

The Parish Visitor

April, 2015



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THERE'S GOT TO BE A MORNING AFTER

by Rev. Mark

Do you remember the movie *The Poseidon Adventure*? Not the more recent one but...the REAL one? Released in 1972, it was one of the first "disaster movies" made. And I LOVED it! Gene Hackman. Ernest Borgnine. Red Buttons. Shelley Winters. Roddy McDowell. Stella Stevens. I nearly get giddy just thinking about how much I liked that movie as an 11-year old!

Do you remember the theme song to that movie? It was during the stretch when Hollywood wanted theme songs- both movie and TV- to "have legs" on the radio. They wanted to have the movie nominated for an Oscar and the movie theme song nominated for a Grammy! (The theme song, ironically, DID win an award- the Oscar!) The song was *The Morning After* as sung by Maureen McGovern.

Hitting Number One for 2 weeks in 1973, the song includes these words: "There's got to be a morning after. We're moving closer to the shore. I know, we'll be there by tomorrow. And we'll escape the darkness. We won't be searching anymore." And do you know what those beautiful lyrics make me think? "How could that tripe win an Oscar?!"

Seriously, not the best song ever written! BUT- it has something to say to us as we move to the "other side" of Easter. As you read this, Easter is either A. almost here or B. over. And that's a challenging time for a church. Churches tend to grow and swell as they get closer to Easter. And we have certainly been no exception. On the 15th of March, we had the single biggest "non-special day" attendance in AT LEAST the last SEVERAL years- 269 people. And that, for my money, is awesome!

But the other typical trend churches follow is that AFTER Easter...worship attendance tends to drop like a baseball rolling off the edge of a table. And that's where that theme song comes in! What will WE do "the morning after"? Will we embrace the trend and watch attendance drop, chalking it up to "that's normal"? OR- will we choose to BUCK that trend and stay committed to our stated mission of connecting people to Jesus Christ?

I have said since the moment the Harris family walked in the door that God is doing something special at the Aledo UMC. And I still hold firmly to that fact. And this "season" after Easter 2015 is a watershed event for us in that respect. If we embrace the "fact" of a drop in attendance, then we will do just fine from here until Fall. We will average a bit over 200 a week during that time. AND we will struggle, month to month, to meet our budget and cover our expenses. And the whole time, we will look toward the fact that Fall is coming.

OR we can refuse to accept that God takes a vacation from our lives, We can embrace the amazing gift that God is giving us- a church that is growing and flourishing in the midst of a climate of church decline- and joyfully continue what we are already doing through May, June, July and August. What God is doing here is special and unique. It is NOT the norm for most pastors and most churches. We are in the middle of a blessing from God that nearly every other church in the country would LOVE to experience. I can't wait to see what can happen over the next four months by staying fully engaged in the life of AUMC! Who's with me?!

SPECIAL DATES:

- April 1 Caring Hearts Food Prep 9AM
- April 2 Maundy Thursday Service 7PM
- April 5 Easter and Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- April 6 Journey Meeting 4:30PM
- April 6 Finance Meeting 6PM
- April 6 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- April 11 The Journey 8AM-3PM
- April 13 Safety Meeting 7PM
- April 14 Work @ Food Pantry 5:30- 7:30PM
- April 14 Miriam Circle 6PM
- April 16 Naomi Wesleyan Meeting 11:30AM
- April 17 Work @ Food Pantry 8AM- noon
- April 19 Administrative Council 7:15PM
- April 20 Relay for Life SPMS Meeting 4:30PM
- April 20 UMM Meeting 6PM
- April 22 Parish Visitor Deadline 8AM
- April 26 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM
- April 27 Caring Hearts Food Prep 5:30PM
- April 27 Relay for Life Meeting 6PM
- April 30 Church Basement Ladies @ Circa 21

NEW SERMON SERIES(S)!

On Sunday, April 12th, we begin not one but TWO new sermon series!

At the two Sunday morning worship services, we will seek a renewed understanding of what it means to be United Methodist as we look at **The Greatest Story Never Told**. Based on the book by author (and United Methodist minister) Leonard Sweet, this series asks the question, "What makes a United Methodist?" The essence of United Methodism's genius is found in two famous John Wesley phrases; "heart strangely warmed" (inward experiences with a fire in the heart) and "the world is our parish" (outward experiences with waterfalls of cutting-edge intelligence). For Wesley, internal combustion led to external combustion. The weeks of the series look like this:

- **Sunday, April 12- The Song of Water** (Romans 6:1-5)
Lift Up Your Voice With Strength. (Ezekiel 36:24-26, Romans 6:1-5)
- **Sunday, April 19- The Song of Fire** (Philippians 4:11b-13)
Hearts Strangely Warmed (Psalm 73:25-26, John 14:12)
- **Sunday, April 26- The Song of Wind** (Acts 1:4-8)
Life in the Spirit (Zechariah 4:6, John 14:25-26)
- **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 will look at a three-week sermon series called **Three D.O.T.S. (Difficult Old Testament Stories)**. These three stories are among the hardest Bible stories to understand. We will walk through them, see WHY they're so hard and what they might mean for us. The weeks of the series look like this:

- **Sunday, April 12- Don't Poke the Bald Guy** (2Kings 2:23-25)
Sy Sperling Gets Revenge?
- **Sunday, April 19- A Donkey Talks** (Number 22:21-33)
We hear straight from the...donkey's mouth!
- **Sunday, April 26- You Want Me to Do WHAT?!** (Genesis 22:1-14)
God asks Abraham for the WORST possible thing.
Come each week expecting God to make...and keep His promises to you!



EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

Without Christmas, there is no Jesus. But without Easter, there is no Christ. Easter is a watershed event in the history of Christianity. We gather together to celebrate an empty tomb...and a risen Savior! Here are the worship opportunities for Easter week:

- Thursday, April 2nd- Maundy Thursday**
7PM Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service (Communion)
- Friday, April 3rd- Good Friday**
Communion available in the Chapel, 6AM-6PM
- Sunday, April 5th- Easter Sunday**
6:00AM Sunrise Easter Celebration
8:00AM Contemporary Easter Celebration
9AM NO Sunday School
10:15AM Traditional Easter Celebration
6PM NO Point Service



**Holy Week
& Easter**

Plan on spending time with your church family during Easter week. On Easter morning, look into the tomb for yourself...and see that it is empty!

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

WHAT: Joanne's new Women's Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 2PM, starting April 21

WHERE: In the Sunrise Coffee House

WHY: What is it about these women that makes them different? What can we learn from their stories? Structured to be user-friendly to women 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: The books are \$8

CONNECTION COINS FOR APRIL

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.

Have you seen the "horseshoe nail" crosses that our very own Rick Newswander makes? MANY people in the church wear them. In fact, one was given to each member of our recent Confirmation class! And MANY people in the church have started giving them away to people who comment on them. (They are LITERALLY scattered across the globe!) Those crosses cost money to make. But on April 12th, you'll get the opportunity to help support that awesome ministry. When the cans are passed that day, 100% of the money raised will help cover the cost of making more crosses. What a GREAT way to help connect people to Jesus Christ. So bring your change on April 12th!



LADDER SAFETY

From Your AUMC Safety Team – We care about you and your safety

Spring Cleaning time is here – washing windows, cleaning gutters, painting, etc. – all tasks that involve LADDERS! We all get busy and don't pay close attention to what we're doing. Take the time to be safe on a ladder.

- Inspect your ladder. Are there broken rungs or damaged rails?
- Clean the rungs of any grease or other foreign substances.
- There should be non-skid shoes on all ladders.
- The ladder should not be wobbly when set up.
- Don't use metal ladders around electrical equipment or wires.
- Place ladder on a firm foundation. Don't put it up on boxes or other supports.
- Position your ladder properly. It should extend one foot away from the wall for every four feet of height. It should have three rungs above the top point at which you want to work.
- Look around to see if there are doorways where people might come through and accidentally bump your ladder.
- Don't use a stepladder as a straight ladder.
- Climb the ladder holding on with both hands.



Information from The Safety Doctor.com

ARE YOU COMING TO WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP!

Wednesday Night Fellowship is going strong! 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 6th Grade
- Junior/Senior High Bible Study
- Rev. Mark's class, **Fruit of the Spirit** (See article about Pastor's Bible Studies.)
- Bell Choir
- Choir

See you on Wednesday evenings!

THE NURSERY

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



JOURNEY

The 6th annual **Journey** Women's Event, "**Find Joy in the Journey**", is fast approaching. There is still plenty of time to register. The Journey will be held **Saturday, April 11th from 8:30AM-2:30PM**.

Childcare is available. Call the church office at 582-2169, email Ruth Dulaney at ruthdulaney@gmail.com, or go to myaledoumc.com to register. Registration is \$12.00 and scholarships are available, if needed.

The Journey is sure to be a day of praise, inspiration, fellowship, music, and prayer. Five ladies will share their journeys throughout the day and lunch promises to be superb. Registration is encouraged, as we are limited to 250 attendees.



Thank You!

Thank you so much to Miriam Circle for the lovely Valentine's plate.

Kate Jones



THE CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES IN "THE LAST POTLUCK SUPPER"

Join the Miriam Circle ladies for the Thursday matinee of the final Church Basement Ladies production at Circa'21 on **April 30th**. This musical comedy promises to be a delightful entertaining afternoon as well as an enjoyable and delicious lunch. We will carpool at 10:45 AM at the church. The cost is \$40.75. The 20 tickets which Ruth Dulaney has reserved are going fast. **Claim your spot now.** Money is due by April 10th.



Easter Ransom

Most relationships are based upon the notion of “give and take.” But let’s take it a step further: Do you have that friend who always wants something from you, but never gives back anything in return? Maybe you’re their “go-to” when they have yet another problem or need a favor? Most likely you can picture that person now. It’s always something, and it’s always about them; you are their faithful product and they your constant customer.

But what if there was someone who gave everything for you without expecting anything in return? Someone who didn’t take advantage of you but loved you? Jesus has done just that. He came into this world fully knowing that there was nothing He could get from us that He couldn’t get better from Himself, but He still gave His life “as a ransom for many.” Jesus didn’t come to this earth in order to exploit us, but to serve us.



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Twitter: @Aledo_UMC

Pinterest: @Aledoumc1

Instagram: Aledoumc1



Approach Jesus in gratitude knowing that He isn’t like our fallen friends. He never came to take, but to give this Easter. (Mark 10:45)



What’s Coming Up, TAG:

2/3rd of God: April 18th, 10am-12pm

Mini-YAR Conference: April 24-25

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

Moving around really sucked, but I now realize that God has always been in control.

Hunter Harris

Happy Anniversary

APRIL

- 04/03/1982– Robert & Rebecca Maynard
- 04/13/2002– Curtis & Diane Richardson
- 04/18/1980– Dale & Cheri Bloomfield
- 04/25/1976– Stanley & Paula Nelson
- 04/29/2002– Bryce & Jackie Benson



Thank You!

We want to offer a belated but sincere thank you to the Miriam Circle for the lovely Valentine's tray. It was a very sweet surprise. God bless to everyone involved.

Frazier & Donna Hunt

UM Women Golden Age Birthdays

- 04/10-Eileen (Babe) Hyett
- 04/23– Florence Louck



Thank You!

God bless those who made my mechanized chair possible!
Erma Dobbins

Thank You!

I want to thank all for the many cards & gifts I received on my 95th birthday on March 9th. God so blessed me!
Aileen Andress

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Roger Andress | Dick Hunter family | Curt Richardson |
| Joanne Beard | Mary Kistler | Elizabeth Schroeder |
| Norma Bemis | Rev Mark & family | Janet Smith |
| Marge Bonyng family | Jim Headley | Hal Stine family |
| Phyllis Bosold | Linda Hoy | Joe Struhs |
| Skip Bush family | Chuck Inman | Carmen Techau |
| Lucy & Tom Ceurvorst | Lyle & Leveta Kenney | Charley Thomas |
| Ty Cosby | Ken Kisling | Kent Weeks |
| Joe D | Vickie Korn | Ashley White |
| Ellie Davis | Pam Lowery | Gabby Whitehall |
| Margie & Jim Earl | Eilene Miller | All in Nursing Homes |
| The Fitzsimmons | Steven Oaks, JR | All who are ill/hospitals |
| Donna Hunt | Gary Olson's family | Our world, nation, state |
| | Bryce Rathje/6 yrs old | 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.

*******VERY IMPORTANT*******

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.

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN APRIL

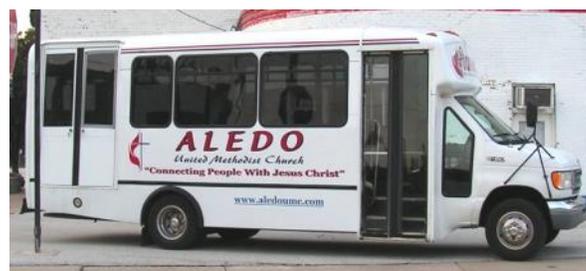
Did you know that April Is Autism Awareness Month? It's also Mathematics Education Month, but did you know it's Keep America Beautiful Month? What about Guitar Month? Frog Month? Humor Month? Here are the special days April has to offer: April 1st- April Fool's Day, April 2nd- Maundy Thursday, April 3rd- Good Friday, April 4th- Draw a Picture of a Bird Day, April 5th- Easter Sunday, April 6th- Pizzaburger Day, April 7th- No Housework Day, April 8th- Pudding Day, April 9th- Name Yourself Day, April 10th- Encourage a Young Writer Day, April 11th- Jackie Robinson Day, April 12th- Big Wind Day, April 13th- Plastic Grass Day, April 14th- Look up at the Sky Day, April 15th- Titanic Remembrance Day, April 16th- Eggs Benedict Day, April 17th- Blah, Blah, Blah Day, April 18th- Pet Owner's Day, April 19th- Humorous Day, April 20th- Pineapple Upside-Down Cake Day, April 21st- Kindergarten Day, April 22nd- Earth Day, April 23rd- Sing Out Day, April 24th

- Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day, April 25th- Telephone Day, April 26th- Hug a Friend Day, April 27th- Tell a Story Day, April 28th- Administrative Professional's Day, April 29th- Zipper Day, and April 30th- Honesty Day!

Reading, writing, and 'rithmetic...as well as zippers, food and fools! Enjoy the wonderful, unusual and downright strange this month!

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.





We hope that you will feel free to take a meal or a plate of cookies to someone in need from our Caring Hearts freezer. The Food Ministry Team has prepared “gift bags” and inspirational notes that you can use when taking a food gift to a friend. They are located beside the Caring Hearts freezer in the back basement room.

The lovingly prepared food is available for anyone who needs it, no questions asked!

Would you like to join the Caring Hearts Hospitality Greeter team?

We would love to include you in our rotation of members who offer a smile, handshake, hug and/or a warm welcome to all who enter AUMC’s doors at Sunday morning church services and WNF.

The Fellowship Café team are needing more workers to assist at our busy “center” before and after church services. Please let Deb Swank or Ruth Dulaney know if you want to join this fun and gratifying ministry.

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

by Joanne Harris

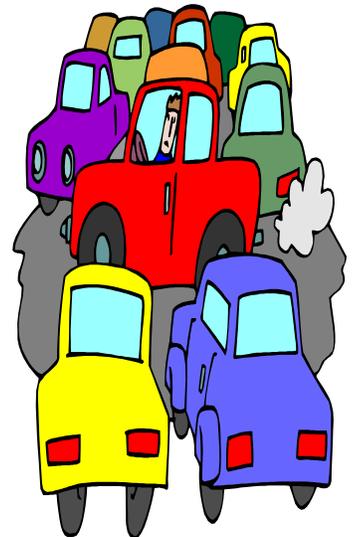
Caring Hearts continues to flourish! After Mark's mom passed away, I was on the phone talking to Mark's dad. He shared with me how hard it was adjusting to being alone. One of the most difficult things he said was eating by himself. So with that in mind, The Caring Hearts Ministry decided to form the C.I.A. (Caring Individual Adults) group. 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 April luncheon is set for Sunday, April 26th.** 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!

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!



BULLETIN BLOOPERS



1. Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.
2. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
3. The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.
4. The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."
5. Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."
6. During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.
7. The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
8. Don't let worry kill you off – let the church help.
9. The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30p.m. Please use the back door.
10. The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
11. Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
12. Ushers will eat latecomers.
13. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT JESUS

There are so many amazing and interesting facts in the Bible. Check out this list of interesting facts about Jesus.

1. **His Name**- Jesus is the English transliteration of the Greek name Iesus. Joshua is the English transliteration of the Hebrew name Yeshuah. Both Jesus and Joshua mean "Yahweh saves" or "Jehovah is salvation". The name Jesus appears in the Bible more than 900 times.
2. **The Title "Christ"**- Christ is not a name, but a title. When the Bible talks about the Messiah, it's referring to the same title as Christ. Both Messiah and Christ mean "anointed one". The word Christ appears in the Bible more than 500 times.
3. **Jesus' Titles For Himself**- Jesus said He was "the bread of life" and "the living bread". He was "the light of the world", "the good shepherd", "the Son of God" and "the Son of man". He also said He was "the way, the truth and the life".
4. **Foods Jesus Ate**- Jesus ate bread and "clean meats" such as lamb and fish. The Old Testament says He would eat butter and honey. Luke says He ate broiled fish and honeycomb after His resurrection.
5. **Jesus' Birthday**- Although celebrated on December 25, the Bible doesn't say when His birthday was. Various scholars have put it sometime in late winter or early spring. There's no record of early Christians celebrating His birth.
6. **Jesus and John the Baptist**- John the Baptist was Jesus' second cousin. Mary (Jesus' mother) and Elisabeth (John's mother) were cousins. John was about 6 months older than Jesus.
7. **Jesus' Family**- Jesus had several half-brothers and sisters.

WAYS CHURCHES DRIVE AWAY FIRST-TIME GUESTS

If you attend a church regularly, you've probably noticed the phenomenon. A guest shows up for a worship service, but he never returns. It's a fairly common issue in many churches. A recent survey sheds some light on why that is. Here are the reasons first-time guests gave as to why they chose not to return to a particular church.

1. Unfriendly church members. This response was anticipated. But the surprise was the number of respondents who included non-genuine friendliness in their answers. In other words, the guests perceived some of the church members were faking it.
2. Unsafe and unclean children's area. This response generated the greatest emotional reactions. If your church does not give a high priority to children, don't expect young families to attend.
3. Bad church website. Most of the church guests went to the church website before they attended a worship service. Even if they attended the service after visiting a bad website, they attended with a prejudicial perspective. The two indispensable items guests want on a website are address and times of service. It's just that basic.
4. Poor signage. If you have been attending a church for a few weeks, you forget all about the signage. You don't need it any more. But guests do. And they are frustrated when it's not there.
5. Insider church language. Most of the respondents were not referring to theological language as much as language that only the members know.
6. Boring or bad service.
7. Members telling guests that they were in their seat or pew. Yes, this obviously still takes place in some churches.
8. Dirty facilities. Some of the comments: "Didn't look like it had been cleaned in a week." "No trash cans anywhere." Restrooms were worse than a bad truck stop." "Pews had more stains than a Tide commercial."

There you have it. Eight reasons first-time guests said they didn't return to a church! How do we rank?

UMW Spring Meeting

The UMW Spring Meeting will be held at Maquon UMC on Saturday, April 18th. Jeannine Kenney will be attending, and will be able to take all donations for Cunningham Children's Home and Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House.

Also, I would like to remind everyone of the Box Tops for Education. They are a great way to help the Cunningham children. As always, for your convenience, the plastic container is in the Fellowship Room on or near the desk.

Thank you to everyone for your consideration of these very worthwhile missions.

In His Grace,

Kathy Newswander,

Aledo UMW Liaison for Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House and Cunningham Children's Home

Cunningham Children's Home

Spring Wish List:

Ladies ankle socks
 Gift Cards from:
 Kohl's
 Target
 Dollar General
 Walmart
 Plus many others

Youth Group Suggested Donations:

Playing Cards
 Card Games (Skip-Bo, UNO, etc)
 100-300 piece puzzles
 Coloring books
 Nerf balls
 Stress balls
 Others (11-17 yrs old)

Please have your items in the office by Thursday, April 16th @ noon. They will be taken to the UMW Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 18th.



Lessie Bates Davis Wish List:

Socks of all sizes
 T-shirts of all sizes
 Ink pens— black, blue, or red

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES

Psalms: Glorifying God For Who He Is

WHAT: Rev. Mark and Joanne's current Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM and 2PM through April 7

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

WHY: The book of Psalms celebrates the love story between creation and its Creator. This study guide explores the book of Psalms, a collection that continues to be the definitive devotional, prayer book, and hymnal for every believer.

Revelation: In Christ You Are an Overcomer

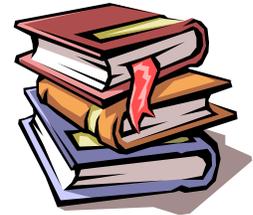
WHAT: Rev. Mark's new Bible Study

WHEN: Tuesdays @ 9AM starting on April 14

WHERE: In the Fellowship Area next to the sanctuary

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: 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 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.

**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

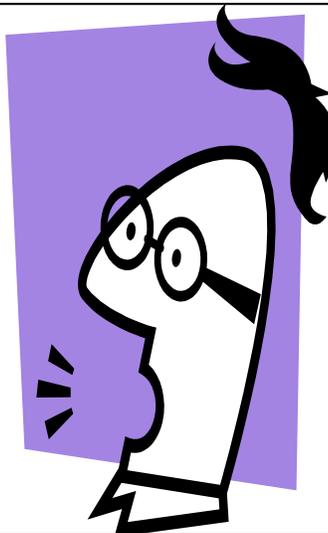
Here's a low-risk, easy way to introduce others to faith- share Rev. Mark's website with them. Described as "a daily look at life as a shaved-headed, earring-wearing, rock-drumming United Methodist minister", www.stickwithjesus.com features a "thought for the day", written by Rev. Mark- a new one is 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

**Wednesday
April 22nd
at 8am.**

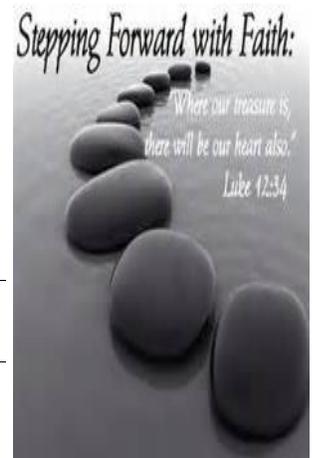
Please have all articles submitted by this date!



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	03/01	03/08	03/15	03/22
Attendance	226	208	269	241
Receipts	\$7,466.10	\$5,107.95 \$4,266.00	\$4,266.00	\$5,650.00