

# The Parish Visitor

## January, 2015



Visit us at [myaledoumc.com](http://myaledoumc.com)

### MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION? NO MORE RESOLUTIONS!

by Rev. Mark

New Year's resolutions are interesting. We sit down on December 31st, determined to make some real changes in our lives. We examine, we measure, and then we determine that things just can't continue on the same course. So, we resolve to make changes. Do these sound familiar?

- I will lose 75 pounds...by next week.
- I will control my temper...even if an idiot cuts me off in traffic!
- I will give my time to a homeless shelter...40 hours a week.
- I will learn to play the saxophone...by Valentine's Day.

Then, somewhere in the neighborhood of 4-6 days goes by, we've done miserably with our resolutions, and...we quit! The end result is that we feel worse than if we had done nothing!

New Year's resolutions- we don't keep them, and they just put even more stress on our already fragile psyches. This year, let's resolve to stop making them! Scrap them. Throw them in the trash bin with the discarded wrapping paper and the Chia Pet from Aunt Tilly. No resolutions. Instead...set goals- physical goals, emotional goals, relational goals, spiritual goals.

First, we have to understand the word- goal. Goals are SMART: 1) specific, 2) measurable, 3) achievable, 4) reasonable and 5) timely. Let's break those down.

- 1) "I'll do something sometime" isn't specific. "I'll finish that project by the end of the week" is!
- 2) "I'll try to be more patient" isn't measurable. "I'll smile and not curse when wronged on the highway" is!
- 3) "I'll be playing like Boots Randolph inside 2 weeks" isn't achievable. "I'll be able to find notes on the instrument by Easter" is!
- 4) "I'll volunteer 300 hours/month" isn't reasonable. "I'll volunteer 2 hours a week" is!
- 5) "I'd like to lose weight sometime" isn't timely. "I'll lose 10 pounds in 4 months" is!

What goals will you set for yourself this New Year? Perhaps you'll have your family sit down, TOGETHER, at the table for a meal 2 more times a week than they do now. Or maybe you'll turn off the TV one hour a night and talk. Or perhaps you'll invite a neighbor who lives alone to lunch once a month. Maybe you'll spend 30 minutes, each night before bed reading your Bible. Or maybe you'll increase your church involvement by one hour each week. (Not going to church weekly? Start. Coming to church but not attending Sunday School? Give it a try. Doing both of those, but nothing else? Attend United Methodist Men or Women, come to Tuesday Bible Study, Wednesday Night Fellowship, play bells, fold newsletters, etc., etc., etc!)

Resolutions are tailor-made to be broken, but true goals, ones that are specific, measurable, reasonable, achievable, and timely will not only improve your self-esteem and self-worth; they can strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ. What goals will you set for yourself this year?

### SPECIAL DATES:

- January 1 Office Closed
- January 4 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- January 5 Finance Meeting 6PM
- January 5 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- January 7 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- January 13 Miriam Circle 6PM
- January 15 Naomi Wesleyan Circle 11:30AM
- January 16 @5PM-17 @ 5PM Prayer Vigil
- January 17-18 Revival 6-8PM
- January 19 UMM Meeting 6PM
- January 25 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- January 25 Administrative Council 7:15PM
- January 31 MnM Night 5:30PM

**Save the Date!!**  
**"The Journey"**  
**Saturday, April 11,**  
**2015**

## NEW SERMON SERIES

On Sunday, January 4th, we will begin two new sermon series. At both morning services, we will look at **What the Bible Isn't**. We spend a lot of time focuses on what it IS, but it's just as important to understand what it ISN'T. The weeks of the series look like this:

- **Sunday, January 4- The Bible Isn't a "How to Succeed" Book** (Matthew 16:21-27) The Bible doesn't guarantee "success in life", as we tend to measure it. (Proverbs 16:1-3, James 4:7-8, 10)
- **Sunday, January 11- The Bible Isn't a Legal Document** (Matthew 5:21-24) The Bible isn't God's version of Apple's "Terms and Conditions" agreement. (Isaiah 65:25, Romans 12:1-2)
- **Sunday, January 18- The Bible Isn't Objective History** (Matthew 10:34-36) The Bible doesn't simply "record" history objectively- it interprets it. (Ecclesiastes 7:8-10, Romans 15:4-6)
- **Sunday, January 25- The Bible Isn't a Weapon** (Matthew 36:50-54) The Bible is not an RPG for fighting culture wars. (Proverbs 25:26, 2Timothy 3:15-17)
- **Sunday, February 1- The Bible Isn't "One Size Fits All"** (Matthew 15:21-28) The Bible offers room for interpretation. (Psalm 33:3-6, John 16:13)
- **Sunday, February 8- The Bible Isn't Our Offer to Speak For God** (Matthew 7:15-20) God speaks for Himself- we are to be His eyes and ears...not His mouth. (Deuteronomy 18:21-22, 1Corinthians 2:10-13)
- **Sunday, February 15- The Bible Isn't the Core of Our Faith** (Matthew 7:7-8) The Bible doesn't draw attention to itself, but to God. (Isaiah 40:21-22, 1John 1:8-9)

At The Point (6PM), we will spend 7 weeks looking at 7 gifts that God gives us, as found in Isaiah 11:1-3, and the impact they can have on us...and those around us as we look at **A Branch From the Tree of Jesse**. The weeks of this series look like this:

- **Sunday, January 4- Wisdom** (Isaiah 11:1-3) We acquire wisdom through reflection, imitation and experience. (Proverbs 3:13-15, James 1:5-6)
- **Sunday, January 11- Understanding** (Isaiah 11:1-3) Communication and community lead to understanding. (Proverbs 14:29-30a, 1Corinthians 13:11-12)
- **Sunday, January 18- Counsel** (Isaiah 11:1-3) Prayer becomes more meaningful when we counsel with God (Proverbs 12:14-15, Romans 14:1)
- **Sunday, January 25- Power** (Isaiah 11:1-3) Nearly everyone can stand adversity, but if you want to test someone's character, give them power. (Isaiah 40:28-31, 2Timothy 1:7-8)
- **Sunday, February 1- Knowledge** (Isaiah 11:1-3) Real knowledge is to recognize the extent of what we don't know. (Proverbs 18:15, 2Peter 1:3-5)
- **Sunday, February 8- Reverence** (Isaiah 11:1-3) Pursue the path that allows you to walk in love and reverence. (Exodus 3:4-5, Ephesians 5:19-21)
- **Sunday, February 15- Discernment** (Isaiah 11:1-3) Discernment is God's call to intercession, not faultfinding. (1Kings 3:7-9a, Philippians 1:9-11)

Come every week expecting to experience a real and tangible interaction with God!

## JANUARY- A SEASON OF PRAYER AND FASTING

A great thing is happening this month! On Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup> through 5PM Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, we will host our 3rd 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 18<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Dedication Sunday. Later this month, each household will receive a packet about committing our time, talent and tithes to God. And on Dedication Sunday, at both services, we will all have the opportunity to bring our Dedication 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!

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual

#### MnM (Men and Ministries) Night

**Date** January 31, 2015

**Time** 5:30

**Place** Aledo UMC  
301 N. College Ave.  
Aledo, IL

This year, Steve Miller will be bringing the message. Steve is the pastor at The Gate near Springfield in Glenarm, IL. He will also be leading NGL’s Camp Barnabas praise band which includes the likes of Lee Clawson and Pastor Bill “Bulldog” Allen, along with a few more NGL brothers.

Bill Breeden and the AUMC Bible boys will be preparing a MANLY meal for us all. After experiencing and only recently being removed from AUMC Men’s double blind super secret probation list, I believe for me to reveal

the menu at this time to wives or heart doctors would be ill-advised. So, just believe me it will be very, very good.

Again this year, during our meal-time, you will have the opportunity to learn about many different ways for men to serve our Lord. Leaders from over a dozen different men’s Christian ministries are planned to be in attendance.

So, join your brothers in Christ for an evening of fun, food and fellowship as we worship and praise our amazing God. And better yet, bring a friend or two with you.

More info contact: Steve Oaks 309-221-8383 or [steve.oaks@oaklinedevelopers.com](mailto:steve.oaks@oaklinedevelopers.com)

FB Event: 2015 MnM (Men and Ministries) Night

## 2015 AUMC REVIVAL

Theme Salvation & Surrender

Evangelist Pastor Tom Wright

Date Saturday & Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

Time 6:00 p.m.

Music Saturday – AUMC Connection, Sunday – Gospel Soul Revivers

Where Aledo UMC  
301 N. College Ave.  
Aledo, IL 61231

More info contact AUMC  
309-582-2169

or Steve Oaks  
309-221-8383

[office@myaledoumc.com](mailto:office@myaledoumc.com)

[steve.oaks@oaklinedevelopers.com](mailto:steve.oaks@oaklinedevelopers.com)



## 4<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 175 people to Christ as they walked through the doors, viewed our 125 beautifully 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 \$4500 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
Remainder in United Methodist Women Treasury	
for their many missions.	

### AUMC Missions

Network of Caring:	\$1000
Caring Hearts Program:	\$750
Wednesday Night Fellowship	\$500
Fellowship Café:	\$250
Youth Programs:	\$250

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,*

*Nicole Taylor and Ruth Dulaney*

## STEPPING OUT

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 well over 200 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, 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). Any day now, you will receive a packet in the mail. It will be a letter encouraging you to pray about your financial support of the church in 2015. I would encourage you to do just that- pray about it. Ask God how He is called you to support your church this year. Then, on Sunday, January 18 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?

**WHAT TO CHANGE?**—In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Paul uses the imagery of an athlete in training being disciplined and striving towards the goal.

*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”*

What are your resolutions this year?

New Year could be the perfect time (though ANY day is great) to commit yourself to pursuing disciplines and habits that will help you run the race and win the prize. These could include:

- 1. Plan to get into God’s word: It could be a devotional, reading the Bible in a year, listening to a sermon, dwelling on a verse. Be creative! (Colossians 3:16)
- 2. Pray daily: Set time aside for prayer, be structured in praying for people and issues in the world by using prayer lists, start a prayer journal, find a place to go each day to pray. (Philippians 4:6)
- 3. Work on your problem areas: Pray that God will reveal the sin in your life to work on this year. Acknowledge, confess and repent of this sin. Find someone to be accountable to and meet and pray with them this year – consider a prayer triplet!
- 4. Develop a positive habit: There may be other areas in your life that you may feel you should be working on. These may include eating better, sleeping better, exercising more, getting more organized etc.

Remember we are physical beings as well as spiritual. We need to be working on both to be functional!

So why not take the time this coming New Year to consider the aspects of your life that need working on while resolving each and every day to choose to live for Christ.

### **What’s Coming Up, TAG:**

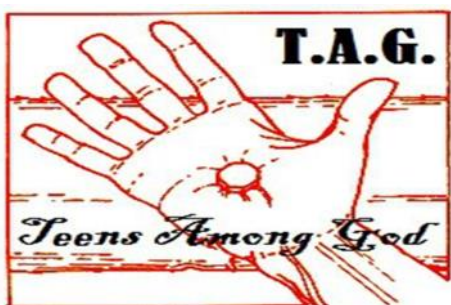
**ATTN, 6-8th graders, Join us  
on every  
Tuesday from 5-6:15pm**

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

### **IT’S COMING! ARE YOU READY?**

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 to learn more about what it truly means to be a Christian.

If you have a youth interested, please contact  
Rev. Mark or Melissa ASAP!



*Melissa Farrell  
Director of Youth and  
Children’s  
Ministries*





## ANNIVERSARIES JANUARY

01/02/1955– Frazier & Donna Hunt  
 01/03/1998– Blair & Sara Blaser  
 01/03/1954– Alan & Bonnie Ricketts  
 01/18/1953– John & Frances Blick



## UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

1/10– Lois Jackson  
 1/10– Gloria Morgan  
 1/11– Donna Hunt  
 1/16– Virginia Cooper  
 1/16– Beverly Norton  
 1/18– Tommy Greer



## 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 take the plunge?

## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



Jody Andress-retiring	Don Harmon	Elizabeth Schroeder
Henna Baxter	Bill Hofmann	Marlin Stegall
Leslie Baxter	Verlee Kaufmann	Connor Sutton
Joanne Beard	Ron Kerres	Phyllis Swearingen
Mike Bigham	Ken Kisling	Pam & Neil Truman
Lori Anderson Callahan	Vickie Korn	Marilyn Wagler
Lucy & Tom Ceurvorst	Diane Lestor	Kent Weeks
Dick & Penny	Walter & Ann Long	All who travel to work
Laura Diehl	Michael Maynard family	All in Nursing Homes
Margie Earl	Edna McCreight	All who are ill
Bob Ernst	Joanne Moseley	Family situations/difficulties
Jenifer Franks & family	Ward Olson	Health of our congregation
Eilene Genett	Bryce Rathje/6 yrs old	Our world, nation, state
Jolene Greedman	Nancy Retherford	Our community
Mercer County Schools: Administration, Teachers, Students, Staff		
National and Local Governmental Leaders, Military, Security Officers		
FUEL, Bus Ministry, College Students, Shut Ins, the lost		

## NEW/CURRENT PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES

### Psalms: Glorifying God For Who He Is

**WHAT:** Rev. Mark and Joanne's new Bible Study

**WHEN:** Tuesdays @ 9AM and 2PM starting on Tuesday, January 6

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Area next to the sanctuary (Tues. 2PM in the Sonrise Coffee House)

**WHY:** Our God is extraordinary. A loving Savior. A caring Comforter. A tenderhearted Father. The One who has pursued our hearts at any cost. The book of Psalms celebrates the love story between creation and its Creator. It's a story that shares the remarkable attributes of God, and our joyous response to all that He is. This study guide explores the book of Psalms, a collection that continues to be the definitive devotional, prayer book, and hymnal for every believer.

### Angels

**WHAT:** Rev. Mark's new Wednesday Evening Bible Study

**WHEN:** Wednesdays @ 6PM, starting on Wednesday, January 7

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Café next to the sanctuary

**WHY:** Do angels really have wings? Do they protect people from harm? Can people become angels after death? Misconceptions about angels abound--in books, in movies and on talk shows. In eight intriguing studies, Douglas Connelly explores with you what the Bible really says about angels, including their service to God and their ministry to people.

### The Sermon on the Mount

**WHAT:** Rev. Mark's current 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.

**WHAT ELSE:** It is NOT too late to join.

### 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.

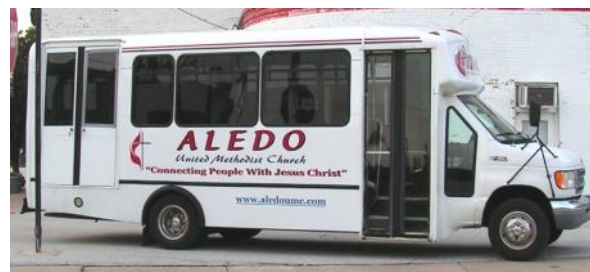
**WHAT ELSE:** We would LOVE to have you join this class.




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## 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.



## 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. We also greatly appreciate all the prayers regarding my health. The Harris/Allan family feels truly blessed to serve God as a part of the Aledo United Methodist Church!

Thank you for all the Christmas cards, gifts, and greetings! It is such a joy to work for my Church family!

God is Good! All the time!

*Debbie Swank*

The residents of Brookstone Assisted Living Center who received a fruit and cookie plate say "Thank You" to the UMW. May you all have a blessed Christmas.

We would like to thank AUMC for the lovely tray of fruit, cookies, and candy delivered to us. We enjoyed it and appreciate your thoughtfulness.

*Evelyn Brown & Evelyn Yerkey*

We would like to say "Thanks" to AUMC for the fruit basket that you sent to us. God bless.

*Don & Gerry Harmon*

This is for all the thoughtful people who come to push wheelchair people over the rugs. I hope I can speak for the rest and say "Thank You and God bless". This act of kindness is really appreciated.

*Sincerely,*

*Erma Dobbins*

To AUMC:

I want to thank everyone for showing me "love"—loving one another. I received a food basket from you on the 13th. I was overwhelmed with love that you sent me and it filled me with JOY!! Thank you for reaching out to me. God bless all of you.

*Sheryll & Ken Kisling*

Members of AUMC,

You are such generous folks. Thank you for the monetary gift. It is such a delight to help the Bell Choir bring you such beautiful music. We like the smiles we see on your faces. I have a card inside their folder that says "Relax! God is in control". Thank goodness! May our music continue to connect you to God. Thanks!

*Ila Bertrand*

Dear UMC,

Thank you so much for the gift of money. It is an honor and pleasure to serve you and the church. We appreciate your generosity. Thank you once again.

*Kent and Colleen Hessman*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the many blessings that you have showered upon me this year. Thank you to the UMW, UMM, and the church family for your generous gifts. May you all have a blessed Christmas and a joyous new year.

Live in the Love of Jesus!

*Mike Millar*

To AUMC:

Thank you for the platter of delicious Christmas goodies. Your thoughtfulness was appreciated. Best wishes for 2015.

*Bonnie Ricketts*

Thank you very much for the delicious Christmas platter. I am enjoying it so much! Your kindness and thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated. It is so wonderful to be remembered during this holiday season. God bless all of you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Again, many, many thanks. You certainly made my day.

*Love always,*

*Rita Haizlip*

Thank you so much for thinking of us with the gift basket. We are very appreciative. We are so blessed to have you by our sides through this journey. Your kindness, friendship, and fellowship is amazing. God bless.

*Adam & Tammy*

Thank you so much for the fruit plate!

*Blessings,*

*Aileen Andress*

Thank you very much for the nice Christmas basket.

*Love,*

*Ed & Marian Nesbitt*



## 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!

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## 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.

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## 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! His exact words are, "You are the dirtiest church I clean!") And since we are busy connecting people with Jesus Christ, 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!

## THE NEW CHURCH WEBSITE!

Have you looked at your church's website lately? If not...you should! It's changed. And it is not just a little different- it is COMPLETELY different! A complete overhaul has brought the church website from "good" to "really good". There are still some aspects of the new website that need to be "tweaked", but it is a great improvement! Hop on over to [www.myaledoumc.com](http://www.myaledoumc.com) and see what's going on! Not only can you see the "basics" about your church- you can find the most current church 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!

[www.myaledoumc.com](http://www.myaledoumc.com)

## WORSHIP TECH OPPORTUNITIES

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 or Ruth Dulaney.

## THE NURSERY

Did you know that the FIRST thing young families want to see when they visit a church is the Nursery? Makes sense- they have small children whom they want to be well taken care of. With that in mind, your church has a great Nursery Program. Professionally staffed and lovingly tended, our Nursery is a great place for the youngest among us! Here's what the Nursery looks like:

The main focus of our nursery is simple...care and spiritual growth. Our goal is to provide a loving environment where the youngest among us can feel comfortable and safe. Your church truly believes that our children are NOT the future of the church- they are very much an active, important part of its PRESENT!



## 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!

Home-made baby blankets, made lovingly by Jeannine Kenney, are available to any new babies of our congregation. If you have a new baby in your family (child, grandchild, etc.), stop by the office and pick out a blanket to present to him/her from our church family and the Aledo United Methodist Women.

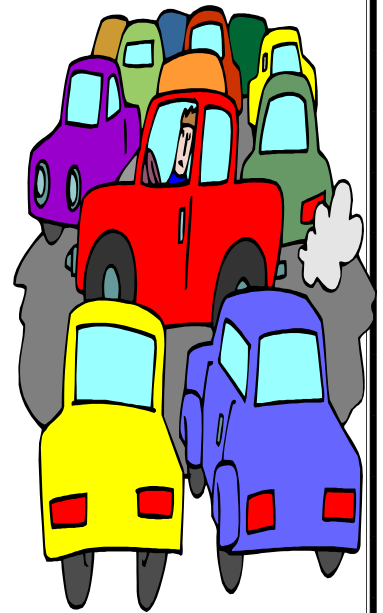


## PARKING

By now, you've probably noticed that the parking area on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!



## THE RETURN OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP!

Wednesday Night Fellowship is coming BACK from hiatus! On Wednesday, January 7<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 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Junior/Senior High Bible Study
- Rev. Mark's class, **Angels** (see accompanying article)
- Bell Choir
- Choir

See you on Wednesday evenings!



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> at all 3 services, we will celebrate the revelation of God Incarnate, Jesus the Christ, Emmanuel!

**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

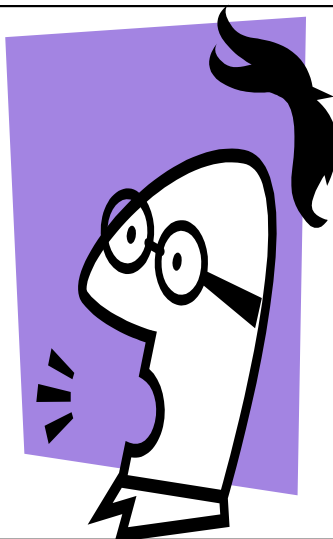
Here's a low-risk, easy way to introduce others to faith- share Rev. Mark's website with them. Described as “a daily look at life as a shaved-headed, earring-wearing, rock-drumming United Methodist minister”, [www.stickwithjesus.com](http://www.stickwithjesus.com) features a “thought for the day”, written 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](mailto:revmark@myaledoumc.com) and let him know.



The deadline for the  
next Parish Visitor is

**Friday,  
January 23  
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](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.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$5,768)

Date	11/30	12/07	12/14	12/21
Attendance	318	287	439	261
Receipts	\$2,965.49	\$8,292.26	\$5,004.45	\$7,430.00

