

ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Aldersgate Experience

MAY 2017

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Aldersgate Family,

First, I would like to remind everyone that our Sr. Pastor, Reverend Homer Morris, is retiring effective the end of June. We will be having a special celebration in relation to his service on June 25th. On this Sunday, we will have one service with worship, followed by a catered lunch and celebration of Homer's 40 years of ministry. Please see John Hall (jahall@nc.rr.com) for details regarding this celebration, or if you would like to help in anyway.

Homer asked that I share his appreciation for the opportunity he has had to serve Aldersgate United Methodist Church, leading up to this major transition, following 40 years of full time active service in the North Carolina Methodist Church. He shares that he has met some of the finest Christians at Aldersgate and he looks forward to celebrating his 40 years of ministry with them, along with others that will be joining us for that celebration.

Also, I need to announce the retirement of Jack Snyder as our Minister of Visitation. Jack won't be leaving us as a member of Aldersgate, but he will be formally stepping down from his position as Minister of Visitation. His formal date of retirement is also at the end of June. Staff Parrish is considering this vital position now. If you have ideas you would like to share with us, please see any Staff Parrish Committee member.

We certainly appreciate Jack and everything he has done here at Aldersgate. Please take time to wish both Jack and Homer best wishes as they enter retirement.

Staff Parrish Relations is allowing Homer to work on a reduced schedule as he prepares for retirement and his move back toward the coast. With that in mind, we have some exciting news – from now until July 1st, we will have a schedule of guest “preachers.” This is something I am looking forward to.

As you know Lisa Cole was our guest minister on Sunday, April 23rd. In the coming months, we will have sermons by Eric, his wife Carley, Andrew, Nan, and John Hall. Of course, Homer will be preaching the sermon on June 25th. Look for further details in upcoming eBlasts and newsletters.

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward and the Cabinet of the North Carolina Conference have asked me, as Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee of our church, to announce to you that we will receive a new pastor on July 1st.

We give thanks to God for the ministry of Reverend Homer Morris and Jack Snyder who have served among us as our shepherd, teacher and spiritual guides. We will pray for them as they move into retirement, and we will continue to be blessed by the witness of God's love and grace they have offered to us.

Our new pastor will be the Reverend Bryan Faggart from Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport, NC. John Hall and Suzi Caudill will be meeting him as our representatives on May 4th at the Transition Seminar in Garner. He will come with his family for a covenant visit with the Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee on the evening of that same date.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we move into this time of transition.

Steve Wilfong,
SPRC Chair, Aldersgate UMC

MOTHER'S DAY AND PENTECOST

May is always a very special time of the year for many of us. It is a month of new life and renewal for the earth. It is a month of greenness and graduations. It is a month filled with recognitions and special celebrations. It is also the month that contains a special day of remembrance called "Mother's Day."

This year, Mother's Day falls during the midst of the Pentecost season. During this season we are surrounded by the words and hopes of St. John, as he shares a vision of things that are yet to be. From the book of Revelation, we are surrounded by those words of the angel that still ring in our ears, "He is risen; He is not here. Come see the place where they laid Him." We will continue to be surrounded by the message of a season in which our fears and anxieties are quieted, and our hopes and dreams illumined by the cross and the empty tomb.

It is appropriate that Mother's Day falls in the season of Pentecost . These special days of remembrance take on an added dimension for us who have heard those words of hope, and have built our lives on their truth. We not only look back with fond memories, we also look forward with confidence to that promised reunion. Because He lives, we too shall live. And for those of us who can only visit a grave or recall a memory, that is surely good news—the best Mother's Day present of all. Have a special month of celebration and remembering!

Rev. Dr. Homer E. Morris
Sr. Pastor

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MAY BIRTHDAYS

Tony McCall	05/01	Margie Muir	05/14
Matt Riggs	05/01	Todd Nye	05/14
Mackenzie Hale	05/03	Olivia Anderson	05/15
Derek Hampson	05/03	Becca Johnson	05/15
Callan Turley	05/05	Steven Dickerson	05/16
Ryan Dickerson	05/06	Charlotte O'Brien	05/17
Wendy Elder	05/06	John Hall	05/18
Zack Schoenfeld	05/06	Holly Hogarth	05/18
Daniel Shaver	05/07	Pam Verble	05/20
Nolan Hocutt	05/08	Sheila Dickerson	05/22
Benjamin Wike	05/08	Steven Fishback	05/22
Kim Aiken	05/09	Hannah Fogle	05/22
Susan Parham	05/09	Robin Thomas	05/22
Maizie Snyder	05/09	Brenda Helmer	05/23
Evelyn Anderson	05/10	William Murrell	05/23
Lindsay Brown	05/10	Cindy Stanley	05/26
Andy Revill	05//10	Sam Andrews	05/27
Robin Whitaker	05/11	Lynn Baird	05/27
Madison Neal	05/13	Emma Murrell	05/27
Jim Smith	05/13	Samuel Phelps	05/27
Peggy Allen	05/14	Travis Hanson	05/29
Randy Gordon	05/14	Michael Jones	05/29
Andrew Holland	05/14	Jessica Hale-Metzdorf	05/31





During difficult times, some of us often feel very alone. Frequently the problem is that we have no one to talk to who will really listen and not criticize or judge us. Aldersgate UMC is fortunate to have a compassionate and patient group of Stephen Ministers who are trained to do just that—to listen with caring hearts and to be there when you need encouragement and support from a loving Christian. These persons are committed to walking alongside those of us who are experiencing pain and grief from hardships such as divorce, job loss, sickness, loneliness, family difficulties, etc. As one care receiver put it, “My Stephen Minister has my back.”

Emily, a recent care receiver, lost her teenage son in a car accident. After the funeral, she told a friend that she felt like she had been fighting with the Lord. She said she felt “warfare in her soul” between Satan telling her to hold on to her grief and bitterness, and God telling her to let it go. Many nights she would go into her son’s bedroom and cry and then plead with the Lord for peace to be restored in her life. After several months of feeling stuck in grief, Emily finally requested a Stephen Minister. Since that time, her Stephen Minister has urged her to take her anxiety and anger directly to God who will be her strength as she walks on her difficult path of recovery. Emily feels assured that her Stephen Minister is helping her by bringing Christ’s healing love back into her life—week after week. However, she does admit that “though it was scary at first to express my emotions, I found that the Lord comforted me when I did.”

If you want to learn more about our Stephen Ministry program, or if you know of a relative, a friend, or a co-worker, who might benefit, contact Jack Snyder at 919-477-0509 Ext. 303, or at: Jack@aldersgate.org.

FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS



UPDATE

FMF is a emergency shelter and support agency to help homeless families find a home, find job and prepare for the future. We are one of their community partners.

The results from 2016 were as follows....

Average Daily Occupancy was 63 people (usually about 40 children & 23 adults)

% of Families moving to permanent housing	79 %
% of Families increasing their income from program entry to program exit	61 %
% of children (age 0 – 5) getting developmental screening	74 %
% of families not returning to shelter within 1 year of moving out.....	99 %
# of Community partners actively involved (including AUMC)	22
Average length of stay for existing households	170 days

One of the goals for 2017 is to reduce the number of days from 170 to 90.

A second goal for 2017 is to bring more mentors on board to support each family.

If you are interested in learning more about FMF and how you might be able to help please email me at mary@aldersgate.org

One-on-one mentors are needed to meet with a person for 1 hour once a week.

Our next opportunity to serve dinner and provide child care will be in July.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL GADGETS & GIZMOS

Uniquely Wired, Wonderfully Made.



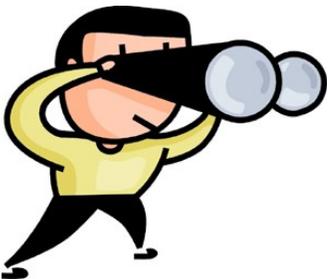
VBS REGISTRATION

Register online at www.aldersgate.org. If you have questions, please contact Eric Prenshaw, eric@aldersgate.org.

VBS HELPERS NEEDED!

We are so excited about our VBS theme this year! We will need all hands on deck to make this a wonderful experience for all of our kids. There truly is a job for everyone. Here are a few that we need, but there are many more. If you have questions or want to know more about how to help, please contact Eric Prenshaw (eric@aldersgate.org), Holly Fishback (hfishback@nc.rr.com), or Emily Wike (ewemilycatherine21@gmail.com)

K-1st grade small group coordinator * 2nd-3rd grade small group coordinator * 4th-5th grade small group coordinator * Preschool teachers and leaders * Elementary small group leaders * Decorations * Games Crafts * Missions * Skits * Music * Audio Visual * Photography * Food Prep * Meal Coordinators * Set up



Keep your eyes on the e-blast and bulletin for more specific items that we will need in the coming weeks.

Eric Prenshaw



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DATES

June 19-23: Chestnut Ridge Camp
June 26-30: Vacation Bible School:

SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 7th: Peter and John, Acts 3:1-4:22
May 14th: Peter and Tabitha, Acts 9:36-43
May 21st: Peter and Cornelius, Acts 10:1-28
May 28th: Peter in Prison, Acts 12:1-17

CHILDREN'S SABBATH CELEBRATION !

We were so thankful to celebrate Children's Sabbath on April 2. Our theme was "Come Taste the Bread" and our children led all aspects of our worship service. They served as ushers, greeters, lay readers, offered prayers, served communion, shared beautiful music, and baked bread that we used for communion. Our children are such a gift and it is delightful to see how God is working in their lives.





PRIMETIMERS MAY SCHEDULE

There will be no PrimeTimers Meeting on Thursday, May 4, due to the bus trip to the Museum of Art.

Thursday May 18, gentlemen from Mt. Sylvan will present a program about the hand held crosses they make.

This will be a bring your own lunch, and as always, dessert and beverages will be provided.

MUSIC AND ARTS CAMP WEEK IS COMING!

July 10-14, 2017

Kick-Off Pizza Preview is Sunday, July 9, 4:30-6:15 pm

9am-1pm (or register for full-day through Aldersgate's Camp Program)

Cost: \$55. to cover expenses

For ages 6 through 13

This year's musical is "The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit," by Tom Long and Allen Pote. This a fun telling of this classic, important story of David and Goliath. We like to think of it as The Original Rock-and-Roll Story! Through games, activities and rehearsals, we'll be singing, dancing, acting, creating sets and props, and participating in our yearly miracle: a Musical in One Week. Registration forms are at sign-in points and welcome centers. Please try to register by June 30. As soon as you register, you will receive a copy of the listening CD! Auditions for larger roles will be held on June 27 @10 am OR June 28 at 3 pm. Other times (earlier) may be arranged.



Help Wanted: we are blessed to have our awesome Camp Staff to help with this week, but would love to incorporate more of Aldersgate's members in volunteering with the children through this week, and with prep tasks such as making some simple costume enhancements. Please contact Nan for more information!
Nan@aldersgate.org



MUSIC NOTES BY NAN DE ANDRADE



CHANCEL CHOIR

Your Chancel Choir has been very busy serving through the Holy Week-Easter season! We were especially delighted to join with Mt. Sylvan UMC in our Good Friday cantata, We Remember Calvary, and to present our Easter musical “This Changes Everything.” On May 3, we’ll be taking our music to Aldersgate UMC in Chapel Hill. This smaller church doesn’t have a regular choir ministry, so we’re excited to sing several selections from our Lenten cantata and the full musical, “This Changes Everything” for their congregation and community!

We are far from finished! Our hearts are overflowing with praise for God. And we have many, many more beautiful songs to sing! (We take our several-weeks break in late July.)

All are invited to join us in our ministry. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00. Child care can be arranged.

P.S. Special note to YOUTH! Maybe now that school is winding down, you’ll be able to join us! We’d be so happy to have you join us.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE! FOR KIDS 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Music and Arts explorations each week! Three weeks are left in our 2016-2017 year, and we’d love to welcome some new friends. (Summer break begins May 24.)

We have enjoyed Singing and Worship and discovering our talents in other worship arts as well, such as painting, dance, bells and more! The children will sing for the 11:00 service on May 14.

WEDNESDAY
NIGHT LIVE
FOR KIDS!

A shout out to April Perry, who stitched up a couple of table runners for us to decorate for Children’s Sunday communion. We appreciated your generous gift!

SACRED DANCERS THANKS

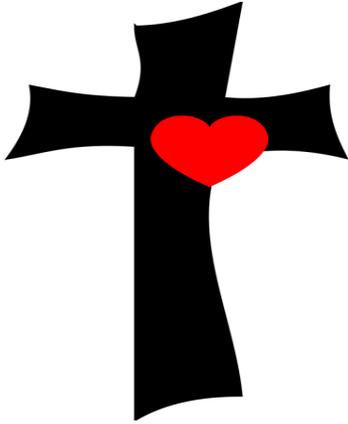
What looks and feels to us like angels with a message to share, but is actually our own children and youth expressing their love for God through dance? Thanks to Jordan Field for leading our dancers in their beautiful Palm Sunday dance, “Lead Me to the Cross.” Want to join the angels? Watch your newsletter for the next opportunity; more dancers are welcome to join.

FROM EASTER’S JOY TO PENTECOST’S FIRE!

“Why do we have an Easter Cantata two weeks after Easter?,” some people have wondered. The answer is, because it is STILL the EASTER SEASON! Easter is the climax of Jesus’ story, and the Resurrection is centerpiece of our faith, so we celebrate for a whole season! For six weeks after that Easter day, Jesus appeared to many believers, and in many places, to reconcile, show signs, teach, and prepare his disciples to carry on his mission. See eyewitness reports in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20-21. There is a LOT to get our minds around, concerning the import of the resurrection, so, our Easter Celebration journeys with the resurrected Jesus for those forty days, to follow his story and celebrate the Season, until Jesus is taken back up into heaven. The Ascension Day this year falls on Thursday, May 25 (Ascension Sunday is May 28). Ascension is recounted in the final verses of Matthew, Luke, and John, and in Acts 1. His disciples then go to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit to come. Ten days later (June 4) is another very special Sunday in the Christian Year: Pentecost. We celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the Church, as the Holy Spirit descended and gave the disciples the boldness and clarity to share the gospel. You can read about the first Pentecost in Acts 2. So, don’t let up on your Easter Joy just yet – the gospel continues!

WORSHIP SERVANTS OF THE MONTH

by Rev. Nan de Andrade



This new feature will highlight some of the “invisible” heroes of our worship experience. This month, let’s thank God for Aldersgate’s faithful MUSICIANS. Approaching summer break, and still out-of-breath from our Lent-Easter “marathon” seems the appropriate time to take a moment to recognize the faithful and generous service of our many music ministers and leaders.

Our JOYFUL NOISE handbell group is a merry band of 13 superb musicians (plus a couple of great subs), who rehearse every Tuesday from September through May and ring for worship monthly. Playing bells is a fun way to express

musical praise, but also requires tremendous concentration and more than a little bit of courage! Our bell ringers invest their talents so that they can share their love for God, and are happy that you enjoy their offerings at worship, and with several festivals each year.

Our children have been active this year, learning songs to share in worship, as well as experiencing “other arts” which they have shared, including shadow puppetry, dance, photography, bells, and communion paraments. None of this would have been possible without the help of WNL for Kids leaders, Lee King, Megan Andrews, Ruth Kay, and our amazing worship artists – Rochelle Nye, Heidi Miller, Emily Wike, Laurie Leeson, Jordan Fields, Rick and Richard Krieselman, Mary Ellen Rogers, and Cheryl Joy Turner... and of course, our amazing WNL KIDS! Nothing helps us connect with our joy in Christ, like a child, don’t you agree? They are themselves before us, and it is a beautiful gift.

Let’s offer up some lofty praise for our Chancel choir, forty-some singers who dedicate their Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings to lead us with their calls to worship and prayer and offertories, as well as cantatas and other special music. We have been blessed with some wonderful accompanists, and substitutes as well – Stan Benton, Jeanine Duke, and Carolyn Carle (and Eric Hendricks, for much of our year, who now lives and works in Charlotte). It is always such a joyful gift to make music with each other! Did you know that we have some choir members who have been serving for over 50 years? And some who regularly sing for both services each week? Some (maybe most, honestly) faithfully and cheerfully serve, in spite of really good reasons why not!!

Last, but not least, we are blessed at Aldersgate with many more INSTRUMENTALISTS who generously share their amazing skill and talents through the year as they are called – our brass players, Hank Van Deventer, Ken Carle, Steve Wilfong, and Lowry Caudill; flute players Sandra Reynolds and Anabela Mendes; and our praise band players – Steve Wilfong, Bob de Andrade, Ken Morris, and Eric Preshaw.

Our music ministry motto is that of J.S. Bach, Soli Deo Gloria, “To God be the Glory.” These Worship Servants, you might say, are not exactly “invisible,” but the hours of rehearsal and commitment to faithful Sunday leadership is their “secret” gift to God! I truly thank God for the ways that each one of them help us to give God glory. If their ministry has been useful to your worship of God, I encourage you to lift up a praise, send out a card, or offer them a word of thanks when you see them next.

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

Philippians 1: 3-6

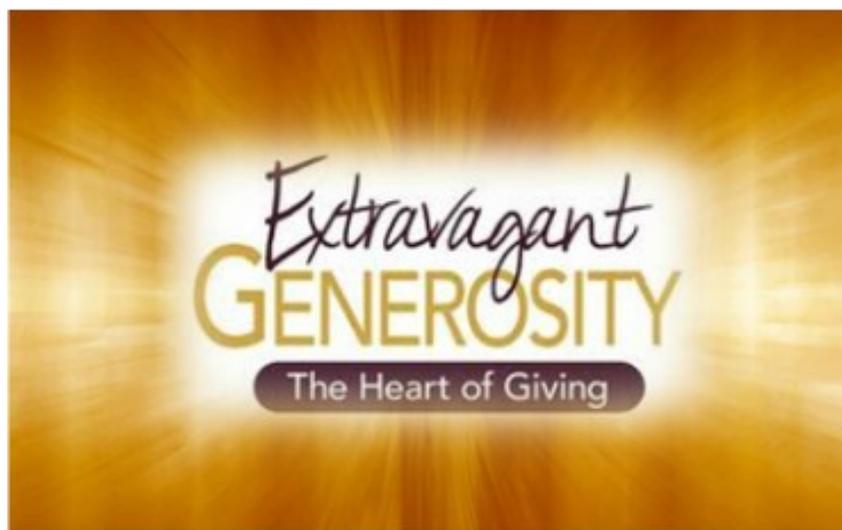
THE PRACTICE OF GENEROSITY describes the Christian's unselfish willingness to give in order to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ. Extravagant Generosity describes practices of sharing and giving that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures. It describes lavish sharing, sacrifice, and giving in service to God and neighbor.

Every sanctuary and chapel in which we have worshiped, every church organ that has lifted our spirits, every pew where we have sat, every Communion rail where we have knelt, every hymnal from which we have sung, every praise band that has touched our hearts, every church classroom where we have gathered with our friends, every church kitchen that has prepared our meals, every church van that has taken us to camp, every church camp cabin where we have slept – all are the fruit of someone's Extravagant Generosity.

We have been the recipients of grace upon grace. We are the heirs, the beneficiaries of those who came before us who were touched by the generosity of Christ enough to give graciously so that we could experience the truth of Christ for ourselves. We owe the same to generations to come. We have worshiped in sanctuaries that we did not build, so to us falls the privilege of building sanctuaries where we shall never worship.

People who practice Extravagant Generosity pray for their congregations to flourish in the ministry of Christ for children, youth, adults, members, and strangers near and far. There is a push the church to offer bold and vital ministries that transform the world, relieving suffering, deepening justice, encouraging love. And they give – regularly, generously, sacrificially, faithfully, and humbly.

Extravagant Generosity is not just about the church's need to receive, but about the Christian's need to give. Generosity is an essential quality of spiritual maturity and growth. The practice of Extravagant Generosity changes churches.



ALDRSGATE WEEKDAY MINISTRY



Family Nights Out- come and support Aldersgate Weekday Ministries. Proceeds will be donated to the scholarship fund.

Summer Camp is right around the corner! Register now for Elementary and Preschool age summer camps. Elementary camps are 7:30-6:00 pm each day. Preschool camps are 9:00-12:00 each day. Please call (919) 479-8686 for more information and to register.

PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| June 19-23 | Ladybugs, Butterflies, bugs – oh my! |
| July 24-28 | Land of Dinosaurs |
| July 31 – Aug. 4 | Outer Space |
| Aug. 7-11 | Pirates and Princesses |



ELEMENTARY SUMMER CAMP

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| June 12-15 | Around the World in 5 days |
| June 19-23 | Plants, wings and crawly things |
| June 26-30 | VBS theme |
| July 3-7 | CLOSED July 4th week |
| July 10-14 | Music and Arts Camp |



**A new play structure for the playground is coming!
We will be replacing the wooden structure on the elementary playground.
Look for the new play structure sometime in May 2017.**

Thanks, Evelyn Johnson



MOUNT LEVEL ANGELS !

Please join us in congratulating The Mount Level Angels 9-12 and 13-15 year old basketball teams that have finished 1st place in the Durham Church Recreational League for their divisions this season. Both teams have won the first round of their tournaments this past Saturday and have advanced to the quarter finals and finals of the tournaments this Saturday April 1st at the Lyon Park School on the West End. The 9-12 team will play at 10:00 am and the 13-15 will play at 11:00 am.

The coaches for the 9-12 team is Keith and Carl McKinnie and Dwayne Taylor is the coach of the 13-15 year old team.



RISE AGAINST HUNGER UPDATE

We are delighted to announce that the meals from your meal packaging event on 1/29/2017 have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Raleigh, NC warehouse. The meals will be received by our in-country partner Islamic Relief - Distribution in Mozambique."

Previously, we were notified that some of our meals were shipped to RAH's in-country partner ORPHAN Network in Nicaragua. It is exciting that our efforts contributed to relief in Nicaragua, especially after we hosted the Nicavangelist group last year. Now we have reached Mozambique and are joining with another faith group to provide nourishment to people in need.

Thank you to all who contributed and participated in this outreach to share God's love around the world!

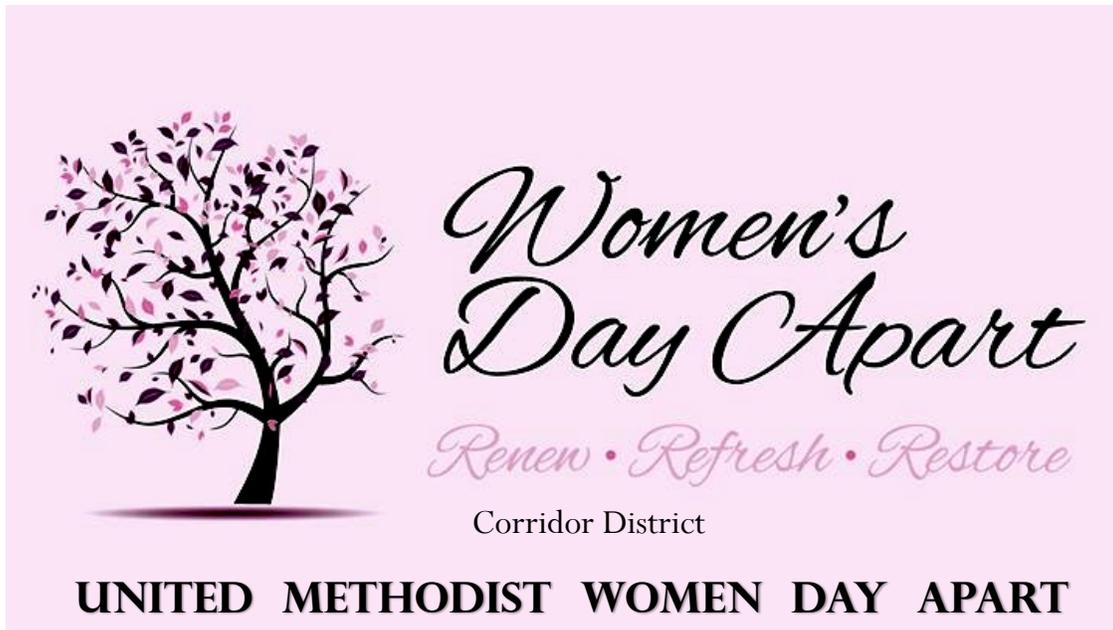
METHODIST HOME FOR CHILDREN



Thank you Aldersgate for your generous donation given on MHC Sunday. The money you have given will go to provide care for children who have had difficult experiences in their young lives. Your gift will help them today and for the rest of their lives.

We are so blessed to have wonderful congregations that lift us up not only through donations, but also in prayer. We are grateful for your faith in what we do for children, youth and families throughout North Carolina.

Blessings,
Reverend Bruce E. Stanley
President/CEO
Methodist Home for Children



The Summons
Saturday, May 20, 2017

CEDAR CLIFF UMC, 4683 CEDAR CLIFF RD, GRAHAM, NC 27253

9:00 am to 12:00 - Gathering & Refreshments at 9:00 am

Speaker: *Reverend Jessie Larkins,*
Assistant to the District Superintendent

This is your day for a spiritual retreat!
If you have colored pencils or fine tip colored markers,
Bring them for the meditative activity we have planned for you.
If you do not have your own coloring tools, we will share ours with you!

Contact Bea Gilmore (336-684-3887)
no later than Friday, May 12 if child-care is needed.

Directions: From the east (Durham), take I-40 to Graham exit #147. Turn left of the ramp onto Hwy 87S. Drive 8 miles, turn left onto Preacher Holmes Rd, Drive 1 mile, Turn right onto Cedar Cliff Rd. Our church is .8 mile, on the left

From the north: Drive to Hwy 87 South and follow through Graham and stay on 87 South and follow through Graham and stay on 87S for another 8 miles south of I-40 junction. Turn left onto Preacher Holmes Rd. Drive 1 mile. Turn right onto Cedar Cliff Rd. Our church is .8 mile on the left.



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

All AUMC men and men friends are invited to the Durham Bulls game on Tuesday, June 20. Tickets are \$13.00. To reserve your ticket or for questions, contact Jeff Sturkey (919-257-1924 or jeffsturkey@earthlink.net before June 11.

Make your plans to attend this Cracker-Jack evening of runs, hits and fellowship. Don't make the error of forgetting this.



BLESSINGS BY THE POUND !

During Advent we brought 1905 POUNDS of food to share through Urban Ministries! What a blessing to this community we call home! Thanks again for taking part in this " Reverse Advent"

This month Urban Ministry is in need of: Rice, Canned Fruit, Powdered Milk and Pasta Sauce



THANK YOU !

Thank you Aldersgate! We really appreciate the calls, cards, texts, visits, meals, and prayers as Carley continues to heal. We are so grateful for your generosity, it continues to be an incredible gift in this difficult time.

Sincerely,
The Prenshaws



MONDAY EVENING

Caring for Caregivers meet the 2nd Monday each month (May 9th for this month) 6:30 pm in Room 201 in the Family Life Center. A class for those caring for loved ones with memory loss diseases. Learn, share and walk with others through this difficult journey. Led by: Sandra Reynolds.

THE AUMC FACILITY MANAGER

is Alan Roberts. If you have any questions,

comments or concerns regarding our facility Alan's contact information is: alan@aldersgate.org, cell: 919-452-9033. Office: 919-477-0509 ext. 309

Please remember to return any items used on campus to the place and condition that they were before use. This includes furniture, kitchen equipment and pantry supplies. Please remember to un-prop any fire or exit doors before leaving the facility such as the Youth/Scout room, stairway doors, non-automatic fire doors, any exit doors and the lone door in the office hallway. Never prop open an automatic magnetic fire door. They will release and close when the fire alarm is activated

Be familiar with your surroundings, exits, the locations of the fire extinguishers and AEDs.

It is very important to report any safety concerns quickly.

Thanks to all and enjoy the use of your church campus.
Alan



TECHNOLOGY TEAM HAPPENINGS



"Did you do something to the sound in the sanctuary?
I can hear better now!"

"I don't know what you did, but I can hear lay readers
much better."

These are just a couple of the comments I've heard over the past month. A new sound system, based on the Behringer XR-18 audio mixer, was installed in the sanctuary in late March. This system allows us to be more flexible in set ups, as well as save 'scenes' - once we get the audio settings where we want them, we can save that setup as a scene, and reload it anytime. The AUMC technology team has been working on this, as well as many other activities, to improve and enhance our facilities. You may not have noticed these - such as a major upgrade to our email services - but we continue to work with Trustees, staff, and other groups to provide the technology services that are needed to support the various missions and ministries of our church.

What's coming? In mid-May, we will be working with the Trustees to upgrade the cameras used for our Wesley Worship and livestream. More to come about that! If you have questions or suggestions, please contact John Hall, jahall@nc.rr.com.



- May 7th Camp Sunday * Message by Dail Ballard
May 14th Mother's Day * Message by Carley Prenshaw
May 21st Message by Eric Prenshaw
May 28th Message by Nan deAndrade
- June 4th Message by John Hall
June 11th Message by Eric Prenshaw
June 18th Message by Andrew Woods
June 25th Message by Homer Morris* ONE Service 10:30 am (A celebration of
Homer's 40 years in ministry will follow the fellowship meal, after morning worship)

Camp Sunday is May 7th !

On May 7th we will be celebrating Camp Sunday in our two worship services. This worship service is a chance to celebrate all that God is doing through Camp and Retreat Ministries and to highlight how God uses retreats and outdoor experiences to draw us closer to Him. This summer Aldersgate UMC will be taking students to Camp Chestnut Ridge from June 19-23 for our camp week. So we will have an opportunity to pray for these students and the many others impacted by summer camps across our conference.



Our guest preacher will be Dail Ballard, Executive Director of the North Carolina Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries. She is a gifted speaker and leader. The NCCUMC

Camp & Retreat Ministries owns and operates camp and retreat centers in the annual conference.

The camp locations include :

Camp Chestnut Ridge, Efland * Camp Don Lee, Arapahoe * & Camp Rockfish, Parkton

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL DAY!

Extravagant Generosity

Our theme for this year’s stewardship campaign is to Practicing Extravagant Generosity.

You have probably heard various people talk about apportionments but perhaps no one has explained what an apportionment is and how those funds are calculated and used.

Each year every UMC conference uses a formula to calculate how much money each UMC should contribute to six different outreach areas of the church. The formula is approved by each Annual Conference session and is based on how each individual church spends money. Each year we report our income and expenses in various categories and these amounts are compared to the total of all of the churches. Our part of the whole is calculated using a ratio.

For 2017 our giving was calculated as \$ 125,878...which was split up in the following six missions.

Black College Fund – Supports ten historically black colleges including one medical school \$ 1548

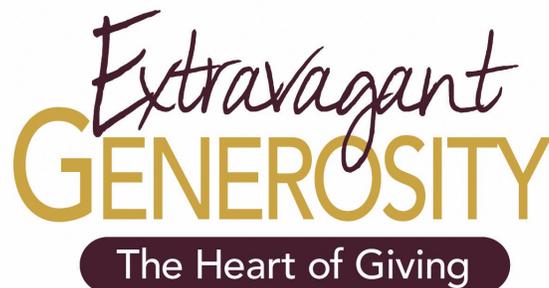
Africa University – Funds the development of a UM University in Zimbabwe (a place where UMC is experiencing its fastest growth as a denomination)\$ 346

Interdenominational Cooperation Fund – Supports ecumenical general church activities with other Christian communities witnessing in the World. \$ 303

Episcopal Fund – Funds salaries and expenses of active UM bishops and dependents, retired bishops and surviving spouses..... \$ 3402

Past Service Liability / Pension Insurance – Provides funding toward unfunded pensions and health insurance liabilities for retired pastors.....\$ 18,961

World Service & NC Conference Connectional Ministries – The basic benevolence fund of the church that distributes to the general program agencies. These agencies resource local churches and extended local church mission nationally and internationally in meaningful ways in God’s mission throughout the world...(Examples include Disaster Readiness & Response, Methodist Home for Children and Methodist Retirement Homes.\$ 101,318



Extravagant GENEROSITY

The Heart of Giving

2017 April

Financials

Income \$ 237,924.00

Expenses \$ 234,661.00

Net income \$ 3,263.00

Cash Flow \$65,000.00

MANY WAYS TO GIVE

One convenient way to give is to set up an EFT or electronic funds transfer. You can give a one-time gift or set up weekly, or monthly donations. You can set it up yourself by going to our Aldersgate.org web site and then selecting Mission & Giving and then On-line giving or by contacting our church treasurer.

You can make donations to the operating budget, the capital campaign or to special ministries such as the community backpack ministry or urban ministries, or make a special memorial gift.

Another way to give is by donating shares of stock. We use the United Methodist Foundation and Morgan Stanley to assist us with gifts of stock. If you are interested in this option just contact Mary Taylor by email at mary@aldersgate.org and she will give you or your stock broker the necessary paperwork to transfer the stock.

Thanks for all that you do to support the many missions and ministries of Aldersgate.



NURSERY MINISTRY

EACH SUNDAY MORNING:

NURSERY TEACHERS ARE:

LYNN WILFONG, ELLEN WHISNANT AND DAWN ECKHOFF.



ACOLYTE

8:15 AM SERVICE

5/7 MADELEINE HUGHES
5/14 MEADOW SNYDER
5/21 ELIZABETH HEALY
5/28 RILEY HALE

11:00 AM SERVICE

5/7 **ABBIE ROBINSON AND JOSHUA BOSECKER**
5/14 **CAROLINE BARBOUR**
5/21 **SAMMY TURLEY**
5/28 **MCKAYLE NYE**



An acolyte is a person who assists the presiding minister/pastor in worship and carries out certain duties, including candle lighting; carrying the processional cross; holding or getting items the pastor needs at baptisms, Holy Communion, and other worship acts. Acolytes may be children, youth, and adults.

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Hargis and Wanda Crutchfield



Altar Guild assures the worship space and supporting materials are prepared for worship.

TRUSTEE FOR APRIL

Andy Revill



Trustees are Christian stewards of the property God has entrusted to the congregation. Effective trustees supervise and maintain the property of the congregation to ensure that disciple-making ministries of the congregation are effective and that local legal requirements related to the property are satisfied.

MAY LAY ASSISTANTS

USHERS**8:15 Service**

	USHERS	GREETER	WELCOME STATION	LAY READER
5/7	Chick Hinton Richard Riggsbee Katherine Siler Mary Tom Roberts	Carol Brese (M) Dave Brese (O)	Carol Brese	Pattie Porter
5/14	Paul Jones Linda Jones Phil Stancil Chick Hinton	Pat Stancil (M) Norma Roberts (O)	Pat Stancil	Dave Brese
5/21	John Field Mitch Adkins Jacqueline Andrews Chick Hinton	Mary Tom Roberts (M) Richard Riggsbee (O)	Mary Tom Roberts	Judy Alford
5/28	Carol Brese Doug Morris Chick Hinton Holly Hall	Jacqueline Andrews (M) Mitch Adkins (O)	Jacqueline Andrews	Sharon MacLaurin

11:00 Service

5/7	Bill Smith Pam Boatright Michele Tucker Paula Veasey	Sarah Walker (M) Brent Walker (O)	Sarah Walker	Mike Hughes
5/14	Ginger Hawkins Sarah Walker Ed Osteen Holly Hall	Paula James (M) Gary James (O)	Paula James	Judy Alford
5/21	Kim Riggs Mike Hughes Paula Alford Jan Howe	Ronnie Oakley (M) Amelia Oakley (O)	Ronnie Oakley	John Howe
5/28	Emily Wike Amelia Oakley Ronnie Oakley Suzi Caudill	Rusty Grimm (M) Pam Boatright (O)	Rusty Grimm	Audrey Turley

ALDERSGATE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

1320 Umstead Drive
Durham, NC 27712

Phone: 919-477-0509
Email: holly@aldersgate.org



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Facebook: Aldersgate UMC Durham
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