. And I can sum it up in 3 words- tongues of fire. Let me explain. In the New Testament Book of Acts, we get the story of the meteoric rise of the early Christian Church. And it all seems to REALLY start gaining traction on what we call The Day of Pentecost. If you remember that story, it's after the resurrection and ascension to heaven of Jesus. Many of His followers are more than a bit discouraged. They're not sure what to do next. And they are all gathered in a "large upper room" when suddenly God's Holy Spirit busts in and...well...all heck breaks loose!

There is a sound and feeling like a rushing wind. And in the midst of that, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit descends on each of the people gathered there "like tongues of fire". They are filled with the Spirit and immediately go out into the streets. It's right smack in the middle of Passover and the streets are PACKED with people from all over, speaking in a WIDE variety of native languages. But the Spirit enables the disciples to be understood in whatever language the hearer speaks. And those "tongues of fire" ignite what becomes an unquenchable, raging inferno that still burns today.

A fire was CLEARLY already burning here. But it seems that, since the news of my Stage 4 Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer diagnosis came out, the existing fire has become that unquenchable, raging inferno the early Church experienced. More and more people seem more and more on fire. Baptisms. New members. People stepping into leadership positions that have never done that before. New prayer groups cropping up left and right. And worship attendance? Oh my! July broke worship attendance records. We averaged just shy of 300 people/week in worship for the month. 300! In July! Not only is that amazing, it's actually HIGHER than the weekly average we carried INTO the month. Trust me- that SELDOM happens! In addition, views of the Live Facebook video of each week's sermon continue to rise. As I write this, the Week 2 video of The World As Best I Remember It has already been viewed 1,500 times! We were averaging 200/week before all of this!

What this all tells me is that you all are ON FIRE! You are inviting people. You are sharing with people. You are encouraging people to watch the sermon video or check out the church website. And THAT'S how a church REALLY grows. What we've done over the past few years has been great-growth by addition. You know- 1 here, 1 there. But what is happening NOW is growth by multiplication- exponential growth. Book of Acts growth. And THAT'S what we are called to do, because 'we exist to connect people to Jesus Christ'.

(Continued on page 2)

SPECIAL DATES:

- August 3 MCSEEF Meeting 7PM
- August 6 Communion & Food Pantry Sunday
- August 10 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- August 10 UMW Fellowship Picnic @ Ruth Dulaney's home 6PM
- August 17 Naomi Wesleyan Circle 11:30AM
- August 20 Missions Meeting 5:15PM
- August 20 Trustees Meeting 6PM
- August 20 Finance Meeting 6:45PM
- August 20 Administrative Council Meeting 7:30PM
- August 21 UM Men Meeting 6PM
- August 24 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- August 24 Sewing Committee Work Day 8AM-3PM
- August 24 Caring Hearts Food Prep 1PM
- August 24 UMW Exec Meeting 4:45PM
- August 27 Youth Fellowship 11:30AM

Tongues of Fire (Continued from page 1)

I am greatly touched that my cancer diagnosis seems to be the outward catalyst for this. But I think it's just a "symptom". I think we as a congregation have been building, growing and preparing, waiting for just such a time as this. And...here it is! So, here's my request/prayer- don't let it end! We have been given a gift that few churches ever get to experience. That means God has trusted us with more because He felt we were being faithful with what we already had. This is NOT about me- it's about US and, more importantly, God. Keep the fire burning! God is good, all the time!

CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

**Be Hopeful: A Study of 1Peter****WHAT:** Tuesday morning Bible Study- led by Mike Millar**WHEN:** Tuesdays @ 9AM**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Cafe'

WHY: Hope isn't a sedative; it's a shot of adrenaline, a spiritual blood transfusion. Best-selling author and former pastor Warren Wiersbe preaches the same message Peter preached so long ago. Turning each enlightening page, believers gain increasing confidence in true Hope, a God in whom they don't just wish for eternal life. In Scripture, hope means the promise of salvation for those who have accepted Him and His Son's death and resurrection.

WHAT ELSE: This study is JUST starting- join them!**Ten Men of the Bible: How God Used Imperfect People to Change the World****WHAT:** Current Wednesday morning MEN'S Bible Study**WHEN:** Wednesdays @ 6:30AM (Coffee, breakfast pizza AND donuts EVERY week!)**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Cafe' next to the sanctuary

WHY: The men of the Bible aren't depicted there because they were perfect, but to highlight their faithfulness to God! In this 10-session study guide, Max Lucado looks at the stories of some of these Scriptural characters, pointing out key decisions they made - and the good or bad consequences that resulted. Each session includes discussion questions.

WHAT ELSE: The books are \$15 and it is NEVER too late to join!

THANK YOU!

"Thank you" simply seems inadequate! Our family has been overwhelmed by the love, care and generosity you all have shown us over the past 2 months. From the food, the monetary donations, the prayer shawls and the MANY other gifts and cards through the AMAZING outpouring of prayer and emotional support, we feel incredibly blessed to serve with such an awesome bunch of folks! Again, thank you! God is good, all the time! #TeamHarris #WarriorOn

The Harris Family



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.



New Sermon Series

by Rev. Mark

So many people, when faced with a challenge or question, will automatically answer, "Why?" But God challenges us to instead answer, "Why NOT?" Our newest sermon series will focus squarely on that question- **Why Not?** Each week will ask a different "why not" question, starting at the most basic human level and growing outward to a new, and more positive, worldview. The weeks of the sermon look like this:

Sunday, August 6, 2017- Why Not Face Your Fears? (John 14:23-29)

Don't let fear or insecurity stop you. Believe in yourself. Trust in God. (Isaiah 41:8-10, 2Timothy 1:5-80)

Sunday, August 13, 2017- Why Not Deepen Your Faith? (Luke 23:32-43)

Life is full of both happiness and tears; be strong and have faith. (Proverbs 3:3-6, Philemon 1:4-7)

Sunday, August 20, 2017- Why Not Make a Greater Commitment? (John 11:38-44)

Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work. (Psalm 37:3-6, Colossians 3:23-24)

Sunday, August 27, 2017- Why Not Change the World? (Luke 21:1-4)

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. (Isaiah 66:1-2, Matthew 28:16-20)

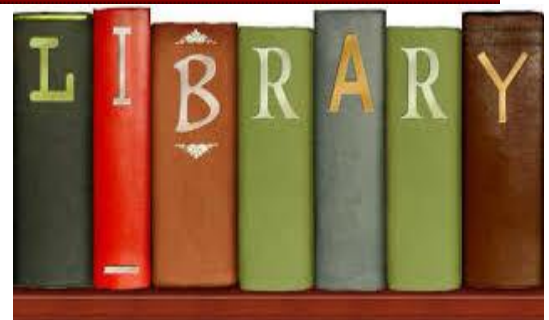
You all stepped up in MAJOR ways to invite people to that last sermon series. We have had record-breaking Summer worship attendance so far. Keep it up. Invite people, especially those who are seeking, to JOIN YOU in worship. Why? Because our goal, as always, is to connect people to Jesus Christ!



AUMC Library News

We have added a new book to our library by Karen Kingsbury, "A Treasury of Miracles, True Stories of God's Presence Today." Karen shares over 40 real-life stories about people whose lives were changed by something mysterious and wonderful. With each of these stories, she shares undeniable proof of God's presence in our lives, reminding us of His faithful love, steadfast protection, and profound strength to do more than we could ever imagine. Give this book a try. I thoroughly enjoyed every story, some bringing tears to my eyes.

Carole Schmidt



**VISIT THE
CHURCH
LIBRARY
TODAY!!**



Annual UMW Fellowship Picnic Hosted by Ruth Dulaney

Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 6 PM at Ruth's home

705 NW 2nd Avenue, Aledo, IL

Pulled pork sandwiches, tableware and drinks will be provided.

All AUMC women are invited

Please bring a dish to share and a lawn chair.

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship!

DID YOU MISS SUNDAY'S SERMON?

If you miss church on Sunday, you can STILL experience the sermon. You can go to the church's Facebook page OR the church website to watch a video of any sermon you missed. You can also go to www.stickwithjesus.com and choose "read my blog" to read 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.



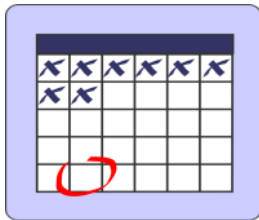
C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS) LUNCHEON- SUMMER VACATION

by Joanne Harris

The C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) is a group that is open to both mature men and women who often find themselves eating alone. This includes, but isn't limited to, anyone who has lost their spouse, been 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. There will, however, be a schedule change for the summer. So that we can focus on Mark's treatment for the next couple of months, The CIA group is "on vacation" for the summer. We plan on starting it back up this fall. Thank you for being a part of this ministry and watch for a re-start date!

CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you looked at your church's website? 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 current church calendar. Also, the monthly newsletter can be found on our website. Stop by and check it out!



RELAY FOR LIFE THANK YOU

Thank you to the many members of our Aledo UMC congregation who gave of their time and contributions for our Aledo UMC Relay Team. Thank you to all who saved coins in prescription bottles, wrote a check, donated food, and helped cook and serve chops at either Mercer Market or at the event. Thanks to all who have prayed without ceasing for the many cancer survivors we have in our congregation. The list goes on and on. Thank You! To God be the Glory! (We achieved "gold status" – awesome!)

SCHEDULING EVENTS

The Aledo United Methodist Church is a BUSY place! (Our custodian tells us that he struggles to find time to CLEAN the church because there is always something GOING ON in the church!) And since we are busy connecting people with Jesus Christ, then it is a VERY good thing that we are busy! But BECAUSE we are so busy, it makes scheduling a bit more of a challenge. Events that never had to be concerned with the calendar before now...have to!

We continue to find creative, collaborative ways to enable multiple events to happen at the same time- which IS our goal- but we can't do that if we don't know an event is scheduled. With that in mind, please contact the Church Office as soon as possible to make sure your date/time/area of the church is available and to get your event on the church calendar. Is your church a busy place? Yes! Is it busy connecting people to Jesus Christ? Yes! Therefore, we want to do EVERYTHING we can to make sure as many ministries as possible that help further our mission are able to happen!



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Thank You, SuperHeroes!



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

08/06/1999– Scott & Dianna Spencer
 08/12/2000– David & Kim Lloyd
 08/17/1984– Garry & Debra Toops
 08/18/2007– Nick & Miranda Boss
 08/23– Dudley & Rachel Fowler
 08/26/1972– Steve & Rhonda Brown
 08/28/2011– Jacob & Hannah Robinson
 08/29/1965– Stan & Debbie Swank
 08/31/1969– Bill & Debby Breeden

forever & always

UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

08/10– Erma Dobbins
 08/28– Audrey Anderson
 08/31– Betty Allan



The deadline for the next
 Parish Visitor is
Friday, August 24th at 8am.
 Please have all articles submitted
 by this date!

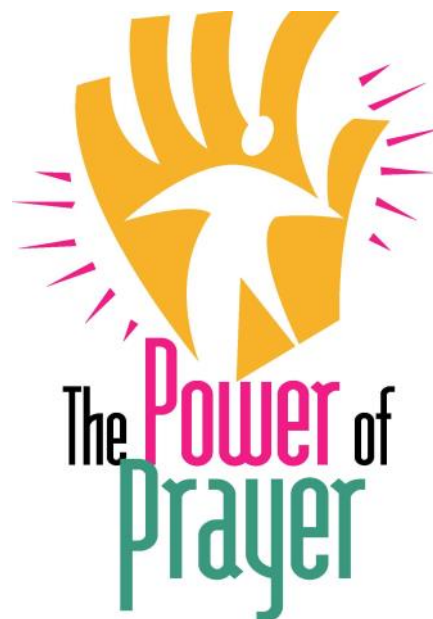
THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Agnes Adams
 Norma Adams
 Hank & Betty Allan
 Jamicynn Allen
 Scott Balmer
 Alan Benson
 Bob Bocox
 Brady, Jacob, Camden
 Joalice Bressan
 Deb Bruning
 Calvin
 Bev Carlin family
 Jo Dale
 Dee Dellitt
 Noah Dewitt
 Dick & Beverly
 Adam Douglas
 Lance & Dawn Dowsett
 Jim Droste
 Lauren Eggen/cancer
 Chris Engstrom
 Ron Engstrom
 Soni Engstrom
 Evelyn/1yr old/cancer
 Sandi & Brooke Fausett
 Mary Flint
 Jenifer Franks
 Carol Freeman/cancer
 Connie Freeman
 Wilber Frieden family

Gail
 Kathy Goodman
 Bailey Greene & baby
 Renae Hains
 Susie Hall/breast cancer
 Dave Haney & family
 Rev Mark and family
 Michael Harris
 Pam Heath
 Marilyn Hessman
 Noah Huston
 Judy Inman
 Jeremy
 Joe/strength
 Katie/smooth delivery
 Chad King/brain tumor
 Mindy Karwarth
 Wayne King
 Megan Klauer
 Knapp family/loss
 Allison Kuk
 Nadine Liby
 Tiffanee Lloyd
 Christy Lockheart
 Mike Matthews family
 Mary Lee McAlister
 Brent McCurdy
 Lisa McWhorter
 Mick & Janice Miller
 Linda Morrow

Ember Pappas
 Parkinson family
 Linda Pastche/hospice
 Bob Patterson
 Bill & Carolyn Pollock
 Bryce Rathje
 Cork Reid
 Mary Rillie/health
 Nick & Sarah Riordan
 Fred Rooth
 Ron Schmidt
 Mike Sering family
 Andrew Smith
 Charles Smith
 Dianna Spencer
 Robert Spencer
 Jim Stites
 Marvin Tharp
 Alana Thomas
 Pam Truman
 Joe Vann family
 Rebecca Weihler/brain tumor
 Shut-ins/Nursing Home Resi-
 dents
 Military & families
 All ill/in hospitals
 All who battle cancer

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



WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES

AS we prepare to expand our Sunday morning worship opportunities, the need for “worship tech” also increases. Do you like electronics? Then your church needs YOU! We need people to help operate the sound system and computer during Sunday morning 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. Mike Millar or Ruth Dulaney.



Faith & Fellowship

Wednesday Night Fellowship, FUEL and the Adult Bible Study will ALL be back on Wednesday, September 6th! Mark your calendars!

We're Going Back To School



CONNECTION COINS FOR AUGUST

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 (August 13th), the Connection Coin offering will go toward an awesome ministry- College Care Packages. Every Fall, the Sunrise Coffee House Adult Sunday School Class puts together Care Packages for young people who are heading to college for the year. These packages include a wide variety of things that are simply designed to brighten their day and remind them that not only does God love them- they have a church full of people praying for them and loving them, too.

The items are donated and lovingly packed. But they have to be mailed. And that postage costs money! And that's where YOU come in! 100% of anything you put in those “thinly-veiled Pringles cans” on August 13th will help fund that valuable ministry. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So, bring your change on August 13th!



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

by Rev. Mark

As of this writing, 13 folks have joined our church, along with 10 baptisms, so far this calendar year. 13 and 10. In 7 months. I don't know about you, but I think that's pretty exciting! As a way of wrapping your head around that, more than 50% of the United Methodist Churches across the country won't have ONE new member or baptism this year. God is doing GREAT things here. And I, for one, am pretty jazzed to be a part of it!

What about...YOU? 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 don't quite know how? Here's what you do! Simply contact Rev. Mark (revmark@myaledoumc.com) and set up a time to visit with him. This 30-minute meeting will allow him to get to know you better and talk to you about your faith journey. 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?

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 giving 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?



THE NURSERY

Have you ever wondered why churches need good, safe, well-staffed nursery programs? Well, wonder no more! The reason churches need strong nursery programs is that, for folks with young children, the nursery is often THE most important part of the church. If there is a good nursery, they can comfortably leave their kids in capable hands and attend a worship service. If, however, they find a nursery that is poorly or under-staffed with folks who seem unfriendly and stressed, they A. won't leave their kids, and B. won't come back! Your church truly believes that children are NOT simply the future of the church- they are very much an active, important part of its present!



Dear United Methodist Church Family,

I was so very appreciative to learn that I was one of the recipients of the Methodist Church scholarship this year. AUMC and it's members have always been so supportive of me, and I have loved being a member of God's family.

I am planning on attending Southeastern Community College in the Fall, and then will be transferring to either Monmouth College or WIU to obtain my degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Special Education.

Thank you again for your generosity, and I promise to keep you updated on my plans and studies.

Thank you so much!

Love,

Alexandra Johnson

Thank You

Aledo United Methodist Church,
Thank you for allowing us to use the
church for our wedding reception!

Love,

Laura and Andy Mehl



**For I know the plans I have
for you," says the Lord.
"They are plans for good and
not for disaster, to give you a
future and a hope.**

Jeremiah 29:11, NLT

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN AUGUST



Did you know that August is Admit You're Happy Month? How about Catfish Month? Golf Month? Romance Awareness Month? Picnic Month? In addition, here are some of the special "days" in August: the 1st- Mustard Day, the 2nd- Ice Cream Sandwich Day, the 3rd- Watermelon Day, the 4th- Coast Guard Day, the 5th- Work Like a Dog Day, the 6th- Wiggle Your Toes Day, the 7th- Lighthouse Day, the 8th- Sneak Some Zucchini on Your Neighbor's Porch Day, the 9th- Book Lover's Day, the 10th- S'mores Day, the 11th- Son and Daughter Day, the 12th- Middle Child Day, the 13th- Left-Handers Day, the 14th- Creamsicle Day, the 15th- V-J Day, the 16th- Tell a Joke Day, the 17th- Thriftshop Day, the 18th- Bad Poetry Day, the 19th- Aviation Day, the 20th- Radio Day, 21st- Senior Citizen's Day, the 22nd- Be an Angel Day, the 23rd- Ride the Wind Day, the 24th- Vesuvius Day, the 25th- Kiss and Make Up Day, the 26th- Dog Day, the 27th - Just Because Day, the 28th- Race Your Mouse Day, the 29th- More Herbs Less Salt Day, the 30th- Toasted Marshmallow Day, and the 31st- Trail Mix Day.

Take time to celebrate the wonderful, weird and wacky in August!

S'MORE



I ♥ Books

TIMES OF PRAYER

With the need for prayer being great at this time, for our church and for Rev Mark and his family, we have started new prayer group meeting times.

We will have the Sanctuary open for prayer on Wednesday mornings at 7:30AM, after the Men's Bible Study. Come and go as needed, stay as long as you need. It will be an unstructured, personal time of prayer.

Wednesday at 4:30PM, we will meet in the Café area for a time of prayer. It will last about 30 minutes, and those of us who gather will pray together.

On Thursday at 5PM, Wanda Cobert will lead a prayer group in the Seeker's room. It will be a structured prayer time that will last as long as it needs to for the people involved.

Please feel free to come to any or all of these prayer times.

CALL-EM-ALL UPDATE

Call-Em-All now has a way for you to get those messages that only come through partially. It is called Message Replay. If you call the number 844-358-1565, they will play for you the last message sent to your phone number. Be sure to call from the phone that received the original message, and call soon, as you will get only the last message sent.



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 shoe-box? The prices can't be beat! There will be more information in the near future.

Joan Reynolds

Scott Spencer



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Sewing Project

Do you like to sew? We have a project to sew costumes for our church's "Live Nativity" setting for December 2017. There is a sewing time each month, 8AM-3PM. Come when you can, stay as long as you want. Check the Church calendar for dates, or call Martha Rittenhouse for more information.

Martha Rittenhouse



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

Need a ride to church?

Contact Greg Cobert at 309-737-5621, or the office at 309-582-2169 to make arrangements to be picked up.



**WORSHIP
TIMES:
Sundays 8AM,
9:15AM,
10:30AM
Sunday School
9:15AM**

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Aledo United Methodist Church on 9/25/2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call [1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441) or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979**

Luke 6:38, New Living Translation

³⁸ Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$6,689)

Date	07/02/2017	07/09/2017	07/16/2017	07/23/2017
Attendance	225	283	290	279
Receipts (Toward Budget)	\$7,852.00	\$4,663.00	\$6,431.00	\$7,414.67

