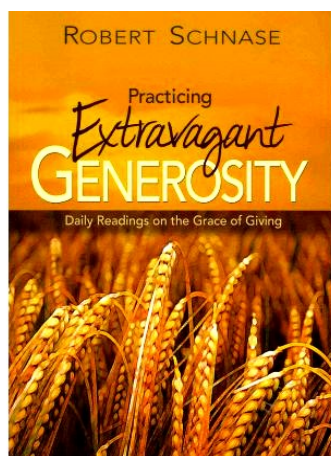


ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Aldersgate Experience

Extravagant Generosity

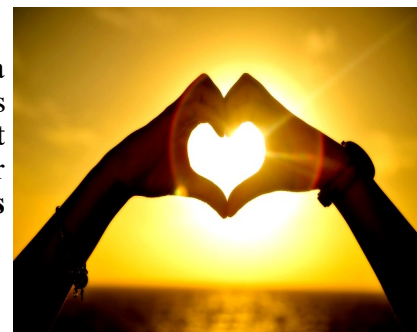


Do you have one copy of this book at your home? If not, please pick one up the next time you are at church (at the Welcome Center, outside of the Sanctuary or in the church office) OR find it on your favorite e-reader.

WHY? Because we want every household to read this daily devotional book with your whole family. Read it together and talk each day about what the message means to each of you. Our Stewardship campaign this year is a whole church, every age study. The children and youth will have pledge cards, developed for their age level, similar to the adult cards. We want our children thinking about having a generous heart, now!

Sunday School classes, WNL classes, and other small groups will be discussing this book and its teachings. Please try to come to either a Sunday School class or WNL to share and to listen to thoughts, ideas, and changes inspired by the readings.

You've seen this heart symbol before. What has the heart got to do with a stewardship campaign? **EVERYTHING!** *Practicing Extravagant Generosity* is about giving from the heart. It's about making decisions from the heart about what is going to be most important in your life and the way you use your Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness **Listen to your heart as you study this devotional book.**



September 4th is the date to **START** using the devotional book with your family. The first classes and discussions will be on September 10th. Below is the schedule for the readings and discussions:

September 2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sept. 4th Begin reading and continue daily until finishing on Oct. 1st

Sept. 10th Discussion of week 1 readings

Sept. 13th WNL discussion of week 1 readings

Sept. 17th Discussion of week 2 readings

Sept. 20th WNL discussion of week 2 readings

Sept. 24th Discussion of week 3 readings

Sept. 27th WNL discussion of week 3 readings

Oct. 1st Discussion of week 4 readings

Oct. 4th WNL discussion of week 4 readings

Oct. 8th Commitment Sunday

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

<i>Sept. Birthdays</i>	2	<i>Caring for the Caregiver</i>	9	<i>Acolyte Training/Meeting</i>	15
<i>WNL* Meals & Classes</i>	3-5	<i>Iron Man Eric</i>	10	<i>Sunday Morning Worship</i>	16
<i>Family Campout</i>	6	<i>Garden Work Days</i>	11	<i>Special Worship Services</i>	16
<i>Fall Festival</i>	6	<i>Food Pantry</i>	11	<i>Blessing of the Animals</i>	17
<i>Everything Kids Sunday</i>	7	<i>Ladies Who Lunch</i>	11	<i>Thank You</i>	18
<i>School</i>	7	<i>Primetimers</i>	12	<i>Financials</i>	19
<i>Real Discipleship Survey</i>	8	<i>Families Moving Forward</i>	12	<i>Nursery Ministry/Acolyte</i>	20
<i>Weekday School Ministry</i>	9	<i>Barrels Of Joy</i>	12	<i>Altar Guild</i>	20
		<i>Music Notes</i>	13-14	<i>Trustees</i>	20
		<i>Worship Servants</i>	15	<i>Lay Assistants</i>	21

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carl Chelette	09/01	Kevin Parham	09/20
Payne Swenson	09/01	Sarah Upchurch	09/20
Grayson Byerly	09/03	Lou Ann Martin-Rogers	09/21
Corey Copley	09/03	Michael Upchurch	09/21
Wanda Crutchfield	09/03	Wendie Anderson	09/22
Harper Johnson	09/03	Heather Mitchell	09/22
Regina Carver	09/05	John Sanders Jr	09/22
Alison Andrews	09/06	Charles Andrews	09/23
Hudson Brown	09/06	JC Berini	09/23
Kelley Gauger	09/06	Richard Low	09/23
Martha Payne	09/06	Steve Smith	09/23
Randy Lowans	09/07	Preston Verble	09/23
Petra Taylor	09/08	Pam Collier	09/24
Matt Gauger	09/09	Sophia Sarmiento	09/24
Katie Hammer	09/11	Lauren Stewart	09/26
Emily Wike	09/11	Cathy Chappell	09/27
Davis Brown	09/12	Kaylee Eckhoff	09/27
Eliza Brown	09/12	Larry Bowen	09/28
Paula Alford	09/13	Samantha Elder	09/28
Susan Leonard	09/13	April Perry	09/28
Cynthia Bell	09/14	Richard Kane	09/29
Mary Beth Cole	09/15	David Shaffer	09/29
Scott Falise	09/15		
Daniel Swenson	09/15		
Anne Bowman	09/16		
Donna Deck	09/16		
Connie Drake	09/16		
Emily Moser	09/16		
Karsyn Roberts	09/16		
Matthew Vincent	09/16		
Gary James	09/19		
Sam Panza	09/19		
Jerry Alford	09/20		
Jane Bahor	09/20		
Michelle Honeycutt	09/20		
Carla Neal	09/20		





FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Join us on Wednesday evenings starting on September 13th. We will meet together for a meal at 5:30 pm and then break into various class opportunities for children, youth, and adults. The cost for a meal is \$6.50 per adult and \$3.50 youth (through 5th grade), or \$20 per family max.

One of the things we need for our Wednesday night meals is groups willing to be responsible to be the dinner host for specific evenings.

It is a wonderful way to raise a little money for your favorite mission area, and it provides a much needed and very welcomed service to your church family. It's

also a fun way to build community within your own small group. Please contact Barbara Atkinson at habnc@hotmail.com or 919-638-5711 to schedule a date for your group. **The best dates – and menus - go fast, so call soon !**



Wednesday Family Fellowship Meal

WNL Menus

9/13	Haiti Mission Team	Taco Bar, Beans, Chips & Salsa, Dessert
9/20	Backpack Ministry	
9/27	Choir	

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE CLASSES

Our fall season of classes will continue through November 15th. Nursery will be provided for infants and toddlers. Please see below for class descriptions.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS * LED BY NAN DE ANDRADE

All of our children from preschool age all the way through 5th grade are invited to participate in these special activities on Wednesday Night. These will include singing and preparing music to sing in worship, and will also touch on various arts including painting, puppets, bells, drama, gardening, and other engaging activities. There is always a lot of variety and fun! (continues on page 4-5)





FINANCIAL PEACE * LED BY MARY TAYLOR AND APRIL TWINE

SEPT. 13TH - NOV. 15TH

ROOM 202 IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

WHAT IS IT? Financial Peace University (FPU) is a 9-lesson, money management course taught by America's most trusted financial guru, Dave Ramsey. Dave and his teaching team will walk you through the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, planning for the future, and much more.

THIS IS A LIFE-CHANGING COURSE ! YOU CAN FINALLY HAVE "FINANCIAL PEACE."

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY * LED BY JUDY ALFORD

SEPT. 13TH - OCT. 4TH

ROOM 210 IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

How does our relationship with God shape our views about money? How does our giving affect our relationship to God? How does God use our giving to change us? Experience afresh the joy of serving God through generosity. This study coincides with our 2018 stewardship program.



You are invited over these 4 weeks to join in brief daily readings and weekly discussions with everyone else at Aldersgate UMC. Each reading prepares us to understand more clearly the 'why' of Christian giving and to develop a common language and theology of generosity. Everyone praying, reading, and reflecting on the same passages fosters a unified sense of purpose and clarity of mission. Your participation with an open heart helps open the doors for our church's future mission.

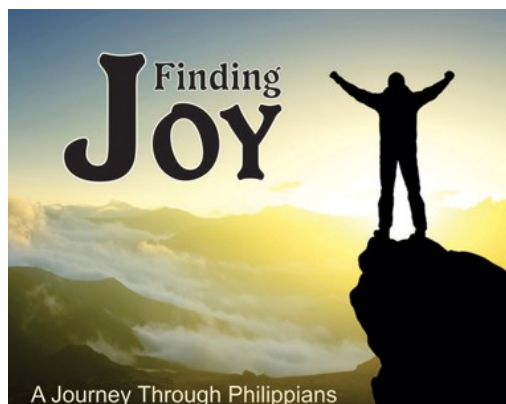
You will have the opportunity to participate in weekly discussion in each Sunday School class. If you are unable to attend a Sunday School class, we highly encourage you to join in this Wednesday night study. The content will be the same, so you do not need to attend both. We are praying that these weeks will be a time of spiritual growth for you and your family and provide a renewed commitment to the ministry of Christ here at Aldersgate.

GIVING FROM THE HEART, EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY!

PHILIPPIANS: FINDING JOY AND STRENGTH THROUGH CHRIST

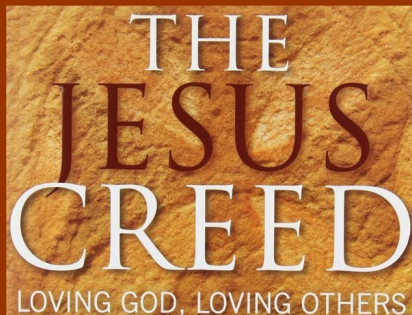
LED BY PASTOR ERIC

SEPT. 13TH - OCT. 4TH WESLEY ROOM



In this study we will look closely at the Biblical text as the Apostle Paul writes a letter to the church in Philippi. It is interesting that one of Paul's most joyful letters was penned while he was in prison. This books helps us understand how we can find joy through Christ in the middle of difficult circumstances. Philippians also helps us understand how to find strength and perseverance when we feel like giving up. One of the most quoted passages of scripture, especially among athletes, is found here: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). As I (Eric) train and prepare for my Ironman Triathlon race on September 24, this verse has been a constant source of motivation and encouragement. I never thought that I would ever be able to swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles, and run 26.2 miles all in the same day. But by the strength of Christ, I hope to do more than I ever thought possible, both in this physical race, but more importantly in the race of faith.

OTHER NEW CLASSES: OCTOBER 11TH - NOVEMBER 15TH



THE JESUS CREED: LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS BY SCOT MCKNIGHT

LED BY PASTOR BRYAN

OCT 11TH - NOV. 15TH WESLEY ROOM

In this study we will look at what spiritual formation would have looked like during Jesus' day using this wonderful book by Scot McKnight. When Jesus was asked by a religious scribe where to begin one's life in spiritual formation, Jesus shared with him what we know as the Great Commandment. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and

Leviticus 19:18, Mark 12:28-31). The principle of Christian spiritual formation is that a spiritually formed person loves God and loves others. This is a great introduction to the Christian spiritual life with many rich insights for wherever you are in your journey with Jesus.

The lessons follow this pattern:

Session 1: The Jesus Creed

Session 2: Do You Need a New Beginning?

Session 3: What Has God Called You to Become?

Session 4: How is God Calling You to Compassion

Session 5: What Kind of Society Should Christians Make?

Session 6: Yes, Disciples Fail ... Living the Jesus Creed.

Along with the reading for each week, the participants will memorize the Great Commandment and include it as a part of their prayer life for the duration of the study.



REEL SPIRITUALITY: EXPLORING FILM THROUGH THE LENS OF FAITH LED BY PASTOR ERIC AND JOHN HALL OCT 11TH - NOV. 15TH - ROOM 202 FAMILY LIFE CENTER.

What role does film play in our faith? How can Christians watch visual media with wisdom and grace, noticing both connection and dissonance between God's story and the stories of pop culture? Visual media, whether it be through movies, television, or even YouTube videos have become the primary language of storytelling in our culture today. In this 6-week study led by Eric Prenshaw and John Hall, we will examine how to view film through the lens of faith and notice where Christ may be present. We will discover ways that God's story can be revealed in film and pop culture, while also recognizing the need to watch film with discernment and critical thought. We will discuss film more broadly, but also look at specific films and clips, including Star Wars, the Matrix, The Truman Show, Wall-E, and others. There will be lots of room for class input and discussion, so let us know what films you might want to explore!

HOLLYWOOD JESUS
GLIMPSES OF GOD ON THE SILVER SCREEN



Family Campout * September 29th—30th

Come join us for a family campout at Aldersgate UMC. We will have a cookout, firepit, smores, songs around the campfire, sleep in tents on the field, and enjoy a big breakfast in the morning. Set up begins at 5pm on Friday, or whatever time you can arrive. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. All ages welcome! Even if you cannot spend the night, come for dinner and a fun time around the campfire. We will eat breakfast early on Saturday morning and clean up. Parents must accompany children under the age of 18. Keep in mind this is



Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat * Save the Date!

October 28th, 3-6 pm

Your family is invited to participate in our annual fall festival. Please invite neighbors, friends, grandkids, and anyone else you know! We are looking for hosts to provide a decorated "trunk" as well as donations of candy and cupcakes. We are also looking for helpers to cook, provide games, and supervise some fun activities. We were so impressed by our turnout last year and are looking forward to an even bigger crowd this time around. Stay tuned for more details.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are excited to be starting our regular class schedule for the fall. We have 4 children's classes divided by age level. Below each class is listed along with where they meet and the lead teacher. We have many other teachers that serve in our Sunday School program and would love to have you involved if you are interested. We hope your children can be a part of this wonderful time of being shaped in their faith.

2s and 3s—Room 103—Charlotte O'Brien

PreK-K—Room 101—Evelyn Johnson

1st-2nd Grade—Room 107—Megan Andrews

3rd-5th Grade—Room 210—Sandra Reynolds



The curriculum that we use is called Deep Blue. With Deep Blue, children will make Bible stories, Bible people, and Bible passages a part of their lives. They will also come to know the Bible as THEIR book and find ways to let the Bible speak to them today! Deep Blue incorporates Bible stories, science activities, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games into a lived-faith experience that will help children discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today! Here is what they are learning this month, we are focusing on how we listen to God.

September 3: Hannah Prays, I Samuel 1:1-28

September 10: God Calls Samuel, I Samuel 3:1-21

September 17: Samuel Anoints Saul, I Samuel 7:15-8:22, 10:17-24

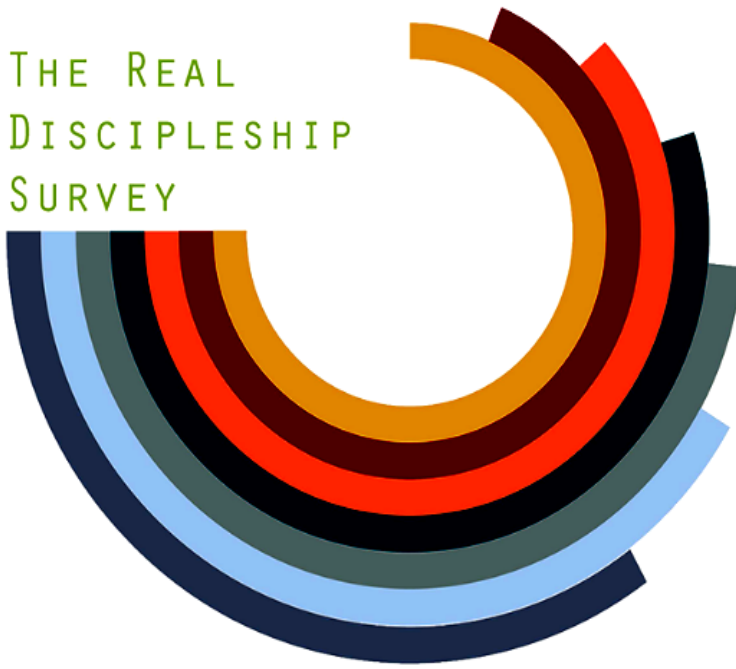
September 24: Samuel Anoints David, I Samuel 16:1-23



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are starting a new Sunday School curriculum and format for our youth and we need your help. Did you know that an overwhelming majority of Christians make the decision to follow Jesus before age 18? This is such a formative age for our students grades 6-12 and we have many opportunities to serve as mentors and friends as they grow in their faith during this time. If you are willing to spend time with our youth in Sunday School either once or twice a month, or even as a sub, please contact Pastor of Christian Formation Eric Prenshaw, eric@aldersgate.org.

THE REAL DISCIPLESHIP SURVEY



This month we will be inviting everyone in the church to complete an online assessment. This will combine the M&M (Mission and Ministry) survey with the real discipleship survey. Not only will this be valuable to our overall church, leaders, and staff in planning for the next year, it will be extremely helpful for you in determining what goals you might set for your own spiritual growth. You will receive a personalized report to help you understand the results. All information collected at the church level will be anonymous so you do not need to worry about anyone else seeing your results. These anonymous records are collated churchwide so that we can know where we need to grow and how we offer ways to mature in our faith together.

Real Discipleship implies that there is a “fake” discipleship. Or at least that our understanding of discipleship misses the mark at times. In his book entitled *Shift*, Phil Maynard outlines 5 shifts that each individual and church needs to make to experience abundant life and fruitful ministry. These shifts suggest a new understanding of discipleship and participation in the body of Christ that moves past “fake” or incomplete understandings. We must shift from fellowship to hospitality, from worship as an event to worship as a lifestyle, from membership to discipleship, from “serve us” to service, and from “survival mentality” to generosity. These shifts present exciting possibilities for us to experience God’s transforming grace and for us to participate in God’s mission of making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Real Discipleship Survey, designed by Dr. Phil Maynard, offers a way for people to assess their maturity on six dimensions of the discipleship journey. The survey measures: a life of worship, a life of hospitality, a life open to Jesus, a life of obeying Jesus, a life of service, and a life of generosity. Upon taking the survey, participants discover if their journey is in the exploring, beginning, growing, or maturing phase in each of those six categories.

We will be releasing specific instructions for the assessment soon. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Eric Prenshaw, Pastor of Christian Formation at eric@aldersgate.org.



Welcome Back Preschool Teachers and Students!

On August 28th the Preschool staff will return to prepare for another great year. We are looking forward to all the learning, playing, new experiences and new friends that we will have this school year. The students will start September 5th.

I would like to introduce you to our wonderful Preschool staff:

Megan MacIver

Kelly Andrew

Bryson Byrd

Amy Ludwig

Deb Matthews

Angela Herman

Karmon Allison

Carol Finch

Lynn Wilfong

Tammy Golden

Melissa Jacobs

Stephanie Elston

Lindsey Sellars

Lara Rowland

Mary Johnson

Aleda Deck

Pam Hartis

Ginny Hall

Marcie Hutson

Kelly Reaves

Judi Collier

Carol Eddinger

Tonya Keaton

Kellie Avery

Maria DiFrancesco

Susan Caviness

Please remember the teachers and families in your prayers throughout the year.
Thanks so much,
Evelyn Johnson

MONDAY EVENING

Caring for Caregivers meets the **2ND MONDAY EACH MONTH** (September 11th for Sept.) at 7:00 pm in Room 201 in the Family Life Center. This is a class for those caring for loved ones of any age. Learn, share, and walk with others through this difficult journey. Led by Sandra Reynolds.

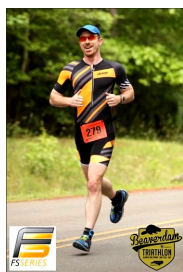


IRON MAN Eric!

IRONMAN CHATTANOOGA SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

I am so thankful for your support and encouragement I have received as I have been training for Ironman Chattanooga. As many of you know, I will be competing in an Ironman triathlon race on September 24 in Chattanooga, TN. This consists of a 2.4 mile swim, 116

mile bike ride, and 26.2 mile run. I will be joining over 2,500 other athletes seeking to cross the finish line on that day.



Some have asked me why in the world I would want to do such a thing? To be honest, I have asked myself this numerous time during the many hours of training over the last 24 weeks. Why do an Ironman? To me this has been a dream of mine ever since I began running regularly in 2011 and it has become a bucket-list item. But this is something that I never thought I could do before. To complete these distances seemed super human. I was inspired by seeing friends and church members train and complete these races. I wanted to challenge myself physically and spiritually. The main reason I am doing this race is to reach for the limits of what I am capable of and also to surpass a goal that I never thought possible. To achieve something so great is only possible to me by relying on Jesus Christ. My motto throughout this training period has been Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Training for an Ironman has taught me a lot about my spiritual life and walk with Christ. The regular discipline of exercising 6 days per week, steadily building towards a goal, persevering even when I just want to stop or give up, and listening to my needs for nutrition, rest, and self-care have all been valuable as I think about my own race of faith, the journey of discipleship. To complete an Ironman, one mantra I have often repeated is "Relentless Forward Progress." Even when my run is slowed to a walk or I feel like I can't climb up another hill on the bike, I tell myself to keep putting one foot in front of the other. It doesn't matter how fast or how slow I am going, just that I am making progress towards the finish line.

The mantra of "relentless forward progress" (RFP for short) reminds me of Paul's description of pressing on toward the goal in his letter to the Philippians. In chapter 3:12-14 he says, "Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." I pray that we can all keep pressing on in seeking Jesus, no matter what challenges we might be facing.

So as I strive toward the finish line on September 24, I invite your prayers, encouragement, cheers, and well wishes. For those who may want to follow my progress, there will be live race day coverage including athlete tracking and up-to-date race results. On Sep. 24, you can go to www.ironman.com click on 'Live Coverage' at the top of the page and select the Chattanooga race. Select 'Athlete Tracker' and you can search by bib number (mine is #1632) or last name.

As a send-off, we will have a light reception after the 11:00 service on September 17th in the Wesley Room. Carley and I invite you to stop by briefly if you so desire for some light refreshments and greeting as I prepare to embark on this journey. Thanks again for your support!

Pastor Eric





Come grow with us in the Genesis Garden!

Work days in the garden are scheduled for Wednesdays from 6 pm-8 pm. Come late or leave early if needed. Many hands make for light work and we're excited to see what God is doing through the soil here at Aldersgate UMC. For more information contact: Pastor Eric at Eric@aldersgate.org



Food needs for September are powdered milk, pasta sauce, and canned fruit. Please place your donations in the Food Pantry closet across from the Wesley Room in the Sanctuary building.

ATTENTION LADIES OF THE CHURCH



LADIES WHO LUNCH * If you are a lady of the church, retired or otherwise, and available to go to lunch on a Friday, please join us! We will be gathering at a local cafeteria on the second Friday of every other month to have lunch and just enjoy each other's company!

We can gather at the church at 12 noon and take the bus, or carpool, so that we don't all have to drive to the destination. If you need a ride from home, call Judy Alford at 919-210-4146.

The next luncheon will be September 8th at C & H Cafeteria, Northgate Mall. So mark your calendar "Ladies Who Lunch" and "Let's Do Lunch!"

Dates planned for 2017:

September 8, C & H Cafeteria, Northgate Mall

November 10, K & W Cafeteria (road trip), Chapel Hill



PRIMETIMERS will meet on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH**, 11:45 in the Wesley Room. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Our speaker will be Pastor Bryan.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, bring your own lunch and hear a representative from Senior Pharmassist.

Families Moving Forward * Homeless Shelter for Families

The available time for serving the families at FMF will be:

Monday, October 9th and Thursday, October 12th.

Please mark your calendar ... more information to follow.

If you would like to help with food, serving food, tutoring or child care, please email mary@aldersgate.org.

BARRELS OF JOY FOR FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD

Families Moving Forward has asked us to collect items for the families so that when they move into their own homes they will have some of the essentials they will need to get started.

Twin or full sheets sets, plus blankets or comforters

Gift cards from Visa, Walmart, Target, or gas cards

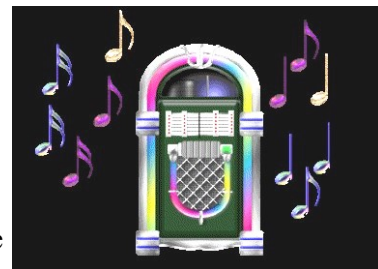
Cleaning supplies and paper goods

The barrel is in the hall outside the Wesley Room.



MUSIC NOTES- Nan de Andrade

Please contact Nan de Andrade, Music Minister, to learn more.
(nan@aldersgate.org)



ALDERSGATE'S TOP-20 COUNTDOWN REFLECTION

All summer long, it has been my pleasure to observe the enthusiastic response through your beautiful, heartfelt singing of our “Top-20 Favorites.” I wonder, probably with you, whose favorite was this one?, and why: does it remind you of your personal faith story. Perhaps it was sung at a time when you dedicated your life to Christ, or at a church camp, or you recall singing it with your grandparents. Or is it simply the words – they speak your theology in a clear way, or they challenge or comfort you each time you hear them? Perhaps the tune is one that is on that “loop” in your inner voice – it comes to you in the night, or just when you need it.

Now we’re coming down to the “big reveal,” with #2 and #3 on Sept. 3, and #1 on Sept. 10. Even though these “hits” received a large number of votes, and likely speak of a common stream of AUMC’s worship heart, it is also very telling that all of our #10-20 hits made it to our countdown with just 2 or 3 votes. And beyond that were even more 1-vote wonders! This also speaks of our common worship heart – that we are truly a congregation who are unified in our diversity! Many paths have led us to be a worshipping community – we grew up in probably every denomination of the Christian church, we come from many parts of the United States and world, and we have been fans of many styles of music. As well, we are all in different seasons of life and faith development. Isn’t it wonderful that God has put us here together, to be blessed by our chorus of varied, beautiful voices? I am always grateful when I think about how grace-filled Aldersgate is in our corporate worship, open to worship through many songs, many styles, many voices. Because we’re not a “Frank Sinatra” church, we don’t insist that it always be “My Way.” This, I believe, reflects well our extravagant, creative, and loving Triune God.

I hope that you will continue to share with me a hymn or song that you’d like to experience in worship. And I pray that you will continue to be the diverse, open, and growing congregation that this survey revealed.

CHANCEL CHOIR * LET’S FILL THE LOFT!



Our Chancel Choir is back, after their well-earned summer break. Our Chancel Choir sings for 8:30 and 11:00 worship each week, but rehearse all together on Wednesday nights from 7:30-9:00 pm. Most sing for one or the other service, and a handful often choose to come to both services. Our motto is “the more, the merrier,” because we love to welcome more singers!! If you love to sing praise to God, you don’t need a solo voice or to commit to be at every service, all year; we truly invite you – as you are, when you can! We rehearse most anthems for 6 weeks before performing them, so you’ll have plenty of time to learn the songs, even if you have to miss now and again. All voices are needed. For more information, see

any choir member or Nan. Also coming this Fall: Choir Music Weekend at Lake Junaluska, October 20-22! Mark your calendars for a wonderful retreat – as we advance in our skills!

ALDERSGATE’S GOT TALENT! PEW SCOUTS are asked to help our music ministry to grow. If you hear a beautiful voice somewhere near you, take a card from our pew rack and nominate them for our choir! Just drop the card into the offering plate or to Nan’s mail box, and we’ll let them know that a “little bird told us” to invite them to choir ministry! Thanks for your help!

WONDERING ABOUT HANDBELLS? * More ringers are welcome – groups are forming now. PLEASE email Nan if you’re interested in possibly joining a new beginners group or our advanced group this fall. Also, music reading skills are needed – and if you need some help with this, see Nan for some FREE tutoring in music literacy!

WORSHIP INTEREST AND TALENTS SEARCH

Let Nan know you're out there! Do you (did you) play an instrument? Would you be interested in playing with a band/orchestra/small ensemble to serve in worship and outreach here at Aldersgate?

What about DRAMA? Would you enjoy being a part of a drama ministry, sharing skits/interpretations/reading of our scripture or theme on a Sunday now and then? Have a song you'd love to share?

SEEKING ARTISTS! What do you do that helps you to connect to God and worship? Paint? Dance? Write Poems? Photography? Draw or Doodle? Prayer-walk? Would you be willing to share your worship art with our children next year? At each Wednesday Night Live for Kids, in addition to singing, we introduce our children (pre-K – 5th graders) to another worship art. Usually over 3-4 weeks' time, a church member joins us, first sharing about their worship art/activity, and then offers the children an experience in worship in their creative way. Last year, we enjoyed everything from exercise to mosaics! For the upcoming year, we will need about 10 more artists to come and share how they connect with God through art, activities, or interests. Please let Nan know if you can help!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE! FOR KIDS Beginning on September 13, Wednesdays from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. **MUSIC AND ARTS EXPLORATIONS** each week! For: Age 4 (Pre-K)-5th graders (Depending on registration, we'll have one or two groups!)

Led by Nan de Andrade, assistants and varied Worship Artists from our own congregation! Assistants are also needed to simply add more love and care for the children as they learn.

Each week, we'll sing for 30 minutes and in the second half-hour, we'll explore other worship arts! Our choir curriculum is called "Growing in Grace," and this year's theme is ALL CREATION SINGS. The children will be learning songs to share with the congregation about every 4-6 weeks, and also learning music and worship leadership skills. We'll share our "other" worship arts with the church as well. Check out our Shutterfly memories book on the Welcome Table in the Narthex to see the fun we had last year! **PLEASE JOIN US! WE NEED OUR CHILDREN TO LEAD US IN WORSHIP!**



WORSHIP DRAMA MINISTRY LAUNCH MEETING Sunday, September 24, 3:30-5:00 pm. Scripture enacted or presented in a dramatic way can impact us in a deeper level than just hearing or reading. For many, using drama enhances the scripture passage, awakening our imagination, connecting to our own experience, or teaching us something we hadn't noticed before.

We have many members who have a background in drama/stage talents to share. So, we're going to see what the Holy Spirit can do with us! Nan de Andrade and Emily Wike are hosting a Drama Ministry Launch Meeting on Sunday, September 24, 3:30-5:00 pm in the Room 202 of the FLC. At the meeting, we will enjoy sharing some Drama activities together and discuss possibilities for sharing drama in our Sunday worship. Each drama will require only a small cast and a limited number of rehearsals, so at this first meeting, we will try to coordinate schedules and plan and begin our work on several dramatic skits or readings chosen for the remainder of the year. If you are interested in joining us or finding out more, please contact Nan or simply come to our first meeting.



WORSHIP SERVANTS OF THE MONTH

by Rev. Nan de Andrade

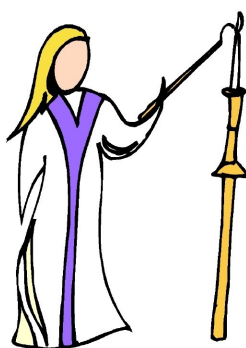
This feature will highlight some of the “invisible” heroes of our worship experience. This month, let’s thank God for Aldersgate’s!

Handbells in worship is a fairly new addition to music ministry. In 17th-century England, tower-bell ringers needed a quieter way to rehearse complex change-ringing patterns between towers, and so handbells were invented. Later, in the late 20th century, music began to be written for the unique sounds of handbells. Different from a choir or orchestra in which each musician is responsible for one line to add to the whole, a handbell choir works together as one instrument, with each player responsible for particular notes, ringing them when they appear in the music. What teamwork!

Our handbell choir, the Joyful Noise Ringers, practice this teamwork each Tuesday evening from 7:30-9:00. They hardly ever miss a practice, because they depend on each other to make the arrangement complete. We schedule our performances carefully, because we need each ringer to be present! The Ringers participate in a couple of festivals each year, one on a Fall Saturday in November with the Raleigh Ringers’ Capital Area Festival with a guest conductor, where we learn several selections to ring together with about 40 handbell choirs from all over the Southeast. Another is our own Epiphany Ring (this year on Jan. 7, 2018), where about 8-12 handbell choirs from the area come to Aldersgate to rehearse and ring a concert to celebrate the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany Season. Sometimes, there are workshops offered as well, such as Choir Music Weekend at Lake Junaluska or a Raleigh Ringers workshop.

Our handbells were all purchased as gifts in memory or honor of someone. You’ll see the dedication plaque in the narthex, on the left wall. It’s a great way for us to literally hear the “cloud of witnesses” joining us as we worship.

I am very grateful for the faithfulness of our 12-13 handbell ringers. (And if you’d like to be one, please contact Nan!) Our Ringers’ time, skills and talents are given generously and with joy. For many, watching our handbell choir is a visual reminder of how the Body of Christ operates - many gifts, all performing their small part of Christ’s ministry, together creating a lovely witness. So let’s all make a Joyful Noise, thanking God for the gift of our handbell ringers!



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

ACOLYTE MEETING AND TRAINING

On Sunday, September 17, 4 -5 pm, all people who are interested in serving in worship leadership through acolyting are invited to a meeting that will include discussions about our spiritual purpose, as well as scheduling, robe fitting, and a review of procedures and training. We hope to add some new acolytes to our team, which serves us all year long on a rotation (both services). Children may begin serving at 3rd grade. This year we are expanding our ministry and encourage children and (NEW!) youth and adults to volunteer. Whether you’ve served in the past or are new to acolyting, please come to our meeting (parents as well)! We will meet in the

sanctuary. Contact Maggie Healy at Maggie.healy@gmail.com or Rev. Nan de Andrade for more information.



Sermons by Pastor Bryan

September 3

Sermon Scripture: Matthew 16: 21-28 * Sermon Title: Discipleship ... Up Front and Close

September 10

Sermon Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:17-19 * Sermon Title: Heart Health

September 17

Sermon Scripture: John 13:34-35 * Sermon Title: Relationships ... a Matter of the Heart

September 24

Sermon Scripture: Matthew 6:33 and Colossians 3:1 * Sermon Title: Vision and Hope ... Inspirations From Our Heart



Sept. 10-Oct. 8 Extravagant Generosity of the Heart – Stewardship Series

Oct. 1 – World Communion Sunday

Oct. 8 – Blessing of the Animals! 3 pm, @Pavilion and Field

Oct. 29 – 10:30 UMM Sunday, Fifth Sunday in FLC

Nov. 5 – All-Saints Sunday

Nov. 19 – Community Thanksgiving Service, 6:00 pm @Temple Baptist

Dec. 3 – Alternative Christmas Fair 9:30 - 12:30 FLC

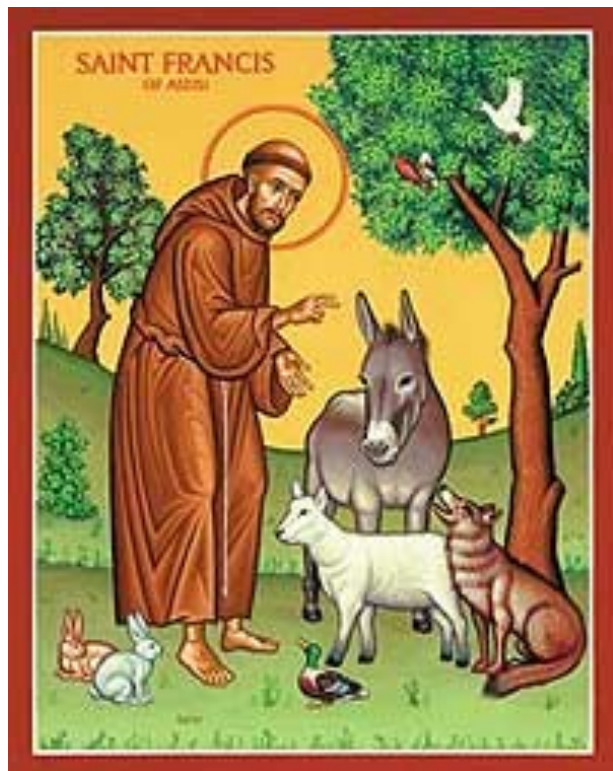
Chrismon/Hanging of the Greens Service, 6:30 pm

Dec. 10 – Joint Choir Worship Cantata, “Hope,” with McMannen and other area UMCs, 6:30 pm in our FLC

Dec. 17 – Love Feast, 6:30 in FLC

Dec. 24 – 4th Sunday in Advent, one service at 11:00 am (Sanctuary),
Christmas Eve 4:00 Family “No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant,”
7:00 and 11:00 pm Carols, Communion, and Candlelight

Dec. 31 – 11:00 am (one service) Lessons and Carols Service



Blessing of the Animals

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Sunday, October 8th
3:00 p.m.

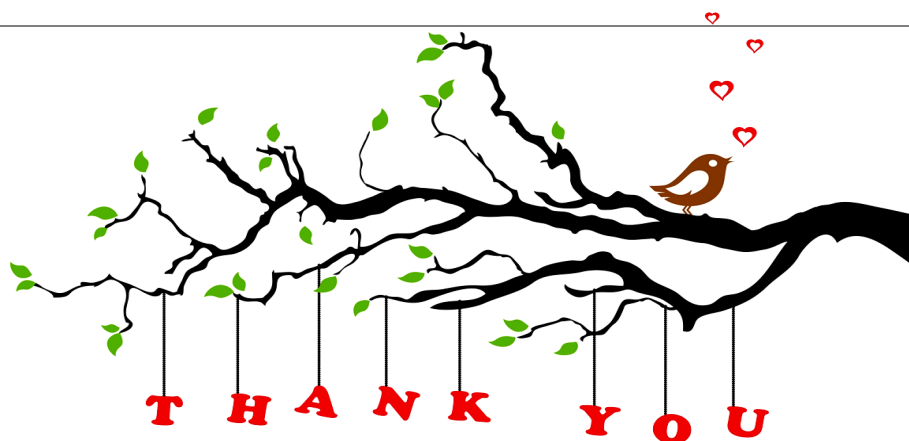
On **Sunday, Oct. 8**, churches around the world will celebrate something that St. Francis of Assisi started almost 800 years ago: blessing our animals. It was Francis who first introduced the idea that human beings are only one of a myriad of creations of God and that all are blessed in God's "eyes." The feast day of St. Francis (*the day that he died*) is celebrated every year on October 4, and blessing of the animal services are usually scheduled for the Sunday closest to that day.

The first blessing of the animals happened like this: One warm afternoon early in his ministry (*sometime between 1210-1215*), Francis wandered outside of Assisi, full of self-doubt, asking God if perhaps everything he had done until that point had been for the wrong reasons. Francis

wondered if he should have simply gotten married and raised a family as his father wanted him to do. It was while he was praying alone to God that Francis glimpsed some birds along the path. He paused and began to speak to them as if to equals. Soon, he began to "*preach*" to them about God's glories and all the reasons why both humans and birds should be grateful. This connection between St. Francis and animals is the single fact about him that most people know. He emphasized that creation includes more than humankind. He always called creatures his brothers and sisters, and he worked to further widen the fraternity to link humans and creatures in the same relationship with God.

You are invited to bring your pet(s), to Aldersgate UMC for them to receive a blessing at 3:00 pm in the field by the picnic shelter. Those whose pets have died may bring a picture of them and we will offer a prayer of remembrance. You are encouraged to invite your friends to bring their pet(s). This will be a wonderful day of celebration and remembering. We do ask that you bring your pet(s) on a leash or in a carrier. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating our wonderful gifts from God.





I want to thank my Aldersgate friends for all the kind things done for me during my illness. All the rides, visits, cards, calls, food, gifts, flowers, and especially all your prayers were greatly appreciated.

"Special thanks" to Jack Snyder for all his wonderful visits, prayers, and words of encouragement.

In Christian Love,
Diane Weller

Thank you for supporting me with your prayers and monetary donations! My trip to South Africa with "Goals for Girls" was amazing and life changing!

Thank you!

Catherine Fishback

Dear Aldersgate,
Thank you for your gift to Urban Ministries of Durham offering neighbors food, shelter, and a future.

Lorie Castillo came dancing into my office waving a letter. She held it out to me: Her applications for an apartment had been approved, so she is moving out of the UMD homeless shelter. Lorie has been homeless off and on for 33 years, yet she is starting the new year in her own place.

Lorie's story is just one example, In the last full fiscal year Aldersgate has provided 52,089 nights of shelter to an average of 143 people a night, including families with children. You have fed hungry people 246,836 meals in the Community Café, some 6786 daily. AUMC has distributed groceries and clothing to an average of 486 households in need each month as well as helped end homelessness for 185 people. All we can say is a humble "thank-you."

Bryan Gilmer
Director of Marketing and Development
Urban Ministries of Durham



2017 August Financials

Income	\$ 469,722.
Expenses	\$ 446,869.
Net income	\$ 22,853.

Help us Light a Fire to burn the church loan paperwork

Six years ago Aldersgate renovated the parsonage master bathroom and added the columbarium, the athletic field, additional parking, and finished the youth and scout rooms in the Family Life Center. At that time, we had a bank loan of \$1.3 million. We have paid the loan down so that today our loan balance is \$45,079. Our goal is to pay off the loan by December 2017.

Any offerings to AUMC that are marked Debt Retirement are applied to the loan balance.



MANY WAYS TO GIVE

One convenient way to give is to set up an electronic funds transfer (EFT). 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, 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

8:30 AM SERVICE

9/3 CAROLINE BARBOUR

9/10 MEADOW SNYDER

9/17 ELIZABETH ANN HEALY

9/24 DANIELLE NIXON

11:00 AM SERVICE

9/3 CAMERON NYE

9/10 JOSHUA BOSECKER

9/17 KAYLE NYE

9/24 BENJAMIN WIKE



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, and holding or getting items the pastor needs at baptisms, Holy Communion, and other worship acts. Acolytes may be children, youth, and adults.



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

ALTAR GUILD

Paula James and Kathy Chmielewski

TRUSTEES FOR SEPTEMBER

Andy Revill and Lisa Clark



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.

SEPTEMBER LAY ASSISTANTS

USHERS

8:30 Service

		GREETERS	WELCOME STATION	LAY READER
9/3	Chick Hinton Richard Riggsbee Katherine Siler Mary Tom Roberts	Carol Brese (M) Dave Brese (O)	Carol Brese	Ken Morris
9/10	Paul Jones Linda Jones Phil Stancil Jackie Roberts	Pat Stancil (M) Norma Roberts (O)	Pat Stancil	
9/17	John Field Mitch Adkins Jacqueline Andrews Chick Hinton	Mary Tom Roberts (M) Richard Riggsbee (O)	Mary Tom Roberts	Debbie Edge
9/24	Doug Morris Kirk Brown Kathy Chmielewski Carl Chmielewski	Mitch Adkins (M) Jacqueline Andrews (O)	Mitch Adkins	Steve Wilfong

11:00 Service

9/3	Bill Smith Pam Boatright Michele Tucker Paula Veasey	Sarah Walker (M) Brent Walker (O)	Sarah Walker	Cathy Cozart
9/10	Ginger Hawkins Sarah Walker Ed Osteen Nancy Grinstead	Paula James (M) Gary James (O)	Paula James	Mike Hughes
9/17	Kim Riggs Paula Alford Jan Howe	Ronnie Oakley (M) Amelia Oakley (O)	Ronnie Oakley	John Howe
9/24	Emily Wike Amelia Oakley Ronnie Oakley Suzi Caudill	Rusty Grimm (M) Paula Alford (O)	Rusty Grimm	Paula Veasey

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Methodist Church
