

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. Because of Spring Break, classes will be combined (K-2nd grade) and (3rd-5th grade) for special programming.

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 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 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.*

Senior News: AARP Offers Free Tax Preparation Assistance. AARP TaxAide provides free tax filing and counseling for low and moderate income individuals and families with priority to those over age 60. There are six sites in Shelby County that are open in the mornings until April 15. For more information, you may contact church member Ron Wiggins at 861-0019 or email him at subcapt@yahoo.com.

Daddy Crow's is Coming!

We are very excited about this year's Daddy Crow's Jubilee! This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, from 5-7 p.m. at the OLEC, and promises to be a fun-filled evening with all you can eat crawfish and all the fixins', bluegrass music, games for the yung'ins, The Ragin Cajun Crawfish Eating Contest, and our very successful silent auction.

One of our major fundraisers sponsored by our students, Daddy Crow's Jubilee provides significant income to supplement our summer mission trips. Proceeds from the Germantown Festival, the ACTS Dinner Theatre, and Daddy Crow's enable us to maintain a dynamic summer mission program, as well as provide opportunities for leadership among our students through worship, service and learning. This summer, our teens will serve the people in the rural Cumberland Plateau of Tennessee, the city of Lineville, Alabama and the Binghampton community right here in Memphis.

You can help make this year's auction a success by:

- donating a fabulous item, unique artwork, vacation home/condo or trip, or theme basket for the silent auction
- sponsoring one of your fellow church members in the Ragin' Cajun Crawfish Eating Contest. Entry fee is \$50.
- participating in the auction
- buying tickets online beginning March 18, or at the Welcome Center and in the Fellowship Hall starting March 20 (\$12/adults, \$6/kids and \$30/family)

Support the Student Ministry and attend Daddy Crow's Jubilee. To donate an item or basket for the silent auction, please email Debbie Churchey at dchurch@comcast.net OR to help with the cookin', please email Jay McKinney at jvmckinney@comcast.net.

Let's Serve During Lent

March 6-April 16, 2011

Many people are familiar with giving up something for Lent. Lent is traditionally a time of self-reflection marked by fasting, prayer, study and/or service, offered as an attempt to grow in likeness to Christ. During this Lenten season our congregation has many opportunities to reach out in service to those less fortunate in our community. While giving up a habit or something for Lent, take on something as well, such as selfless service to others. Through service to others we become more fully devoted followers of Christ.

Please check out our opportunities for service listing at germantownumc.org or pick up a brochure at the Information Center. As you look through this brochure, pray about where you think God is calling you to serve. For more information, please contact Valerie Foster at 758-6517 or vfoster@germantownumc.org.



Join a Small Group Study During Lent

"If we knew how to listen to God, if we knew how to look around us, our whole life would become prayer." – Michael Quoist

The Way of Transforming Discipleship is a six-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 online at germantownumc.org or contact Jessica Webster at 754-7216 and indicate your choice on day and time to meet. Choose from these times: Sunday evening (6-8 p.m.), Monday evening (6-8 p.m.), Tuesday daytime (12:15-2:15 p.m.), Tuesday evening (5:30-7:30 p.m.), Wednesday evening (6-8 p.m.), Thursday morning (10-12 noon), and Thursday evening (6:30-8:30 p.m.), Saturday afternoon (3-5 p.m. – in a home, young children welcome).

Embark on a journey this Lent to become more like Christ.

"Within us all there is a yearning that nothing, no thing, no created object, no person, no pleasure can satisfy. We are athirst for the living God." – David Rensberger

Announcements

Third Annual Grizzlies Outing. *Online ticket sales have been extended through March 13.* Come out and support Head Coach Lionel Hollins and your Memphis Grizzlies as they take on the Indiana Pacers on Saturday, March 19 at 7 p.m. at the FedEx Forum. Plus, arrive early to watch the pre-game shootaround (closed to the general public) starting at 5 p.m. Tickets are Club Level and are \$35 each. After March 13, please contact Robert Salek at 205-1463 or rsalek@grizzlies.com to purchase tickets.

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. The topic of the first session will be "Getting Past the Loneliness" by Rev. Dennis Neenan. Register online at germantownumc.org or contact Laura Meanwell at 754-7216 or lmeanwell@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.” All adults are welcome to attend on Sunday, March 27, at 9:45 in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall.

Inquirer’s Class. Want to learn more about Germantown United Methodist Church? Wonder where you might fit in? Never been to a United Methodist Church before? Thinking about joining? Our next class is Sunday, April 10 at 9:40 a.m. Contact Rev. Julie McKenna at 754-7216 or jmckenna@germantownumc.org for more information.

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 or download a copy at germantownumc.org. This benefit is sponsored by the Germantown United Methodist Women. All profits go toward missions in the Memphis area.

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. Bring their Bibles (and a friend)!

Beth Moore Bible Study: *When Godly People Do Ungodly Things: Arming Yourself in the Age of Seduction*

In this guide to authentic repentance and restoration, Beth examines why devoted followers of Jesus Christ can fall into the traps of Satan, how to recognize when that has happened, and how to find the way back.

This seven-week Bible study will be offered on two days:

- Wednesdays beginning March 23 and ending May 4, from 9:45 a.m. until 11:45 a.m., facilitated by Chesley Porteus. Childcare will be available at a cost of \$1 per child per hour.
- Thursdays beginning March 24 and ending May 5, from noon until 2:00 p.m., facilitated by Jeanne Miller. Childcare will NOT be available for this session. The cost of the study is \$25 for materials. Register at germantownumc.org or contact Jessica Webster at jwebster@germantownumc.org or 758-5611.

What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday prior to Easter. In the Jewish tradition, the Seder meal is the family remembrance of Passover, the festival celebrating God delivering the Hebrew people from bondage in Egypt over 3,000 years ago. It was probably the celebration of the Passover that brought Jesus and his disciples to the upper room on the night before his crucifixion.

This year, we will again celebrate a **Christian Seder Meal**. Our Seder meal will take place on Maundy Thursday, April 21, at 6 p.m. in the OLEC. We will be led in the order of our meal by Rev. Rebecca Luter. Because this is traditionally a family meal at home, there are special parts for children, and families are encouraged to attend. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, and may be purchased at germantownumc.org and in the Mike Wilson Fellowship beginning March 27. Free childcare (with pizza) available for children age 4 and under.

Volunteers are needed to help with ticket sales on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall (between services) beginning March 27. Help is also needed with cleanup after the Seder meal. Please contact Renee Pearl at 754-7216 or rpearl@germantownumc.org to volunteer.

Student Ministries

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

Element, our version of United Methodist Youth Fellowship, meets on Sunday nights in the OLEC from 6-8 p.m. A snack supper is available for \$3. Due to Spring Break, we will not be having Element tonight. Have a wonderful break and we look forward to seeing you back on March 20!

SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology.) The registration deadline for our SIFAT trip is March 30. Limited spots are available for this trip, and it promises to be an incredible experience. The Learn and Serve summer camp is for students in grades 6-12 (must have completed 6th grade). Their goal is for students to learn about diverse cultures, differing living conditions, and the technologies that SIFAT uses throughout the world. Participants will learn and serve in a variety of ways during their week at L&S. The 5-day adventure will engage campers in the Global Village Experience and cross cultural activities including Aldea Experience, an overnight stay in a village in a variety of developing world settings and in the Slum Experience, where participants can encounter conditions faced daily by the urban poor. This five-day adventure will also include local mission projects, learning appropriate technologies, morning devotions, praise and worship, and an outdoor adventure course. **Note that Confirmands are eligible for this trip!** This is a great way to connect with your soon-to-be youth community. To register, visit germantownumc.org and look under “Open Event Registrations” at the bottom of the home page.

Missions

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

Caldwell-Guthrie Update. 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 now underway as we are working on our 33rd and 34 houses! 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. Mark your calendar for our annual Pancake Breakfast to benefit Habitat on Palm Sunday, April 17, at the Owings Life Enrichment Center.

GUMC Kenya Mission to Maua, Kenya: July 7-21, 2011. This will be the fifth year that GUMC has sent individuals to Kenya to help African AIDS Orphans. The team will build a home for a AIDS orphaned family, deliver needed medical supplies to Maua Methodist Hospital, help with hospital maintenance and repairs, give care to hospital patients, conduct a Vacation Bible School, lead a Chapel service, and sponsor a group of AIDS orphans for a two day course of study at the Methodist Bio-Intensive Agricultural Training Center. Fifteen members compose the 2011 team: Carrie Allison, Rich and Terry Aust, Anna Clark, Ed Clark, Amy Fink, Catherine Livesay, Norris McGehee, Leda Phillips, Rev. Deborah Smith, Gary Pruitt, Barry and Susan Hillebert Smith, Colene Watkins, and Bill and Cathy Whitaker. We humbly ask for your prayer and financial support as we prepare for this mission over the next few months.

Update on Health & Recreation Ministry Director Search

On 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 14 qualified candidates and determined a “short list” to be interviewed on March 21-22. (Resumes are still being accepted.) We will identify our top 2-3 candidates at this time for presentation to our Senior Pastor and Lead Associate. They will then do a final interview and selection in order that we can make an offer and have a new director hopefully by the end of the month.