

DECEMBER

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502



The Aldersgate Experience

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

DECEMBER, 2017

Newsletter Vol. 20 Issue 12



You are invited!

*Come be a part
of the*

*“Celebrations of the
Season”*



"I am a Witness!"

I am a witness! I have seen with my own eyes the love, truth, and presence of God. I don't understand it all, but I have witnessed enough of God to believe in him, to follow him, and to worship him. I don't have all the answers, but I know the One who does. I won't be a perfect example, but I follow the One who is. I am a witness! And as a witness, my responsibility is to tell others about what I have seen, heard, or experienced. What I have to say is Good News for everyone. Some people will not care what I have to say. They will not recognize how good that news is...but some will. Some will embrace it for themselves and they too will be a witness. We are witnesses together. And God gives us the power to be effective at it. We are the Church! That's what we do!

(Acts 1:8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.



The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"

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Bishop.....Rev. Sharma D. Lewis
District Superintendent...Rev. Wayne Snead
Pastor..... Rev. Lee J. Crosby
Lay Leader..... Beverly Cooper
Music Director.....Cindy Crosby
Church Secretary.....Joyce Russo

Office Hours.....8:30-12:30 PM
Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Worship Service...11 AM

Youth Director John Floyd led a small band of Aldersgate youth on a "Manhunt" for "fugitives" at large in McArthur's Mall on Sunday,



Nov. 5th. Each of the "fugitives" were found in spite of their attempt at disguising themselves.

The day was made complete with ice cream in the food court. Stay tuned for more youth events in the future.

Office Staff Christmas Bonus

With Christmas rapidly approaching, Aldersgate once again has the opportunity to recognize its staff with a little something for the holidays in the form of a Christmas bonus.



Aldersgate does not allocate any monies in the annual budget for this holiday tradition. Instead, we rely totally on the generosity of the congregation to contribute towards the staff's little "extra something" to recognize their devotion, efforts and dedication over the past year. If you would like to contribute towards this annual tradition, please make your checks payable towards AUMC (be sure to note Staff Christmas Gift in the memo line). Cash is always acceptable and you may see **Greg or Gary** to make your contribution or you can place your gift in the offering baskets.

Please consider brightening the Christmas Season with your generosity and gifts. Merry Christmas and may God continue to bless you for your caring and generosity - Merry Christmas!!



Sweet Sounds of the Season



Join us for an afternoon of classic songs of Christmas, faith and love.

Bring a dozen sweets and your recipe to share!

Hot beverages provided.

19 December, Tuesday
2:00 pm
Social Hall



Take time to listen to the music of the Season!

Holiday Happenings at a glance

Nov. 25 6 PM Decorate the Church

Nov. 26 Christmas Card Post Office Opens

Dec. 1 - Poplar Halls Elem. Outreach Event

Dec. 9- 6 PM "A Fireside Christmas"

Dec. 15-16 6-8 PM Living Nativity

Dec. 19 "Sweet Sounds of the Season" 2 PM

Dec. 24 - 11 AM "Movie and a Meal" Potluck Brunch and Birthday Party for Jesus.

Dec. 24 - 7 PM Christmas Eve Service





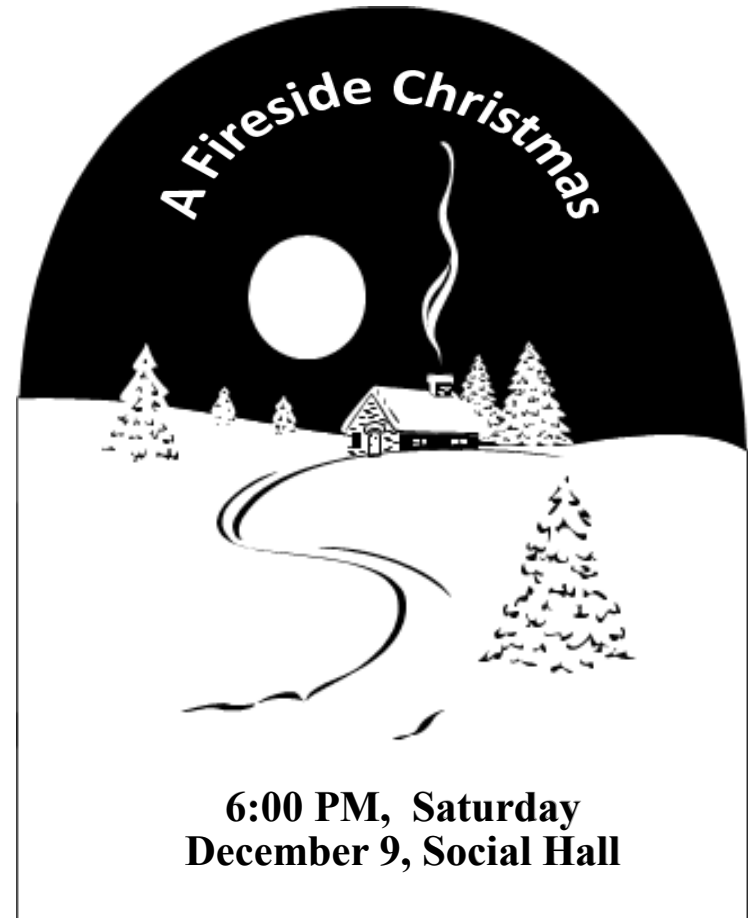
CORN-HOLE Tournament Winners

Congratulations corn-hole winners from the joint Aldersgate Church and RFS/WM/EP Civic League tournament. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped in many ways! See you next year.

**1st: Artie Bulman and Greg O'Bryant
(New Team)**

**2d place: Cody Sandlin and Taylor Moore
(Apple Jacks)**

**3d place: Joy Drumm and Tyler Moore
(Team Awesome)**



Please join us for a warm and intimate fireside Christmas celebration in honor of Jesus Christ. This family-oriented event is filled with song, drama, readings and more -- brimming over with love. If you haven't found your Christmas spirit, we guarantee you will at "A Fireside Christmas." Evening begins at 6:00 pm with a "free" scrumptious dessert and hot beverages to share immediately afterward. For additional information please contact Cindy 757-461-3201.



My Heart Small Group Update

My Heart small group begins meeting again on January 11th, Thursday at 7:00 pm. Consider coming out to build friendships, learn more about God and biblical teachings, and share your life! It's a great place to be. Hot beverages and warm fellowship guaranteed!



Stay tuned for more information in January!

The Care Response Team met in November. We begin new meetings in January. Watch for updates. Questions call Cindy 757 461-3201.



In place of our 11:00 am worship service, we will celebrate Christmas with a potluck meal and a movie. The movie is a 40-minute theater production of Mary & Joseph in an urban setting.

As a part of the potluck, we will have a birthday cake to celebrate Jesus's birth. There will also be a photo booth with optional props, hats, funny glasses, etc. Create a snapshot memory for the family.

It will be a wonderful time to celebrate Christmas together. So, gather with friends for great food, fellowship, and fun. Please bring a dish for the potluck.





**Christmas Card
Post Office Ministry
Nov. 27 - Dec. 31 9:30 AM**

It's time to think about sending Christmas greetings to our church family and friends. Instead of mailing them - use our convenient, friendly post office.

Our Post Office Ministry began as a Sunday School mission project to raise funds and to give us a way to deliver Christmas cards to our church family and friends. The cost is still \$.25 each and the funds collected will be given to a designated mission.

You can bring your addressed cards to the post office (located in the social hall) before Sunday School, during the social hour and after church.

If you would like to help with the Post Office please see Barbara Harrell.



**Living Nativity
Friday and Saturday
Dec. 15-16
6-8 PM**



Sign Up Now!

See Ann Manuel to reserve your spot portraying your Favorite character in the "Greatest Story" ever told.

The holidays are here and this will be the 17th year of celebrating Jesus' birth with a Living Nativity.

The church and neighborhood have enjoyed this event each year and it has become a tradition for many families who participate.

Any questions, please see Mary Ellen Gillispie or Ann Manuel

MISSION'S REPORT



Circle of Friends - Outreach Project

The Circle of Friends Sunday School Class took a couple of weeks off from our studies to make get-well cards for the children at Children's Hospital Kings Daughters in Norfolk.

On Nov. 19th we will start a new study "Radical" by David Platt. Come, Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

New Outreach Ministry at Poplar Halls Elementary School

Aldersgate is establishing a partnership with Poplar Halls Elementary School.

Our first outreach is planned for Friday, December 1st during school hours. If you would like to sign up or are interested in additional information please see Cindy Crosby or call her at 461-3201.

Christmas Mission Project

In an effort to focus on mission projects for the holiday season that will provide opportunities to build relationships with individuals who don't attend any church, this year we will have an "Angel tree" project. Similar to those seen in some department stores, we will have gift requests available for you to take, purchase the item and return to the church. We would like to "adopt" individuals or families from our church family, extended family or friends. Please contact **CYNTHIA STANLEY @ 757-620-8798** or see me **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** with the names of anyone **you know** that we can adopt this Christmas season. Further details will be in weekly bulletins.

**The church
has left
the building.**





HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Tidewater Tellers Present: "The Stories of Jesus' Birth"
Friday, December 15th 7 PM
Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, 848 Baker Road, VB

Santa's Attic - Norfolk UMC, 6870 N. Military Hgwy
Saturday, December 2nd 10 am - 2 pm

Includes: Free selfies with a Sensitive Santa for all children including those with challenges (infants-12 yrs) 10:30 am to 1:30 pm. Over 20 vendors, food pantry, clothes closet, health screenings, flu shots and free popcorn

Community Christmas Walk - December 8-10 6-8 pm
Virginia Beach UMC, 19th Street at the Oceanfront

Regent University presents: "A Christmas Concert"
Sunday, December 3 at 7 pm - cost is FREE
 Sacred music performed by the Regent University Choir; Regents University Chamber Choir and the Regent University Singers.
 Open seating on first come, first served basis. Doors open @ 6:30 pm

Dickens Christmas Towne - Nov. 18-Dec. 31 -
Decker Half Moone Center at Nauticus, Norfolk
 Admission 5 per adult or child ages 3 and up
 Musicians, Magicians, Jugglers, Carolers, Puppet Show, Crafts, indoor train display, London shops and more.



Looking Ahead

Elizabeth River District Leadership Training Event will be held on January 20 at New Creation UMC in Chesapeake.

Keep watch for more information on this event.

Worship Choir News

December

6, 13, 20 December	6:30 Rehearsal
9 December	6:00 Fireside Program
24 December	7:00 Christmas Eve
27 December	Christmas Break



3 January—Team Appreciation Dinner
No regular rehearsal

10 January—Team Meeting
No regular rehearsal

17 January—Back to regular rehearsals

Kidz Worship Team

21 January— 12:30, Sunday, Kidz Worship Team Appreciation Lunch



Birthdays

12/14	William Thrasher	12/22	Lucille Hulock Barbara Starcher
12/17	Vernon Williams	12/27	Nick Albertson
12/19	Cristen Cross	12/29	Michael Hogwood

12/30 Rev. Reginald and Susan Burgess



Remember in Prayer

The Gardens of Va. Beach—Milton Midgette
Sentara Village: Rosemont Rd—Shirley Henley
Georgian Nursing Facility--Billy Thrasher

If you know of others in the congregation who need to be included on this prayer list, please call the church office.

Friday, December 15, 2017
for the January issue.

You do not have to wait until the deadline to submit your articles. You can email the office at any time or leave it on my desk....

NewsLetter
DEADLINE



Ushers

Randy Thrasher, Kevin Floyd

Counters

12/3	Neal Windley, Michele Floyd
12/10	Kevin Floyd, Ben Hogwood
12/17	Greg Dziagwa, Jim Powers
12/24	Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
12/31	Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson



Lawn Maintenance

12/4	Team 1
12/11	Team 2
12/18	Team 3
12/25	Team 1

Calendar Highlights

12/1	Poplar Hall Elementary School Outreach Event
12/3	1st Sunday of Advent Sunday School Post Office is open each Sunday until 12/31
12/9	Fireside Christmas
12/15-16	Living Nativity
12/19	“Sweet Sounds” of Christmas
12.24	Potluck Brunch and a Movie with Birthday Party for Jesus
12/24	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service





the Sound Room

Yes, we have a new sound and audio system and are working through the kinks that come with every new system.

The new projector will visually enhance the service for song viewing, videos, and other aspects of our worship services.

The new Yamaha sound board and York speakers bring better sound for the worship service.

Our beautiful sound booth keeps everything safe and secure. This area is run by the audio/technical team.

This updated and much needed new equipment was only possible by generous donations from our church family including finances, labor, and expert skills of everyone involved. Folks who believe we are walking into the future!

If you would like to take a tour of the new features please contact Cindy, Greg, Guy, or Gary!

POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

What you need:

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick



What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.

