

Aldersgate Experience



A few years ago Jack was helping with the church's Christmas project. His assignment was to take two little boys from a poor home on a Christmas Eve shopping spree. Tommy (age nine) and his younger brother, Bill, (age seven), were delighted when Jack came to pick them up. They had been watching for him all morning, because their dad was out of work, and they knew that this was all the Christmas they would have that year.

Jack gave them each the allotted \$5.00 each, and drove them to a large K-Mart. He took them to the toy section, but they didn't seem interested. Then they went to sporting goods. Then to hobbies. Then to clothing. Every time, Tommy and Billy would take out a piece of brown paper, look at it, whisper to one another, and finally say, "No sir. We don't see what we want here." At last, admittedly a little exasperated, Jack Smith said to them: "Well, surely in this whole store there is something you want. You need to find it!" Tommy, the nine year old, said": Mr. Jack, where do they keep the shoes?"

In the shoe department, the boys once again took out the piece of brown paper and told a clerk: "We want a pair of work shoes to fit this foot." Billy explained that it was the outline of their daddy's foot, drawn with a crayon. They had drawn it while their father was asleep in a chair. The clerk

measured the outline of the foot and found some shoes that would fit. "Will these do?" he asked. The boys were delighted. Billy and Tommy, with big smiles, accepted the shoes eagerly. But then Tommy saw the price. "Oh, no! Billy! These shoes are \$16.95, and we have only \$10.00." The clerk cleared his throat and said, "Well, that's the regular price, but you're in luck. It just so happened that those shoes are on sale today - Today only, for \$9.98.

Jack Smith pulled out another \$10.00 from his wallet and watched as Tommy and Billy bought gifts for their mother and two little sisters. Not once did they think of themselves. On the way home the boys said: "now that daddy has work shoes, I bet he can find work again - and he wont be so sad." Jack Smith told his pastor Charlie Jones: "I thank God for those two boys. They taught me more about Christmas in one day than I had learned in a life time."

"Good Tiding of Great Joy." That's what Christmas promises - that amid a Bethlehem kind of world where there is fear and sorrow and inequity and cruelty, Jesus comes. And though He may not magically transform that world, He does transform people...here and there...carpenters and shepherds and little children like Tommy and Billy Through them He touches us - and thus He touches others - until in time, those people, living lives of kindness, faith and love, can still change the world. That is His promise. And that is our hope. That love will at last win out...

Let there be peace on earth!

Rev. Dr. Homer E. Morris

DECEMBER 2016

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

John Bullock	12/01	Carol Daugherty	12/12
Reagan Thomas	12/02	Paula James	12/12
Grace Vincent	12/02	Terri Ray	12/14
Mary Artley	12/03	Elizabeth Wilson	12/14
Karen Hofmann	12/03	Ric Johnson	12/17
Mike Siler	12/03	Audrey Williams	12/17
Phil Stancil	12/03	Danny Berini	12/18
John Hilton	12/04	Doug Rowland	12/19
Beverly Jackson	12/04	Will Johnson	12/21
Lauren Linens	12/06	Chris Wallace	12/24
Denise Thomas	12/06	Christopher Copolo	12/25
Frank Wootton	12/06	Jan Moore	12/25
Emily Korest	12/07	Sandy Falise	12/26
Mark Culbreth	12/08	Catherine Fishback	12/27
Rhonda Nolte	12/08	Joan Lundquist	12/27
Joshua Bosecker	12/09	Tracy Setji	12/27
Amelia Oakley	12/09	Bob Hurley	12/28
Mark Thomas	12/09	Luke Nevius	12/28
Lucas Barbour	12/10	Matthew Draelos	12/30
Michael Hughes	12/11	Dennis Kay	12/30
Phyllis Carter	12/12	Cathy Cozart	12/31



GENESIS GARDEN

The Genesis Garden needs your help. Trustees are looking for volunteers to continue the Aldersgate Garden for the coming year. Sandra Reynolds and Bob de Andrade have agreed to help coordinate volunteer sign-ups, worker schedules, planting selections and produce distribution. Please contact se.reynolds@yahoo.com if interested.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We have 4 different Sunday School classes for children on Sunday morning plus our nursery. We meet from 9:45-10:45 every Sunday morning. Come to our Sunday School Welcome Table in the Family Life Center to check-in your child, and a greeter will direct you to your child's class.



Together we will dive deep into God's word using the Cokesbury curriculum "Deep Blue." The Bible is more than just a big book. It's a gift to us. The Bible is meant to be opened, explored, and enjoyed. With "Deep Blue", we'll open our Bibles and learn more about God, Jesus, faith, and how it all fits together into life today.

CLASSES AND COORDINATORS :

2-3 year old: Charlotte O'Brien
PreK-K: Evelyn Johnson
1st-2nd grade: Lara Rowland
3rd-5th grade: Sandra Reynolds

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

December 4: Mary's Story (Luke 1:26-38, 46-47)
December 11: Joseph's Story (Matthew 1:18-24)
December 18: Jesus' Story (Luke 2:1-7)
December 25 (No Sunday School)

FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR

We have a wonderful activity for families during the season of Advent from November 27-December 24. Advent is a time of preparation where we focus our hearts to receive the wonderful gift of Jesus' birth. As we seek to draw closer to Jesus during this time, we are inviting families to meditate on all the names of Jesus found in scripture. To that end, we are providing a list of 28 names of Jesus used in scripture and accompanying verses. You can look up the verses and then cut a strip of paper from the provided sheets, form a loop, and make a chain with the previous day's verses.



In addition, we invite you to make an Advent box, basket, or bag; place it in a place of prominence in your home; put a canned good or other food item in the Advent "box"; and bring your collected food items to church on December 18, the last Sunday of Advent, to donate to Urban Ministries for the needy at Christmas. The spirit of selfless giving and love for others will be a wonderful experience for all as we consider how Jesus gave himself selflessly for us. Materials will be provided at church,

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE ALDERSGATE WEEKDAY SCHOOL

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" here at the Preschool. The children are so creative with their Christmas decorations and crafts.

We also believe it is important to teach the "true" meaning of Christmas to all our students. So in all our classes, during chapel and as we learn our Christmas songs, we talk about baby Jesus and what his birth means to us.

We would like to invite you to join us for our Preschool Christmas Programs. Each program is held at 10:30 am. They are adorable!

The 2 year old program is on Tuesday, Dec. 13th, 3's on Wed. Dec. 14th and 4's on Thur. Dec. 15th.

The preschool parents will also be hosting a silent auction to raise funds for Teacher Appreciation week and there are always lots of great gifts. You are welcome to come and bid on items Tuesday and Wednesday – with the auction closing on Thursday at 12:00 pm.

If you would like to donate an item for the auction that would be very appreciated as well. You may contact : Hassie_hughes@hotmail.com with donations.

We are also busy making plans for our two weeks of Intersession camp.

Week 1 – Dec. 19-23 – we will be celebrating Christmas this week.

Week 3 – Jan. 3-6 – We will have lots of winter activities this week.

Please call the office (919) 479-8686 for more information.

We wish each of you a very Merry Christmas!

Evelyn



EXCITING NEWS FOR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



What is KidCheck?

KidCheck is a secure children's check-in system that enhances your provider's security system and simplifies the check-in process. KidCheck helps ensure no one can pick up your child without your consent. More information about KidCheck can be found at www.kidcheck.com.

Key Benefits :

Child Safety

- ◆ Easily create and update a list of who can (and cannot) pick up your children
- ◆ Upload photos of children and guardians for added security
- ◆ Provide medical and allergy information and alerts Secure Information
- ◆ No one sees you or your child's information until you check-in to their facility
- ◆ KidCheck uses the same secure data technology as banks to keep your information safe
- ◆ KidCheck never asks for personal identification such as Social Security numbers, credit cards or banking information, and we never sell the information we do gather Convenient Speedy check-in - simply input your 10 digit phone number
- ◆ KidCheck is web-based, so you can create and access your account from anywhere
- ◆ Text message notifications when your child is checked in and out, or in case of emergency

◆ ACCOUNT SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

Signing up for KidCheck is easy and free for parents, guardians, and workers!

◆ Sign-up

1. Visit <https://go.kidcheck.com> or download the KidCheck app on an IOS or Android device
2. Select the link to create a free KidCheck account
3. Fill in the requested fields, and agree to the terms of use adding Children and Guardians
 - * If you are a volunteer/employee only, and have no kids to add, you may skip these steps
1. Locate the "Kids" tab. Select the link to add a new child, and input your child's information and upload photos. Select the save button when you are done.
2. Locate the "Guardians" tab. This is where you will input additional guardians whom you would like to be able to pick up the children you've listed. Add their information and upload photos. Remember to click ... save when you are done.





HAITI MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING * SUNDAY,
DEC. 4TH * You are invited to an interest meeting immediately after the
11:00 Worship Service, Room 202 in the Family Life Center. Come and see how
you can serve. No experience necessary. Questions: Please contact Shelia Rittgers,
shelialrittgers@hotmail.com

QUIET DAY * REST — RENEW — REFRESH YOUR SOUL

The January Quiet Day is an opportunity to set aside specific time to prepare your heart for the beginning of a new year. We will explore through prayer, silence, reflection and scripture reading, the joy that comes from resting in God's presence.

In January we will experience the ancient practice of "seeking a word" from those considered by the early church. That word will be one we carry with us through out the entire year as our life with God unfolds.

Join us on Saturday, January 14th, from 8:30 – noon in the Wesley Room. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a notebook or your journal. We'll conclude our time together by celebrating and sharing a simple lunch that will be provided so please sign up at the Welcome Center.



Unless noted for a special time, all PrimeTimers meetings are held in the Wesley Room and start at 11:45 am.

HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Thursday, December 1st at 11:45 we will have a Holiday Potluck. Please bring your favorite holiday dish to share. Turkey, dressing, gravy, desserts and beverages will be provided. Afterwards we will have a holiday sing-a-long. Please bring a canned good as Urban Ministries is in desperate need of canned green beans, corn, mac and cheese, fruit cocktail and any other canned goods as their shelves are bare! ! If you have any questions, please call Joyce Mackin at 919-381-6687 or Annie and Richard King at 919-294-4120.



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thursday, December 15 we will have a special **START TIME OF 10:30** to attend the 4-year olds Weekday School's Christmas Program in the sanctuary. Parking will be at a premium so please come a little early for ease of parking. Afterwards we will go to the Wesley Room and have our own lunches followed by either games or singing.



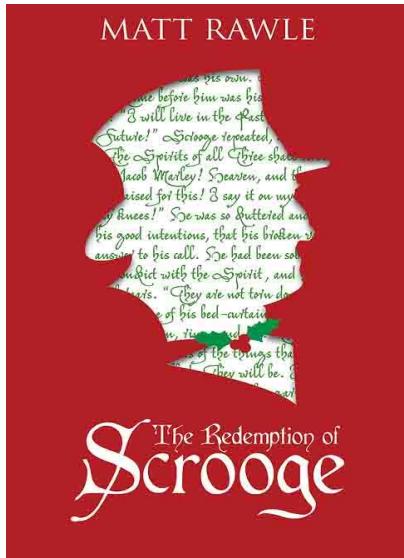
NC BLUE BIRD SOCIETY

Mark your calendars for early January. Thursday, January 5, 2017 we will have a potluck and a representative from the NC Blue Bird Society will speak because January and February are the months to get their nesting houses ready.



ADVENT SERIES * WEDNESDAYS: NOV. 30TH, DEC. 7TH & 14TH
*AFTER WNL FELLOWSHIP MEAL: 6:30 - 7:20 PM * SANCTUARY

MATT RAWLE



THE REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE

Is redemption possible for Ebenezer Scrooge? Come join us for Wednesday Night Live on Nov 30, Dec 7, and Dec 14 as we discover the teachings of Jesus in the words of the Charles Dickens classic A Christmas Carol. Along with Scrooge, we meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future and in the process learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus. Rediscover and reinvigorate your Christian faith this Advent and Christmas season and look at this familiar classic through the lens of faith. **Go from “Bah, Humbug!” to a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas.**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE DECEMBER MEALS

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 12/7 | Sponsored by the United Methodist Men |
| 12/14 | Sponsored by the Haiti Mission Team * Breakfast Casserole, potato cakes, fruit, biscuits |

Dear Friends,

I know it's hard to think about spring when we are all focused on the holidays but we are still in need of several WNL dinner hosts in the new year. If your group can help out please contact Barbara Atkinson at habn@hotmail.com.

Many thanks for your help.

Open Dates for WNL Dinner Hosts:

Jan. 18	Apr 5
Jan 25	Apr 26
Feb 1	May 3
Feb 15	May 17
Mar 22	



MUSIC NOTES

Please contact Nan de Andrade, Music Minister, to learn more. (nan@aldersgate.org) or call (919)477-0509 x 310

CHANCEL CHOIR: You can see how much fun we have singing! Why not join us in the New Year? You'll be able to hang out with some of AUMC's best, let music help you deepen your spiritual worship, grow in your music skills... and music is shown to be a brain-builder and body-nourisher! Come on, all voices are welcome and needed!! Youth are also invited! Rehearsals resume on January 4 - Wednesday evenings, from 7:30 – 9:00 pm in the sanctuary.

SOLOS WELCOME! The Advent-Christmas season holds many opportunities for special music. If you'd like to share a solo/duet, etc. please contact Nan and let's make it happen! Nan has a lot of music available for your selection, and we can schedule rehearsals.

YOUNG DANCERS AND SACRED DANCERS Thank you for the beautiful dances you shared for Thanksgiving and our Hanging of the Greens services! And a big thanks to Jordan Fields for leading them! We will be offering new sessions in January, but details are not set yet. Please watch your emails for news early in January. Thanks!

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

Music and Arts explorations each week! Two groups: Age 4 (Pre-K)-6/7 (1st graders) and 2nd-5th graders
Led by: Ruth Kay and Nan de Andrade and varied Worship Artists from our own congregation!

Each week, we enjoy Singing and Worship and discover and experience other worship arts – for Advent, we are making Advent decorations and gifts and watching “A Christmas Carol.” (We'll be on break from Dec. 21, and return on Jan. 11.) Upcoming in January, we will begin with three weeks of interpretive movement and will be sharing our dance with the congregation! PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILDREN ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS! We are having a blast and Aldersgate loves when OUR CHILDREN LEAD US IN WORSHIP!

P.S. If you practice a worship art (if you do it and it draws you to God, it's a worship art!) that you could share with the children for a few weeks, please contact Nan!

AUMC JOYFUL NOISE RINGERS AND CHANCEL CHOIR PRESENT

“A THRILL OF HOPE”

December 11 at 8:30 and 11:00 am

“A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices!” Nothing captures the awe and wonder of Christmas better than that single phrase from “O Holy Night” and it serves as the cornerstone of this Christmas musical. A Thrill of Hope looks at the birth of Christ from four distinct vantage points – celebrating the HOPE he brought, the LOVE he showed, the PEACE he promised, and the JOY of Emmanuel, God with us, forevermore! Tunes and lyrics of many of our familiar carols are combined in surprising and delightful ways. Accompanists include oboe, flute, violin, handbells, piano and organ. We hope this musical helps fill your Christmas with the joy of the season and the love of Christ.



MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST***Sunday, December 18 at 6:30 pm***

Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians (in the 1700's) revived the tradition of a Christian fellowship meal, and it became a tradition at Aldersgate loooong ago to hold a Christmas Love Feast celebration each year. At this service, we enjoy lots of music and carols, scripture readings, prayers, and a short meditation is often offered. The unique features are the serving of Moravian buns and warm coffee, and the beeswax candles that are lit as we sing and process out into the cold winter night together. Aldersgate enjoys sharing this tradition with our church family as well as the greater community, as it is a beautiful tradition to welcome the Christ. Invite your neighbors and family and "Come, let us adore Him!"

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS***Sunday, December 25 at 11:00 am***

In 1880, E.W. Benson, then Anglican Bishop of Truro, England, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on an ancient sources. Since 1918, the chapel of King's College, Cambridge has carried on this never-old tradition. Nine scriptures are read, explaining the plan for a Savior, from Genesis to the Gospel story. After each reading , a Carol is sung. You probably have seen this beautiful service enacted on television on Christmas Eve. We will be sharing in this meaningful service of worship through scripture and song, at each of our morning services on Christmas Sunday... featuring... ALL OF US!

***The EIGHTH Annual Epiphany Ring
Handbell Festival Concert - Sunday, Jan. 11 at 7 pm***

Hosted by Aldersgate and featuring handbell ensembles from around the Triangle sharing massed-ringing and individual selections, this festival celebrates the music of the season. Guest conductor is Kathleen Wissinger, handbell educator and composer, of Virginia. The concert is free; please invite your friends and neighbors to come and enjoy.

UPCOMING WORSHIP AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14 – 6:30-7:20 pm WNL Advent Services: The Redemption of Scrooge!
- Dec. 11 – 8:30, 11:00 AM "A Thrill of Hope" Christmas Cantata
- Dec. 18 – 6:00 PM Moravian Love Feast
- Dec. 21 – 7:00 PM Service of Comfort and Hope
- Dec. 24 – 4:00 Family Christmas Eve Service "No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant"
7:00 and 11:00 PM Caroling, Communion and Candlelight Service
- Dec. 25 – One service at 11:00 AM, Lessons and Carols
- Jan. 1 – One service at 11:00 AM, Covenant Renewal, Communion
- Jan. 8 – 7:00 PM Epiphany Ring Concert

WORSHIP COMMITTEE THANKS-GIVINGS go to Mrs. Alice Hagaman, who has chaired our committee in its shared work for four years. The Worship Committee is comprised of faithful members who each capably carry responsibilities for particular work or concerns, as well as trying to listen and represent the congregation and staying true to our church's mission. We have been able to offer about SEVEN HUNDRED services of worship in these years, with Alice's capable and supportive leadership and coordination. She is "passing the baton" in 2017, and we want you all to join us in a big Philippians 1:3 to her: "I thank my God every time I remember you."

TIPS FOR SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

NOT EVERYONE'S ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS season this year will be filled with family celebrations, tinsel, and bright lights. For those who have recently lost a loved one or those who still have unpleasant, childhood memories, dreadful feelings can start as Christmas approaches. Though some might want to avoid the holidays all together, they can bring healing and hope. Here are a few tips for surviving the holiday season:

Accept that Pain Is Unavoidable: When someone is missing, or bitter memories creep in, it hurts! Recognize that your intense feelings are normal by facing your pain and reminding yourself that your pain won't last forever.

Don't Fake It: When you're hurting, don't pretend by telling others that you are "just fine." Be honest by saying, "I'm struggling but I'm doing the best that I can." Avoid numbing your pain with alcohol or drugs as these coping measures are ineffective and can leave you with lots of guilt and shame.

Develop a Holiday Plan: To reduce stress, make a list of all events and activities that have been part of past Christmases. Realize that some items may no longer be meaningful traditions. As you review each one, ask yourself, "Can I let go of this activity, or event?" As you create a more realistic list, be sure to be flexible. The key is to realize that it is OK for you to not carry on a Christmas tradition if you don't feel up to it.

Create New Traditions: Christmas traditions that you dread keeping can be replaced. For example, family reunions previously held on Christmas day could be rescheduled for weeks before or after Christmas. The key is to make changes slowly over time in order to avoid feeling guilty about possibly forgetting your deceased loved one, or friend.

Prepare Yourself for Holiday Gatherings: Anticipate that attending holiday social events may be more stressful than usual. Accept that it is OK to give a tentative "yes" when invited with the understanding that you will attend if you are feeling up to it. If you go, drive yourself and limit yourself to staying about an hour. Prepare yourself ahead of time for questions you may be asked about how you are handling your loss. Also, develop an exit plan so that if an uncomfortable issue arises, you will know what to say and how to exit gracefully.

Turn to God: The Christmas Season is a great time to draw closer to God. Reading your Bible (The Psalms, Matthew, and Luke) and talking with God will help lessen your pain. Remember that you were created to be in a relationship with God, not to be isolated from him and others. Remind yourself that you can get through the pain with God's help. Most importantly, remember the meaning of Christmas is that Jesus came into our world to end suffering and death—a message that should give us hope that one day our grief will end.

If you need to talk with someone about your grief, or holiday stress, contact one of our Stephen Ministers, or call Jack Snyder in the church office at 919-477-0509 Ext. 303. May each of us feel the peace of Christ this Christmas!





SUNDAY SERMONS - REV. DR. HOMER E. MORRIS

December 4th	The Source of All Blessing	Exodus 13:14-19 & Psalm 85
December 11th	Christmas Cantata "A Thrill of Hope"	
December 18th	The King of Righteousness	John 18:33-39 & Psalm 72:1-7
December 24th	Why Do We Give Gifts	Matthew 2:1-3 & 7-12
December 25th	The Prince of Peace	Isaiah 9:6 & John 14:25-27

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

Nov. 30, DEC. 7 AND 14 – 6:30-7:20 PM WNL ADVENT SERVICES: THE REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE!
DEC. 11 – 8:30, 11:00 AM “A THRILL OF HOPE” CHRISTMAS CANTATA
DEC. 18 – 6:00 PM MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST
DEC. 21 – 7:00 PM SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE
DEC. 24 – 4:00 FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE “No-REHEARSAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT”
7:00 AND 11:00 PM CAROLING, COMMUNION AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
DEC. 25 – ONE SERVICE AT 11:00 AM, LESSONS AND CAROLS
JAN. 1 – ONE SERVICE AT 11:00 AM, COVENANT RENEWAL, COMMUNION
JAN. 8 – 7:00 PM EPIPHANY RING CONCERT



BIG THANK YOU'

Thank you, Aldersgate, for responding to the needs of our neighbors and the call to help from UMCOR. Through your generosity, we received contributions of over \$1400 from individual church members and church groups, various gifts of materials, and 5 filled buckets. We have delivered 16 buckets to UMCOR, have another 9 ready to go, and are in the process of filling at least another 10 buckets! Any remaining supplies and funds will be sent to UMCOR as well. We are blessed to be a blessing to those impacted by flooding. Thank you for supporting this mission!

**A BIG
THANK
YOU**



A NOTE OF THANKS

My heart is bursting with gratitude for the many people who ministered to me and my family following my recent accident and surgery. Every act of kindness expressed in a visit, card, phone call, delicious meal, prayer, ride to the doctor or just an encouraging word played a huge role in my road back to wholeness. I cannot truly express to all of you how loved and cared for I felt during this difficult time.

Aldersgate is an amazing church filled with amazing and caring people.

Barbara Atkinson

**A VERY
BIG
THANK YOU!**

Aldersgate UMC Staff and Church Family,

Thank you for the extra effort you put into last Sunday afternoon to help our Durham Charge Conference run so smoothly. We are grateful for your hospitality and for generously sharing your facilities with us. You are a gift to us.

In Christ,

Jessie and Carol





IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE..... CHRISTMAS !

Our Aldersgate Family has responded greatly with love and contributions to those less fortunate through various Community Missions Programs. During the Christmas Season these community needs are highlighted by two outreach programs that have become very familiar to each of us at Aldersgate: **Share Your Christmas and the CONDUIT Angel Tree.**

This year these programs will be referred to as "**Aldersgate's Community Christmas Outreach Programs.**" Your contributions through Christmas gifts and monetary gifts can be directed through the program of your choice. The Kick-Off for each of these programs will be November 20th when information will be found on displays in the Narthex. Also, a link to a web-based sign up will be available from the aldersgate.org web site.

Share Your Christmas is sponsored by the Durham County Department of Social Services, and provides needy families with gifts of NEW clothing, toys and needed household items. This year Aldersgate will sponsor approximately **20** families totaling about **75** individuals. Individuals or entire families can be sponsored by signing up on forms that will be posted on a board in the Narthex and online. Suggested spending limits are \$60 per family member. **In addition, contributions of \$50 cash** will supply each family with a Christmas Food Basket. Wrapped gifts should be delivered to the Church by Saturday, December 10th. Delivery by the Aldersgate United Methodist Men will be Sunday, December 11th.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF COMFORT & HOPE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST - 7:00 PM



Living Out Our Membership Vows * When we join the Methodist church we promise to be faithful to it "by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness." Each of us strives to apply that covenant to our daily lives so we can be constantly formed in the image of Christ.

This December we have a unique opportunity to express our presence and witness to the community. By choosing to attend the Service of Comfort and Hope on Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m., we are letting people who are experiencing loss this season know how much they matter to us

and how much we want to show we care. You may not personally know someone who is grieving but standing with and beside them is a way to live out the New Testament command to "bear each other's burdens and thus fulfill the law (Gal. 6:2)." This is a truly unselfish gift of love that all church members can offer those who are hurting during this Advent Season. Your presence and witness is a caring symbol of hope to another - and that is a true light shining in the darkness.

MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST * Sunday, Dec. 18th

What is a Lovefeast? A Lovefeast service is a service dedicated to Christian love, and is most famously practiced by the Moravians but has become an Aldersgate Christmas tradition over the past 36 years.



The Lovefeast at Aldersgate is based on the traditional Moravian Lovefeast first celebrated near Winston-Salem at Bethabara (1753) and Old Salem (1766). The buns are from the same baker that makes buns for Moravian churches in Winston-Salem. The candles are made by the women of Home Moravian Church. The coffee is based on the recipe used for many years by Immanuel Moravian Church.

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to come and celebrate this beautiful Christmas tradition on Sunday December 18th at 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE..... CHRISTMAS !

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES SUPPORTING MISSIONS IN DURHAM AND WORLDWIDE

Aldersgate United Methodist Men have been hosting Christmas tree sales for many years as an annual tradition. All profits go directly to support missions and activities of the church. As annual project, the tree sale has proven itself a remarkable vehicle, not just to fund our missions and activities, but to strengthen outreach to the local community.

For several years, all proceeds have gone to support missions to foreign countries (Jamaica, Haiti and Armenia), Bull City Youth missions, Families Moving Forward, hurricane relief, scouts, facility needs of the church and FLC as well as individual requests in support of mission activities. Your tree purchase will definitely make a positive effect on the lives of others.

We mail discount coupons to the local community as an outreach. When neighbors visit the tree lot, we invite them to worship with us. We provide a card listing all the regular and holiday worship times and activities. Several families have joined the church after initially encountering us through their tree purchase.

We reach other new families through the tree sale by involving our church's Boy Scout troop and their parents, many of whom are not church members. One profound benefit of the sale has been the camaraderie and fellowship that develops among church volunteers working together, hanging around the fire barrel, and forming new friendships during an afternoon or evening on the tree lot.

All church members are encouraged to sign up each year, knowing they will meet new neighbors, develop new friendships, and support strong mission by pulling a shift or two at the Christmas tree stand.

Help is always needed working the 'Tree Lot'.

A sign up board is available in the Narthex. There will also be a "Sign Up Genius" on the Aldersgate web site (www.aldersgate.org). Please sign up ! We encourage all groups within Aldersgate UMC to sign up, as well as families. We need at least 4 people on any shift. All children may work the tree lot but they must be supervised by a parent or responsible adult.

**COME BUY A CHRISTMAS TREE ! Over 220 Christmas trees, various sizes and prices !
Coupons available at the Welcome Station !**

2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The formal Stewardship campaign to support the mission and ministries of AUMC for 2017 concluded at the end of October with a total of 86 pledges representing \$435,000 or 50% of our proposed operating budget for next year. If you are an individual or family unit that has already made a pledge for 2017, your commitment is greatly appreciated. If you have not yet completed your Living Our Vows commitment form, please do so as quickly as possible and return it to Mary Taylor in the church office. The sooner we have an indication of Aldersgate's financial support, the better we are able to make plans and prepare for the coming year. Thank you for your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness as a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church. The Stewardship Committee.



INCOME YTD IS	\$662,291.25
EXPENSES ARE	\$ 713,067.59
NET LOSS	\$50,776.34

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 website select Mission & Giving then select on-line giving. You may also contact our church treasurer, Mary Taylor (mary@aldersgate.org).

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.

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE..... CHRISTMAS !

Bring this coupon to the Aldersgate Christmas Tree Lot for \$2.00 off any one Christmas Tree!

Aldersgate UMC
1320 Umstead Rd.
Durham NC 27712

MERRY
ChRiStMaS
from

Aldersgate

United Methodist Church

Tree Sales begin Thanksgiving Friday!

Come & Worship

Christmas Eve, December 24th
Three Christmas Eve Worship Services

Family Service * 4:00 pm * Sanctuary
This special service is geared for children and families to share, and will include a "No-Rehearsal Christmas pageant", families can volunteer to don costumes and re-create that special Bethlehem night.

Worship Services * 7:00 pm & 11:00 pm
Sanctuary

Carols, Communion and Candlelight
O Come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord!

We will join together to sing carols, hear the Christmas story, kneel at the Lord's table, and share the light of Christ!

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Bring This Coupon To Receive

\$ 2.00 OFF
Any One Tree

North Carolina Frazier Firs & Wreaths
Shop Early for the Best Selection!

Hours

Monday - Thursday:	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Friday:	3:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Saturday:	9:00 am - 9:00 pm
Sunday:	1:00 pm - 8:30 pm



Aldersgate

United Methodist Church
1320 Umstead Road
Durham, N.C. 27712
(919) 477-0509
www.aldersgate.org
info@aldersgate.org

DECEMBER LAY ASSISTANTS

USHERS GREETER WELCOME STATION LAY READER

8:30 Service

O = Office Door M = Main Door

12/4	Chick Hinton Richard Riggsbee John Field Jeff Sturkey	Linda Jones-M Paul Jones-O	Linda Jones	Shelia Rittgers
12/11	Myrna Umphlett Rebel Umphlett Kirk Brown Mitch Adkins	Pat Stancil- M Linda Mills-O	Pat Stancil	Debbie Edge
12/18	Stacey McCorison Doug Morris Ed Osteen	Carol Brese-M Dave Brese-O	Carol Brese	Ruth Kay
12/25	Richard Riggsbee Chick Hinton John Field Mary Tom Roberts	Jeff Sturkey-M Carl Chmielewski-O	Jeff Sturkey	Kathy Chmielewski

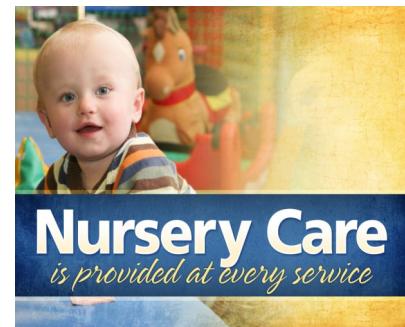
11:00 Service

12/4	Paula Veasey Pam Boatright Bill Smith	Amelia Oakley-M Ronnie Oakley-O	Amelia Oakley	Judy Alford
12/11	Suzi Caudill Kimberly Riggs Ed Osteen	Audrey Turley-M Kay Edwards-O	Audrey Turley	Paula Veasey
12/18	Brett Walker Ronnie Oakley Michele Tucker Sarah Walker	Rusty Grimm-M Nancy Gaither-O	Rusty Grimm	Audrey Turley
12/25	Suzi Caudill Roy Swaringen Ginger Hawkins	Janie Howell -M Bette Baird-O	Janie Howell	Lynn Baird

NURSERY MINISTRY

**EACH SUNDAY MORNING:
8:30 AND 11:00 AM**

**NURSERY TEACHERS ARE:
LYNN WILFONG, ELLEN WHISNANT AND DAWN ECKHOFF**



ACOLYTE

8:30 AM SERVICE

12/4	DANIELLE NIXON
12/11	ABBIE ROBINSON
12/18	CAROLINE BARBOUR
12/25	ONE SERVICE - 11:00 AM



11:00 AM SERVICE

12/4	Cameron and McKayle Nye
12/11	Joshua Bosecker
12/18	Madeleine Hughes
12/25	Riley Hale

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

**JUDY ALFORD
SUSAN DERNOSEK
KAYE HARRIS
ROSE SMITH**



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

TRUSTEE FOR DECEMBER



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.

ALDERSGATE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

1320 Umstead Drive
Durham, NC 27712

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



FIND US ON:

Facebook: Aldersgate UMC Durham
Twitter: TheGate27712
Website: Aldersgate.org
LinkedIn: Aldersgate United
Methodist Church
