

Student Ministries

Alison Bocking, 758-6508, abocking@germantownumc.org
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Farewell for Alison Bocking. Join us tonight as we host a special “Goodbye Element” for Student Ministry Director Alison Bocking. This will take place during normal Element hours from 6-8 p.m. in the OLEC gym. All youth, parents and church members are encouraged to join us as we say our goodbyes to Alison and celebrate the time and energy she has devoted to this program and to the spiritual formation of the students who have been under her care for the past six years. For more information, please contact Jason Baker at 438-8781. *Please note that Element will be on break from December 19-January 9.*

Upcoming Events

Manna House, December 20 and 27
Breakfast for the Homeless, January 2
Element Winter Kickoff Event, January 9

Children’s Ministries

Lauren Boswell, 758-6512, lboswell@germantownumc.org
Janelle Crist, 758-6525, jcrist@germantownumc.org

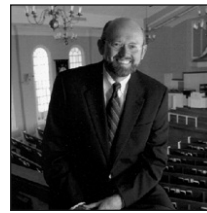
Elementary Grace Place. Grace Place is the Sunday School program for children in senior kindergarten through 5th grade, offered from 9:40-10:40 or 11:00-12:00. All children gather in the Chapel for assembly, then proceed to classrooms by grade level groups for experiential learning. This Sunday we continue our rotation theme, “Advent: Good News!” Children will learn that the first people to hear the good news of Jesus (Mary, Joseph, and Zechariah) had a special role to play in introducing that news to the world.

Missions

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow! The United Methodist Neighborhood Centers of Memphis this year had hoped to fill 275 Thanksgiving Baskets to deliver to area families who need a helping hand. With the help of Germantown UMC and other generous donors, UMNC filled and delivered over 400 baskets! Thanks to all who participated.

Stop Hunger Now: Operation Sharehouse Meal Packing. Did you know that for as little as 25 cents, a bag filled with rice, soy, and dried beans can feed a hungry person? Our church is now collecting money so that we may purchase food to be used at “Operation Sharehouse Meal Packing” on **MLK day, Monday, January 17.** Drop your spare change in the piggy banks located around the church! You may also give online at germantownumc.org. This will be a family-oriented mission event on MLK day whereby everyone can participate in packaging up to 100,000 meals to be sent to underdeveloped countries. You may choose to work either the morning (8:30-11 a.m.) or afternoon (1-3:30 p.m.) shift. Contact Renee Pearl at 754-7216 or rpearl@germantownumc.org for more information.

By Rick Kirchoff



For most of my tenure at Germantown UMC, I have had the privilege of reaching the Memphis area radio audience through a regular 60-second radio broadcast called Perceptions®. I continue to receive emails and letters about how these programs have brought encouragement and hope to listeners. With my retirement in February, I will no longer be doing Perceptions.

However, I have compiled some of my favorites in *Perceptions, Volume II*. You might want to purchase a copy for yourself or copies to give as gifts this Christmas season. These messages are uplifting and are designed to calm our hearts and renew our spirits.

The cost is just \$8 each and you may purchase your book at germantownumc.org or pick up a copy at our Welcome Center during the week and on Sundays.

Germantown United Methodist Church
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December 12, 2010

Announcements

Habitat for Humanity Christmas Tree Sale. Trees are still available for sale TODAY at the Owings Life Enrichment Center parking lot from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. We have quite a few trees we still need to sell! Please help our Habitat team from Germantown UMC and consider buying a fresh cut Fraser Fir tree!

Calendar Sales in Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. The Friends in Faith Sunday school class will be selling re-useable calendars in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall today! These calendars may be used year after year and are great Christmas gifts and stocking-stuffers! The cost is \$15 each or two calendars for \$25. The proceeds from this sale will go to GUMC-sponsored missions. Please stop by and pick up one or more of these great gift ideas!

College Mingle & Merriment. All current college students are invited to join us for our “College Mingle & Merriment” next Sunday, December 19, from 6-9 p.m. at the home of Carly Warner (2454 Netherhall Cove). Please bring your favorite sweet or salty holiday munchie to share. Feel free to invite other college folks who’ve been in our midst. For more information, contact Alison Bocking at 482-6162 or abocking@germantownumc.org.

Christmas Fund at GUMC. Every year, generous and thoughtful Sunday School classes and individual church members request to offer something special for specific members of the GUMC staff who might have special needs during the Christmas season. In an effort to more equitably deliver Christmas “cheer” to those on staff who might have special needs, regardless of their job description, the church has established a “Christmas Fund” for this purpose. If you would like to donate to this fund, please see Sharon Panis or send your check – with “Christmas Fund” in the memo line to the attention of Don Rhoads or Sharon Panis. Several Staff Parish Committee members, with help from Rev. Rebecca Luter and Don Rhoads, will identify those with special needs and make the gifts around December 15.

Highlights of Paul's Journeys Cruise. Rev. Steve Atkins and Rev. Rick Kirchoff will be leading a tour of Paul's Journeys via Royal Caribbean on a 14-day trip leaving May 10, 2011. Countries visited include Egypt, Greece, Italy, and Turkey with pre and post-tours available. Visit www.eo.travelwithus.com for trip details. For more information, contact Rev. Steve Atkins at 754-7216 or satkins@germantownumc.org. Brochures are available at the Information Center.

Medicare and Social Security Basics: A workshop on Social Security basics will be held on Thursday, December 16, at 7 p.m. in Room 339. Understanding how Social Security and Medicare work is an important topic for those in or headed for retirement. This free educational workshop will cover many important issues affecting older Americans. Speakers for this event will be fee-only financial planner Celia Brugge, MBA, and insurance agent Jan Speare, MBA. There is no cost and no obligation, but seating is limited. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Jan at 861-6872.

The United Methodist Men will NOT meet in December as many church and social activities keep us more than busy. The next scheduled meeting will be Saturday, January 8, 2011.

Health and Wellness Speaker. The Health and Wellness Ministry Team is proud to welcome Dr. Frank Fennaughty, Director of Emergency Medicine at Methodist Germantown as our January speaker. His topic is "When do I really need to go to the ER?" All are welcomed to attend this talk held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 9 at 9:40 a.m.

Stephen Ministry Leader Training. Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They use both words and deeds to express Christ's care for others—listening and comforting, calling on the training they have received, and employing the tools of faith. If this job description fits your personal goals for ministry, please consider becoming a Stephen Minister. A new training class will begin Wednesday, February 2. For more information contact Rev. Steve Atkins at 754-7216, ext. 125, or satkins@germantownumc.org.

Confirmation Class Book Drive. Got children's books you no longer need? Help a child develop a love for reading by donating new or gently used books to the GUMC Confirmation Class Book Drive for Children's books (kindergarten-3rd grade level). We're also collecting

new school items such as stickers, erasers, pencils, sharpeners, markers, crayons, highlighters, etc., that can be given as prizes to students. Help the confirmands reach their goal of 1,000 children's books to reach over 500 students in 37 schools in the Memphis City Schools tutoring program. Collection will be through January 3.

Volunteers Extraordinaire. Older Adult Ministry volunteers are a unique group of people. They have a love for the elderly and the infirm, plus a heart for extending themselves in ministry to them. There are a variety of ways you can become a part of this vital ministry of the church—arranging and delivering flowers, serving homebound communion, knitting prayer shawls, transporting people to Sunday services, or just visiting. The need is ever expanding since about ONE THIRD of the congregation is over the age of 65, and this is the fastest growing segment of the population in the country. So, become a part of this vital ministry by contacting Beverly Rhoads at 758-6513 or brhoads@germantownumc.org.

Virtual Dementia Tour. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a sensory or mobility impairment? You will have a unique opportunity to experience some of these challenges at the Health Fair to be held at the OLEC on January 11, 2011. This "tour" is for families, caregivers, or anyone who wants to better understand the effects of the impairments on a person. Please contact Beverly Rhoads at 758-6513 or brhoads@germantownumc.org to sign up for a 10-minute "tour" that day.

Older Adults

These events are for everyone—singles and couples. Our activities are open to anyone age 55 and older regardless of church membership

Senior News—XYZs January Event! Join us when we hear *Rhapsody in Boop* at the Germantown Performing Arts Centre on Sunday, January 23, 2011. Drive yourself; the doors open at 1:30 for a 2 p.m. performance. The cost is \$20 per person. Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Louise McGhee, 755-3463, or Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, to make reservations before Monday, December 20.

Senior News—January Brown Bag Lunch Series! Lt. Angie Lewis, Germantown Police Department, and Jody Dwyer, Germantown Fire Marshal will discuss "How to Be Safe in Your Home." This presentation will be Friday, January 7, 2011, in the Fellowship Hall. The program starts at 11 a.m. with lunch at noon. Bring your own

sack lunch; the church will supply the beverages. Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, for more information. No reservations are needed. There will be a crossing guard on West Street to help with overflow parking.

Health and Recreation

Carissa Algea, Director, 753-3100, calgea@germantownumc.org
Patrick Peavy, Sports, 753-3100, ppeavy@germantownumc.org
Gracie Leetham, Admin. Asst. 753-3100, gleetham@germantownumc.org
Erica Puryear, Nursery, 753-3100, epuryear@germantownumc.org

Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC)

2323 West Street • 901-753-3100

Hours: Monday-Thursday 6:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Fridays 6:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturdays 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Childcare at the OLEC. The OLEC Nursery will be open from 9-11 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays through the end of the year (excluding 12/22, 12/27, and 12/29). Please contact Erica Puryear, OLEC Nursery Coordinator, with questions or to inquire about making a special reservation.

New! Restorative & Relaxing Yoga. We are happy to announce that Dr. Bob Hughes has returned to the OLEC! His gentle yoga classes are just what you need to relax and unwind. Focus on deep breathing, stretching, and simple poses that will restore your body and relax your mind. Classes meet at the OLEC on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Special pricing is required. Please contact Bob Hughes at 682-0855 to sign up.

Start the New Year Off Right! On January 11, 2011, we will host a "Health and Fitness Fair" from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. There will be group exercise class demos every 15 minutes, free health information, flu shots and B12 shots, raffle prizes, free "ask a personal trainer" sessions, and free chair massages!

United Methodist Women

Ladies! Join the Germantown UMW for "Carols & Casseroles" on Tuesday, December 14 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite side dish to share and enjoy carolling by GUMC's own Jingle Belles! A ham will be provided. We'll also install our 2011 officers. We need to know if you're coming, so please make your reservation by noon, December 13 at germantownumc.org or call 754-7216, mailbox 305.