



## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

**ALDERSGATE WISH BOOK** Each year, Church members make a wonderful difference in the life of a child by allowing one of their Christmas wishes to come true. If you'd like to sponsor an Aldersgate child by purchasing a gift through their Wish Book selection, please stop by the table outside Fellowship and Sanctuary worship areas. Please bring your wrapped gifts to the church office no later than Wednesday December 11th, then join us on December 14th at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for the Annual Christmas Party. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY DINNER** It's that time of year again and as we get closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus, we also need to prepare for our annual Christmas Day Dinner. This started small but has grown over the years. We would love to have anyone who wants to help plan the dinner and bring some new ideas. Please call the church office if you would like to volunteer.

## WHITE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Join us on Sunday, December 15th at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary for our annual White Christmas service. This is a service that has various solos, ensembles and singing of Christmas carols; with the service closing in candlelight. The offering of canned goods wrapped in white paper or monetary offerings in white envelopes are presented at the altar during this service. The funds and canned goods collected will be used for Christmas day dinner, and also to help stock the pantry at Edwards Street.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

**FORMS ARE AVAILABLE**, during each worship service, for you to reserve Christmas Poinsettias in memory or in honor of your loved ones at the cost of \$14.00 per plant to be placed in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall December 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

## PRIMETIME

Our next Primetime meeting will be on Tuesday, December 10th at 11:30am. Join us for a traditional Christmas meal prepared by Ms. Yvonne Owen followed by a Christmas music program by a string quartet from The University of Southern Mississippi. There will be a special appearance by the Main Street Preschool children. You won't want to miss it! Please call the church office to make your reservation.

## SPECIAL OFFERING FOR UMCOR

The news out of the Philippines is overwhelming. Destruction is seen everywhere according to the news reports. Our response to the disaster often goes in one of two directions. The first direction is to just shut the event out of minds and hearts. So we end up doing nothing because we do not want to get involved or we don't think our little bit will help much. The second direction is that of immediately sending money to the first organization that pops up on the television screen or internet. Responding with generosity is a great thing, but some charitable organizations will end up giving very little of the funds to the need. As United Methodists, we have a terrific system for helping with disaster relief through the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

UMCOR is already at work in the Philippines, but so much needs to be done. The good news is that every penny you give to UMCOR goes directly to relief. Administrative fees come out of our Mission Shares and designated funds. You can feel confident in giving through UMCOR. If you would like to help with relief in the Philippines, please mark your check "typhoon" and we will make sure 100% goes to help those in need.

*You're Invited to...*

### "A CHRISTMAS TALE"

presented by

The Hawkins Elementary Drama Club  
Thursday, December 5th at 6:30pm  
Main Street UMC Fellowship Hall

## DECEMBER HUNGER OFFERING

Edwards Street Food Pantry

Due to the recent SNAP benefit cuts, Edwards Street Food Pantry has seen a significant increase in the number of families in need of assistance. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to Main Street UMC and mark it "Hunger."

*Primetime Christmas  
Dinner at Fulmer's*

If you have made a reservation for the candlelight dinner at Fulmer's General Store in Richton, MS, please meet in the small front parking lot off of Main Street on December 6th at 4:30pm.

**OUR ANNUAL CHARGE  
CONFERENCE** will be held Wednesday, December 11th, at 6:00pm

## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

8:30 Relaxed Sanctuary Worship  
9:00 Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion (The Fellowship)  
10:00 Sunday School  
11:00 Traditional Sanctuary Worship

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT OFFERINGS

Our Children will continue to meet to rehearse for White Christmas & Youth will meet for "Next Steps" at 6:00pm

Adult Classes will NOT meet. Our Regular Wednesday night activities will resume on January 8, 2014, with a crock pot cook-off to benefit the backpack ministry of Aldersgate. We encourage all Sunday School classes to participate. Please call the church office for more information.

The Chancel Choir will meet at 7:15pm

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## CHILDREN MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

All children will continue to rehearse for their part in the annual White Christmas service, Wednesday, December 4th, and December 11th, from 6-6:45 pm. The Preschool children will begin, and end, in their downstairs classroom, and the K-6th graders will begin upstairs, in the choir room.

You are cordially invited to **A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR JESUS!**

**When:** Sunday, December 22nd during the Sunday School hour

**What to Bring:** We will be collecting items for children who will be spending the holidays in our local hospitals. Some suggestions are: warm and fuzzy socks, blankets, stuffed animals, activity books with crayons/markers, and puzzles. Children may bring their items any time from now through December 22nd.

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## YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

10:00am Youth Sunday School

5:30pm - 7:30pm Sunday Night Youth Group

6:00pm Wednesday Night Youth "Next Steps"

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## A REFLECTION STORY: YOUTH FALL RETREAT

Is it better to give or to receive? It was truly a rewarding experience to serve the youth group during their fall retreat. I am relatively new to this church so it was refreshing to have the youth group accept me as part of their own so quickly. In fact, accepting and including others was one of the main lessons taught during the retreat.

The youth of Main Street were honest and sincere with their faith, had positive attitudes, and were open minded. They were servants throughout the weekend by constantly helping with any task they could. They also inspired and challenged me to live more for God.

The adults orchestrated a messy, challenging, and amazing obstacle course. The youth, as well as adults, had the greatest time. The most memorable time for me, however, was the washing of feet. Each member of a small group was able to serve a fellow group member by washing his or her feet. We were all reminded of the story in the New Testament of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. I believe all the adults who served and the youth who participated in the retreat experienced God's presence in some way. To close, it is much better to give than to receive, because while giving we truly receive.

Rick Stevens

**\*\*We are still receiving 2014 Estimate of Giving Cards\*\***



*Our Purpose is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World*

**712 N Main Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39401 • (601) 582-5557 • [www.mstreetumc.org](http://www.mstreetumc.org)**