

820 Evergreen Street · Starkville, Mississippi 39759 · (662) 323-4657  
www.starkvillealdersgateumc.org

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*A FEW WORDS FROM BROTHER GEORGE:*

February remains a very busy month in the life of the Church. The Transfiguration of The Lord Sunday, Valentine's Day and Scouting Sunday all fall on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Ash Wednesday is Wed the 17<sup>th</sup>. The Gideons will join us on the 21<sup>st</sup>. We begin our Tuesday Lenten Lunches on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the District Lay Rally is scheduled for Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM at Starkville FUMC. And, we mustn't forget the Church's invitation for each congregation to celebrate Black History Month. All of these activities are in addition to the ongoing mission and ministry opportunities we have each and every week. So, in the midst of all the busyness it becomes very important for us to remember Christ's love for us and our love for Christ really is at the center of all we do. With this in mind let me ask you to reflect on what the word 'love' means to you.

In the New Testament there are essentially three words used to define love: *eros*, *philio* and *agape*. Each 'love' word becomes increasingly complex in its application and in its usage. *Eros* focuses on the physical nature of love. More accurately, *eros* is the root for erotic. It's synonym in today's society is sex. Yet, within the world of the text as it was written some 2,000 plus years ago, *eros* was more appropriately understood as the act of self-giving love between a husband and a wife. It was and should continue to be valued as a gift; never to be exploited or manipulated.

*Philio* love is the love which exists between friends. *Philio* love equips us to embrace the sinner while we hate the sin. *Philio* love accepts, yet it gives us strength to speak words of truth. It is the love Jesus employed when He met Zacheaus; when He asked the woman where those who accused her had gone even as He told her to go and sin no more. It is the love Paul expresses for Timothy. It is the love that caused Jesus to weep when He learned of the death of Lazarus. It is the love we practice as we call those who are sick, when we send a sympathy card to a friend who has lost a loved one. *Philio* love compels us to bake that casserole dish, to give away tickets to our favorite team so a friend can go instead. It really is what makes the world go 'round.

*Agape* love is the love we most usually associate with God. It is the love that lays one's life down for the welfare of the other person. It is the love that finds people rushing into places like Haiti while others are fleeing from the devastation. *Agape* love is the love that God shows best by giving up all the prerogatives of Heaven, coming to us in the form of an innocent baby; born to poor parents in a land ravaged by occupiers who cared only for what they could take not for what they could contribute. *Agape* love is the love that makes our hearts ache at the sight of human suffering. It is the kind of love that denounces the use of terror, that riles against slavery and child abuse and all other forms of systemic evil. *Agape* love is the love that allows for the great reversal of the way things are into the ways of God; where justice, mercy and grace abound.

As we move through the month of February we are invited to do so in a way that reflects God's love for us and our love for God or as Charles Wesley reminds us: 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling'!

*Lived Loved, Grace and peace, Bro. G.*

## **Missions Moment**

Each week the staff at Samaritan's Purse highlight a country or region of the world with a particular need. In a way to reach missions around the world, please take a few minutes each week (or day) & pray for these people and that they realize that God has not forgotten them and cares about their every need.

### *Week of / Pray for*

February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Georgia	For the people recovering from flooding and for the volunteers who bring hope and comfort to the storm victims.
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Indonesia	For people trying to rebuild their lives after earthquakes.
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Liberia	For the young women in the THINK program – working thru the trauma of being forced child soldiers in the Liberian civil war.
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Uganda	For people struggling daily to gain access to clean water and for the 6,000 people around the world who die each day from the lack of clean water.

## **Nothing But Nets – UPDATE!**

Just a short update to let everyone know that thru the Christmas Eve special offering and the change drive – during the month of December, Aldersgate collected \$511.23 for Nothing But Nets. These donations will purchase 50 mosquito nets for families in Africa! Thank you for your generosity!!

## **Society of St. Andrew – Lenten Devotions**

In keeping with the traditions of Lent, the Society of St. Andrew invites our congregation to participate in a program of spiritual reflection, prayer, and giving. The Lenten devotion program will challenge us to take seriously the scriptural injunctions to care for the poor, while it also provides an opportunity to feed our hungry neighbors. Each day during Lent, you will be introduced to writers from the Society of St. Andrew and how they have come to know Jesus. As you read each day's devotion, you will have an opportunity to reflect and pray on the way in which Jesus is most prominent in your life.

## **Christian World Missions and Grace & Gladness Ministries**

Victoria Ngene, a lay evangelist in Borno State, Nigeria, was trained to assume leadership of a not-yet-existing congregation in the village of Ganjara. In February, 2008 a CWM-led evangelistic crusade resulted in a congregation of 75 newly born-again children of God becoming a new church. One year later, in March 2009, we were greeted by over 400 children and adults praising God in their pavilion church. Our family had grown exponentially!

This year in Ghana and Nigeria: Pastors/evangelists were trained and crusades held. Many became the charter members of 20 newly planted churches. In the last 19 years, we have planted 202 churches in Nigeria and 167 churches in Ghana. Each new congregation was inaugurated in partnership with national churches (either the Methodist Church Ghana or the Methodist Church Nigeria), and several of the 369 churches established have become Diocese headquarters. Many of the lay pastors we trained have become ordained ministers, and one is now a bishop!

In India, our family with Ghuna Kumar's Gospel Friends Ministry now has 200 boy and girl orphans, two medical clinics, a home for the blind, a sewing school graduating 36 girls each year, a Bible College for 108 students, an elementary school for 150 children, and 270 village evangelists overseeing over 300 village churches.

On the home front, we are blessed to have daughter, Lee Ann Williamson, and longtime friend, Lori Smith, join the CWM staff. They are preparing to lead these vital ministries in the future and bring many new gifts, and fresh vision and energy.

Yours in Christ, Cecil & Julie Williamson, Founder, Director

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***Don't forget – the Lenten season begins on Wednesday, February 17th. Please watch the bulletin for the announcement that our Lenten Devotions have arrived.***

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The District Lay Rally is Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 6:00PM. The tickets are \$12.50 each. Special Music Rev. David Schultz from the Cedar Bluff Siloam Charge. The Rev. Dr. Giles Lindley, our new D/S will be speaking.

Please make your reservations directly with the District Office no later than 12:00, Noon Thursday, February 18th.

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## Lectionary Reading Schedule

*The Lectionary is an excellent source for personal Bible study and reflection. The Lectionary readings for Feb include the following texts: \*Preaching text*

02/07/10

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

*Luke 5:1-11*

*\*Isaiah 6:1-8*

*'Unclean Lips'*

02/21/10

First Sunday in Lent

*Romans 10:8b-13*

*\*Luke 4:1-13*

*'We never journey alone'*

02/14/10 Transfiguration Sunday

Last Sunday after the Epiphany

*Exodus 34:29-35*

*\*Luke 9:28-36*

*'Shekinah: Reflecting the glory of God'*

02/28/10

Second Sunday in Lent

*Philippians 3:17-4:1*

*\*Luke 13:31-35*

*'Dangers on the journey'*

S. P. R. C. meeting: 5:00PM Sunday, February 21st.

Friends: The Staff Parish Relations Committee will meet Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. The primary focus of our gathering will be to consider the appointment of our Pastor. The Bishop and the Cabinet highly value the desires, wants and needs of each local Church as well as those of the Pastors of the Annual Conference when it comes to the appointment making process. Between now and February 21<sup>st</sup> please contact any member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee with regard to your desires concerning the appointment of our Pastor. Members of the S.P.R.C. are: Chair ~ FRANCES COLEMAN, MELVIN AYCOCK, MARY WARREN, NINA HATCHER, YVONNE COVIN, TOM SMITH, BYRON WILLIAMS, HANK WATSON, BRANDY AKERS, also MIKE MCLAUGHLIN ~ Lay Leader & BARBARA CRAWFORD ~ Lay Member of Annual Conference

The Lenten luncheon series at the Starkville Aldersgate UMC has been a part of our congregation's Lenten observation for many years. We will gather at about 11:30 AM, enjoy a light lunch and then look forward to the following messages. We try to be done by 1:00 o'clock.

This year's speakers include:

**Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Rev. Ray Wallace**

**Rev. Jim Ormon**

**Dr. Rev. Giles Lindley**

**Rev. David Shumaker**

**Rev. Greg Ducker**

**Rev. Hugh Griffith**

*All Starkville Ministerial Association Lenten Lunches will be at Starkville FUMC. The congregation of the pastor who is speaking is responsible for the meal: A light soup, sandwich, etc. is okay. Time: 12:00 Noon to 1:00PM each Wednesday.*

1- Wed: February 24th. Starkville FUMC: Rev. Danny Rowland  
Theme: 'I am the bread of life' John 6:35

2- Wed: March 3rd. Episcopal Church of the Resurrection: Father Lee Winters  
Theme: 'I am the light of the world' John 9:5

3- Wed: March 10th. Trinity Presbyterian: Rev. Buren Blankenship  
Theme: 'I am the Good Shepherd' John 10:14

4- Wed. March 17th. Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church: Father John Bohn  
Theme: 'I am the resurrection and the life' John 11:25

5- Wed. March 24th. Rev. George W. Buell Starkville Aldersgate UMC  
Theme: 'I am the vine; you are the branches' John 15:5

6- Wed. March 31st. Rev. John Daniels, Life Church  
Theme: 'I am the way and the truth and the life' John 14:6

Let's CELEBRATE



## President's Day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm Pack 11 Cub Scouts Mtg	2 8:30 am Breakfast Bunch 3:15-4:30 pm G.S. Troop 653 Meeting	3 3:15pm GS Troop 20665 3:30pm Bdt Bible Study 6pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Bible Study	4 9:30-11am Bible Study 6 pm Women @ the Gate Meeting @ the parsonage	5	6
7 7:30am Men @ the Gate Meeting 9am S.S. 10am Worship Service 11:15am C.C.C. 4:30pm Admin Mtg	8 10 am Women @ the Gate Meeting @ AUMC 6:30pm Pack 11 Cub Scouts Mtg	9 3:15-4:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 653 Meeting	10 3:30pm Boardtown Bible Study 6pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Bible Study	11 9:30-11am Bible Study	12	13
14 9am S.S. 10am Worship Serv Dutch Treat meal @ MSU Perry Cafete- ria for Valentines	15 6:30pm Pack 11 Cub Scouts Mtg	16 3:15-4:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 653 Meeting	17 11:30am PTA mtg 3:30pm Bdt Bbl Stdy 6pm Ash Wed service & then choir practice	18 9:30-11am Bible Study Deadline for Dist. Lay Rally	19	20
21 9am SS 10am Worship Serv 11:15am C.C.C. 5pm SPRC mtg	22 6:30pm Pack 11 Cub Scouts Mtg	23 11:30 Lenten Lunch 3:15-4:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 653 Meeting	24 Noon SMA- FUMC Lenten Lunch 3:15pm GS Trp 20665 3:30pm Bdt Bible Study 6pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Bible Study	25 9:30-11am Bible Study 6pm FUMC District Lay Rally	26	27 6:30am-5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 20665 Train Trip to Jackson, MS
28 9am SS 10 am Worship Serv 11:15am C.C.C						