

Gleanings

December 5, 2012

A Community of Seekers Celebrating and Sharing God's Love!



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Pastor's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

New Year's Day I had the fun of enjoying the traditions of this day from persons not from the South - - - in other words, no black-eyed peas with hog jowl.

I was reminded how often we have trouble seeing past our own traditions, seeing past our own selves.

Perhaps one of our greatest struggles as humans is to learn how to move beyond the most selfish of our thoughts.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall have eternal life" is such a radical departure from selfishness. This idea of Love so huge that it bypasses the one with all the power and the Gift is all for the powerless.

Sometimes we call it "random acts of kindness" --- just doing kind deeds for someone just because that is what we are doing.

Why not forgive that grudge today? Why not get over yourself? Why not let go of the old past pain and let yourself be free, free, free!!! to live Love.

Happy New Year!

Grace, Melisa

Giving

December 25	Received	\$12,995.25
January 1	Received	\$9,535.00
Needed:		\$15,728.00

Attendance

December 24

7:00 Service 205
11:00 Service 69

December 25

10:00 am Service 96

January 1

10:00 am Service 122

Youth News

Hey AP Youth it is almost time for "Warmth In Winter"! The dates are January 27, 28 and 29. This is the largest local United Methodist youth event of the year! If any youth would like to attend please see Randy ASAP to get more detail. www.warmthinwinter.com

Prayer Ministry Change

The Prayer Ministry will now be meeting on the second Sunday of each month at 9:15 am in the Library. The prayer ministry is open to anyone who wants to join us. You can join us for every meeting, or whenever you choose. Please meet us in the library at 9:15 am on January 8, February 12, March 11, and every second Sunday of the month. We will share prayer concerns and spend time in prayer.

"For I know the plans I have for you"—this is the Lord's declaration —"plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. You will call to Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13.

Pastor's Fund

The offerings given to our Pastor's Fund support our neighbors in need. Some of our church family have had emergency needs. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is established to meet needs. Please give as you are able.

Letters for Josh McClellan

Please support Josh McClellan while he is on duty in Afghanistan. Josh's address in Afghanistan is:
Captain Joshua C. McClellan
HMLA 369
Unit 40081
FPO AP 96427-0081

NEEDED: Responsible person to setup/take down our Coffee Hour. Job requires set up and take down of light refreshments, coffee urns, cups, plates and napkins. Supplies provided by APMUMC. To apply contact Alisa Mueller at 406-1040 or alisacmueller@gmail.com.

Second Harvest Food Bank

Please bring whatever non-perishable food item you wish on Sunday. If you prefer you may purchase gift cards . These are used by the people working at St. Philips Episcopal Church to purchase milk, eggs, bread, and meat. You may drop those off at St. Philips or our church office.

AP team works at the Food Bank on the 4th Thursday, contact the office, 883-2321, if you would like to get involved.

VBS Meeting January 8

It is hard to believe it, but it will soon be time to start planning for VBS 2012. Our theme is "Operation Overboard", dive in and discover God's underwater universe. We will have our first meeting to plan for VBS on Sunday, January 8, after the 10:30 pm service in the preschool-1st grade Sunday School classroom. If you are interested in helping with VBS, please make plans to attend this meeting. It takes many loving hands to make VBS a success. There will be snacks and door prizes at the meeting. Please contact Christy Earl if you have any questions. VBS dates are June 24-28.

Guest Minister

On Sunday, February 5, Rev. John Vaughan, husband of Pastor Melisa, will be our guest minister. We look forward to hearing the message he will bring on that day.

Awakening

Thank you to everyone who came to the Awakening on December 18th. We collected \$203.00 for the pastor's discretionary fund. The next Awakening will be Sunday, January 15, at 6:30 p.m. There will be a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Youth Meals

Please contact Christy Earl at c.earl@apmumc.net if you would be able to prepare a meal for our youth at 5:00 p.m. on January 22, February 12, or February 26. We need dinner for about a dozen youth and their leaders.

Dear People,

I wrote this on the occasion of my first visit to the Holy Land. I wanted to share it with you. Grace, Pastor Melisa

The Rev. Melisa Derseweh is an ordained elder in The Tennessee Conference of The United Methodist Church and serves as pastor of Charlotte-Fagan United Methodist Church in Charlotte, TN. She is a 2004 graduate of the School of Theology. Her late husband, The Rev. David Bain Hawkins, an ordained elder in The Tennessee Conference was Director of Administrative Affairs for the Conference at the time of his death.

This gift of pilgrimage I was given makes me continually more aware of the many gifts already given me.

Tiberius—We sat in the beauty of the night drinking in our surroundings and the deep friendship that comes from deep sharing. The day past involved new sights so familiar through our study of Scripture, in life exactly what I had pictured in my mind, yet now carried more in my heart. But these people! These precious persons involved in leading the church, living full (and sometimes too busy) lives, now gathered through this grant and by God's grace in a night of breezes across the Sea of Galilee, disciples sitting on the seashore drinking wine.

Bethlehem—Israeli soldiers controlling access to the place of our Lord's birth. Graffiti on the buildings crying out for peace. Realizing my U.S. passport entitled me to more than persons who lived in the shadow of the newly built wall surrounding this place, imprisoning those within and limiting those who would visit, those who would bring money and therefore possibilities, to those inside.

Jerusalem—the name itself speaks to me of new life, new heaven and earth, *resurrection*. Walking the narrow, winding roads of the Old City, kneeling in The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, praying at the Garden Tomb: my heart ached in this ancient city of the stories of the faith. Incense reminded me of death and the scents of the flowers brought to mind life.

I had buried my husband almost exactly a year before I spent time in The Holy City. Never have I doubted that I will see him again in the resurrection. Never have I lost faith in the God of love who gave me life and gave me life abundantly in life with David, and never had my pain been more exquisitely focused on the pain of waiting for resurrection than in this sacred place.

And here in this place of soldiers and merchants, children playing soccer in the streets and tourists from around the globe, I came to a new, more profound peace in the waiting. In ancient Jerusalem, time itself had a different quality, a quality that gives me renewed strength in the journey, even in the waiting that transforms into abundant living.

Resurrection.

—Melisa J. Derseweh

Room in the Inn

If you are interested in becoming a part of the team assisting with Room in the Inn please contact Debbie in the office, 883-2321, d.holtz@apmumc.net.

We are in need of socks, ladies underwear (size 6, 7, 8, 9), backpacks, thermal underwear, thermal socks, and bras. Please place your donations in the bin outside the nursery. The clothes closet also needs slightly used, clean winter clothing, shoes, and coats. You may place those in the bin or outside the clothes closet next to the youth room.

Wonderful Wednesdays

5:30-6:15 pm Dinner : Make reservations for the catered meal by Courtney's by signing up or calling the church, 883-2321, or cancellations by noon on Tuesday. Donations for the meal are \$7.50 per adult and \$3.25 per child age 10 and under, and \$20.00 maximum per family.

Menu: 1-11-12 roast beef, loaded potatoes, green beans, salad, dessert, drink
 1-18-12: pork tenderloin, sweet potatoes, lima beans, salad, dessert, drink

6:30 pm BLAST (Children's activities), Youth Activities, Jubilee Ringers (Handbell Choir), Pastor's Study
 Nursery available

7:40-8:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

XYZ Luncheon Meeting

The first XYZ Meeting in 2012 is Tuesday the 10th. It will be a Pot Luck at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Ed Evans showing slides of his Christmas trip to England.

If you have information you would like to see in the Gleanings newsletter or in the bulletin, send it to: d.holtz@apmumc.net Deadline is 12:00 pm on Mondays.



Gleanings

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Next publication of Gleanings will be January 17, 2012.

January Ushers

8:15 am Worship Service
Ernest Mills, Captain
10:30 am Worship Service
Chuck Bernyk–Captain
Arch Hosick - Greeter
Joe Page, Meg Peto, Tom Sarver

Children’s Church Leaders for January

8 Jenn Newman, Lori Griggs
15 Mike Pride, Doug Griggs
22 Debbie Pride, Larry Jackson

Lectionary Reading

January 8: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29 (UMH 761); Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11
January 15: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (UMH 854); 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1-43-51

PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER

McKendree Residents: Mary McMullin (166B, Health Care Center), Shirley Mraz (2nd fl. Health Care), Mary Lou McAlpine (2nd fl. Health Care), Nancy Bostick (Manor), Tina Owen (Manor 209, 871-8774), Judy Basse, (Manor, 210)

Belvedere Commons (Benton Village): Donna Poag

Vanderbilt Hospital: Rev. Jeff Fryer

Vanderbilt/Stallworth Rehab: Ed Lockett

Sycamores Terrace Retirement Community: Dan & Virginia McClendon 1427 Lebanon Pike, Rm. 232, Nashville, TN 37210

At Home: Jean Scalf, Bette Johnson, Adelaide Niederhauser, Lois Overfield, Betty Brown, Mary Ann Foley