



# The Aldersgate Experience

Monthly News of Aldersgate United Methodist Church

August 2016

## *“The Rest of the Story ...” -- Could we be it?*

Dear Friend in the Messiah,

Many followers of Jesus are familiar with his beautiful and soothing words as he teaches, “Blessed are ...” in Matthew 5. “The meek.” “Those who mourn.” The peacemakers.” “Those reviled for my sake.” But what about “the rest of the Beatitude teaching story” time of Jesus that might not sit as well with our ears, but really is essential for harnessing our hearts, our minds, and our mouths for Christ?

### **CONSIDER:**

Matthew 5:37: “Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No;’ anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

Matthew 5:37: (Concerning Retaliation) “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.”

Matthew 5:43-48: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven ... For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? ... And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

This summer has been HOT ... but the words, the threats, the hatred, the violence even hotter. In our fear and justifiable anxiety to what we are seeing, what we are saying can add to the fires of hell burning among us. In Matthew 5 Jesus speaks specifically to the characteristics, values and behaviors that he expects and intends for citizens of His Kingdom. Now, perhaps more than ever in our lives, is the time to ask the Holy Spirit to harness our hearts, our minds and our mouths that they might give witness to a Way (The Way) of Christ that is our only hope and our only way for life beyond our own damnation and destruction (in word and in deed).

**Will you join St. Patrick and billions who have gone before us in Christ present to harness us for His Kingdom? If so, let us pray: “Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.” Amen. So be it. And may it begin with me.** By Grace Alone ...Pastor Troy



## WORSHIP MINISTRY



### *“Reaching with the Heart of God for the Lives of Our Community”*

This is the statement that is listed each week at the top of the AUMC worship folder. One of the ways that we reach out to the community is through the offering of worship services each week. On Sundays, we come together in corporate worship as a body of Christ to offer ourselves to our CREATOR.

In Romans 12, Paul talks about the Body of Christ being made up of many parts just as our physical bodies also are made of many parts. Each one is important and needed for the other parts to work. Each one has been given different gifts, and these gifts are needed for the Body as a whole.

In the area of Worship Ministry, there are several teams that make up “parts of this Body.” Several of those teams are in need of people gifted in that area, so that we can better “Reach out to the Community with the Heart of God.” The teams are listed below, each with a contact person. If you have an interest or experience a Holy Spirit “nudge,” reach out to that team leader. Your gifts and talents are needed to complete the AUMC BODY. Worship ministry is made up of MANY TEAMS, but here are a few:

**Sound Ministry:** Contact person: Joe Purdom: [joe.purdom@gmail.com](mailto:joe.purdom@gmail.com)

Requires serving on a Sunday morning approximately 1 time every 4 to 6 weeks. Thursday night rehearsal is required for the Sunday you are scheduled. Training is provided; all you need is a love for God, a teachable spirit, and a love for music.

**Computer Entry:** Contact person: Jen Benson: [ktjm3@comcast.net](mailto:ktjm3@comcast.net)

Requires computer input on a Thursday night during Praise Team Rehearsal approximately once every 5 weeks. Basic computer skills needed, we use a very easy worship computer program. Training provided.

**Computer Operator:** Contact person: Terrie Strockbine: [tstrockbine@comcast.net](mailto:tstrockbine@comcast.net)

This team operates the computer on a Sunday morning. When scheduled, you work all 3 Sunday morning services. Serve once every 2 months.

## Choir Ministry

Once again, here we go into another fall season, and with that season comes the sounds of voices from the sanctuary on Monday nights. It’s time for CHOIR REHEARSAL! Monday night September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM will be our first rehearsal.

All are invited, and encouraged to attend. If you are new to the body, this group is a great way to get acquainted with others while not feeling out of sorts because you are the “new guy.” You will find the ALDERSGATE CHOIR a very welcoming group. We LOVE new members! We have a common goal, to lift our voices in praise to the ONE who deserves it, and we have so much fun doing it! If needed, childcare will be available. For more info, email Sheri at [worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:worshipdirector@aldersgatechurch.net). The choir rotates between all 3 services, one each week, 3 out of 4 Sundays a month. September through May.

## Looking Ahead to CHRISTMAS!!

Just a quick note: Christmas this year is on a Sunday morning, as is New Years Day. That means that on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1st, we will come together in COMBINED WORSHIP at 10 am. All ages will worship together, children included, no Sunday School on these two Sundays.



## Trailblazer Ministries News

Sharing the love of Christ with children Birth –5th Grade

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### ***This Summer in Children's Ministries***

Do you find yourself wondering where the Summer went? Me too! But we've been busy at Aldersgate! Were you one of the 275 children and close to 100 adults that caught the "Wave of God's Amazing Love" at **Surf Shack VBS**? Here we sang, played, crafted, experienced Bible Stories and ate all the while learning about how God loves, helps, creates, calms and sends. It's exciting to announce that \$658.78 was raised and donated to dig wells for families who need clean water.

Church Camps throughout the United Methodist Conference already has and will be welcoming 55 kids (and counting) from Aldersgate as campers. Not to mention the 50+ adults and youth that are a part of Greene Hills, Camp Penn and Wesley Forest as Counselors, Assistant Counselors, Music Leaders and Deans. Did your child miss Church Camp? There are still camps happening up until August 12th and then Adult and Family Events take place in the Fall. Visit [www.susumcamps.org](http://www.susumcamps.org) to learn more.

Sunday School continues throughout the Summer. We've been on a "Journey of the Faithiest." While we learned that Faithiest is not really a word, we have learned about God's TRUE word through the travels of Paul. All Kindergarten through 5th Graders meet as a group in the FLC at 9:30 am. Games, lesson time and friendship is all happening! Preschoolers meet in Room 102.

### ***Bible Presentations to the New Fourth Graders***

Bibles will be presented on September 11th to all children entering 4th Grade. This year, the children will receive their Bible during the Service their family usually attends. If that is during 9:30, then it will take the place of Sunday School for the 4th Graders. This is a special time in a child's Faith Journey when parents and children come together for prayer and encouragement. We ask all parents to make this a memorable event by submitting a picture of their child as a baby and to write a message to their child in the Bible prior to the 11th. Information will be emailed shortly and Bibles will be available to pick up from me in the FLC during the Sunday School time or can be left in the front office if you would like.

### ***Join Us This Fall***

As we gear up for Fall programming which includes Sunday School, WUW4Kids, Adventure Club and Summit Seekers, volunteers will be needed. Are you interested in walking alongside your child as they grow in their Faith Journey? Bible Scholars not needed. Do you like children? Along with a willing heart, and a love for God, Children's Ministries might just be for you! Give me a call!

### ***Mark Your Calendars!!***

- September 11 Sunday School Move-Up Day!
- September 11 Bible Presentations to 4th Graders...all three Services
- September 14 WUW4Kids Begins Every Wednesday 6:30 upstairs in Rooms 206/208
- September 18 2-4pm: Adventure Club and Summit Seekers Kick-Off Parties

*Do you want to know more about Trailblazer Ministries?*

Contact Jodie Dodson at 737-7923 x107 or email [childrensdirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:childrensdirector@aldersgatechurch.net)



We had 2 successful weeks of preschool summer camp in June. The kids had a fabulous time 'Under the Sea!' If the teachers are willing, we hope to offer this opportunity again next summer.

The preschool will begin to come back to life this month. Teachers will be in and out of the building, setting up their classrooms. It is fun to see the transformation, as they create wonderfully welcoming classrooms! Feel free to peek in the rooms to see the creativity.

We still have a couple openings in the 3 year old class. Feel free to contact me, if you know anyone in need of preschool this fall.

We are welcoming 2 new teachers this year. Rendy Knepper will be the lead teacher in the 3 year old Frog class and Amy Deuter will be the lead teacher in the 4 year old Fish class. Both ladies have spent many hours with us. Rendy was a sub last year and had 3 children go through our program. She is a natural with children and a ton of fun! Amy has worked the past 2 years as a therapeutic support staff for one of our friends with autism. She loved her time in the classrooms and asked if she could stay! What a great compliment to the teachers she worked with. Amy is incredibly gifted at working with children, especially children with developmental delays. We feel so blessed to have both of these ladies joining our preschool family.

In July, we hosted our first support group for parents of children with autism. The parents were very receptive and thankful to have an outlet to share the challenges and joys of their journey. This is a new venture for us. Please keep it in prayer, that we would be open to where God leads us.

Stay tuned for details on the upcoming parenting workshop this fall.

Blessings, Kathleen Blazey

*"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."*

Romans 12:10

Articles for September 2016 Newsletter should be sent to the church office at [secretary@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:secretary@aldersgatechurch.net) by **August 15th**. Thank you.



## Only One Month Away - What's Up Wednesday !

Mark your calendars today as What's Up Wednesday (WUW) will begin on Sept. 14th. If you have never taken part in WUW you don't want to miss this opportunity. Every Wednesday a free hot buffet (*donations are accepted*) starts at 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center. The WUW meal is open to the community inside and outside of the church. What a wonderful time to catch up with the family and friends while enjoying a delicious supper.

This is followed by a smorgasbord of long and short term studies offered for all, while childcare and fun children and youth activities are provided from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Below is just a peppering of the courses to be offered this fall:

### **Disciple IV 32 Weeks "Under the Tree of Life"**

The phrase "Under the tree of life" conveys the promise of finding shelter, security, and rest in God's love. In this 32 week study of the Old Testament Writings, the Gospel of John, The Epistles of John, James, Jude and finally, Revelation, participants will see the entire process of living toward final completion of rest and reward. FACILITATORS: Marsha Fisher, Lori Schach

### **Operations Timothy for Men**

A faith and life ministry booklet study resource that guides participants through reflections on life questions and Scripture readings, and incorporates teaching and accountability conversation on living out the call of Christ. Operation Timothy has its name by virtue of Timothy's faith growth under the Apostle Paul's guidance. In Operation Timothy, the Holy Spirit guides us for growth as we recognize our "Timothy" need for growth through Scripture for our relationships and life in Christ. There are several Operation Timothy sessions at Aldersgate already underway. FACILITATOR: Carl Wagner

### **Single Parenting 13 weeks**

If you're a single parent, you're probably tired, overwhelmed and feeling a bit underappreciated. Single Parenting groups share tips and parenting wisdom that will help you find rest, hope and encouragement. At a Single Parenting group, you'll participate in video seminars. The videos are interesting and dynamic to watch, and filled with practical advice you can easily apply. Through the use of the videos and FREE workbooks, together we will address topics of interest that will include: Wisely encourage your kids to obey; Help your hurting child; Eliminate debt; Deal with verbal onslaughts; Figure out what your emotions are telling you. FACILITATORS: Carol Diffenbaugh, Elissa Hart



The full menu of studies will be revealed in the upcoming Sunday bulletins and the Aldersgate Email Alerts (if you do not receive these email alerts and you would like to, notify the church office). Plan on checking out the Sunday bulletins this month and sign up early for one of the studies being offered. Whether you select a short or long term study, it is guaranteed to be the ideal opportunity for you to grow closer to God. So invite a friend out to dinner and make reservations for a study starting on September 14<sup>th</sup>!

If you want to sign up for one of the above courses, contact Carol Diffenbaugh at [healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net)



## *Aldersgate Student Ministry*

Sheryl Behr, 717.737.7923 x105, [YouthDirector@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:YouthDirector@aldersgatechurch.net)

**SUMMER MISSION UPDATE: God's Helping Hands** was the target of the summer Youth Mission project, to serve families and organizations in our community. On Monday, June 20th, we served at Chasing Rainbows on Wertzville Road, a therapeutic horse farm. However, the rest of the trip was interrupted when my son was injured during a friendly game of volleyball that evening. I spent the next several days in the hospital with him, and we decided to cancel the remainder of the Mission week. Jared is recovering nicely and we are very appreciative of the outpouring of love, encouragement, prayers, cards and gifts since his surgery.

**CREATION 2016** - Nineteen youth and adults travelled to Mt Union, PA for the largest Christian concert event of the year with over 60 bands and 20 speakers. We were blessed to enjoy 4 days and nights of fellowship, spirited worship and inspiring messages under amazing starry skies and beautiful weather. Youth made bold steps of faith responding to altar calls.

**Thank you to the Aldersgate Church Family for your prayers, financial support and donations of food and volunteer hours for these events!!**

**FOGO DE CHAO 8/7**- Each year the Youth High School boys venture to Fogo de Chao in Baltimore for fellowship and food! We need to make reservations for this event so anyone interested should let George Behr ([george.m.behr@gmail.com](mailto:george.m.behr@gmail.com), 717-645-0960) know by 8/4.

**CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT 8/13** - The Chasing Rainbows therapeutic riding center hosts its annual cornhole tournament fundraiser on 8/13. Sheryl is organizing 2-person teams if you are interested. Team registration is due by 8/10!

**SHICK SLIP-N-SLIDE & BONFIRE 8/14, 5pm to 9pm** - Always fun, don't miss this annual event! Our final chance to say goodbye to our graduating Seniors and some parting leaders. We will provide chicken, burgers, dogs, drinks and s'mores. Last names A to L bring sides, M to Z bring desserts.

**IRONMEN BBQ 8/20, 4pm to 9pm** - Youth boys/men of all ages are encouraged to join all the other Ironmen at Aldersgate for the annual BBQ.

**MELTING POT 8/20** - The Youth High School girls enjoy a day of shopping, games and dining at the Melting Pot. Details will follow via flyers and email.

**6TH GRADE ORIENTATION 8/28** - Calling all 6th Graders!! Join us for a fun night and get prepared for the transition into youth. Get to know your small group leader and older youth.

YOUTH Activities continued:

This Month's Youth Calendar Highlights:

- 8/7 **High School Boys trip to Fogo de Chao**
- 8/7 **Youth Sunday 6:00-8:30pm**
- 8/13 **Chasing Rainbows Cornhole Tournament 11:00am-6:00pm**
- 8/14 **Slip-N-Slide and Bonfire at the Shick's**
- 8/20 **Ironmen's Ministry BBQ 4-9pm (see Ironmen Ministry for details)**
- 8/20 **Ladies Day Out trip to The Melting Pot**
- 8/21 **No Youth - rest and prepare for the 1st day of school**
- 8/28 **6th Grade Orientation 6:00-8:30 pm**

Long-term Forecast: Mark your calendar!

- 9/4 **Labor Day!** No youth.
- 9/11 **FALL KICK OFF! Welcome 6th graders :-)** Invite your friends as we kickoff the new Youth year!

### VETERAN'S INFORMATION

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Capital Area Veterans' Expo & Job Fair**



All active military and veterans of all ages, and from all branches of service and their families are invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Capital Area Veterans' Expo & Job Fair being held on August 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm at the Radisson Hotel Hbg, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, and Camp Hill.

The **Expo** brings federal, state, and local agencies together with area businesses to provide information and resources to current and veteran service members and their families: Veterans Benefits & Services • Medical/Nonmedical Resources • Products and Services Available • Support/Assistance Programs • Education/Training Services  
The **Job Fair** brings veterans, active military, and spouses who need jobs together with employers who can benefit from this rich source of talent to aid their organizations. Attendees will find: Employers • Job Counseling • Roundtable Discussions • Resume Writing Assistance

The **Job Fair** provides an opportunity for veterans and employers to meet face-to-face to discuss available positions. Additionally, workshops/seminars will be offered on topics, including resume writing, career planning, interviewing techniques, becoming an entrepreneur, and online job searching.



#### **Army Heritage Center Veteran's Café August 13<sup>th</sup>**

Veterans of all services and eras are invited to the Veterans Café, a place for Veterans to meet and share their stories. The Veterans' Café is part of the Army Heritage Center Foundation's efforts to collect and preserve the stories of the American's service men and women. All Veteran's Café events are open to the public unless otherwise notes. There is no charge to attend, the cost of the breakfast is listed with each event.

Date: Saturday, August 13

Location: Cumberland Crossings, 1 Longsdorf Way, Carlisle, PA

Breakfast Buffet: \$10 for the breakfast, attendance is free.

RVSP for this event: Call or email Jeff Hawks at 717-258-1102 or

[eddirector@armyheritage.org](mailto:eddirector@armyheritage.org)



## GriefShare

**You don't have to walk this alone.**

The loss of a loved one is so very difficult. If you find yourself in a season of bereaving a loved one, you are invited to join others as we travel together through GriefShare.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. GriefShare seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable GriefShare resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life.

There are thousands of GriefShare grief recovery support groups meeting throughout the US, Canada and in over 10 other countries. GriefShare is a group meeting where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. This video-based ministry features emphasis on a biblical approach to grief recovery recognizing that real healing from the intense emotions of grieving and loss is through Christ. Each participant will receive a free workbook to use daily at home, and during the weekly viewing of the GriefShare video. Participants from previous GriefShare groups have affirmed GriefShare as being a powerful tool in their healing journey.

Another GriefShare group will be offered on Wednesday, September 28th . If you are interested in joining this group, please contact me at 737-7923 ext. 104 or email [healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net](mailto:healthministries@aldersgatechurch.net).

### GriefShare

**Starting Wednesday September 28th at 3:30pm till 5:00pm; Room 202**

***For Anyone Grieving the Loss of a Loved One***



## Divorced

**You don't have to go through it alone!**

Come and join a DivorceCare group, meet people who understand the pain your divorce has caused. DivorceCare has started meeting every Thursday evening at 6:30pm. You are invited to join us any week and become part of a small group of people who are also experiencing divorce. You'll meet others who understand what you are feeling and who will be able to offer you encouragement. DivorceCare meets weekly for 13 weeks, featuring 13 dynamic video seminars led by renowned experts on divorce and recovery.

DivorceCare is nondenominational and features biblical teaching for recovering from divorce. Weekly seminar topics include: What's Happening to Me, The Road to Healing/Finding Help, Facing My Anger, Depression, Loneliness, New Relationships, KidCare, Financial Survival and more...

Come join us! If there is sufficient interest, a class will be forming in September 2016, starting Thursday Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 8pm for 13 weeks. To register or for more information contact Carol at 737.7923 ext. 104 or [healthministries@verizon.net](mailto:healthministries@verizon.net).





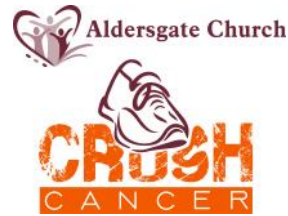


## ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR **AUGUST 2016**

Please pray for each item on the respective day. Thank you for surrounding Aldersgate Church in prayer. We ask that you would please pick a staff member to pray for daily as well. Pastor Troy, Pastor David, Carol D., Jodie, Sheryl, Kathleen, Carol P., Christy, Carl, Sheri, Maureen, Kristi.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 For Mission Central and its outreach to the world</b>	<b>2 For discernment and wisdom in our decisions</b>	<b>3 For our staff members and their families</b>	<b>4 For our love to overcome hatred and fear in the world</b>	<b>5 For prayer to become a part of our daily routine</b>	<b>6 For those discerning a call into ministry</b>
<b>7 For us to welcome others into our church family</b>	<b>8 For Children's Ministry at Aldersgate</b>	<b>9 For our Meals Ministry and the love they share through food</b>	<b>10 For our Dogs for God ministry</b>	<b>11 For Scripture to illuminate our life path</b>	<b>12 For those who have been an example to us in our discipleship</b>	<b>13 For our Sunday School Teachers</b>
<b>14 For vision and wisdom on where God is leading us as a church</b>	<b>15 For Youth Ministry at Aldersgate</b>	<b>16 For our Prayer Ministry as they intercede for others</b>	<b>17 For New Hope Ministry and their outreach to others</b>	<b>18 For God's Helping Hands Ministry</b>	<b>19 For our M&amp;M's Ministry and their service to the church</b>	<b>20 For healing of our minds, bodies, spirits</b>
<b>21 For our ushers and acolytes serving in worship</b>	<b>22 For students and teachers as they return to school</b>	<b>23 For Men's Ministry at Aldersgate</b>	<b>24 For our pre-school and its teachers and helpers</b>	<b>25 For the light of Christ to shine in each of our lives</b>	<b>26 For our Bethesda Mobile Mission team</b>	<b>27 For those impacted by extreme weather conditions</b>
<b>28 For our computer and sound team in worship</b>	<b>29 For our Wool and Flax Ministry</b>	<b>30 For Women's Ministry at Aldersgate</b>	<b>31 For our small group ministry</b>			

**Pray daily for:**  
 Our commitment to worshiping God with God's people and extending God's grace to others.  
 Our commitment to growing through the application of God's word as well as teaching others.  
 Our commitment to follow Christ's example of reaching out to others in God's love by serving.



## Thank you!

In April, Deb Cochran revealed her passion to stop cancer, and invited the congregation to join the 2016 West Shore Relay for Life. At that time she was hoping Aldersgate church might have 10 to 20 people sign up as the Aldersgate team and walk the relay collecting donations for the American Cancer Society.

As the invitation was shared with the congregation, prayers were being sent up asking God's guidance and blessing for individuals to sign up and for those attempting to coordinate this ministry outreach. God was well ahead of us; over 90 individuals responded to our invitation and joined the Aldersgate Cancer Crushers. On the day of the Relay, a large number of the Aldersgate walkers arrived early in the morning to walk the ceremonial first lap as the Aldersgate team. In addition to these walkers, individuals from our Aldersgate family came to support the walkers by walking with them during this initial lap. I was amazed at the commitment of the walkers, 30 minutes around the lap! Many team members had a full day of activities planned and yet they made time for the 30 minute walk. The last of the walkers showed up at 10:30 pm, it was dark by that time, but the track was well lit. Well, it was well lit until some of the tracks lights mysteriously went out, but our walkers continued walking their lap with flash lights and light sticks in hand!

Praise God for each and every one of you who supported this ministry outreach. Many of you purchased the Aldersgate T-Shirts, others of you submitted names for the back of the T-Shirts with a donation going to the American Cancer Society. Over one hundred names of individuals who have or had battled cancer were placed on the back of these T-Shirts. Many of you lifted the ministry and the walkers in your prayers, thank you.

Thank you to the coordinators, Bonnie and Dennis Knoetgen, Karen Kammeier who checked and tripled checked the spelling of the names submitted, and the T-Shirt orders submitted. Deb Cochran, Bonnie, Dennis, Karen and Kara Eppley "manned" the Relay Table for a month of Sundays helping individuals sign up to walk, place names on T-Shirts or order T-Shirts, etc. At the time this article was written, over \$9,000.00 was collected and sent to the American Cancer Society on behalf of Aldersgate Church.

Most importantly church, we praise God for this opportunity to share the love of Christ with our community around us through this event!

### Thank you Walkers!

*Eileen Beasom, Sheryl Behr, Jennie & Alex & Caroline & Cate Benshoff, Natalie Campisi, Deb Cochran, Diane Cuomo, Brad Diffenbaugh, Jodie & Zoie Dodson, Sheri & Bruce Dohner, Jane Engle, Kara & Todd Eppley, John Erno, Vicki Forry, Joe & Iva Fox, Kelly Heisey, Troy Howell, Karen Kammeier, Carole Kelley, Dennis & Bonnie Knoetgen, Lulamae Lotz, Christy & Coral & Summer Malpass, Karen & Dana McCollum, Joy & Mark McNaughton, Erin & Jason Minick, Jena Minton, Scott & Michelle & Clayton & Abbie & Wesley & Emma Myers, Sara & Steve Plante, Carol Purdom, Mark & Tamara Reisinger, Nancy Runk, Dawn Seiler, Glenn & Lynn & Dana Shick, Amy Shomper, Deb Shumaker, Rick & Debbie & Kayla Smith, Peggy & Kristen & Owen & Eric & Amy & Susan & Louis & Andrew & Rick Street, Josh & Jenn & Wyatt Stumbaugh, Shari Swope, Todd & Jodi & Ashley & Mitchell Taylor, Tammy & Brandon Tharp, Bob & Pat Thomson, Dawn Wagner, Gary & Sue Walters, Tammy & Adam & Riley Wargo, Susan & Delaney Weaver, Carol Wesley, Darlene Zack.*

*P.S. Look at the Health Bulletin Board to see photos of the Aldersgate Team!*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Missions Giving

The Missions CORE has forwarded 2<sup>nd</sup> half giving to the following groups:

Allison Hill Community	\$1,000.00
Beacon Clinic for Health & Hope	\$1,000.00
Bethesda Mobile Mission	\$1,000.00
Bridge of Hope	\$1,000.00
Camperships	\$2,290.53
Daystar Spiritual Recovery	\$2,500.00
Gods Helping Hands	\$1,500.00
Kick in for Kids	\$500.00
Mission Central	\$1,500.00
New Hope Ministries	\$1,500.00
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$13,790.53</b>

Additionally, each month a wire transfer of **\$2,083.00** is sent to the Krichev Revival UMC Church in Belarus.

Your stewardship has enabled this congregation to make a difference in the lives of many with unmet needs, locally, regionally and worldwide. May God continue to bless our efforts!

For His Glory, Bill Brandamore, Missions CORE Facilitator

On behalf of the Stewardship & Finance Committee, I want to extend a sincere thank you. Aldersgate's church family consistently shares of their God given bounty with generous hearts.

Because of your giving we have been able to do several church maintenance projects, continued to generously support mission outreach, and have even put additional, over the budget, money on the mortgage.

It is important for you to know that money received is being distributed with consideration and responsible thinking. We as a committee respect the confidence entrusted to us.

We are approaching our annual September Take a Bite Out of the Debt offering. For several years we have been working hard to pay down this debt. Beside the budgeted payments, there are several additional ways money is applied to the debt. When you buy a Giant Food card, 5% goes to reduce the debt. If you work at Hershey Park, if you pay for use of the facility, if you buy Christmas Gift cards, proceeds go directly to paying off the debt. The interest earned on our checking account, designated building fund giving, Election Day food sale profits all go to pay down the debt. It all adds up!

With the approaching special September 25th offering, we anticipate seeing the debt balance drop below 1 million dollars!

It is indeed an exciting time for Aldersgate Church. I know you will want to be a part of this special blessing. It will be A God Moment! Prayerfully consider your offering. Together we can do this.

Respectfully, Marsha Fisher, Chair, Stewardship & Finance Committee



## " Carl's Corner "

The repair work on the sidewalks as well as removal of two large trees at the Church Parsonage have been completed. All went very well and the cost for both projects came to a cost of \$3,400. Additionally, at the Parsonage, we had an outside water faucet break and had water damage to the basement area. This is a homeowner insurance claim and the entire cost to remove damaged drywall, carpet and rebuild was \$5,335.19 less a \$1,000 deductible which leaves a remaining balance of \$4,335.19. Instead of restoring to original condition it was decided by leadership to make numerous upgrades. We are presently in the process of receiving bid proposals and will then make a decision to move forward.

The painting project went smoothly and is 100% complete. Carpet installation outside the FLC and in the hallways in the original section of our facility was completed by the end of July. This has been a rather long project but I am very happy with the services we have received. We would like to thank the congregation for your patience.

Moving forward, I will be in the process of receiving bids to have the kitchen area deep cleaned, carpet cleaning in the FLC & pre-school classrooms, and window cleaning throughout the building.

I would like to report that as of 7-8-16 my evening custodian handed in his letter of resignation and that has created a void until we are able to go through the process and find a replacement. During this period, I have been trying to utilize our per diem personnel to continue to provide a clean and safe facility.

THANK  
YOU!

Dear Pittsburgh Project,

I am grateful for your help and company. I was working for a mental health and people told me that I help them when I brought my home. God gave me this home. I dreamed about a fence. Due to your help and Pittsburg Project my dream has come true. I loved the photo.

Evelyn S. 6/3/16

Church Staff,

Thank you for another year of allowing our troop to use your facility for our meetings. It is such a blessing to have a place to meet and Neil does a great job helping us out. We hope you have us back next year.

Troops 10578 & 10337

7/3/2016

Dear Elaine, Lulamae & Betsy:

How wonderful to have friends like you! I appreciate the visit from Betsy & Lulamae & cake so very much! Also, thanks for the beautiful silk arrangement—the pink & white petunias are gorgeous!! God bless you always & how blessed I am to have a supportive church family!

Gayle (and Jody)



**Ugandan Kids Choir Appreciation**

Bob and I wish to extend our gratitude for the beautiful prayer blanket, and especially for the many prayers in our behalf. We are both making a speedy recovery. May He continue to bless you and your ministry.

Yours in Christ,  
Marie Fishel

Dear Pastor Troy, I want to extend to you my sincerest appreciation for the hospitality and grace demonstrated to the children and staff of the Ugandan Kids Choir during their recent visit to your church! You may already be aware, but your congregation profoundly blessed us with their generosity. Your church donated \$2,946.00 to children in need and sponsored 9 children! We praise the Lord for the lives that will be changed because of your wonderful gifts. If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact me. May God richly bless you and your congregation for caring so much!

Blessings to you & intercession for children,  
Tracy Horne, Choir Coordinator/Admin

Dear Member of the Wool & Flax Ministry,  
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Your care, concern, prayers and beautiful prayer blanket for our granddaughter Emerson Jo is truly a reflection of God's love! We will be personally delivering it to our granddaughter June 8th.

God Bless You All,  
Dill Family

This is a little late, but wanted to thank you for letting us use the FLC for mom's party. She was surprised even though she said she knew something was up. I'm so thankful she has a wonderful church family.

Marsha Snyder  
(Sally McBrayer's daughter)

Aldersgate Church,  
Thank you for the graduation gift. I appreciate it very much. I am very lucky to be involved in such a great community and surrounded by such great people. I am very thankful.

Noah Diorio

Aldersgate Congregation,  
Thank you all so much for being a part of Hunter & Finley's Baptism. We felt so welcomed and loved—it was wonderful. The beautiful blankets were so unexpected and touching—we love them! Thank you! We are excited to continue to grow more in our relationship with God as a part of your amazing community. Thank you!

Spencer, Amanda, Hunter & Finley Baird

Dear Aldersgate UMC,  
We wanted to send our sincere thanks and gratitude for your love and care sent our way following the birth of our little Addie. The outpouring of congratulations, prayers, & support through cards, meals & gifts was and is appreciated. We are blessed by our connection to you and we're sending you our love and thanks!

Devin, Samantha & Adelaide Sharkey  
(Troy's daughter and family)

**THE ABUNDANCE IS ALREADY OURS.**  
**LET'S NOT MISS IT, ALDERSGATE CHURCH!**

*Control often is an outgrowth of fear.*

*Fear most often is fueled by insecurities.*

*Faith communities with "no money" as well as those with "never enough money" major in "insecurities and exchange them for sin commissions."*

A great guard against all the above – and a proven deliverance through the threat of all the above – lies in having and choosing an Attitude of Gratitude. May God use this report and reflection to grow us in that practice of giving God our thanks and praise!

*Matthew 14:13-21 (see also Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-14) Jesus feeding the five thousand with "nothing here but five loaves and two fish." (v. 17) Often thinking we don't have enough we fail to see and take seriously what we already have. It is from what we have, not what we don't, that we find what we need ... and then some!*

**Multiple lists of abundant blessing and truth to the above points could be assembled. Here is one: AUMC facility improvement projects over mostly the last five years.**

1. Security System for Pre-School & Church (2009) - \$8,000
2. New telephone system installed – (2012) - \$9,000
3. Purchased a new van. – (c. 2011) – \$18,000
4. HVAC Ductwork upgrade in Resource & Youth Room, and Youth Room Renovation (c. 2011) – \$7,000
5. Installed New Awnings @ 4 Entrances (2013) - \$5,900
6. Replaced old storage shed. (2014) – \$3,600
7. Replaced Lighting System Control in Sanctuary - (2014) - \$13,000
8. New & Expanded Playground/Equipment – (2015) \$30,000
9. Installed new carpet in education/worship corridors – (2014) - \$15,700
10. Painted FLC and had chair rail installed. – (2015) – \$5,000
11. New Projector Project / Sanctuary – (2015) – \$10,000
12. New sound system installed in Sanctuary – (2016) – \$25,000
13. Purchased 3 risers for use in Sanctuary – (2016) - \$5,000
14. Sanctuary, Narthex, all hallways and Office painted – (2016) - \$33,500
15. Hallway carpeting in FLC section, completing lower level carpeting – (2016) \$7,000

That's more than \$190,000 in special projects, and this does not include other beyond- maintenance actions such as \$10,000 for repair, fill and sealing of the parking lot for the first time in a long time a few years back.

All of these projects were accomplished without One Dollar (\$1) of funding from our yearly AUMC Ministry Spending Plan (OPERATION BUDGET). In fact, not all that long ago, if a project was included as a line item in the "operations budget," it routinely went unfunded and was "set aside" for another year due to lack of funding. Just a few short years ago, we barely met day-to-day operation needs let alone projects. Thanks to visionary leadership among our Trustees, our Stewardship & Finance Committee, and our Church Council at the time, God's outpouring of blessing was named; it was noted; and a unified and bold decision was made to use the giving bounty to address needed upgrades from the overflow of resources God provided! A movement toward a Capital Fund debt reduction campaign was even set aside as giving grew.

In fact, at the beginning of 2009, AUMC's savings and checking total (aside from an emergency fund of \$35,000) totaled barely \$9,000. As the Holy Spirit worked spiritual renewal, re-focus, inventory of blessings, confession of our fears, and release of our control, the financial issues dissipated as Christ in us was glorified and revealed. With every new ministry "expense" and every project undertaken, dollars were spent and

giving grew the ministry fund balance! That's God's Economy! It sure doesn't compute or work like human economies. In fact, over the last five years, the AUMC Building Loan balance plummeted from nearly \$1.8 million to now, August 2016, just a tick above \$1.0 Million. We are on the verge (\$14,000) of the building debt dropping below \$1 million! – and in spite of these massive debt pay downs (\$800,000) Aldersgate's savings/checking balance grew, often rising to upwards of \$250,000 from \$9,000 back in 2009. That's God's Economy!

So, what is our continuing role in this? First, give thanks without ceasing – lest we complain with our mouths full and then fret and worry our way back into “scarcity” amidst God's great abundance. Secondly, fear not – lest we seek to re-take control to our own detriment and captivity. Thirdly, trust in God's faithfulness – lest we measure all things by our own securities and exchange commissions of sin.

*Matthew 25:14-30 (see also Luke 19:12-27) Wanting more, thinking what we have is not enough, we squander opportunity presently ours, "just as I am, without one plea," in the words of the gospel song. In this well-known parable of the talents, as in Luke's of the pounds, the message is use it or lose it. It is in the use of what we have, not the amount, that we learn and practice, or practice and then learn still more, the abundance already ours.*

Look what God has done and be assured of what God will continue to do! Give Thanks Without Ceasing! Fear Not! Trust in God's Faithfulness! *(And while we're at these Disciple disciplines, why not smile for good measure?)*

**“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy!”** - Psalm 126:3

*- Amazed in the Presence of God!, we are, Pastor Troy and Carl Wagner (Facility Manager)*

*And, by the way, Carl has done a stellar job managing these projects! - th*

### **Offering Awareness of Pastor's August Ministry Schedule**

Summer has not had much of a lull for ministry contexts at Aldersgate Church. There have been multiple church camp commitments, youth ministry Creation and service projects, facility upgrades, and more.

August brings two destination wedding commitments for the lead pastor. August 14 brings Jake Galbraith's wedding in the Poconos; August 27 brings James Plante's wedding in Cleveland, OH. Pastor Troy is scheduled to officiate both, as well as a wedding in the Harrisburg area on August 21st.

Given the destination locations, the pastor will not be present in Sunday morning services on two of those weekends as he fulfills responsibilities in that pre-marital and marriage covenant roles. This is not vacation.

Upcoming fall weddings will occur in late October and early November. With each wedding, the pastor leads the bride and groom through a series of five pre-marital sessions involving several resources, and many hours of preparation and conversation. This is a key way in which we as the Church affirm marriage and honor the covenant commitment it requires. We thank Pastors Dave Willard and David Watkins for covering Sunday worship on the destination Sundays, and we thank Pastor Floyd Sollenberger for covering Sunday leadership during Pastor Troy's July 31 vacation Sunday.



**Aldersgate Church**  
A United Methodist Congregation  
1480 Jerusalem Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

*"Reaching with the Heart of God  
for the Lives of Our Community"*

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AUGUST 2016 Edition

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