

Fall Foliage Trip in New England

In October, a group of seniors from The Woodlands UMC enjoyed a Senior Ministries trip to enjoy fall foliage in New England. The group flew into Boston where they spent two nights, took a complete tour of the city and enjoyed dinner at Union Oyster House on the wharf. Among the highlights of the trip was a bus trip up the northeast coast to Bar Harbor, Maine where they visited the Abbe Museum and enjoyed dinner at Bar Harbor Lobster Bakes.

A drive through Acadia National Park provided beautiful scenery. The next stop was Pineland Farms and Equestrian Arena which is a 3,000 acre educational working farm. Pineland Farms, incidentally, makes cheese sold at Kroger. The tour continued on into New Hampshire, stopping in North Conway, Bath and Woodstock, then onto Vermont to view the Quechee Gorge and the Bennington Battle Monument and Museum.

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A MESSAGE FROM *Don Meador* PASTOR TO SENIOR ADULTS



In his book, *Moments to Hold Close*, Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr. tells about a friend who told him about a moment that changed his life. He was eleven years old. He didn't feel his allowance was large enough so he asked his parents for permission to get a job. The only job he could find was throwing an early morning paper route. Everything went fine for two weeks. Then one night he heard the weather report which predicted snow, sleet, or freezing rain. The next morning the alarm went off but he pulled the covers over his head. He heard his mom say, "Bud, time to deliver papers!" "Oh Mom, I feel terrible. My stomach hurts." She left the room. Then he heard heavier footsteps. His dad said firmly, "Bud, you have a job now. Get up and deliver papers!" He dressed, got the papers and started down the street. It was so cold he thought about throwing the papers in the gutter and going home to his warm bed. But he got on with the job and as he came to the last house on his route he was suddenly aware of a car parked beside the curb, lights on, motor running. He thought, "What nut is out on a cold morning like this?" Then the window rolled down, and he heard his father's voice, "Hey Bud, how about some hot chocolate with me?" As he slid into the front seat of the car, sleet falling on the roof, hot chocolate pouring from the thermos, he said he knew his father in a way he had never known him before.

I thought of this story because it reminds me of what Christmas is all about. It is the story of the coming of Emmanuel, which means "God is with us". Jesus comes and suddenly we know our Father in a way we have never known before. With the coming of Jesus God's love is revealed in a human being. And when we get to know him no matter how cold and harsh the world may be we are able to experience the warmth and love and grace of a Father who loves us.

Your friend, Don



Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to
*Gladys and Richard
Smallwood*

on celebrating 70 years
of marriage in October!

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY CALENDAR – December 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				6:00 p.m. Single 60+ Let Your Heart Find Christmas Women's Tea (WH)	6:30 p.m. Friendship Class Christmas Party (WH)	6:30 p.m. Goldenaires (Windsor Hills)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30 a.m. Goldenaires (RC) 2:00 p.m. Goldenaires (John Cooper School)	8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Gathering Place Goldenaires will perform (AG) 3:00 p.m. Goldenaires (The Village) 7:00 p.m. Camera Club (JL)		9:30 a.m. games 11:15 a.m. lunch Prime Timers Goldenaires will perform (WH)	10:00 a.m. Goldenaires (Woodlands Healthcare)		5:00 p.m. Single 60+ Cup of Christmas Tea and Treats (JL)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Group (D205)	10:30 a.m. Goldenaires (Park Manor in Conroe) 11:30 a.m. Goldenaires Christmas Luncheon (Landry's) 3:30 p.m. Goldenaires (The Terrace in The Woodlands)	10:00 a.m. Goldenaires (The Conservatory) 2:30 p.m. Goldenaires (The Forum)	11:30 - 2:00 p.m. OK Quilters (Palmer Clubhouse) 4:00 p.m. Goldenaires (Park Manor in The Woodlands)	10:00 a.m. Goldenaires (Regent Care) 4:30 p.m. Goldenaires Christmas Party (AG)		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
					<i>Church Offices Closed</i>	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	<i>Church Offices Closed</i>					

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – 9:30 AM

Friendship Class (AG)

Believers (AH)

Lamplighters (D207)

Perspectives (D209)

Location/Legend: **Loft** – Craft Circle Rm. **JL** – Jones Library **MS** - Music Suite **WH** – Wesley Hall **DC** – Dunnam Conference Rm.
AG – Aldersgate Hall **AH** - Asbury Hall **RC** - Robb Chapel **GC** – Gallaway Conference Room

COMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On Thursday, January 26, we will be taking a day trip to the Museum of Fine Arts to see the King Tut exhibit. If you are interested, contact Neil and Phyllis Johnson at 936.321.4008. Sign up early to reserve your spot!

FRIENDSHIP CLASS CHRISTMAS PARTY – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

Join us at 6:30 p.m. in Wesley Hall for our annual Christmas party. We will dine to the piano music of John Steen, then be entertained by “Three Beards and a Base,” who sing and play the guitar, mandolin, bass, and banjo. Afterward, Peggy Reeves will lead us in singing Christmas songs. Chef Stephen has promised his great Buttermilk Pie for dessert. Cost is \$15 for the evening. For more information, contact Ferol and Olin Johnson at 281.367.6866.

THE GATHERING PLACE – MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

Gathering Place is an outreach program for adults who have early to moderate Alzheimer’s or dementia. Volunteers arrive at Aldersgate Hall at 8:45 a.m. and our guests arrive at 10:00 a.m. The theme will be “Ho! Ho! Ho! Jolly St. Nick.” For more information, contact Connie Norton at 281.292.3875.

CAMERA CLUB – MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

We will meet in Jones Library at 7:00 p.m. Our speakers will be Gary and Kathy Adams Clark speaking on “Behind the Story.” The meeting is open to everyone – all ages, all camera skills! For more information, visit TheWoodlandsCameraClub.org or contact Jean Drummond at 281.367.7641.

PRIME TIMERS – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Games will be held at 9:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 11:15 a.m. in Wesley Hall. Entertainment will be provided by the Goldenaires. Please bring toys for needy children. Reservations are due by noon on Monday, December 5 to Joyce and Ken Nesmith at 281.367.5519. Checks preferred, payable to The Woodlands United Methodist Church.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

GOLDENAIRES CHOIR

The Goldenaires Choir is a group of folks who like singing together and providing music for various functions such as Prime Timers, funerals and visits to senior facilities. The Goldenaires practice on Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Music Suite. In December there will be no practice because of the busy performance schedule. For more information, or to get involved, contact Louise Kramer at 281.297.5903.

GOLDENAIRES CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Goldenaires Christmas party will be held in Aldersgate Hall at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15. It will be a potluck dinner. For more information, please call Ed and Glenna Wandling at 281.355.0053.

SINGLE 60+ LET YOUR HEART FIND CHRISTMAS WOMEN’S TEA

Join us in Wesley Hall on Thursday, December 1 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The cost is \$20. Tables will be reserved for the Single 60+ Ministry. Contact Shirley Keeney at 281.465.0693 for more information.

SINGLE 60+ A CUP OF CHRISTMAS TEA AND TREATS

Join us on Saturday, December 10 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in Jones Library. At 6:30 p.m. The Woodlands UMC Choir will present their annual Christmas concert. Please contact Janet Seldenrust at 936.273.4896 for more information.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

Join us on Sunday, December 11, in making prayer shawls and afghans for people who are ill, have suffered a loss or are in the midst of a life crisis. The group meets bi-monthly (even numbered months) at 2:00 p.m. in Room D205. Knitting and crocheting experience is not necessary. For more information, call Mary Best at 832.687.4363.

OK QUILTERS

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 14 at the Palmer Clubhouse for a Christmas luncheon. Please rsvp by Friday, December 9 to Joyce Nesmith at 281.367.5519 or Lela Smith at 936.273.2545.



We Need Your Story

The February Senior Point will feature stories of how couples met. If you would like to share your story, please submit it to Vanessa at vamelunke@twumc.org, drop it by the church office, or call Vanessa, give her the information and she will write it for you. Photos welcome.

The Connection

AN ONLINE WORSHIP COMMUNITY

Join us in worship no matter where life finds you. Live streaming Sundays at 11 a.m. and rebroadcast throughout the week. Visit watch.thewoodlandsumc.org.

Fall Foliage Trip in New England (continued from page 1)

They visited the home of Robert Todd Lincoln, learned about and enjoyed all types of chocolate at the Village Peddler Chocolatorium, and visited Robert Frost's grave at the Old First Church in Bennington, Vermont. Their last stop before returning home was the Honora Winery and Vineyard.



Above Left: Darlene and Darrell Daniels getting ready for a day in Vermont
 Above Right: George Holtin, Donald and Beverly Hoines and Wanda Leas (our guide)



Above: Virginia Cray, Helen Burgdorf and Sally Holtin in Boston Park
 Below: B.J. Dunlap and Dixie Jackson



The group was thankful to have enjoyed the breathtaking beauty of New England and to learn about our nation's history, but everyone was happy to return home.

The Goldenaires



The Goldenaires will be spreading Christmas cheer throughout Montgomery County during the month of December. See the calendar on page 2 for their schedule of performances.

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