

# The Parish Visitor

## July, 2014



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

### “NEXT-LEVEL” THINKING

by Rev. Mark

I had a LOT of time to think, read, dream and pray during the 6 weeks I was out recovering from surgery. At first, I thought about...well...recovering! But as the days turned into weeks and the recovery was going so well, I began to think more and more about our church. This is an outstanding congregation! Period. End of sentence! I don't think you all realize just how special The Aledo United Methodist Church is. Pound for pound, you are doing more ministry and outreach than most of the 700+ United Methodist churches in our Illinois Great Rivers Conference! How awesome is that?

In the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel of Luke, Jesus says, "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones." Think about that for a moment. There is a fairly strong implication inherent in that statement. Jesus is saying that, if you do well with the little things He entrusted to you, He will entrust you with bigger things. It makes sense. That's how Joanne and I raised our boys. As they matured, we "tested" them with little things. And once they proved they could succeed at those little things, we expanded their horizons and began trusting them with bigger things.

It is clear that God has consistently trusted our congregation with bigger and bigger things. All you have to do is look at the last several years to see how powerfully He is working in and through this congregation. And it seems just as clear that He is pleased with what we have done. And that is EXACTLY what we want to be- pleasing to God.

But that also means that God is ready to trust us with even more. Over the next few months, we will be challenged to step even further "out of the box" and deeper into God's will. What exactly does that look like? Only God knows! But He has laid on my heart that He wants us to expand- the best way to reach new people is to offer new ministries.

The Sunday evening worship service is being re-tooled and will roll out a new format, in an effort to offer another "full" worship opportunity to folks in the community who can't attend Sunday mornings. More studies and other learning opportunities will be offering beginning in the fall. Continuing study is essential to strengthening and deepening your faith. Youth and Children's ministries are changing and expanding this fall. More people will be invited to step out in faith and take greater responsibility for more ministries. (A paid staff consisting of a few people can only do SO much. But a church FULL of ministers can change the world!)

I invite you to do two things over the rest of this summer:

1. pray about what God is calling us to and
2. buckle up and hang on- it's going to be a GREAT ride!

#### SPECIAL DATES:

- July 4 Independence Day Office Closed
- July 6 Communion & Food Pantry Collection Sunday
- July 7 Trustees Meeting 7PM
- July 12 UMM Work Day 8AM
- July 13-16 Vacation Bible School 5-7:35PM
- July 17 Naomi Wesleyan Circle @ T & C 11:30AM
- July 20 Administrative Council Meeting 7:00PM
- July 21 UM Men Meeting 6PM
- July 27 CIA Luncheon 11:30AM

#### WORSHIP

#### TIMES:

Sundays 8AM & 10:15AM

Sunday School 9:15AM

## CURRENT SERMON SERIES

On Sunday, June 22, we began a new sermon series- Rev. Mark's FIRST since returning! The series is called The Psizzlin' Psummer Psalm Psermon Pseries. Psalms are religious poems or songs, designed to be set to music. Some are hymns to be sung by a congregation. Some are private prayers. Some are lyrical devices for remembering major events in Israel's history. The Book contains 150 psalms, making it the longest book in the Bible, based on number of chapters. Every human emotion, every circumstance of daily life are captured in these 150 chapters.

This 11-week series will carry us through the rest of the summer...AND through the trials and tribulations, the highs and lows of life. The remaining weeks of the series look like this:

- **Sunday, July 6, 2014- Why Is There Suffering?** (Psalm 54)  
How could God allow such pain? (Job 5:5-8, 1Corinthians 1:26-31)
- **Sunday, July 13, 2014- At the Right Hand** (Psalm 63)  
The power of God is evident...when you look. (Isaiah 4:9-10, Ephesians 1:17-23)
- **Sunday, July 20, 2014- The Judgment Seat** (Psalm 75)  
We are called to love, not judge. (Genesis 3:8-10, Romans 2:1-4)
- **Sunday, July 27, 2014- Here is Our King** (Psalm 93)  
Who's at the top of YOUR list? (Luke 1:31-33, 1Timothy 6:12-16)
- **Sunday, August 3, 2014- Thank You!** (Psalm 100)  
Shout for joy- the Lord is good! (1Chronicles 16:31-35, Hebrews 12:28)
- **Sunday, August 10, 2014- Surely the Presence** (Psalm 121)  
God is our source of help. (Jeremiah 31:10-12, Philippians 4:4-7)
- **Sunday, August 17, 2014- Faith Like a Child** (Psalm 131)  
We are called to be child-like, but not childish. (Hosea 11:1-4, Romans 8:12-17)
- **Sunday, August 24, 2014- The Cave** (Psalm 142)  
A Place to hide...or a hiding place? (Isaiah 2:19-21, 2Corinthians 4:1-3)
- **Sunday, August 31, 2014- Better Than a Hallelujah!** (Psalm 150)  
Praise God in every situation. (Isaiah 43:16-21, 1Peter 2:9-10)



Join me every Sunday as we walk through the Book of Psalms...AND our lives!

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## SPECIAL OBSERVANCES IN JULY

Did you know that July is Blueberry Month? What about Anti-Boredom Month? Hot Dog Month? Ice Cream Month? Picnic month? In addition, here are some of these special "days" in July: the 1st- Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day, the 2nd- Literacy Day, the 3rd- Compliment Your Mirror Day, the 4th- Independence Day (see accompanying article), Country Music Day and Sidewalk Egg Frying Day, the 5th- Build A Scarecrow Day, the 6th- Fried Chicken Day, the 7th- Chocolate Day, the 8th- First Public Reading of Declaration of Independence, (1776), the 9th- Sugar Cookie Day, the 10th- Don't Step on a Bee Day, the 11th - World Population Day, the 12th- Different Colored Eyes Day, the 13th- Embrace Your Geekness Day, the 14th- Pandemonium Day, the 15th- Cow Appreciation Day, the 16th- International Juggling Day, the 17th- Yellow Pig Day, the 18th- National Caviar Day, the 19th- Ice Cream Day, the 20th- Ugly Truck Day, 21st- Junk Food Day, the 22nd- Ratcatcher's Day, the 23rd- Ice Cream Cone Day, the 24th- Cousins Day, the 25th- Threading the Needle Day, the 26th- Parent's Day, the 27th- Take Your Pants for a Walk Day, the 28th- National Milk Chocolate Day, the 29th- Lasagna Day, the 30th- Father-in-Law Day, and the 31st - Jump For Jellybeans Day. Take time to celebrate the wonderful, weird and wacky in July!

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for your recent donation of \$1,100.00 to our center. This is deeply appreciated, and all contributions stay here in Mercer County to help assist our clients. Together we can continue to strive to help others.

Thanks!

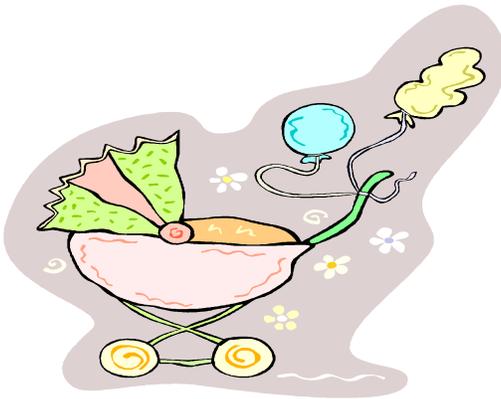
*Mercer County Family Crisis Center*

Note: This donation came from funds from Journey.

## THANK YOU!

We would like to thank you all SO much for the overwhelming outpouring of love, prayers and support you have offered us in response to Rev. Mark's health issues. We have felt your prayers and have seen your love in so many ways. Thank you!

*Rev. Mark, Joanne, Sam, Hunter, Hank and Betty (AND the dogs!)*



## 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!

## WRMJ THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

On the week of Monday, July 7 through Friday, July 11, Rev. Mark will be offering up the daily Thought For the Day on WRMJ. Be sure to tune in and listen! But also tell your friend who don't have a church home to listen in as well!



## LOST & FOUND

Have you picked up your pans from Rhubarb Fest? If not, look on the table in the back of the Fellowship Room. Are you missing a jacket or sweater? Look at the coat racks to see if it is hanging there. Have you lost your Bible Study book, earrings, or gloves? Check in the office.

We are in the process of establishing a "Lost & Found" cabinet or area. We will let you know when that is completed.

Any items not picked up within 30 days will be donated, due to our need for all available space! Thank you for your cooperation!

## C.I.A. (CARING INDIVIDUAL ADULTS ) LUNCHEON JULY 27<sup>TH</sup>

by Joanne Harris

**Caring Hearts** continues to flourish! This group is open to both mature men and women who live alone. This includes anyone who has lost their spouse, divorced or separated, or whose loved one is in the nursing home. The Caring Hearts ministry here at AUMC provides a CIA luncheon once each month. This month, the luncheon will be on **Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 10:15AM worship service.** 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 on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July at 11:30AM!



### AUMC SAFETY TEAM

AUMC now has a new Safety Team with the following members: Jenn Anderson, Ruth Dulaney, Melissa Hajostek, Rev. Mark Harris, Jean Schroeder, Debbie Swank, and Neil Truman. The team has been developed from a need that was seen by the Caring Hearts Program. The team will work together to help make Aledo United Methodist Church a safer environment to worship.

Over the next few months, the following safety issues will be addressed:

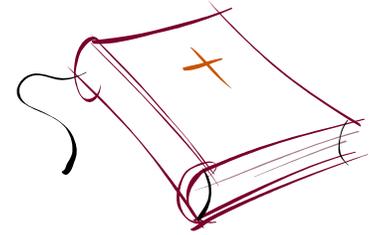
- Health Safety
- Food Safety
- Safety Awareness
- Community Preparedness
- Fire Safety
- Environmental Safety
- Safety Education

### The first focus is your Health Safety.

1. Through your generosity, the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) has been purchased. It is hanging on the wall in the Fellowship Room between the door and the wall TV monitor. The AED can restore a regular heart rhythm during a sudden cardiac arrest.
2. Seven church members have taken the first CPR/AED class given April 28<sup>th</sup>. Another CPR/AED class will be offered early in the fall. If you would like to attend this free class and become CPR certified, please sign up in the church office.
3. We are blessed with many health professionals in our congregation. In order to know who is a trained individual or has medical training, a list is being compiled in the church office. We are asking that medical professionals and those with CPR certification give your name and a copy of your CPR card to Debbie Swank. We know that many are willing to come to the aid of those are in an emergency health need, but this list will help others know who to ask when needed.
4. Two basic First Aid kits are located in the kitchen and one is also located on the shelf in the education wing. Two expanded first aid kits are being compiled to include more emergency equipment, such as a blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, stretch bandages, Glucose meter, and Glucose gel. One of the larger first aid kits will be located near the AED and the other one in the basement. The supplies for the kits will be maintained by the Safety Team.

## PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDIES

### New/Current Pastor's Bible Studies



#### Overcoming Challenges

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

**WHEN:** Tuesdays @ 9AM or 2PM, beginning on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and running for 6 weeks

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Café next to the sanctuary (9AM) and the Sonrise Coffee House (2PM)

**WHY:** The question is NOT, "Will I face challenges?" Instead, the question is, "How will I deal with the tough times WHEN they come?" No one travels far down the road without confronting the sobering reality that life can be hard. The book of Nehemiah is a case study in overcoming life's challenges. Wave after wave of pain pounded on the shores of Nehemiah's life, but he kept standing strong. A tsunami of relational, financial, and spiritual attacks came, but he withstood it all in the power of God. As we meditate on Nehemiah's story in this powerful Bill Hybels study, we will discover the hope and victory that come when we walk in God's wisdom through the challenges of life.

#### The Sermon on the Mount

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

**WHEN:** Wednesdays @ 6:30AM

**WHERE:** In the Fellowship Café 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.



## 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!



# ANNIVERSARIES

## JULY

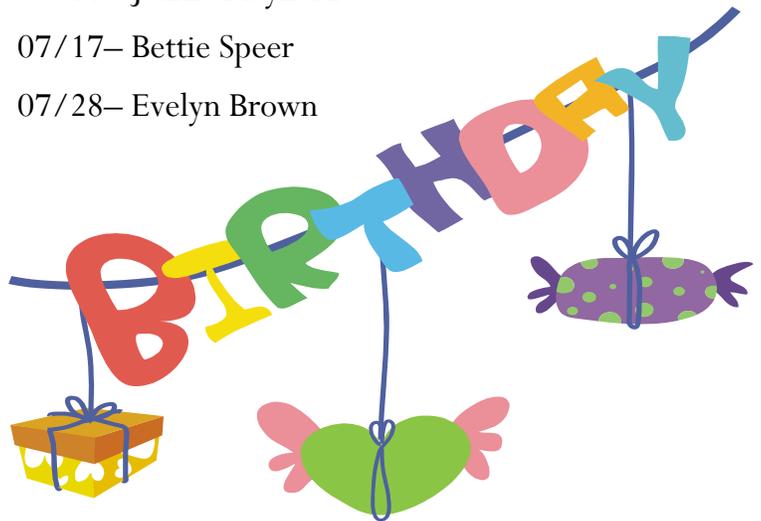
- 07/05/1997– Bill & Brooke Fleuette
- 07/07/1997– Max & Molly Paulsgrove
- 07/08/2000– Mike & Laurie Hurley
- 07/09/1977– Paul & Mary Flint
- 07/10/1977– Roger & Cindy Hutchins
- 07/12/1959– Tom & JeAnne Balmer
- 07/17/2004– Heath & Kerri Whittington
- 07/19/1947– Edwin & Marian Nesbitt
- 07/23/2011– Don & Elizabeth Schroeder
- 07/24/1982– Charley & Connie Thomas
- 07/26– Roger & Jodie Andress



# UM Women

## Golden Age Birthdays

- 07/8– Carole Schmidt
- 07/11– Phyllis Batson
- 07/16– Francis Blick
- 07/17– Jennie Maynard
- 07/17– Bettie Speer
- 07/28– Evelyn Brown



## THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



- |                   |                     |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Don Abel          | Bob & Sandy Ernst   | Tyler Mattson             |
| Joanne Beard      | Karen Fogelsong     | Marsha & Linda            |
| Kaydence Benson   | Patty Fuller        | Dylis McCutchan family    |
| Bewley family     | Gildea family       | Nicolas                   |
| Linda Biebaum     | Rev Mark & family   | Gary Olson                |
| Christian Bittick | Emily Heflin        | Esther Rechkemmer         |
| Brenda Brandt     | Leanne Helton       | Marla Reynolds            |
| Bailey Brown      | Noah Huston         | Rosemary/hip replacement  |
| Lucy Ceurvorst    | David Jensen family | Toni Ross                 |
| Jane Chandler     | Annabelle Kell      | Walt & Doris Schellenberg |
| Becky Crossman    | Jo Kernan           | Randy Strode              |
| Laura Diehl       | Brenda Leng         | Gene Thompson             |
| Jim Earl          | Nadine Liby         | Marilyn Wagler            |
| Chris Engstrom    | Adam Mattson        | Sammie Wool & family      |

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

## RHUBARB FEST REPORT

The Rhubarb Fest Luncheon is in the books. What a successful two days for Aledo UMC! This has become an all-church project and that is what made it so great this year. Men, women, and children of all ages worked together toward a common goal and had a lot of fun doing it.

Rather than thank individuals for what they did or donated, we would like to thank EVERYONE for your help and for your prayers. Each and every one of you contributed in some way toward the serving of 679 total meals (dine-in, delivery, and carry-out), the baking of 170 pies (new record!), and the profit of \$6,500 that will be used for countless UMW missions.

We are proud of our church family's efforts in serving this luncheon with the love of Christ in our hearts. God is indeed good all the time.... even in times of rhubarb!

*UMW Co-presidents,  
Mary Flint & Molly Joseph*




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### AN ADULT CLASS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL?

by Rev. Mark

We are getting **AMBITIOUS** at this year's Vacation Bible School! In addition to the "normal" VBS programming, we are adding dinner **AND** an adult Bible study class in an effort to make it more of a family event. I will be leading the Adult Bible Study and here's what it looks like:

**Faith: A Four-Day Mini Bible Study**

**WHAT:** Rev. Mark's Adult VBS Class

**WHEN:** Sunday, July 13 through Wednesday, July 16, 5:30PM-7:15PM

**WHERE:** In the Chapel next to the sanctuary

**WHY:** In this four-night mini Bible Study, you will examine your faith and what it means to have faith in God. Our faith begins with what we know and believe about God. Our faith will carry us how far we are willing to let it take us. Faith is a choice and we need to begin by choosing to believe in Jesus and His power to move mountains, heal the sick, and save us from all our sins through His sacrifice on the cross. When we believe in God we then learn to walk in faith and trust God. But first we must believe, and it's up to us, we can either choose to believe in Him or not. But faith will mean nothing until we believe with all our heart that God is who He says He is.

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### ARE YOU A MEMBER?

That great theologian Groucho Marx once said, "I refuse to join any club that would have ME as a member!" Fortunately, church membership doesn't work that way! What does church membership mean? Well, there are no secret handshakes or decoder rings upon joining the church! So... why join? Joining a church is a public declaration of a greater commitment...to the church and more importantly...to God. It's the next step in a lifelong spiritual journey. It's a way of becoming a more permanent member of your church family. Is it a requirement? No. Is there anything I can do **WITH** it that I can't without it? Other than serving on committees...no. Is it a powerful act that can help other people grow in their faith? Absolutely!

If you have been thinking about joining the church...think no longer! Contact Rev. Mark (582-2169, [revmark@myaledoumc.com](mailto:revmark@myaledoumc.com)) to set up a time to meet (about 30 minutes). This get together is designed to allow Rev. Mark to get to know you better while giving you the opportunity to ask any questions you have about the church. Then you will set a date on which to join! Take the plunge...you will be so blessed!

The deadline for the next Parish Visitor is *Thursday July 24th at 8am.*

Please have all articles submitted by this date!



## UM MEN WORK DAY

The UMM will have a work day July 12th, starting with a light breakfast at 8am., and finishing up at 11am. Please join us to complete a few projects around our church building.



## FOOD MINISTRY

The Caring Hearts Food Ministry is helping to address the need for food in our community. It is also a great place for one church member to share food and fellowship for another in any type of need. In the summer months, when we do not have the donations from the Wednesday Night Fellowship meals, the need for food is great. The Caring Hearts Food Team will be meeting more frequently during the summer to prepare food. Would you like to join this group or provide a monetary donation? We would love to add you to our team! Contact the church office or Ruth Dulaney.

## CHURCH WEBSITE

Have you looked at your church's website? If not, go to [www.myaledoumc.com](http://www.myaledoumc.com) and see what's going on! Not only can you see the "basics" about the Aledo United Methodist Church, you can find the most current church calendar. 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!



## 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.



## Required Committees and Members for 2014

**Trustees Team**– meet once/month, responsible for the real property of the church– the church building itself and the parsonage.

Chair– Neil Truman	Stan Swank
Chair-Doug Huston	Brandon Dennison
Chair-Gary Heard	Paul Flint
Nancy Robinson	Rick Newswander
Sue Hiscocks	Greg Engwall

**Staff/Parish Relations Team**– meet quarterly, the church’s “Human Resources” department, liaison between church/staff, responsible for employment issues.

Chair– Bill Breeden	Steve Brown
Richard Robinson	Ruth Dulaney
Martha Rittenhouse	John Taylor
Carole Schmidt	Andrea Parker
Paula Nelson	Anne Olson

**Finance Team**– meet once/month, sets yearly budget, makes decisions about raising/spending money.

Chair– Chris Meskan	Stan Swank
Darlene Jones	Linda Schrock
Anne Olson	Debbie Swank
Neil Truman	Rev Mark
Dwight Reynolds	

**Lay Leadership Team**– meet infrequently throughout the year (mostly in the fall) to set ministry teams/team leadership for the coming year.

	Kelsey Huston
Chair- Rev Mark	Pam Truman
Sue Galambos	Jaime Kernan
Rhonda Brown	Bill Joseph
Mary Flint	

## Independence Day

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the American colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a committee but with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4, 1776. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail: “The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty...from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.” Adams' prediction was off by two days!

In a remarkable series of coincidences, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, two founding fathers of the United States and the only two men who signed the Declaration of Independence to become president, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the United States' 50th anniversary. President James Monroe died exactly five years later, on July 4, 1831.

We have much to be grateful for in this country. Celebrate our nation’s independence- thank God for our freedom!



## WHAT ARE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

Are you aware of how many ministries there are in your church? (Here's a hint- a LOT!) In August, we will be circulating a Spiritual Gifts Inventory in anticipation of setting the ministry teams for 2015. In anticipation of that, here is a (partial) list of the ministries of The Aledo United Methodist Church.

### Description of Teams

**Finance Team**– meet once/month, sets yearly budget, makes decisions about raising/spending money.

**Staff/Parish Relations Team**– meet quarterly, the church's "Human Resources" department, liaison between church/staff, responsible for employment issues.

**Lay Leadership Team**– meet infrequently throughout the year (mostly in the fall) to set ministry teams/team leadership for the coming year.

**Trustees Team**– meet once/month, responsible for the real property of the church– the church building itself and the parsonage.

**Missions Team**– meet quarterly, guides the mission work of the church, both locally and globally through a variety of outlets.

**Outreach Team**– meet every other month, focuses on how to reach the members of our community who do not have a church home.

**Audit Team**– annually audit the church's finances

**Endowment/Memorial Team**– meet every other month to administer both the Endowment and Memorial Funds

**Worship Team**– meet every other month, plans special worship events and discusses current trends within the worship services

**Music Ministry**– do you sing? (Choir) Play an instrument? (Praise Band, Bell Choir, piano/organ, other) Like to organize?

**Usher/Greeter Team**– Provide folks to welcome and greeter people coming to our worship services

**AWANA**– meet weekly through the school year, providing a powerful ministry to the children of Mercer County

**Youth/Children's Team**– help guide our Youth Groups with planning, dreaming and implementation.

**Children's Church**– Operate at either the 8AM and 10:15AM worship services every Sunday, providing age-appropriate worship for our youngest.

**Education Team**– meet quarterly, steers the Christian Education of the church, including Sunday School.

**United Methodist Women**– meet monthly, plans and implements social events, fundraising events and LOTS of ministries.

**United Methodist Men**– meet monthly, plans and implements social events, fundraising events and LOTS of ministries.

**Caring Hearts Team**– meet regularly, carries out an ever-growing list of ministries (food ministry, card ministry, backpack food program, etc.) designed to help meet the basic needs of people in our community and beyond.

**Wednesday Night Fellowship**– help plan/implement this weekly program.

**Funeral Luncheons**– help provide comfort to families when they need it the most

**Publication Team**– fold and sort bulletins/newsletters for distribution

**Hospitality Team**– plan and implements programs designed to make AUMC even more welcoming.

**Worship Technology Team**– run the sound board and/or computer for our worship services and special events

**Website Team**– help update and maintain the church website: myaledoumc.com

**Other**– What else would YOU like to do that's not on this list?

# Earnestly Seeking Him



Melissa Farrell— Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

**FLY OVER TO THIS VBS!**

Join us in ancient Athens, where we'll explore what life was like for the Apostle Paul on his dangerous journey to share the truth. You'll create cool projects in the Marketplace, laugh as you play Bible-times games, visit with Paul, and eat some interesting new food. Plus, you'll meet lots of fun friends!

**Location:** Aledo United Methodist Church  
(church name)

**The adventure will last:** July 13-16th, 2014  
(VBS dates)

**Celebration begins at:** Dinner 5:00pm, Program 5:30pm  
(VBS starting time)

**The day's adventure ends at:** 7:35pm  
(VBS ending time)

**For more information, call:** 309-582-2169  
(church phone number)

**ATHENS**  
Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth

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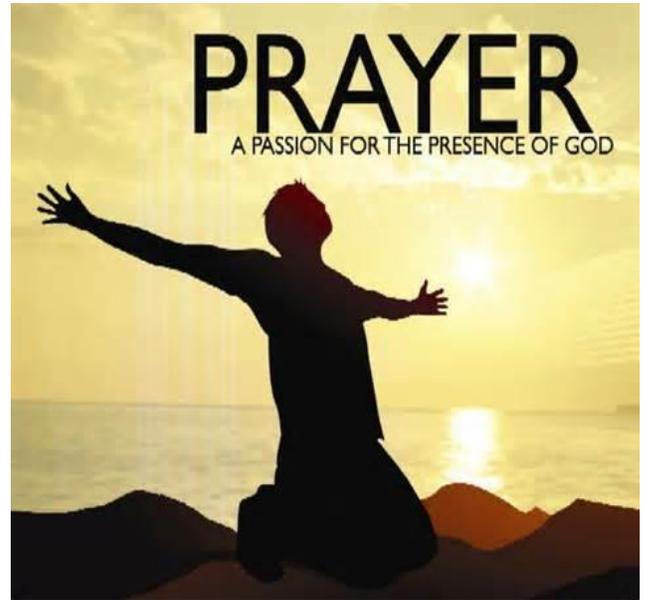
## Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

The key words in our text today are “earnestly seek Him.” Sometimes I will set a goal during my prayer time to stay and pray longer. When I have the thought to stop praying and go do something else, I will commit to stay and pray even longer. Then when the thought comes again, I will stay even longer. Earnestly, seriously, and diligently I keep praying and seeking God. Often, something very special happens when I do this. I enter into that place where the love of God begins to overwhelm me. At times, tears will stream down my face as I am being touched in a personal way by God. During these times, I begin to realize that my thoughts and prayers are directed in a different way. I become so aware of God being present, at that moment that my prayers begin to get filled with faith! Consider setting a goal today to stay in prayer a little longer, earnestly seeking God until He is found. Perhaps you could set a goal to try this every day for a week or even a month. What about for a lifetime? Our verse says He “rewards” those who earnestly seek Him.

**COME CONNECT  
WITH US  
IN PRAYER**

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



**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

by Rev. Mark

Summer is an interesting time in the life of a church. Folks go on vacation and are gone from Sunday morning worship. And when we miss Sunday morning worship...we often miss giving to the church that week. So offerings drop in the summer...but the bills do NOT! But did you know that most banks offer a “bill pay” feature that makes it easy to set up your regular church giving? You simply go to your bank’s website, set up online banking and then set up a regular “bill pay” to the church. It’s how my family makes our regular tithe and it is SO easy! I never have to worry about whether I brought the check book or not! It happens automatically...exactly the way I set it up to work!

What are your favorite things about your church? Is it the music? The worship services? The Sunday School program? The Bible studies? The Youth and Children’s ministries? The Nursery? The prayer focus? The missional focus? What would you most like to see from your church? Increased outreach? More parking? Increased facilities? More music in the services?

However you answered these questions, those answers all take two things to make them happen: 1. Committed people willing to roll up their sleeves and do God’s work, and 2. committed financial giving. Giving to your church is so much more than simply keeping the lights on and the doors open- it’s an investment in God’s ministries. Will you help your church reach out to more people; carry out more and greater ministries? Your faithful tithing can go a long way toward that goal. Please pray about how God is calling you to support your church financially. Consistent, generous giving enables your church to continue to provide the wide variety of ministries currently offered, as well as continue to expand our mission field.

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



Date	06/01	06/08	06/15	06/22
Attendance	206	198	172	207
Receipts	\$7,560.50	3,879.25	\$4,135.03	\$5,129.00