

Children's Ministries

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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. We are now studying "Lent: The Garden of Gethsemane." The children will learn that Jesus received strength from trusting God. We too can be strengthened when we trust God.

VBS: June 13-17, 2011. America loves food . . . and TV shows about food! Who's your favorite Food Network star? We are bringing on the zany kitchen fun at GUMC's "Shake it up Café: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe" Vacation Bible School. Children age 4 through rising 6th grade will be chefs-in-training as they explore and experience recipes for living out God's Word. Registration begins April 1. Volunteers are needed in all areas. If interested, contact a Children's Ministry Director.

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 April Event. Join us when we hear Rev. Nancy H. Sehested at the Lenten Preaching Series at Calvary Episcopal Church, eat lunch at their Waffle Shop, and tour the new Le Bonheur Children's Hospital on Monday, April 11, 2011. We depart at 10 a.m., and the cost is \$3 plus lunch on your own. Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Louise McGhee, 755-3463, or Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, to make reservations before Friday, March 18.

Senior News—April Brown Bag Lunch Series. Linda Brittingham from The Speakers Bureau will share pictures and stories when she presents "As Our Presidents Come and Go and Our First Ladies' Trials and Triumphs." This presentation will be Friday, April 1, 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.*

2010 Financial and 2011 Stewardship Results

Last year, as many know, our church experienced an economy-related deficit beginning in approximately mid 2010. While expense management remained on track (or slightly below budget) throughout the year, weakening revenue threatened our financial situation as the year progressed. The Church identified and implemented a variety of cost saving measures in the last two months of 2010. We extended a "+5%" request in which our giving members were asked to increase their annual gift to the church by 5%. Our members responded enthusiastically; adding over \$115,000 of additional revenue. In November, the church applied just over \$16,000 of contingency funding to the deficit, and discontinued apportionment payments in an effort to finish the year in a balanced state. As the holiday season approached, our members again responded with prayerful and increased giving. Because of our members' generosity, the church was able to avoid any further erosion of contingency funds, restore our apportionment payments to 100% and finish the year with a positive balance of nearly \$20,000 – that was re-applied to the contingency fund.

We are now wrapping up a successful stewardship campaign for 2011. We have thus far received pledges from 619 of our member families for a total of \$2,769,809.00 at an average annual pledge of \$4,475. Allowing for a small amount of shrinkage in the pledged amount, due to moves, job losses, etc., our Church Board recently approved a 2011 balanced budget that includes over \$2.5M of pledged income plus income from other sources, while assuming 100% apportionment payments and a systematic replenishment of the contingency fund. While the new budget has trimmed expense in staffing, facility and other areas, it does not reduce programming expense from that expended in 2010.

As Rev. Jack Henton stated in his recent sermon, we rejoice in our 619 members who have pledged to support our church in 2011. We are also very grateful that some of our members, who are not able to pledge, continue to give in a non-pledged fashion. We encourage those who can pledge and have not yet initiated a 2011 pledge to do so, no matter how great or small the pledge. This greatly helps our church to plan and budget more effectively for the extension of God's work through the ministry of Germantown United Methodist Church.



Ash Wednesday, March 9

Beginning Ash Wednesday Rev. Richard Smith will begin sending daily devotions via email. These devotions, titled *Ponderings*, will include a Scripture passage, thoughts from Richard, and questions for further reflection. We encourage you, if you are not already receiving newsletters from us, to sign up at germantownumc.org or make a note in the Friendship Pad today.

What is Ash Wednesday? Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Each year, Christians gather to remember their own mortality and to commit to living as more fully devoted followers of Christ. Members of the congregation come forward and receive a smudge of ashes from a pastor in the form of a cross.

Our Ash Wednesday Service will take place in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, and will be led by Rev. Richard Smith. His topic will be "Taking On Rather Than Giving Up" based on Matthew 5:13-16.

Join a Small Group Study During Lent

The Way of Transforming Discipleship is a 6-week study designed to cause you to question what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Christ. Sessions include: *Knowing Who We Are*, *Changing from the Inside*, *Listening to the Groans*, *Experiencing the God Who Heals*, and *Discovering Community Together*. Each day you will spend time in Bible study, prayer and reflection along with weekly meetings.

Groups will meet beginning the week of March 20 and conclude with a retreat on April 29-30. If you are interested in being in a group, register with Jessica Webster at 754-7216 and indicate your top three choices on day and time to meet. (*We intend to have multiple groups meeting at a variety of times and locations.*) If you are interested in facilitating a group of 4-8 individuals contact Rev. Rebecca Luter at rluter@germantownumc.org or 754-7216. We will be having a facilitator's training on Wednesday, March 9, at 5:30 p.m., just prior to the Ash Wednesday service.

Announcements

Third Annual Grizzlies Outing. Come out and support our Memphis Grizzlies on Saturday, March 19, as they take on the Indiana Pacers. Game time is at 7 p.m. but we get to watch the pre-game shootaround (closed to the general public) starting at 5 p.m. Tickets are Club Level seats and are only \$35 each! Purchase your tickets online at germantownumc.org or in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall today. *Today is the last chance to purchase tickets at the discounted rate.*

Grief Recovery Workshop. *Forward*, a grief workshop for those who have lost a spouse begins Thursday, March 24, 7-8:30 p.m. The classes deal with subjects ranging from the physical aspects of grief to methods for taking charge of your new life. To register, contact Laura Meanwell at 754-7216 or lmeanwell@germantownumc.org.

Needed: Room Air Conditioner for VBS. The church is in need of a window air conditioner for use during this summer's Vacation Bible School event. If you have a working unit that you'd be able to donate to the church contact Don Rhoads at drhoads@germantownumc.org.

Health and Wellness Speaker. Our March 27 speaker is Dr. Amal Salloum who will be discussing "Drug Interactions, which include Drug-Drug, Drug-Food, and Drug-Supplements." She will be available to answer questions following her presentation. Everyone is invited to attend on Sunday, March 27, at 9:45 in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. All adults are invited to attend.

United Methodist Women

A "Spectacular Bridge Benefit" will be held Tuesday, April 12, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the OLEC. Bridge will be the main focus, and all supplies will be furnished. Other card/board games are welcome. There will be door prizes, a Trash 'n' Treasure booth, and a gourmet lunch. For more information call Mina Elliot at 624-4915 or Alice McMurray at 754-0605. Email jandacus@comcast.net to receive a registration form. This benefit is sponsored by the Germantown United Methodist Women. All profits go toward missions in the Memphis area.

Kairos Cookies. Thank you to all who baked cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry Weekend was held March 3-6 at West Tennessee State Prison in Henning, Tenn. The objective of Kairos is to change the correctional environment through the positive message of the Gospel. Our church family baked more than 100 dozen cookies. The Memphis Emmaus Community, supporters of this ministry, greatly appreciates your contribution. —*Nancy Cofield*

Adult Education

Letters to the Church at Corinth. Join Rev. Steve Atkins for a study of 1st and 2nd Corinthians on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. in Room 339. The class begins March 16 and will meet through May 4. Registration is not required and there is no cost. Participants should bring their Bibles (and a friend)!

Beth Moore Bible Study. Beginning Wednesday, March 23, this group will meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:45-11:45 a.m. in Room 339 to study *When Godly People Do Ungodly Things: Arming Yourself in the Age of Seduction*. This 7-week study facilitated by Chesley Porteous will end on May 4. The cost of materials is \$25 and child care is available at \$4 per class. Register at germantownumc.org or contact Jessica Webster at jwebster@germantownumc.org or 758-5611.

Men's Ministries

United Methodist Men—Spring Kickoff. The United Methodist Men will have a Spring Kickoff Breakfast on Saturday, March 12, at 8:15 a.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Rev. Richard Smith will be the featured speaker. This meeting is to help reenergize our United Methodist Men with a "hearty breakfast," good fellowship and a discussion of some special projects in which the men of the church may become involved. The cost of the breakfast is \$5 and reservations are requested. These may be made online at germantownumc.org or by calling the church office at 754-7216.

Missions

Rev. Deborah Smith, 754-7216, dsmith@germantownumc.org

Caldwell-Guthrie Update. Since the end of September, 36 members of our church have worked with 60 kindergarten-3rd graders at Caldwell-Guthrie Elementary School. Thanks to all who give an hour a week or longer of their time to serve these children. We have an upcoming need for proctors for the TCAP exam. If you are available to help April 11-15 from 9-11 a.m. contact Jackie Flaum at jrflaum@yahoo.com or Ruth King at ruthmking@bellsouth.net.

Habitat for Humanity. The Spring 2011 Build for Habitat is here. We start our 33rd and 34th houses on Friday, March 11 and Saturday, March 12. The first weekend is the most fun as we erect walls and put up trusses and roofing. All over the age of 16 are welcome to help with construction, but there are lots of things to do for the unskilled as well. Just bring a loving heart and come join the fun. For directions to the site call Doug Warner at 755-9729.

Student Ministries

Jason Baker, 758-6515, jbaker@germantownumc.org

Element, our version of UM Youth Fellowship, meets on Sunday nights in the OLEC from 6-8 p.m. A snack supper is available for \$3. Join us tonight for a Discovery Weekend slide show, exciting games, and to hear from a very special guest speaker! You won't want to miss this one!

Limits Spots Available for Missions Trips. You are well aware at this point that we have a wonderful summer lined up for students of Germantown United Methodist Church. We will have the opportunity to experience and participate in the work of the Kingdom of God in Denver, Colorado (YouthWorks), in the Cumberland Mountain region of Tennessee (Mountain TOP), in Lineville, Alabama (SIFAT Learn & Serve), and right here in our own backyard in the Binghampton community (Service Over Self). Please note the new extended deadline for each trip under "Open Event Registrations" at germantownumc.org.

Update on New Health & Recreation Ministry Director Search

Immediately following the departure of Carissa Algea (Director of Health and Recreation Ministry), a survey was done to determine attributes that might enrich the existing job description – and the successful candidate – for this position. This done, a search committee was formed to conduct the selection process. The committee has had two planning meetings; during which a process that identifies critical questions and links them to an evaluation matrix to, in turn, yield a truly equitable selection process has been planned and developed.

Our thanks to members Henry Evans and Joel Myers for their help with this process. We have obtained the resumes of 12 qualified candidates and determined a "short list" to be interviewed during the week of March 7. (Resumes are still being accepted.) An interview evening may also be needed during the week of March 14 due to Ash Wednesday (March 9) and the committee's desire to include all short list candidates in the process.

We should have our top 2-3 candidates identified by the week of March 14 for presentation to our clergy. Our clergy will then do a final interview during the week of March 21 in order that we can make an offer and have a new director by the end of the month.