

THE PARISH VISITOR

JANUARY 2013

Auld Lang Syne

By Rev. Mark

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

The song was played by Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians as a New Year's Eve song for the first time on December 31, 1929. Though it was played as the band's theme song for years, and it had even occasionally been sung on New Year's Eve, this was the first time that Lombardo's group played it at the Hotel Roosevelt Grill in New York City to usher in the new year. The annual tradition continued when the party moved to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel (1959-1976) and the song still kicks off the Times Square celebration every New Year's Eve. In the movie "When Harry Met Sally", Harry (Billy Crystal) talks about never fully understanding what the song means. "I mean, 'Should old acquaintance be forgot'? Does that mean that we should forget old acquaintances, or does it mean if we happened to forget them, we should remember them, which is not possible because we already forgot?"

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

When you "drink a cup of kindness yet for times gone by" this year, what will follow? Will it be swimming in a sea of "what if's" and "might have been's"? Or will it be a commitment and dedication to being the best...YOU you can be in the eyes of God? To quote that great theologian Billy Joel, "*the good old days weren't always good, and tomorrow ain't as bad as it seems*"! Make 2013 the year you completely step out of the boat, in water over your head, knowing God will be there to keep you afloat!

SPECIAL DATES:

- Jan 6 Food Pantry Collection Sunday & Communion Sunday
- Jan 8 Miriam Circle Meeting 6pm
- Jan 9 AWANA, WNF, Bible Study resumes
- Jan 14 UMM Meeting 6pm
- Jan 14 Trustee Board Meeting 7pm
- Jan 17 Naomi/Wesleyan Circle Meeting 11:30am at Doug's T&C
- Jan 20 Administrative Council 7:15pm



WORSHIP TIMES:

- Sundays 8am & 10:15am
- Sunday School 9:15am
- Evening Service 6pm

Pastor's Bible Studies

The Story

WHAT: Rev. Mark's current Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM

Wednesdays @ 6PM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Area next to the sanctuary

WHY: "The greatest story ever told" is more than just a cliché. God has gone to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people. That's what The Story is all about- the story of the Bible, God's great love affair with humanity. Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, The Story sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events arranged chronologically from Genesis to Revelation- allowing the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. Like any good story, The Story is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance, and redemption.

WHAT ELSE: It is NOT too late to join either the Wednesday Evening or Tuesday Morning Classes.

The Acts of the Apostles

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

WHEN: Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

WHERE: In the Fellowship Area next to the sanctuary

WHY: Author William Barclay (THE best New Testament Commentator...ever!) says that what the Book of Acts aims to do "is to give us a series of typical exploits and adventures of the great heroic figures of the early Church." In this volume, Barclay discusses among other things the plan in Acts, author Luke's skill as a historian, the accuracy of his sources, and the honesty with which he uses them. Full of unique insights and little-known information about the background of the early Church, this volume again displays Barclay's great ability for clear and perceptive expression.

WHAT ELSE: It is NOT too late to join this class.

The Letter to the Romans

WHAT: Rev. Mark's NEW Sunday Morning Bible Study (see accompanying article)

WHEN: Sundays @ 9:15AM

WHERE: In the Chapel next to the sanctuary

WHY: This class is JUST starting- a GREAT time to join them!

WHAT ELSE: It is NOT too late to join this class.



The Letter to the Romans Bible Study

Fact #1: Both in mood and in method, the Book of Romans is entirely different than any of the Apostle Paul's other writings. Instead of being concerned with immediate, practical problems, Paul sets down in a systematic fashion the essence of his faith, handing down in a sense a "theological last will and testament." In ways that no other writing of the New Testament has achieved, the ideas expressed in the letter to the Romans have shaped formatively the whole of Christian belief.

Fact #2: William Barclay is THE best New Testament commentator...ever. His fresh translation and clear exposition allows readers the chance to see into the heart of the Bible.

Put these two facts together and you have the recipe for a DYNAMITE Bible study! And guess what? It starts on Sunday, January 6th! Rev. Mark's Sunday School class will begin the Barclay study on the Book of Romans at 9:15AM on that day. And they will meet EVERY Sunday morning at 9:15AM. AND...they would love to have you join them!

Please sign up for this class on the table in the back of the sanctuary, buy a book (\$10) and plan on becoming a part of this class in the new year!

Church Membership

Are you a member of the church? Would you like to be? Having a church home is a great thing. Being a full member of a church family is even better! Have you been attending church, thinking about joining, but just haven't "pulled the string" yet? Perhaps NOW is the time! You are hereby cordially invited to contact Rev. Mark to set up a time to sit down with him and have a conversation about membership. (582-2169, revmark@myaledoumc.com) This 30-minute "get together" is designed to enable you to learn more about the church's vision, share your story, and give Rev. Mark a chance to get to know you a bit better. At the end of that get together, you will set a date to become a member! Take the plunge- become a full member of your church family!

CARING HEARTS

Our Caring Hearts ministry was created so we can further meet those needs that haven't been met in any of the other ministries we currently offer at our active church. This program was launched in August 2012 and groups have been formed to welcome visitors, pray and visit with those in need, and assist in transportation to appointments as needed.

The Caring Hearts food ministry group has prepared meals, enhanced by the generous WNF donors, and have been able to have a continuous supply of food in the newly-purchased freezer. This freezer is open to anyone who needs a meal or anyone who wants to take a meal to another in need.

Caring Hearts volunteers, with cheerful hearts, prepared 36 Christmas meals and distributed them to others in December. Those who received the ham dinners were very appreciative of this gift of love. If you want to join in this heart-warming food ministry, we have two cooking opportunities in January. We will meet January 3rd at 5:30 PM in the kitchen to prepare food for the freezer. January 28th at 6 PM we will gather together again to fill our Caring Hearts freezer. It is such a fulfilling feeling to see that our food ministry is being utilized. This is one more way that we can connect people to Jesus Christ!

Rev. Mark and Ruth Dulaney



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.

PASTORAL CARE

If you or someone you know is ill, having surgery, or simply in need of some Pastoral Care, let your pastor know! Rev. Mark would be happy to visit you, pray with you, even bring Communion to you. Simply contact the office (582-2169) or contact him directly (revmark@myaledoumc.com or 217-390-2359- call or text).

CONFIRMATION CLASS

It's that time! Confirmation, when young people dig into what it means to be a Christian and prepare to become full members of their church, will start in early February. This opportunity is for youth **7th Grade and older**. They will spend 7 **Sunday afternoons at 1PM**, starting **February 3rd** and ending **March 17th**, with Rev. Mark and Melissa, learning more about what it truly means to be a Christian. There will be lots of conversation and refec-tion, but there will also be music videos and fun "game shows"! Then, on Palm Sunday, March 24th, they will be baptized (if they have not been), Confirmed and become full members of the church! If you have a youth who is in **7th Grade or beyond**, let Rev. Mark know that you are interested in this great opportunity!!



THE BEST FOR OUR YOUNGEST

When young families visit a church for the 1st time, the FIRST place they go often is the Nursery! If they find a friendly, clean, inviting atmosphere, they are likely to drop their kids off and attend church. If they DON'T find those things, they will politely respond that they were just looking, NOT drop their kids off...and NOT come back! Your church works hard to provide a great Nursery Program. Professionally staffed and lovingly tended, our Nursery is a great place for our kids! 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!



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 6th at both morning services, we will celebrate the revelation of God Incarnate, Jesus the Christ, Emmanuel!



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.

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 Years 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!

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all those who made candy and cookies for the "Sweet Shop" booth at the Holiday Bazaar. Thanks also to those who worked (Darlene Jones, Ella Luallen, Joan Reynolds, and Carol Ann Boney). I know God smiled on all of you!

Nadine Liby

Dear Ladies of the UMW,

It was very kind of you to recognize me for my efforts in mission. I love to serve the Lord in this way and hope that he allows me to continue to do so. Thank you very much. Your sister in Christ.

Anne Olson

I would like to thank Rev. Mark, Joanne, and my church family for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and food (!!) following my surgery. A special thanks to Miss Joan, Miss Nadine, and Miss Barb for the pictures of our Cubbies. I feel truly blessed.

Mary Anderson

Thank you for all your prayers and the very active prayer chain. It truly works! Thank you also for the Blessing Bear. What a nice thought. A special thanks to Molly and Bill Joseph, Sue and Doyce Hiscocks, Barb and Mike Millar, Julie Harrison, and Jen and Cliff Anderson. Thanks so much. God bless you all.

Monica Guthrie-Bell

Thank You! Thank You!

by Rev. Mark

On behalf of my family and your church staff, 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 feel truly blessed to serve God as a part of the St. Joseph United Methodist Church!

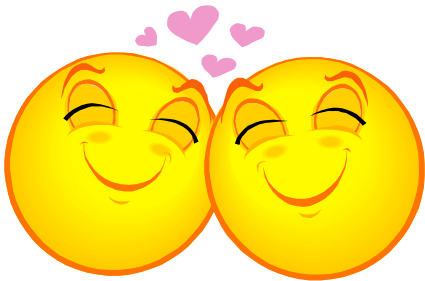


MIRIAM CIRCLE

Miriam Circle is launching a new year with increased energy and zest. We invite ladies of our church to join us at our monthly meetings on the second Tuesday at 6PM. Our meetings consist of a brief devotional from the UMW program book, *Living the Heart of God*; a short business meeting; an inspirational 15 minute DVD and discussion; and, of course, refreshments, fun and fellowship. We work together for outreach programs such as Valentine care packages, serving WNF meals, sponsoring a Philippine scholar, Christmas gifts for those in need, and other projects as they arise. We would love for you to join us at our first 2013 meeting, January 8th in the Fellowship Room. This year we will be sponsoring a trip to Circa' 21 Thursday, April 25th at noon to see another "Church Basement Ladies"- A Mighty Fortress is Our Basement— production. Please save the date and contact Ruth Dulaney to reserve your ticket.

ANNIVERSARIES DECEMBER

Richard & Beverly Norton -02/07/1954
 Ron & Diane Engstrom— 02/13/2011
 Bruce & Linda Reynolds- 02/14/1971
 Kenneth & Dorothy Anderson— 02/14/1948
 Larry & Clara McCreight— 02/20/1993
 David & Beverly Haney— 02/21/1954
 Bill & Kathy Newswander— 02/26/1977



UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

10-Lois Jackson
 10-Gloria Morgan
 11— Donna Hunt
 16— Virginia Cooper
 16-Beverly Norton
 18— Ethel (Tommy) Greer
 25— Wanda Fausett
 27— Jean Ketzle
 27— Dee Dellitt



Isaiah 49: 13 (NIV)- Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord comforts His people and will have compassion on His afflicted ones.

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



Hank Allan	Patsy Glenn	Ann Morrison
Fred & Joanne Beard	Kay Harlness	Sammie Prescott
Ambie & Gary Brown	Peggy Heaton	Richard Rittenhouse
Jessica Brown	Lyle & Susie Hall	Jessica Ruh
Beverly Carlin	Rev. Mark & Family	Dennis Spence
April Cross	Leanne Helton	Josh Sprague
David Duncan	Diane & Dave Lester	Family of Mary Stuart
Sandra Ernst	Ana Marceleno	Kevin & family
Wanda Fausett	Brenda Marple	Jewell & family
Marshia Forber	School Shooting Victims	Jake Zimmerman

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



In the dictionary, the word loyal means unswerving in allegiance as 1) faithful allegiance to one's sovereign or government, 2) faithful to a private person to whom fidelity is due, 3) faithful to a cause, ideal or custom. Synonyms are: faithful, allegiance, devotion, dedication, constant, unwavering, steady, unflinching.

What's the difference between being loyal to a local sports team, say the Cubs or Cardinals, and being loyal to the coach of a team for which you play? (Hint: Notice that the definition above implies that what you are loyal to should be deserving of your loyalty.)

Think of the people, organizations, teams, causes, etc. to which you are (or have been) loyal. Which ones are deserving of your loyalty? Which ones are not?

What does the Bible have to say about loyalty and being loyal?

1. Loyalty is unwavering in good times and bad. (Proverbs 17:17)
2. Loyalty is what you do, not what you say. (Matthew 26:33-35 and 26:69-75)
3. Loyalty is in your heart. It is willing and not reluctant. (Psalm 78:8)
4. Loyalty can be demanding. (Exodus 17:8-13)
5. Loyalty may involve sacrifice. (2 Chronicles 11:13-16)
6. Loyalty to the Lord will be rewarded. (Psalm 84:10-11) When this psalm says "those whose walk is blameless" it refers to Genesis 17:1 when the Lord appeared to Abraham and said to him "walk with me and be blameless" meaning that Abraham would receive the Lord's promises if he was faithful and obedient.

Disloyalty will be punished. Because Edom deserted Israel in its time of need, "I will bring you plummeting down," said the Lord. (Obadiah 1:4-14, especially verses 4 and 11).

So, T.A.G. Members, how are you at being a loyal and faithful friend?

How about your loyalty level to our Jesus?!

In His Service,
Melissa Farrell



Junior High: 5-7pm
Senior High: 7-9pm

Sing Praise!



He was blind and now I'm lost!

No, I haven't misquoted a line from the hymn, *Amazing Grace*. Recently, my wife and I offered to give a gentleman that I will call "Phil" a ride home from a Music Guild show. He is blind but comes to "see" the shows. A friend of mine provides audio-description at the Guild and many other theaters in the area. Phil "sees" every show that he can get to and loves to talk musical-theater. I took a wrong turn while trying to find his apartment and was lost. With minimal help from me, Phil gave me directions, describing landmarks and businesses, and even told me how many drain pipes we would pass by in his apartment complex. Yes, I was lost and a blind man gave me directions!

By the world's definition, Phil is blind, but is he? He sees in ways that make me sightless. Helen Lemmel was blind by the world's standards, but in 1918 she wrote these words:

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
 Look full in His wonderful face,
 And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
 In the light of His glory and grace.

Helen's "blindness" did not limit her ability to see. She saw Jesus as her light and salvation. During her lifetime of nearly 98 years, she used her musical training and beautiful voice to sing praise and write over 500 Hymns.

"Father God, I ask You to limit my version of the things of this earth and help me focus on the face of my Savior, Jesus Christ"

He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what He has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD. Psalm 40:3 (NLT)

Live in the love of Jesus!

Mike Millar

I Have a Dream

On Monday, January 21st, 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!"

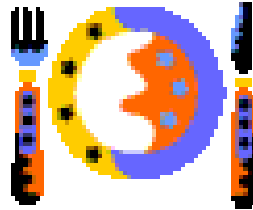
We are all unique and we are all different. That's NOT our weakness- it's our strength! Our diversity makes us strong. We are all children of God- made in His image. This month, take a moment and reflect on Dr. King. Tell your kids or grandkids about him. My prayer is his prayer- that one day we will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

The Return of Wednesday Night Fellowship!

Wednesday Night Fellowship is coming BACK from hiatus! On Wednesday, January 9, everything strats 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
 - AWANA for kids through 6th Grade
 - Junior/Senior High Bible Study
 - Rev. Mark's class, The Story (Carefully selected verses from the Bible are organized chronologically and read like a novel. From Genesis to Revelation, you will come to understand God's story and how your story intersects with it.)
 - Bell Choir
 - Choir
- See you on Wednesday evenings!



WNF MEALS

- Jan 9– Swanks (Soups, crackers, relishes, dessert)
- Jan 16– Rev Mark (Shepherd's Pie)
- Jan 23– TBA
- Jan 30– TBA



FINANCIAL MATTERS (WEEKLY NEED \$5,720)



Date	12/02	12/09	12/16
Attendance	213	338	247
Receipts	\$6,289.50	\$8,625.71	\$5,762.95

**JOIN US SUNDAY
EVENINGS @ 6PM FOR
MESSAGE, WORSHIP,
COMMUNION,
AND PRAYER.**

ELEVATOR STATUS

- Thank you all for your faithful support of our elevator project.
- Amount Received: \$213,736.36
- Amount of Outstanding Pledges: \$22,300.00
- Total of Pledges and Contributions: \$236,036.36
- Outstanding Elevator Loan: \$15,255.94
- Elevator Fund Balance: \$638.13



COME CONNECT WITH US IN PRAYER

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Each *Tuesday* at 1:30pm
& 3pm in the Fellowship
Room

PRAYER WALK
through the church every
Sunday morning at 7am

The deadline for the
next *Parish Visitor* is
*Wednesday January 21, at
8am.*

Please have all articles
submitted by this date.

New Sermon Series

On August 28, 1963, as he stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered what was arguably his most famous speech- "I Have a Dream". Toward the end of the speech, he encouraged freedom to ring from the four corners of our nation. And then he closed with these words: "And when this happens, when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Freedom is something we often take for granted- especially the freedom that faith in God offers. Beginning on January 13th, we will spend 5 weeks looking at some of the freedoms Jesus Christ offers us. The series looks like this:

- **Sunday, January 13- Freedom from Complacency** (Acts 1:1-11) Men, why do you look into the sky?
- **Sunday, January 20- Freedom From Doubt** (Acts 3:1-10) In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!
- **Sunday, January 27- Freedom from The Ordinary** (Acts 4:5-12) By what power or what name did you do this?
 - **Sunday, February 3- Freedom to Change** (Acts 9:1-19) He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.



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.