

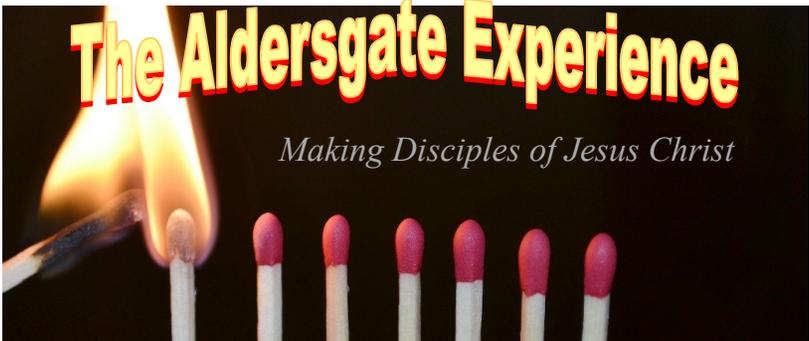
June  
2023

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



# The Aldersgate Experience

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*



**June, 2023** Vol. 26 Issue 5



*Till we meet again.....*



The Reflections of a Pastor

As I write this final installment as my tenure comes to an end, I can't help but have mixed emotions about leaving Aldersgate. I think back on the plethora of conversations and activities we have enjoyed together. I think about all of the worship services we have shared with each other. I have contemplated the times we have prayed and played together! All of these and so many other times have given my heart profound joy as I prepare to transition to my next appointment.

I will share the following activities and then I will share why! We worked diligently on our Rise Against Hunger project to package 10,000 meals for those in need around the world. We volunteered at the Union Mission to serve those in need in our community. We served our new members of the Virginia Wesleyan University community by welcoming the incoming freshmen. We served the neighborhood at our spaghetti dinners including our new residents in the apartment complex across the street from Aldersgate. We served the students of Cooke Elementary School.



WE...Now for the WHY! I shared this to remind us that in spite of COVID-19 and all the challenges that came with it, WE persevered and continued to be a blessing to our community, in the neighborhood, in the city, in the region and in the world!!! And WE did this all to the Glory of GOD!!!

As Kathy O'Hara has shared with me on numerous occasions, "Aldersgate is the little church that can!" And I know in my heart, that she will continue to be for the communities that she serves. The reason that I share this is because WE have a new Aldersgate Vision Statement and I will share this as well as the Mission statement.

Mission Statement: Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Vision Statement: Aldersgate will be a catalyst for God's call through fervent prayer, active compassion and meaningful outreach.

Continue pg. 3



# The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"

5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23502  
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Web page: [www.aldersgatenorfolk.org](http://www.aldersgatenorfolk.org)  
"Like" us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Susan Hauptert-Johnson  
District Superintendent...Rev. Dr. Cecelia Brooks  
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  
Sunday School.....9:30 AM  
Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM  
Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays

Some clipart and quotes used with permission only



## A timeless timeline

Explore your history while compiling this family timeline.



### What you need:

- Paper
- Clear tape
- Ruler
- Pencil

### What you do:

1. Tape together at least 3 sheets of paper horizontally.
2. Draw a straight line across the center of the long paper. Label dates at regular intervals to keep the information organized. For example, each page you add could represent 10 years.
3. Gather information for the timeline. Start with your birth year and memorable events in your life. Interview family members to learn what year they were born and when key things in their life happened. Include notes and photos.
4. Add pages as needed. Carefully roll up the timeline to keep for generations to come.

## JESUS' FAMILY TREE

Matthew records a timeline of Jesus' family dating back to Abraham. Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree?

*Directions: Use Matthew 1:1-17 to order the genealogy. Then put the letters in order in the boxes to answer the question below.*

T. Uzziah the father of Jotham  
 O. Jacob the father of Judah  
 N. Jacob the father of Joseph  
 E. Elihud the father of Eleazar  
 U. Boaz the father of Obed  
 F. Abraham the father of Isaac  
 R. Solomon the father of Rehoboam  
 E. Josiah the father of Jeconiah

*How many generations were there from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to Jesus, the Messiah?*

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

ANSWER: FOURTEEN



Continued from pg. 2.

All of these ministries and all the preparation for them exemplifies the vision statement. We prayed for our siblings (that's who you are to me), neighbors and communities as we saw the needs (daily prayer started on January 1<sup>st</sup>). We shared active compassion when we fed our neighbors (spaghetti dinners) and had relationship building fellowship with them and each other. We shared meaningful outreach when we visited the apartment complex and began a relationship with the staff and residents there (several of them have come to worship with us)!!!

I write all of this to illustrate that WE did all that and so much more! I had a wonderful time being in ministry with ya'll (LOL) as we ministered to various parts of our community. I want to encourage you to continue to be the "little church that can" as you welcome your new pastor. I want to let you know that you have been one of the most satisfying appointments of my ministry! And I want you to know that you will always be in my prayers, as I move to the next leg of my journey. I pray God's richest blessings upon you as you journey along with a new shepherd. AMEN!!!



Pastor Bert



A Farewell Message from our Pastor

Financial updates

Coastal Virginia District news

Lay minister schedules

News from the Pews

and lots more.



## Farewell Wishes

Your stay with Aldersgate has been far too short! We will miss your excellent sermons and your laughter!! Phyllis Day

You will continue to be in our prayers as God uses you wherever he calls. Our family will miss you, we appreciate the many things that you have done for us from your start at Aldersgate. See you again soon! The Floyd Family

I see the Joy of the Lord in you, pastor and through that Joy you will continue to lead many more to Christ! Thanks for who you are and what you do. Joyce Thompson

"Pastor Bert, thank you for doing your work for the glory of God, guiding us as we reopened from COVID 19, and showing dignity throughout this new transition." Gary and Cindy Albertson

We want to express our appreciation for your hard work and dedication to service you have given us at Aldersgate during these past two years.

Its always hard to say goodbye to good pastors who have always preached inspirational messages and had a great sense of humor.

We will certainly miss your presence and want to thank you for your time you shared with us at Aldersgate. God Bless and good luck on your new assignment! Greg & Kathy Dziagwa

My wife and I were saddened to learn you were being reassigned by the District at the end of June. You have done an excellent job for our congregation and am well liked. Best wishes to you and your wife on you new assignments. Neal and Marguerite Windley





**Coastal Virginia**  
DISTRICT

Virginia Annual Conference

Roanoke, Virginia

June 12-17

“United as One in Mission”

Pastors and delegates will be at annual conference voting on issues, policies and pastoral changes.

Our conference and district has undergone a lot of changes in the last two years. We have a new Bishop, new DS, new district secretary, new contact information, and lots of changes in the churches. We have welcomed the churches of the Eastern Shore as part of our family.

As our conference leaders, pastors and delegates head off to this annual conference. May they be able to complete the work that is needed to keep our denomination heading in the right direction.

We wish them safe travels.



**United as One in**  
**MISSION**  
2023 VAUMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Secretary Snippets



A welcome surprise...Arthur Wallace, a former member of our church family, surprised the congregation with a visit on Sunday, 5/21. We were so glad to see Arthur and his brother, Rev. Ken Wallace..

Some of our outreach ministries have come to an end for this season. The Cooke Elementary feeding program for children, Spaghetti Dinner Thursdays, Adult Sunday School will also end for now. We look forward to many opportunities for summer outreach programs. VBS will be coming soon with some special pre-events.

Thanks to all of our grass crews, maintenance elves and all of the volunteers who help to keep our ministries going.



Next month we will welcome our new pastor, Rev. Melody Duncan. Keep an eye out for more information.



A picture of our Financial Health  
Kathy Dziagwa,  
Treasurer

Financial Stats for April, 2023:

**Income:** \$13,023.73  
**Expenses:** \$14,545.99  
**Difference:** \$ -1,522.26

**Year to Date Income/Expenses:**  
**Income:** \$48,396.88  
**Expenses:** \$57,091.32  
**Difference:** \$ -8,694.44

**Dedicated Offerings:**  
**Bunny Breakfast:** \$ 88.00  
**Memorials:** \$ 215.00



Rehearsal Schedule for June

The Choir will be on vacation the month of June. Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, July 5th at 6 PM.

We are always accepting new members—interested??

Contact Dr. Christina Pinkston at

<director@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com>

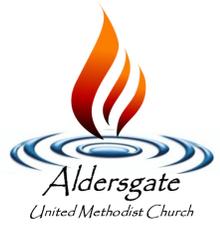
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CALLED

CHARGE CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd 11 AM

Please mark your calendars.



Mark your calendars now....

Farewell for Pastor Bert  
Sunday, June 11th at noon



Join us as we bid him farewell and wish him well at his new appointment. Meats will be provided.



## Birthdays

6/6 Diane Willis      6/26 Christina Pinkston  
6/10 Melissa Floyd    6/29 Bella Hanson

## Anniversaries

6/26 Dewey and Millie Hanson



## Remember in Prayer

Home: Pastor Lee Crosby, Bob Crabtree

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

Thursday, June 15th  
for the July 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

Debbie Supper and Steve Carter

## Counters

6/4 Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers  
6/11 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch  
6/18 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson  
6/25 Neal Windley, Michele floyd  
7/2 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis



## Lawn Maintenance



6/5 Team 2  
6/12 Team 3  
6/19 Team 1  
6/26 Team 2  
7/3 Team 3

Trash Duty—Neal Windley

## Calendar Highlights

6/3—11 AM—Called Charge Conference

6/6—7 PM—Elizabeth Park Civ. Lea.

6/8—6 PM— Vision Team Meeting

6/11-Following 11 AM Worship Service—Farewell Potluck for Pastor Bert. Meats will be provided

6/12—7 PM—RFS/WM/EP Civ. Lea.

6/15—Healthy Journey Group

6/12-6/17—Virginia Annual Conference in Roanoke



## Prayers of thanksgiving

Jimmie and Carolyn Powers are back in the pews. They were missed.

Steve Carter has recovered from his latest surgery and is back worshipping with us.

Bob Crabtree had hip surgery but is doing very well. If you see him around the neighborhood—say hi.

God is Good...

## Special Congratulations to the Newlyweds!



Guy Willis and his new bride, Alix.

Guy and Alix were married on May 6th at a destination wedding.

Blessings on the new couple.

NEWS FROM  
THE PEWS



Congratulations go out to Pastor Bert and Kotosha Griffin on the graduation of Kiara Griffin. Kiara graduated on May 9th from Southern Crescent Tech with a degree in Emergency Medicine.

Lot of smiles all around



## Farewells

Farewells come in a lot of different ways.

We have school farewells, leaving a job, retirement, saying goodbye to friends and family if you move, etc. The Navy does not say goodbye—they say “Farewell and Following Seas” when you leave for a new duty station (I have done several of these).

Another kind of farewell is saying goodbye to your old life and starting a new one. As Christians we do this a lot more than we will admit. They say it takes two weeks of doing the same thing for it to become a habit. Not so sure this is true. When we ask Jesus to come into our lives it does not take two weeks for us to change from our old lives to a new one. We immediately know when we are doing something that is not right. It is as if Jesus has placed something different on our hearts.

One of the saddest farewells is saying good-bye to our pastors. Methodists do this on a regular basis (unfortunately). This month we say farewell (all too soon) to Pastor Bert. His ministry has barely begun here but he is called to go to a new congregation who also needs him.

He will be missed but know that his wisdom, messages, and ministries will continue here at Aldersgate, just as it has with other pastors who have moved on.

For the office it is like I am beginning a new job all over again. Pastor Duncan will be my 9th pastor to welcome.

Blessings on all of us as we embark on new adventures in our Christian life.

JR