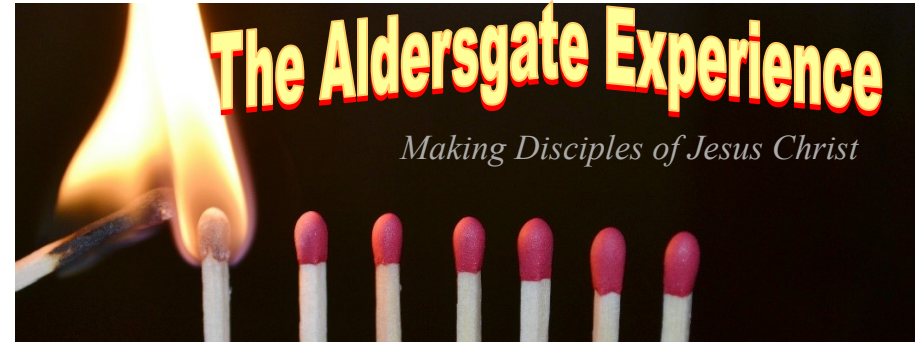




Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239



July 2020 Vol. 23 Issue 7



*God gives us rainbows
to remind
us of hope*



The Pastor's Corner

"Prepare For In-Person Worship"

By Pastor Lee

At the writing of this article, I don't know when we will get back together for in-person worship, but I'm hoping it will be sometime this month. So, we need to be prepared for it. The church building will be cleaned, sanitized, and ready for our return from exile. As the building is being prepared, we too must be prepared. Here are three ways to do that:

1. Prepare your Mind. The coronavirus has given us plenty of time to think about what is important in life. With all the chaos and uncertainty we have experienced, we can worship a God who is in charge of it all. God's perfect wisdom will see us through. And that is something to celebrate! So, prepare yourself to worship God with all your mind.

2. Prepare your Heart. We don't just worship God with our minds. We worship Him with our hearts. Prepare to enter his presence with joy and excitement. We are God's children only by God's grace. All our sins were forgiven by God's grace. That is something to celebrate. So, come prepared to sing and celebrate as we worship God with a grateful heart.

3. Prepare your Feet. They say it takes 30 to 40 days to form a habit. During the pandemic, we've created the habit of NOT going to a church building to worship. But we were created to worship the Lord TOGETHER. If you don't feel safe to return due to the Coronavirus, please stay home. Otherwise prepare your feet to meet TOGETHER for worship.



The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"

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"Like" us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Sharma D. Lewis
District Superintendent...Rev. Wayne Snead
Pastor..... Rev. Lee J. Crosby
Lay Leader..... Kathleen O'Hara
Music Director.....Cindy Crosby
Church Secretary.....Joyce Russo

Office Hours.....8:30-12:30 PM
Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM
Worship Team Rehearsal - Wednesdays.....6:30 PM

UNSEEN BUT active

This experiment illustrates that although God is invisible, we can see his work all around us.

What you need:

- Drinking glass
- Water
- Index card



What you do:

1. Practicing over a sink, fill the glass halfway with water. Then press the index card snugly atop the glass with one hand.
2. With the other hand, hold the base of the glass and carefully flip it over.
3. Remove your hand from the card. It should stay on the glass, without spilling the water! The invisible air in the glass creates a suction with the card, preventing the water from spilling out. Research air pressure to learn more.
4. After perfecting the trick, amaze others with it. Then talk about how God, like the air in the glass, is unseen but active.










PUZZLE

WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.

 + e	Water changes to _____	JOHN 2:1-11
 - k + d	Heals a man born _____	JOHN 9
 - op +  - w	Calms a _____	MATTHEW 8:23-27
 f +  - d	Catch of _____	LUKE 5:1-11
 - ch + er	Walks on _____	MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water



Happy 4th of July!

July—

Another month has passed without being together as a church family. On July 1st we will open our state to phase 3 of the Governor's plan for getting back to normal. Masks will still be required for public places and any indoor activities except restaurants and exercising.

As we anxiously await word from our Bishop and District Superintendent as to when we will enter Phase 3 as a church, several of our members have been diligently working on cleaning and sanitizing our church building so that we are ready to come back together.

The Sanctuary, Choir loft, kitchen, Social Hall, offices and classrooms have been cleaned and sprayed and are eagerly awaiting the sound of voices to fill the empty spaces.

Please check your emails often so you will know when the date has been set....

Hope to see everyone soon.

The church office



Birthdays



7/2 Maria Davidson	7/7 Eric Cramer
Jasiah Washington-Om	7/20 Mary Ellen Gillespie
7/4 Chase Dziagwa	7/22 Debbie Supper
7/6 Pat Wilson	7/30 Guy Willis III



Ushers

Guy Willis, Michele Floyd

Counters

7/5	Neal Windley, Michele Floyd
7/12	Kevin Floyd, Ben Hogwood
7/19	Greg Dziagwa, Jim Powers
7/26	Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch



Anniversaries

We have no anniversary celebrations listed for the month of July. Please let us know if you are celebrating your wedding anniversary this month

Remember in Prayer

Home: Barbara Jenkins,

Sentara Village: Rosemont Rd—
Shirley Henley

Dominion Village Asst. Living—
Cora Vernon

Please keep our nation in your prayers as we continue to struggle with illnesses, discontent and frustrations.

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



PRAYER MINISTRY

Lawn Care Schedule



Lawn Maintenance

7/6	Team 2
7/13	Team 3
7/20	Team 1
7/27	Team 2

Calendar Highlights

7/3 Church Office Closed in celebration of the July 4th Holiday.

Check emails daily for updates from Bishop Lewis and reopening of our church.



Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, July 15th
for the August 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



Dessert Volunteer Coordinator Needed for the Spaghetti Dinner

The Dinner Crew is searching for a volunteer to coordinate the desserts beginning in September 2020. The role includes serving others, coordinating with a team and church family, and being present at some of the

Volunteers are the
HEART
of our church



Although we have not seen each other in worship for a while, our young folk have been busy learning and achieving some very important goals in their lives.

JaiMarie graduated for Princess Ann High School with honors and has a scholarship to Washington State University for the fall and will be studying genetics. She has also started her first job at Chipolte and loves it.

Jasiah graduated elementary school and will be attending Salem Middle School in the fall. He will be turning 11 this month.

Chelsea will be entering 8th grade in the fall. Grandmom, Beverly is extremely proud of her grandchildren.

Bella Hanson graduated to 8th grade with honors. She just turned 13 last month. Congrats, Bella.

Linda Crabtree's two grandsons, **Kenny Wood and Justyn Hendricks** have graduated high school. Kenny will be entering college as a sophomore after completing his freshmen year as a high school senior.

Melissa Floyd graduated Tidewater Community College with an Associates Degree in Science. She will be attending ODU in the fall majoring in Education. She also just turned 21 years old.

Claudia Ganaden's youngest grandson, **Griffin**, graduated Kindergarten this June. He will enter into 1st grade in the fall.

Anthony Russo, Mason Harrell and Michael Hogwood all completed Middle School and will attend High School in the fall.

Aaron Russo completed Elementary School and will begin middle school in the fall.

Blessings to all of our graduates for continued success ! We are proud of all of you.



Rehearsal Schedule

6:30 Wednesdays

July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Hoping we will be back in July.

This is the proposed schedule.

Blessings to you, keeping singing and praising!



Good Things Come to Them That Wait: A Lay Leader's Perspective

I hope this finds you and all you love safe and healthy. I am guessing each of us has developed a routine to help us cope with the restraints COVID-19 has put upon us. I highly recommend adding walking to your daily regimen, if possible. Actually, my dog Boston makes it impossible for me not to walk. He is insistent on having that privilege.

Recently, Cindy Crosby, knowing my predilection for dog walking, emailed me, advising there was a nesting duck in the prayer garden. She wanted to be sure Boston in his doggie exuberance didn't discover mom and her eggs and inadvertently cause them harm. Last Sunday a group of us met at church to walk around it and pray. I took a peek at the duck while I was there.



Sure enough, Lucy (*that's the name of the duck courtesy of Cindy*) was still there nestled on those eggs. I thought "Wow! she has been there so long - through good weather and bad with all sorts of activity going on around her. How faithful she is!" Later that same evening Cindy emailed me to tell me Lucy's eggs had hatched. That feathered mom was surrounded by lovely ducklings. Her faithfulness had paid off!



Did you know that it takes about 28 days for duck eggs to hatch? Lucy must have been bored some of that time, maybe scared, lonely or cold. But she never abandoned post. She was faithful to the welfare of her offspring. As I thought about it, I realized that being faithful often comes with

inconvenience, even sacrifice. Remember, Ruth was faithful to her mother-in-law to the extent she accompanied her to a foreign land. Paul was faithful to Christ even though he was imprisoned for that faithfulness. God rewarded their faithfulness didn't He? Ruth met and married Boaz and inherited a better life because she sacrificed her personal comfort for Naomi's. Paul saw the Gentiles embrace Christ. His efforts forever changed the world, from a prison cell even. Beyond that, he was able to experience great joy in the worst of circumstances.

The Bible isn't full of superheroes. It is testimony that flawed people, like you and me, can do amazing things, if we do them for the right reasons. It is the sacrifice part of this equation that is so hard. Yes, it is tempting to "duck" the obligations that come with faithfulness. Yet, blessings and comfort eventually will "hatch" in our lives, if we take a lesson from Lucy. Remain faithful, even when it's not convenient or comfortable to do so, because good things will come to those who trust Him and His timing.

Kathleen O'Hara,



A Note from Our Bishop:

Thanks for Your Perseverance!

Dear Virginia Annual Conference:
These are certainly challenging times – and there is also a great deal of positive news for our church. Through faith, flexibility, and hard work we are returning to in-person worship in a safe and responsible manner.

Virginia is on track to enter Phase Three of Governor Northam’s reopening plan this Wednesday, July 1, 2020, as the number of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths continue to decline in the Commonwealth. The Conference has been carefully monitoring events at the state level and the transition to Phase Three by Governor Northam was expected. It does not impact our return to worship plans.

Our churches continue the return to in-person under the Stage 2 criteria that went into effect for the Conference on June 21, 2020. The Conference will remain in our Stage 2 for the foreseeable future as we are being rigorous about the safety of our members and guests. Face coverings and social distancing are essential at all in-person gatherings.

I encourage all churches to return to in-person worship, even if it is with a modest number of church members, while continuing to provide online or telephonic worship services. We will continue to monitor and evaluate events. As trends are expected to continue to improve in Virginia, we will likely loosen some of the requirements for in-person worship.

Thank you to the hundreds of churches that have returned to in-person worship and other church activities, and thanks to those that are making plans to do so soon. Even though the services are smaller than before the pandemic, you are providing important, essential ministry to help the well-being of the Body of Christ. Every church that is comfortable can have in-person worship by following the *Technical Assistance Manual* on the Conference website.

Peace and Blessings,

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis



A huge thanks to all who supported the second ministry opportunity for the **Wesley Community Center Food Pantry**.

The groceries were delivered on June 8th by Pastor Lee and Cindy. The ladies greeted us at the center and it took all 5 of us to get them loaded onto the cart—lots and lots of bags.

What a blessing each of you are for helping with this effort!

