

A Message from Tim



Here and There

Getting Ready to Host Annual Conference

The Memphis Annual Conference will be meeting at Germantown June 7-9, 2020, and already planning has begun. Two meetings have already taken place with staff and lay leadership of GUMC and leadership from Collierville UMC and the Memphis Conference office.

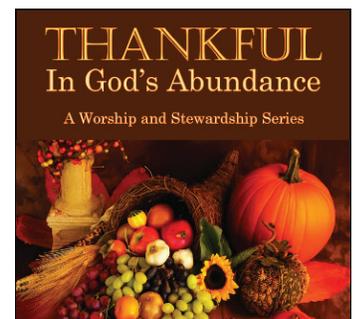


As it currently appears, Sunday afternoon and evening will be at the church, while Monday's and Tuesday's sessions will be held at the Germantown Performing Arts Center. I am proud that the church has embraced the opportunity to accept the hosting responsibilities. It will be an historic conference, as it will be the final meeting of the Memphis Annual Conference. After 180 years, the Conference will form a new Conference together with the Tennessee Conference in 2021.

We will need volunteers to make this happen. And we are counting on the willing spirit of GUMC members. As we get nearer to the Conference, there will be opportunities to volunteer for greeting, parking, hospitality, registration, security, and many other areas of service. Please find a way, when the time comes, to say "yes" and help us to show great hospitality to our Annual Conference.

Stewardship Emphasis Coming in November

"Thankful in God's Abundance: A Worship and Stewardship Series" will remind us that because we serve the kingdom of God, we should work from a model of abundance, not scarcity. Stewardship testimonies, activities for families and children, and daily devotions will be part of a cornucopia of activities and opportunities for celebrating God's abundance.



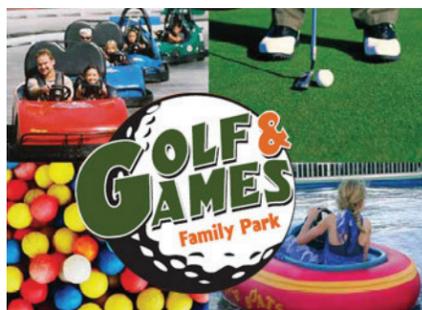
Charge Conference

The Annual Charge Conference will take place at 2 p.m. on November 17 at St. Luke's UMC together with other churches from our sub-district. All elected church leaders are encouraged to attend.



Good News! The Emmaus Sunday School Class will be selling their delicious BBQ for pick up on **November 2nd**. All meat must be preordered! A table will be set up in the Fellowship hall the last two **Sunday mornings in October, the 20th and 27th**. If you miss that opportunity, you may contact any Emmaus class member, and they will be happy to turn in your order. Loins, butts (pulled), and ribs are **\$30 each**. Meat will be picked up at the OLEC on **Saturday, November 2nd from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** All proceeds will be split between the ZOE ministry in Africa and La Limye Ministries in Haiti.

Annual GUMC Family Picnic Rev. Dr. Brad Gabriel - bgabriel@germantownumc.org - 901-754-7216



Sunday, October 13, 2019 | 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Golf and Games Family Park – 5484 Summer Ave

Everyone is invited to a **FREE** picnic at Golf & Games Family Park! Come to the private GUMC pavilion from 1-2 p.m. for wristbands. Wristbands are good until 6 p.m. for go-karts, Putt-Putt, bumper boats, ropes course, Lasertron, batting cages, & children's rides. Free hot dogs & drinks will be served by the Seekers Sunday School class from 1-2.

Making A Difference Barbara Schanson - barcons@comcast.net

Mission Possible: Helping The Mid-South Food Bank

The Germantown United Methodist Fall Kickoff which was held on August 28, at the Owings Life Enrichment Center, was a huge success thanks to all those who came and enjoyed dinner at the Food Trucks, played on the inflatables, but most important of all brought 1100 pounds of food for the Mid-South Food Bank!!!

Thank you so much! The Mid-South Food Bank has recently built a wonderful new facility on South Perkins. One of the new areas there, is like an actual grocery store, including freezer space. This area will be used by agencies that operate shelters and food pantries. Twice a week, individuals will be allowed to shop for groceries as well. The Food Bank was thrilled to get so much wonderful food to stock the shelves of this wonderful space!

As you can see in the picture, the truck was full to the brim with our donations!! This is another example of the very generous hearts of the people that belong to GUMC!!



Excerpts From A Presentation About The Kroger Community Rewards Program Given One Sunday Morning To The Congregation Of GUMC

“Lets have a show of hands. How many of you buy your groceries at Kroger?” Majority of congregation raises their hand

“Lets have another show of hands. How many of you have a Kroger Rewards Card?” Majority of congregation raises their hand

“Lets have another show of hands (this is like calisthenics). Do you know about the Kroger Community Rewards Program?” Few in congregation raise their hand

“Let me tell you about the Kroger Community Rewards Program?”

“You register your Kroger Rewards Card and assign the benefits to the charity of your choice, which should be, GUMC MISSIONS COMMITTEE, code number HU200. GUMC Missions then receives a percentage of your purchases. You still receive all of your reward points and gasoline points. This is as close to “free money” as you can get.”

“I have another question but don't raise your hand because I know the answer. How many of you have registered your Kroger Rewards Card and assigned benefits to GUMC MISSIONS COMMITTEE? “The answer is ---NOT VERY MANY.”

“Now listen up YOU, the majority of the congregation, that have not registered your Kroger Rewards Card and assigned your benefits to GUMC Missions HU200, don't hang your head in shame. SIT UP STRAIGHT-HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH-FOR YOU ARE ON A MISSION!! THAT MISSION IS: Immediately upon leaving church go right home and sit down in front of your computer, **log onto www.kroger.com click on “Community Rewards”** and assign the benefits to **GUMC MISSIONS HU200**. Then go grocery shopping.”

“Got it, Got it.”

P.S.

“Don't leave church in such a hurry that you forget to greet the Pastor!”





In November of 2009, a tiny congregation, Colonial Cumberland Presbyterian Church, answered God's call to welcome strangers into the warm, safe sanctuary of a building that was underused during the winter. Four guests shared dinner and fellowship that night with members of the church. This small group of people felt a meal and overnight shelter would be a good outreach "project." Room in the Inn is no longer an outreach project. It has become a way of life and ministry for more than 50 congregations, and that number continues to grow. GUMC has been an integral part of Room in the Inn – Memphis since December 2013. More than 250 volunteers make room for the unsheltered each winter season!

As a part of the Room in the Inn network, congregations know that small acts of faith and kindness are being transformed into something powerful and life-changing. Faith communities have a unique opportunity to share hope and hospitality to those living on the streets of our city. Around the dinner table, volunteers break bread with their guests and learn about the struggles of homelessness. Listening to the needs of the guests constantly inspires new ways of serving and deepens the bonds of community.

Two new ways to serve have grown out of listening to our guests. First, shelter opportunities have been extended to the hot summer months for women. Women's Summer Shelter has been life saving to the ladies who have no other options. Day hospitality has also become a valuable service. Three days per week the Carpenter's House opens to provide access to restrooms, refreshment, and programming including a 12-step program, yoga, art, movies, a support group, and foot care.

To celebrate God's faithfulness over the past 10 years and Room in the Inn's commitment to love others well through Holy Hospitality, partner with us as a monthly donor. A commitment of \$10 per month will allow RITI to continue and grow. Each hosting congregation has been asked to recruit a minimum of 15 new monthly supporters. **You can become a monthly donor at <http://tiny.cc/10YRSINN> or by texting 10YRSINN to 44-321.**

Father Charles Strobel, founder of Room in the Inn (Nashville) describes the RITI experience this way, "When someone experiences hospitality and safety and a feeling of belonging, they experience sanctuary. Sanctuary is defined by the people, not the space. Everyone can become an expression of sanctuary. Ultimately, sanctuary offers one an experience of something sacred, something holy."

Coping with Grief During the Holidays

Holidays can be especially challenging if you are dealing with the loss of a loved one. The empty chair at the Thanksgiving table, unopened gifts on Christmas or a vacancy at a birthday celebration bring grief to the surface.

Not only do we grieve those we have lost, but other losses as well. The loss of a job, the loss of a familiar home, the loss of income or the loss of health to name a few.

On Sunday, November 3, 2019, Germantown United Methodist Church will be welcoming noted speaker and therapist, Debra Fitzgerald. She will be addressing means of coping with grief during the holidays.

Ms. Fitzgerald holds a master's degree in Counseling and Personnel Services from the University of Memphis. In addition, she is a candidate for a second master's degree in Thanatology from Marian University. She is Certified in Death and Grief Studies. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor/Mental Health Services Provider. She has served as an instructor in Counseling at the University of Memphis. She is a member of a Professional group Association for Death Education and Counseling, the American Psychological Association and the American Counseling Association. She currently serves as a therapist at Mental Health Resources/Mid-South Professional Counseling.

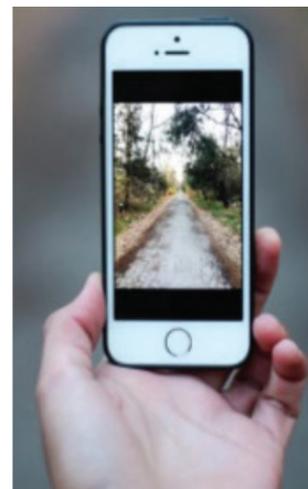
Her vast experience and educational background allow her to present useful information about this sensitive topic. Plan to come to the Fellowship Hall at 9:40 AM on Sunday 11/3/19 to learn coping techniques for holiday grief.

Adult Education Mary Groh - mgroh@germantownumc.org - 901-754-7216

Creative Expressions Of God's Presence

The Adult Education Committee is now offering classes this fall and into the new year that enhance God-given gifts. We hope the classes will provide a place to disconnect from the busyness of life for the expression of God's creative gifts.

All classes will be held on Sunday from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Registration will be online; the deadline is 10 days prior to the class.



Sign up now for Phone Photography led by Emily McKinney. <https://shelbygiving.com/App/Form/1e275abb-111a-40ff-821a-67b390734f4e>

Want to make better pictures with your phone? Emily McKinney, photographer will provide tips & tricks for better pics. Bring your phone!

Other upcoming classes:

Thanksgiving Floral Centerpiece led by Carolyn Browder, November 24

Watercolor Painting led by Karla Richardson, January 12

Modern Brush Calligraphy led by Rosemary Radford, March 8

Protestant Prayer Beads led by Glenda Jones, April 19



Germantown United Methodist Women Cinnamon Roll Bake
Pre-Orders For The Sweet, Goopy, Cinnamon Filled Bites Of Bliss Are Coming Soon!

We bake a limited number of rolls so it's very important that you pre-order. You may pre-order your Cinnamon Rolls on **Sundays, October 13 and 20** following each service in the Fellowship Hall. **They are \$10 per dozen-check or cash only.** Payment is required with the pre-order. You will be **notified** by email or phone of the **specific date and time** to pick up your rolls. Pick up will be in the OLEC gym between **2 pm - 5:30 p.m., October 22, 23, 24.**

Our annual **GUMW Cinnamon Roll Bake** will be on **Tuesday, October 22 through Thursday, October 24.** **We welcome helpers!** This is a wonderful time of fellowship. Preparing the rolls for baking is not difficult, and we have talented teachers. If you would like to volunteer to work a shift during our baking days, sign up on the GUMC website on the sign up genius link or, contact Stephanie Adams at 901-756-9748 or monacodog@aol.com.

Thank you again for your support! The proceeds from your purchases will help the many missions our Germantown United Methodist Women serve.

For questions about ordering, please contact Laurie Whiteley 901-378-2999 or lauriewhiteleytn@gmail.com.



All women are welcome to attend Germantown United Methodist Women events. If you are looking for the camaraderie of Christian women, fellowship while serving others, and the opportunity to make lifelong friends, consider joining one of GUMW's many Circles (small groups). For information, contact GUMW Membership Chair Yolanda Toney at ytoney@germantownumc.org.



GUMW continued

Metro District Candleburning Ceremony

Candleburning is a way UMW honors individuals who have contributed to our unit, our church and/or our community. The Executive Committee of GUMW submits names for this special recognition to be held at our annual Metro District Candleburning Ceremony. An honorarium is sent to District, which will help fund missions. They have been blessings to us, and what a joy it is to be able to recognize and honor them!

The 2019 GUMW honorees are:

- Carolyn Browder
- Ed Clark
- Nancy Cofield
- Alise Davis
- Betty Duke
- Ruth King
- Sue Land
- Carolyn Luttrell
- Sue Myers
- Anna Nicol
- John Pearson
- Chesley Porteous
- Judy Rossetti
- Barbara Schanson
- Ann Snell



United Methodist Men Rachel Moore - rmoore@germantownumc.org - 901-754-7216

UMM October Breakfast

Our next UMM Breakfast will be on Saturday, October 12 at 8:00 a.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Captain Marion Pratt, a Salvation Army Officer. Captain Pratt was born and raised in Charleston, SC. Having attended The Salvation Army as a child, he participated in the Adventure Corps Program and attended summer camps every year. After graduation from high-school, Marion quickly enlisted in the US Army, serving two enlistments as an infantryman in the 10th Mountain Division; he later earned a doctoral degree from Trevecca Nazarene University. In 2004, he was commissioned as a Salvation Army Officer. Marion is passionate about the transforming love and power of Jesus Christ and the mission of the Army. All men are invited and encouraged to come hear Captain Pratt speak! **Breakfast is \$5, payable at the door. Members need only call with regret.**



XYZs Tour Hidden Historical Treasures in Brownsville in November!

Come with us for a day filled with history and surprises. We will first eat at the Mindfield Grill next to Billy Tripp's Mindfield, a vast mind-boggling network of towering steel girders—the largest outdoor sculpture in Tennessee. After lunch we will have a guided tour of the West Tennessee Delta Heritage Center. The one-room schoolhouse that Tina Turner once attended now houses some of her memorabilia. The John Adam Estes Home is the small house where blues legend “Sleepy” John Estes spent his last years. The third building houses the West Tennessee Music Museum, the Felsenthal Collection of Abraham Lincoln memorabilia, the West Tennessee Cotton Museum, the Hatchie River Museum, and a gift shop selling regionally made items. Who knew there was so much to see in Brownsville, and we are going to see it all! [Waiting list availability only.](#)

WHERE: Brownsville, Tennessee

WHEN: Thursday, November 7, 2019

COST: \$5 per person plus lunch on your own

DEPARTURE: 9:45 a.m. from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 9:30 a.m.)

RESERVATIONS: Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, or Garnet Brenneman, 754-3711

You must make your reservation before paying.

DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Monday, October 7



AARP Smart Driver™ Course

Germantown United Methodist Church and AARP will present the “AARP Smart Driver™ Course”, the nation’s largest driving refresher course. This 8-hour course is scheduled for October 17 & 18, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Successful completion entitles participants to a discount on their auto insurance premiums for three years. There is no driving test or written exam. Register early because the class will be closed at 28 participants. The results of taking these classes have been proven—class participants have few accidents and tickets.



WHERE: Room 339 (Fellowship Forum classroom) in the Ministry Center.

WHEN: Thursday and Friday, October 17 & 18, 2019, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

COST: \$15 fee for AARP members (\$20 for non-members) payable to AARP

RESERVATIONS: Call George Coleman at 384-3581

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: Reservations will be taken until class is full.

The objectives of the course are to help you:

- Be independent, safe, and confident while on the road
- Keep up with changes so you don't put yourself and others at risk
- Learn state-specific information throughout the course
- Focus on areas such as roundabouts, pavement markings, stop-sign compliance, red-light running, and safety issues such as speeding and seatbelt and turn-signal use

8 *Check your calendar and register now. Your check is your ticket to this class!*

Don't Forget the October Brown Bag Lunch Program!

George Abbott, Director of External Affairs, Memphis River Parks Partnership, will present “Memphis’ Riverfront Renaissance.” This presentation will be Friday, October 4, in the Fellowship Hall. The program starts at 11 AM 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.



XYZs Celebrate Christmas at Cedar Hall in December!

Give yourself a Christmas present, experience timeless elegance and Southern charm, and join us for lunch at the Ivy Tea Room in Cedar Hall, an antebellum estate surrounded by 10 acres of magnolia trees, English gardens, and natural charm. Originally built in 1840, the house was briefly occupied by the Union forces and has been home to a few families throughout history. It was placed on the National Register in 1994. After lunch and learning the history of the home, we will be allowed to wander the house, the stables, and visit the gift shop, where you might be able to do a little early shopping. [Waiting list availability only.](#)



WHERE: Cedar Hall in Bartlett, Tennessee

WHEN: Tuesday, December 3, 2019

COST: \$20 per person is all-inclusive

DEPARTURE: 10 a.m. from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 9:45 a.m.)

RESERVATIONS: Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, or Garnet Brenneman, 754-3711

You must make your reservation before paying.

DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Monday, November 4

Make your Bucket List Come to Life at the November Brown Bag Lunch!

What? You don't have a bucket list? When you stop setting goals, you lose your zest for living. Do you have one or more things slowing you down or keeping you from accomplishing the things that are meaningful to you? Don Hutson, motivational speaker, New York Times best-selling author of 14 books, and CEO of Memphis-based U. S. Learning, will show us how to set some goals or establish a bucket list, work through the things that hold us back, and have fun designing our lives to fit our true desires at the November Brown Bag Lunch Series, an adventure in learning sponsored by the Older Adult Council.

TOPIC: “Making your Bucket List Come to Life”

SPEAKER: Don Hutson, CEO of U. S. Learning

WHERE: Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

WHEN: November 1, 2019. Program starts at 11 AM; lunch is at Noon.

COST: FREE—the church will supply beverages.

RESERVATIONS: No reservations are needed. Just bring your sack lunch and enjoy the program and the fellowship.

QUESTIONS? Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, or Pat Smith, 758-6513.

****There will be a crossing guard on West Street to help with overflow parking.****



Our events are open to all adults age 55 and older, singles and couples, regardless of church membership. Mark your calendar and make your reservations for these events today!

Evensong Service

What is Evensong? I like this statement from Coventry Cathedral:

“Evensong ... is a very tiny fragment of something else: It is a fragment of the worship which is offered to God by Christian people every hour of the 24 in every part of the world. When you come to Evensong ... it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress -- a conversation between God and [people] which began long before you were born and will go on long after you are dead.” Evensong has been sung daily in English Cathedrals for centuries. There is joy in knowing that we’ll participate in something historic and ongoing, like the Big River to our west, something that has been and will be.

Our first Evensong service combined with Imposition of Ashes last Ash Wednesday. GUMC made a beautiful response with strong attendance. Another Evensong will be offered this fall on All Saints Sunday. This service takes place in the Evening. We’ll do so at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, November 3, 2019. Psalms, hymns, prayers, canticles and anthems will be sung. This will be a meaningful way to close the day together in prayer and song. Our service, while Anglican in history, closely follows the United Methodist Book of Worship for Evening Prayer. One omission from our UMC Book of Worship, we leave out the incense!

One choral selection for the day is “When Memory Fades” by Eric Nelson. The text struggles with the loss of memory and those that engage this loss. I asked the composer his thoughts on the text. “It reminds us that God remembers us even when we can no longer remember, and that both caretaker and the afflicted are still deeply valued and have a place in the Kingdom. I think All Saints Sunday is a beautiful place to place it.” And so, we shall.

A simple Google search revealed that we are not the only UMC exploring this ancient service.

These are but a few of the churches listed. There are many more.

- Highlands UMC — Birmingham, Alabama
- Marietta FUMC — Marietta, Georgia
- Southern Hills UMC — Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Plainfield UMC — Plainfield, Indiana
- St. Paul’s UMC — Houston, Texas
- FUMC — Orlando, Florida
- St. Andrew — Plano, Texas
- Church Street UMC — Knoxville, Tennessee
- West End UMC — Nashville, Tennessee
- Peachtree Road UMC — Atlanta, Georgia
- Reveille UMC — Richmond, Virginia



I encourage you to seek the beauty of holiness this coming All Saints Sunday. Be in community with one another. Be present as shadows lengthen and evening comes.

Todd Wilson, Director of Music Ministries
O (901) 754-7216 · M (901) 378-0886 · germantownumc.org/ministries/music/
Germantown United Methodist Church · 2331 South Germantown Rd. · Germantown, TN 38138

Turning Over a New Leaf

Fall is in the air and GUMP continues to be off to wonderful start!

GUMP takes such care, with much intention, in serving our children and families. We strive to partner with each family, meeting them where they are, supporting the cares and concerns they carry, and celebrating the joy and wonder happening in their lives. GUMP invests in our little people, but we also support and love the family. We value the opportunities we are given each day!

Our tiniest friends continue to settle into routine and transitions. Our two year old friends continue to explore the wonder and experiences of a big kid classroom. Our three year old friends are enjoying new cognitive challenges and learning to choose things of interest. Our four year old and five year old friends had a wonderful time at their “getting to know you” family picnic. Shannon Lenoir Portraits came to take individual photos of all our friends to capture those moments in time – such precious, and silly portraits were made! AND, specialty classes began – Music with Mr. Dave and Chapel with Ms. Callie (GUMC’s Children’s Director).

Fascinating things are happening at GUMP to build developmentally strong children-cognitively, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of our friends through play! Our multi-sensory approach includes the use of Handwriting without Tears. Our friends pictured here are engaged in building “Mat Man” from this program. Handwriting without Tears offers a variety of ways for children to learn pre-writing and writing skills in an age appropriate, fun way! We would love for you to see all the wonderful things happening here! We have a limited number of openings still available for the 2019/2020 school year.

If you would like further information, please contact the preschool office at 901-753-3109 or visit our website at www.mygump.org



Children's Ministry

 Callie Beaver - cbeaver@germantownumc.org - 901-337-7246

Fall Festival – October 27, 12:00-2:00 PM at the OLEC

Enjoy the season with your church family! All ages are invited! We will begin our festival at the end of the **11:00 worship service**. Kids are invited to wear their non-scary costumes to church on **Sunday, October 27**.



Festivities include:

- Fish Fry lunch prepared by the “Fry Guy”; If you plan to eat lunch, please purchase tickets in advance online or between worship services in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 20.
- Carnival games
- Inflatables
- Cookie and Pumpkin decorating
- Face painting and photo booth
- Putt Putt fun
- Family fellowship with some wonderful, wonderful people!

Parents’ Night Out

We would love to share some time with your children while you take a night out to catch your breath or enjoy a date. Our PNO dates for the fall are October 4, November 1, and December 13. ALL children are invited, including those who have special needs. Details and registration are available online.

Elementary Expedition

Reminder, we will not meet on Wednesday, October 14 due to Fall Break



High School Girls Whitewater Rafting

“Failure to plan means planning to fail.” When working with students, we plan, plan, plan. But sometimes, those plans go completely awry. And then we are surprised by overflowing blessings.

This past weekend, we took a trip to the Ocoee River with a small group of high school girls to traverse the unknown-to-us white waters of east Tennessee. We expected a little bit of unexpected. Instead, we were handed a whole lot of unexpected.

As we were preparing to depart, one of the girls asked us if we had heard about the water main break and resulting lack of water in Chattanooga. We did a quick Google search and found she was correct. We grabbed a couple of cases of water and jumped in the van and headed east.

What should have been a five-hour trip turned into seven (due to the predictably unpredictable bladders of high school girls and a mandatory side trip in search for Chick-fil-A). When we arrived in Chattanooga at 12:30 AM on Saturday morning, we were tired, weary, and ready to get out of the van. Upon check-in, we found the hotel was completely out of water. There was NONE. And there was nowhere to go. The entire city of Chattanooga was out of water due to the water main break, and there was nowhere to go. We were instructed by the management of the hotel to take our garbage cans to the pool and use that water for flushing our toilets. Fortunately, the bottled waters we brought were sufficient to brush our teeth. We gave the girls a crash course in the workings of plumbing, said our prayers, and went to bed.

We had planned to go to the aquarium the next morning before hitting the river. Unfortunately, aquariums need water also. (As it turns out, the aquarium uses water to maintain the temperature of the exhibits. The lack of water caused loss of animals, which broke our hearts.) As of Friday night, the aquarium was closed to the public until further notice. When we awoke, we found it had been reopened and we headed downtown to what turned out to be a near-vacant aquarium and enjoyed a private party.

We had packed up our belongings and checked out of the hotel. Even though the water returned Saturday morning (after being off two days) there was a water-boil mandate. We definitely planned to leave town after rafting.

As expected, the river was exhilarating. The weather was perfect, the water fresh and clear, and the beauty surrounding us on both sides of the river was breathtaking. Although there was great fear and anticipation of being thrown from our rafts, no one was. We laughed and screamed with delight all the way down. Our run was perfect, filled with expected unknowns.



We had planned a Sunday morning sunrise worship on the top of Lookout Mountain. The entire group was looking forward to this time together worshipping God, so we were delighted when we found a safe hotel in town that was not under mandatory water boil. We crashed into our beds, said our prayers, and enjoyed a great sleep. (At least the adults slept – teenagers not so much!)



Sunday morning, we slowly awoke and headed to the top of the mountain before sunrise, to find a closed park. Once again, God provided. There was a vacant house with a “For Sale” sign and an incredible deck facing east. We gathered on that deck, and in silence marveled at God’s glory as the sun rose. We read Scripture of praise, sang songs of praise, and gave God thanks for His creation and one another.

One of our students (who usually likes a plan and likes to stick to the plan) said later, “This weekend was amazing. We never knew what was coming next but knew it would be ok.” As we think about faith and how much was this weekend a microcosm of life’s journey, these words ring very true. We plan, we expect, and we pray. Sometimes our plans execute perfectly. Sometimes not. But when we stand back, we trust the One in charge and know that even great detours from our plans can offer serendipities – unexpected blessings. Our plans? God’s plans? Sometimes they are the same. But regardless, we trust the One in charge.



Germantown Festival Parking Fundraiser

It was hot. Very, very hot. But the Germantown Festival is a tradition going back 40 years and people show up! This year, youth sold parking spaces to visitors of the festival raising \$1968. A portion of this money will be used directly to support those who worked the festival and the rest will be directed towards youth mission trips to defer some costs. Thank you to those who worked in the scalding heat, and thank you to those who supported us by parking in our lots!

“This looks like something out of a movie”

This summer GUMC Children’s ministry mission camp participants worked in conjunction with OLEC staff to beautify some of our outdoor space over at the Owings Life Enrichment Center. With the numerous groups that have activities in that space, the Youth and Children’s ministries felt a need for some alternate seating that challenges the rhythm of round tables with metal chairs. Even before the project was completed we had an opportunity to utilize this for our church wide kickoff with foodtrucks on August 28th. We received ample feedback about the table placement within the first few minutes of the event. One church member even said, “This looks like something out of a movie!” We truly look forward to taking advantage of the many spaces GUMC has been blessed with and this was a tangible way to use some previously barren space for the good of our church community here. Please remember this space exists while planning activities at the OLEC and we hope you enjoy it as much as the Youth do!



Thursday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m. we are fortunate to host one of the finest choral ensembles in the South. The Mississippi State University State Singers, under the direction of Dr. Gary Packwood.



The Mississippi State University State Singers is a highly select ensemble of approximately 60 performers. MSU State Singers are dedicated to enhancing the singing experience of MSU students through careful preparation and engaging performances of choral music in a broad range of styles. The MSU State Singers tour regionally every year and are delighted to sing throughout Northern Mississippi, West and Central Tennessee. Previous regional tours have included Dallas, Birmingham, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and Orlando.

In addition to the MSU Singers we open our space to choirs from the community including the Houston High School Concert Choir, led by Kinsey Moline, and the White Station High School Chorale, led by Joseph Powell. **Plan to be present for this night of music!**

GUMC Team Read Leaves Caldwell-Guthrie

The Germantown United Methodist Team Read pulled out of Caldwell-Guthrie (CG) Elementary School September 26. The Weekend Food Backpack program will remain and be evaluated at the end of the school year. Team Read, which has a successful track record of teaching the most frequently used words in reading to second graders, was born in the halls of Caldwell-Guthrie.

Thanks to the innovative efforts of GUMC members and school professionals at Caldwell-Guthrie in 2011-12, today there are 53 Team Read programs with over 1200 volunteers in Shelby County alone. Caldwell-Guthrie was taken over by The Achievement School District and the charter school Scholars Academy four years ago. GUMC continued to work at CG with Scholars. The leadership of the program including GUMC Head Coach Jackie Flaum, CG Head Coach David Forell, and Urban Haven Project chair Ruth King and Shirlee Clark, sadly recommended the move. The decision follows Scholars Academy’s issuing new volunteer requirements which included a new background check procedure that each volunteer would have to pay for.

GUMC Head Coaches at these schools would welcome coaches and new volunteers: · Marian Carruth, Head Coach, mscarruth@aol.com Goodlett Elementary coaches M-F from 10-11 a.m. and Fox Meadows which coaches from 11-12 Tues - Thurs with Fri as a make-up day. · Jackie Flaum, Head Coach, jrflaum@yahoo.com Winchester Elementary coaches M-F from 9:05-10 a.m. · David Forell, Head Coach, dforell1@comcast.net, Belle Forest Elementary coaches M-F from 10:30-11:30 and 11:30-12:30 a.m.



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Editor's Note: The deadline for submitting articles for Tidings is the 10th of the month prior. Submissions received after this deadline are not guaranteed to run.

Save the Date: 2020 Women's Retreat

One Night - 24 Hours - Just for Women

Come share in the joy of our church sisterhood, stories, inspiration, music, laughter, prayer and good food at our annual Women's Retreat. This is a wonderful opportunity to grab a friend and recharge your spiritual batteries after a busy holiday season! Registration opens **October 1st**.

We are limited to 70 spots.

For more information, pick up a brochure at one of our kiosks, or email Mary Groh at mgroh@germantownumc.org

When: January 24-25

Where: St. Columba Conference Center
(www.saintcolumbamemphis.org)

Theme: Real Women. . .Real Struggles . . . Real Faith!

Keynote Speaker: GUMC Member, Barbara Schanson

Cost: \$100 for overnight, \$40 for Saturday only

GUMC WOMEN'S RETREAT



Real Women...

Real Struggles...

Real **Faith!**