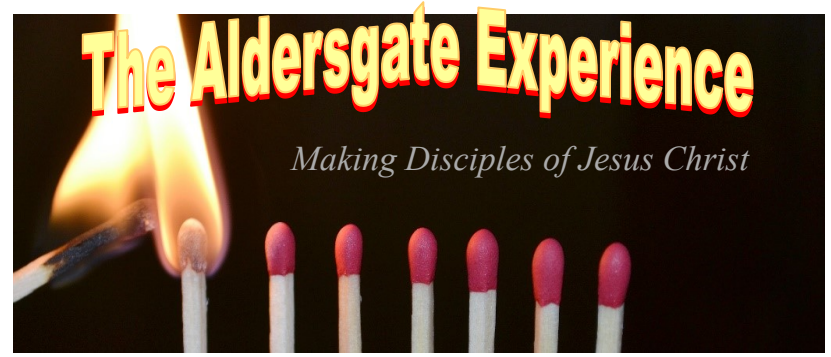


Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
5767 Sellger Drive  
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239



2022  
OCTOBER



October, 2022 Vol. 25 Issue 10

*We Are Reminded...*



*Join Us Sunday Mornings  
For Worship*



## Pastor's Message

Recently, our Sunday School class started studying the Book of Revelation. Some questions came up concerning how to tell the difference from true and false prophets. This is a good start at knowing what to look for.

### 5 Warning Signs of False Teachers

By Sam Rainer, Op-ed Contributor | Saturday, September 17, 2022

Several years ago, I received an email with a link to a sermon given by a pastor in my community. The person sending the email was genuinely concerned.

#### “Is he preaching heresy?”

The sermon included a terrible conclusion about how Jesus emptied Himself in Philippians 2. The pastor taught Jesus lost His divinity during the incarnation and then returned to being God through the ascension. He emphasized how we have the same power as Jesus on earth since He was merely human like us.

I responded with an explanation about the heresy of Kenoticism. Whether or not this pastor intended to preach heresy, I did not know. But it was indeed heresy.

Heresy is a destructive false teaching with the potential to divide the church. We throw this term around all the time, so much that we've lost a sense of the gravity of heresy. Heretics are not people who disagree with you. Heretics are people who divide the church through false teaching.

Most believers do not have the opportunity to take seminary classes on the heresies of Gnosticism, Docetism, Kenoticism, Arianism, Modalism, and others. Theological training is helpful but not necessary to identify heresy.

#### What are some warning signs of false teachers?

1. Contradicting Scripture. Often, these contradictions affect the meaning of the Gospel. This is how Satan works. Distort the Gospel just enough so it's not really the Gospel. People will notice if the message is way off, but they won't notice as much if the message contains just enough truth to appear as truth while being false.
2. Adding or removing from Scripture. False teachers add to Scripture to control the behavior of others. The motive is often power. Other false teachers will remove from Scripture to live as they want and participate in otherwise prohibited behavior. The motive is often selfishness.
3. Claiming special knowledge on your behalf. I cringe when I hear, “God told me to tell you this.” Or even worse, “Only I get this information from God.” Is it possible God speaks through others to you? Yes. But someone claiming unsolicited special knowledge on your behalf is always a red flag.
4. Claiming a different source other than Scripture for God's messages. Your emotions are a terrible source of God's truth. Other religious texts are not equal to the Bible. Cults attract people with both tactics: emotional appeals and another so-called sacred text.
5. Making money the message more than Jesus. Please, preach and teach generosity, sacrificial giving, and tithing in your church. But do not forget that a love of money disqualifies one from ministry.

*Continued on pg. 3*

The Helping Hands Group will soon be back making Teddy Bears. However they are in need of scrap cotton fabric to make these little surgery bears. Aldersgate's bears are not only sent to CHKD but also to a group called “Newborns in Need” who just loves them. Minimum of 1/2 yard is needed. These little bears are still putting the smiles on a lot of children's faces. Please see Lucinda Williams for more information



# The Aldersgate Experience

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**  
“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”

**5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23502**  
**Phone: 757-466-8999 Fax: 757-466-8999**  
**Pastor: 1-678-463-9334 –cell**

**Email: [joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com](mailto:joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com)**  
**Web page: [www.aldersgatenorfolk.org](http://www.aldersgatenorfolk.org)**  
**“Like” us on Facebook**

**Bishop.....Rev. Sharma D. Lewis**  
**District Superintendent...Rev. Cecelia Brooks, Ph.D.**  
**Pastor..... Rev. Bertrand Griffin, II**  
**Lay Leader..... Kathleen O'Hara**  
**Minister of Music..... Dr. Christina Pinkston**  
**Church Secretary..... Joyce Russo**

**Office Hours.....9 AM--1PM—Monday-Thursday**  
**9:30 AM-1:30 PM—Friday**  
**Sunday School.....9:30 AM**  
**Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM**  
**Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays**

**Some clipart and quotes used with permission only**



# Envelope EMBRACE

Show long-distance love to grandparents and other relatives by sending a flat hug!



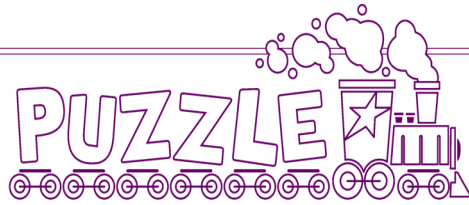
### What you need:

- Craft paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers
- Envelope



### What you do:

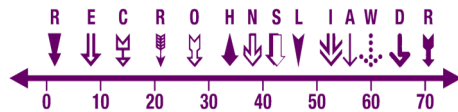
1. Roll out some craft paper (long enough to spread your arms across it).
2. Lie down on your back on the paper, with arms outstretched. Have someone trace around your arms, hands and head with a pencil.
3. Cut out the outline of your hug.
4. Draw your face and features on the paper. Use markers to color your hug to look like yourself. Write a note on the back.
5. Fold up and mail your two-dimensional hug to a loved one.



## A full Quiver

Our heavenly Father loves families and has a special purpose for each generation.

Directions: Use the key to match the number of each arrow with the correct letter.



Like \_\_\_\_\_  
56      21      71      28      60      42

in the hands of a warrior are

\_\_\_\_\_  
14      33      52      47      65      2      9      39

born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

PSALM 127:4-5, NIV

Answer: arrows, children



continued from pg. 2

False teachers pull people away from Scripture in two main ways. The first is offering an alternative worldview of the Bible. Essentially, they say, "That's not right; here is something else."

The second way false teachers lure people is through reinterpreting Scripture. Essentially, "That's not what the Bible means to me."

Recognize the warning signs.

Why should you pay attention?

Jesus answers this question in the Sermon on the Mount. He teaches how few take the narrow and difficult road to discern truth. Jesus then warns about why you should care about discerning truth.

"Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act." (Matthew 7:15-16 NLT)

The term "fruit" occurs over one hundred times in the Bible. Fruit usually refers to results. What qualities are manifested in your life? Where do your hours go? Where is your money spent? What words do you communicate? What does your mind consume?

If you are not dedicating hours, mind energy, and eyeballs to God's Word, then you are going to struggle to know what is true in this world.

Know God's truth, and the results will follow.

*Sam Rainer is president of Church Answers and pastor at West Bradenton Baptist Church in Florida.*



### Pastor's Message

All Saints' Day Presentation Information

Blessing of the Animals Date

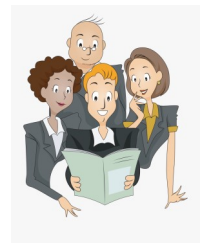
CRT Meeting date set

District News Updates

Community Picnic information

Lay ministry schedule

News from the Pews, Sunday School news and much more



## Aldersgate Christmas Showcase

**When:** December 10th—6 PM

**Who:** Aldersgate members, family, and close friends  
Do you sing, tell jokes, do readings? Now is your chance to share your talents. Be an active participant!

**Where:** Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**Why:** This will be a glorious opportunity for loud laughter, fabulous fellowship, and terrific family focus.

There will be music, games, comedy, refreshments, and more. Make plans, now, to attend with friends, to laugh loudly, to play competitively, to sing vibrantly, to enjoy wholeheartedly the FABULUS FUN of Aldersgate fellowship!

Let's have some FUN!!!

More details are forthcoming.  
Dr. Christina Pinkston



Rehearsals dates for October

Wednesdays 6 PM  
10/5; 10/12; 10/19; 10/26

All voices welcome

"Music is God's gift to man, the only art of Heaven given to earth, the only art of earth we take to Heaven."

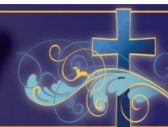


It is not too late to join the Sunday Morning Adult Class.

They are studying the Book of Revelations.

Please see Pastor Griffin for more information.

**Adult Sunday  
School**



**KIDS  
ZONE**

**Our 11 AM Kids Zone  
is back in session!  
Bible lessons, arts,  
crafts**

### All Saints Sunday 2022



All Saint's Sunday this year will be observed during the worship service on **Sunday, November 6**. Because of ongoing COVID-19 concerns, the presentation will be the same as last year's in that all candles will be pre-lit prior to the start of the service.

Additionally, all photographs utilized from previous years presentations will be used again unless you desire to change that photograph out. Any new photographs may either be sent to me or Joyce in the office. Submission photo deadline is **Sunday 23 Oct**. While electronic photos are preferred, hard copies are acceptable.

Greg Dziagwa



**Coastal Virginia**  
DISTRICT

### Annual Charge Conference Date Set!

This year our Charge Conference will be held on Saturday, December 3rd – 10 AM—Noon.

The conference will be held at Great Bridge United Methodist Church. Watch your emails for more details.

District Superintendent, Dr. Brooks, will be using the district office located at 815 Baker Road, Virginia Beach.

The district is in the process of hiring a new secretary. Interim Secretary is Phyllis Goin from Farmville. Contact information is:

Phone: (757) 473-1592

Email: [coastalvadistrict@vaumc.org](mailto:coastalvadistrict@vaumc.org)

### Lay Delegates, Pastors October 29 Called Annual Conferences

As previously shared conference-wide in May, a Special Annual Conference will be held virtually on Saturday, October 29. At 9 a.m.

The purpose of this Special Annual Conference Session is to close the remaining four churches utilizing Discipline paragraph 2549.3 (Disposition of property of a closed local church) and approve the severing of their relationship with the United Methodist denomination.

At 9:30 a.m., a second Special Annual Conference will convene for the sole purpose of ratifying the disaffiliation of local churches seeking to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church over matters of human sexuality. Paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline governs this process. All approvals and agreements under this process must be completed by September 30, 2022.

Questions concerning the two Special Annual Conferences may be directed to the Rev. Dr. Steve Summers at [SteveSummers@vaumc.org](mailto:SteveSummers@vaumc.org).



Monday, October 31st  
6-8 PM

Decorate your car, wear your favorite costume and bring your favorite goodies to give to the neighborhood children. A great time for all!



Blessing  
- of the -  
ANIMALS



Saturday, October 8th

1 PM



Bring the tall, the small, furry or not  
so furry.

Stuffed animals also welcome



## Birthdays

10/7 Barbara Harrell  
Oliver Harrell  
10/17 Shawn Dziagwa  
10/19 Bob Repass  
10/24 Bob Dziagwa  
10/27 Carolyn Powers



## Anniversaries

10/24 John and Brittany Floyd

## Remember in Prayer

Home: Jimmie Powers,

Any of our church family who are at home and still not able to attend worship in-person

Those in our church family who are in the hospital, having tests or just not feeling well.

Those who have lost family or friends.

The United Methodist church international;  
Our Bishops and District Superintendents as they continue to make decisions with our safety in mind.

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



**Newsletter Deadline**  
**Saturday, October 15th**  
**for the November 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....

## Ushers

Bill Bunch and Steve Carter



## Counters

10/2 Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers  
10/9 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch  
10/16 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson  
10/23 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd  
10/30 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis  
11/6 Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers



**OFFERING  
COUNTERS**

## Lawn Maintenance



10/3 Team 3  
10/10 Team 1  
10/17 Team 2  
10/24 Team 3  
10/31 Team 1

## Calendar Highlights

10/4 Eliz. Park Civic League Mtg  
10/8 1 PM Blessing of the Animals  
10/10 RFS/WM/EP Civic League Mtg.  
10/13 6 PM Vision Team Meeting  
10/15 11 AM Civic League Community Picnic  
10/17—10/21 Pastor Away  
10/23 Noon—CRT Meeting  
Deadline for All Saints' Day submissions  
10/31 6-8 PM Trunk or Treat



# Civic League Community Picnic

Annual Community picnic

Saturday, October 15th –

11 AM

at the Riverside Baptist Church Pavilion.



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving—Jimmie Powers' heart surgery went well and he is now home. Hoping he and Carolyn will be back with us soon.



Jimmie and Carolyn Powers would like to thank everyone for all of their calls, cards and prayers during his recent health issues.



Thanks to all of our volunteers who keep our church building looking great. To all of our lawn care teams for keeping the outside grounds weed free. To the communion stewards, worship helpers and many, many more who work behind the scenes to make our worship experience a memorable one.

## Knowing and Believing

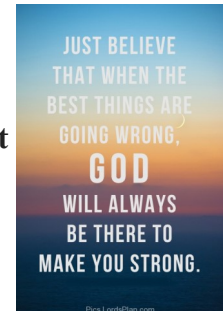


Did you know that knowing of God is not the same as believing in Him?

I was recently reminded that it is during the down times in our lives that our belief in God is the most tested.

On Sunday we come to church, we sing the songs, say the prayers but do we really believe that He is always with us? Many Christians put on the face of following what God would have us do but in times of discomfort they turn their backs on Him and question Him as to “why me?”.

Many times I have wanted to say “why us?”. When my son had cancer twice—I was asked how do you do it...I believed that my faith and belief in Jesus would get my son through it whatever the outcome. We were fortunate he recovered and against all odds has 2 sons.



“God brought us to it but He also brought us through it.” I truly believe in the fact that all things are under his control and happen for a reason. Do you believe that?

My youngest grandson is totally wheelchair bound now. He only has movement of his hands and head. Things could be worse. He spreads hope to our family as we watch him go to middle school, build Legos and even sing. He loves music.

I will continue to believe that God is always with me and my family and will see us through whatever He brings blessings or trials we face in the future. I hope you can see that just knowing about God is not the same as truly believing in Him and His love, grace and guidance.

JR