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The Aldersgate Experience

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NEWSLETTER

Vol. 19 Issue 1

JANUARY, 2016



Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 5767 Sellger Drive
 Norfolk, Virginia 23502



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the New Year**

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Dear Folks,

John 1:1-5 (NRSV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.



As we start a new year I encourage you to pay close and constant attention to Jesus Christ. Why would I say that? Aren't we already doing that? Isn't it enough, what I do now and already? Do you feel resentment about being reminded? I suppose there are some who do not need to be reminded to pay attention to Christ, but in a world where we are caving in to our fears and expecting the worse it is imperative that we redirect our attention. There are prophets of doom from all sides, using nearly every means possible to make you and keep you scared, to keep you discouraged, to keep you "in the dark" They use biblical imagery and religious rhetoric to support outrageous and offensive violations of God's laws of love as if they were Jesus himself. Such extremist language and fear-mongering is not consistent with or adaptable to the message that "Love came down at Christmas".

Darkness may seem to prevail, but it is an illusion and wishful thinking on the part of the forces of evil and sin. Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12). This is why I remind you to pay attention to Jesus. When you are overwhelmed with fear, turn to Him. When you are confused about what to think, who to believe, and what to do, turn to Jesus. When hatred appears, when stereo-typing occurs, when disordered thinking arises, turn to Jesus who said, Matthew 22:37-40 (NRSV)

³⁷ He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment.

³⁹ And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

And

Matthew 5:43-48 (NRSV)

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.

⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

It is not easy following Jesus and no one ever said it was. But follow we must if we are to be a part of him and He of us. Pay very close and careful attention to Jesus in this New Year.



Pastor Tony

Did You Know???

The meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means "an appearance" or "a revealing."

Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus' first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.



On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.



Who to Contact:

Pastor: Rev. W. Tony Forstall
Lay Leader: Beverly Cooper
Choir Director: Peggy Muse
Organist: Nancy Redburn
Youth Director: Guy Willis
Church Secretary: Joyce Russo

Office Hours.....8:30-12:30 PM
Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Worship Service...11 AM
Sanctuary Choir - Wednesdays.....6:30 PM
Youth Meeting....Sundays....12:30 PM
Youth Meeting....Sundays....12:30 PM





GUIDING LIGHT

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.



What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

What you do:

1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell "God is light."
4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!



In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his way

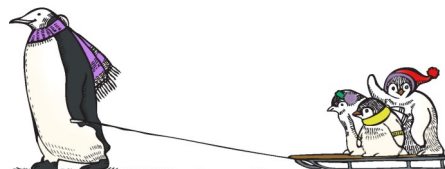
Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.

" Y O U , _____ , A R E _____ ; T H E _____ M Y _____ I N T O _____ . "

2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Illustrations for word building: a knife (-SW + L), an eye (-E-E + M), a coin (-ST + L), a candle (-B-A + L), a comb and a telephone (-CH + T + S), a bowl and a fish (-T + S), and a lightbulb.

er "You, Lord, are my lamp; the Lord turns my darkness into



Elizabeth River District Training Day
Saturday—Jan. 16th
8:30 am—2:30 pm



This year the training will be held at Deep Creek UMC, Chesapeake, VA.

Bishop Cho will do a workshop from 9-9:30 AM

Course Offerings:

(1st session 9:45-11:45 - 2nd session 12:15-2:15)

- S/PPRC Training
- Finance
- The Role of Nominations and Leadership Development (am only)
- Discipleship Circles
- Missions
- Change
- Social Media for Churches
- Communications
- Leaving a legacy
- Trustees Role
- Stewardship
- Connecting with Young People
- Youth
- Children's Ministry
- Child Abuse Training
- and much more- complete listing available from church office

Form is available from the church office or the district website.
Questions: email <eclements@elizabethriverdistrict.org> or call Ellen at 473-1592....

DEADLINE: January 8th

Lunch available \$10.00





News from the Pews

Billy Thrasher had a series of mini strokes on 12/2 and had been in the hospital. He was transferred to Lake Taylor Transition Care in Norfolk for rehab/ or long term care depending on his needs. He is in Camellia wing room 20B.

Anyone that would like to visit is welcome, please no phone calls he can not use phone. You are welcome to call Randolph or I for more information.

My cell# 757-241-1607

Randolph's cell# 757-647-7992. Prayers please.

Thanks Lindalyn

Thanks to all of our prayer warriors **Lindell Davidson and Terry (Davidson) Byrne** are well enough to be removed from our weekly prayer listing. **Pat Sauer** was able to attend services recently. Praises all around.

PrayerWorks!



Thanks to the **Sanctuary Choir, Director Peggy Muse and Organist Nancy Redburn** for the wonderful Lessons and Carols program on Dec. 20th.

Music is an important part of the worship service and all of the hard work and commitment of our musicians is greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to all of those who participated in the Living Nativity this year. This event has become an integral part of our Christmas present to the community. We could not possibly achieve success without the help of all of you.

Ann Manuel, Mary Ellen Gillespie



As we begin a new year, I would like to thank the congregation for all of your love and support during 2015. The church office could not run efficiently without all of you. May God Bless you all.

Joyce Russo



Changes...

With the new year there always seems to be some changes and this year will be no different.

The NEWSLETTER deadline will now be the 15th of each month.

Hopefully this date will be easier for committees and group leaders to remember so they are able to submit articles and information which the congregation needs. This deadline will also coincide with the District newsletter deadline.

I enjoy doing the newsletter but this is your newsletter, not the offices, and I want to make it more about what you think is needed to make it more informative.

I welcome any feedback as to content, special interest notes, etc.

Thanks for all of your support.

Joyce R.



From our D.S.



Pastors and Laity,

Michelle Louk, our District Director of Church Revitalization, will be offering training on Radical Hospitality throughout the coming year. These events concentrate on four different areas of hospitality our churches need to consider when "Making disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world." I would encourage you to take advantage of these training opportunities.

**Rev. M. Wayne Snead
Elizabeth River District Superintendent**

Information will be available from the church office as to dates, times and locations.

Winton Class' Annual



GAME DINNER
February 7th
12:15 PM



immediately following the
Worship Service

EVERYONE IS INVITED
COST - FREE!
Bring your favorite side-dish

If you would like to help with the preparations, set-up or clean-up....

Please Call Mel Manuel.



Mission and Ministry Updates



The **Circle of Friends** class got together to make 50 Blessing Bags recently. The generous donation taken at the Potato Bar lunch on Nov. 15th resulted in enough money to cover the cost of the contents of the bags (with a little left over to make more in the future). We've heard very positive comments from those who have passed out these bags to the homeless!

I'd like to thank everyone for their participation in the many Mission projects we had throughout the Christmas season! You truly bring the spirit of giving to light! Many are still in progress as of this writing but I can report that we filled 40 Christmas stockings for the Salvation Army and the hat & mitten tree is covered!

Other projects during the Advent season were:

Toys for Tots

Fill the Pot (\$\$ collection for the Fire Station on Poplar Hall Dr. to help with the cost of food they purchase out of pocket)

Fill the Grocery Cart (monthly collection of food for the Food Bank)

Post Office (\$ collected will go to make more Blessing Bags)

Next month we'll have a more complete report on what the generous, giving hearts of Aldersgate accomplished in this season of the celebration of Jesus birth!

Cynthia Stanley,
Mission and Outreach





Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1/1 Mary Ruth Forstall | 1/17 Shirley Briggs |
| 1/3 Phil Floyd | 1/24 Linda Millard |
| Sherry Williams | 1/28 Roy Smith |
| 1/5 Gary Albertson | 1/30 Kathy Dziagwa |
| 1/6 Nichole Price | |

We do not have any anniversaries for the month of January.

Remember in Prayer

Home: Larkin and Jane Jones, Jim Mahone, Shirley Briggs, Earl Henley, Beth and Ski Watzlavick, Richard and Joyce Thompson

The Ballentine--Ed Weddle
 Gardens of Virginia (Brighton Gdns.) Milton Midgette
 Chesapeake Place--Beulah Eatmon
 Hermitage Eastern Shore--Bob Bloxom
 Sentara Village S.--Shirley Henley
 Mila Home Care--Jackie Wilkinson
 Clair Bridge of Va. Beach--Charles Williams, Nel Lyon
 Lake Taylor--Billy Thrasher



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

Altar Flowers

- | | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 1/4 | No Flowers—Communion |
| 1/11 | |
| 1/18 | Please see Ann Manuel to |
| 1/25 | sign up for flowers. |



Ushers

Neal Windley, Kathy Dziagwa

Counters

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 1/3 | Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson |
| 1/10 | Neal Windley, Michele Floyd |
| 1/17 | Kevin Floyd, Randy Thrasher |
| 1/24 | Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers |
| 1/31 | Mel Manuel Ben Hogwood |



Lawn Maintenance



- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1/4/16 | Team 1 |
| 1/11 | Team 2 |
| 1/18 | Team 3 |
| 1/25 | Team 1 |

Scripture Readings

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1/3 | Isaiah 60:1-6 | 1/31 | Jeremiah 1:4-10 |
| | Ephesians 3:1-12 | | Luke 4:21-30 |
| 1/10 | Isaiah 43:1-7 | | |
| | Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 | | |
| 1/17 | Isaiah 62:1-5 | | |
| | John 2:1-11 | | |
| 1/24 | Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 | | |
| | Luke 4:14-21 | | |



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE will be Friday, January 15th



Aldersgate UMC 2016 Nominations and Leadership (cont.)

Committee on Nominations – Chair Rev. Tony Forstall

Rev. Tony Forstall	Pastor
Cynthia Stanley	2016
Ann Manuel	2016
Kevin Floyd	2017
Barbara Harrell	2018
Ben Hogwood	2018

Finance Committee – Chair Gary Albertson

Rev. Tony Forstall	Pastor
Gary Albertson	Finance Chair
Neal Windley	Church Council Chair
Melvin Manuel	Head Trustee
Kathy Dziagwa	Treasurer
Ann Manuel	Financial Secretary
Beverly Cooper	Lay Member to Annual Conference
Lucinda Williams	Lay Alternate Member to Annual Conference
Sherri Williams	Annual Auditor

Worship Committee

Rev. Tony Forstall-Pastor	Ann Manuel – Altar Guild
Peggy Muse -Music Director	Kevin Floyd - Ushers
Nancy Redburn-Musician	Barbara Hogwood - Communion

Kitchen Committee

Barbara Hogwood	Chair
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Bereavement Committee

Mary Ruth Forstall	Chair
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Ministry Team

Rev. Tony Forstall	Pastor
Neal Windley	Chair 2018
Gary Albertson	Finance
Mel Manuel	Head Trustee 2017
Kathy Dziagwa	Treasurer/SPPCR Chair
Ann Manuel	Financial Secretary
Greg Dziagwa	Member at Large 2018
Cynthia Stanley	Missions
Ann Manuel	
Michelle Floyd	
Barbara Harrell	
Jim Powers	
Lucinda Williams	

Aldersgate UMC 2016 Nominations and Leadership

Church Council – Chair Neal Windley

Rev. Tony Forstall	Pastor
Neal Windley	Chair 2018
Gary Albertson	Finance
Mel Manuel	Head Trustee 2017
Kathy Dziagwa	Treasurer/SPPCR Chair
Ann Manuel	Financial Secretary
Greg Dziagwa	Member at Large 2018
Millie Hanson	Member at Large 2018
Beverly Cooper	Lay Member to Annual Conference
Lucinda Williams	Lay Alternate Member to Annual Conference
Cindy Albertson	Recording Secretary

Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee – Chair Kathy Dziagwa

Rev. Tony Forstall	Pastor
Kathy Dziagwa	Chair 2017
Michelle Floyd	2018
Neal Windley	2018
Beverly Cooper	2016
Lucinda Williams	2018
Tammy Thrasher	2017

Board of Trustees - Chair Melvin Manuel

Rev. Tony Forstall	Pastor
Melvin Manuel	2017
Ben Hogwood	2016
Randolph Thrasher	2018
Neal Windley	2016
George Wilson	2018
Cynthia Stanley	2016
Charles Hulock	2017
Jim Powers	2017
Greg Dziagwa	2017

Committee on Nominations – Chair Rev. Tony Forstall

Rev. Tony Forstall	Pastor
Cynthia Stanley	2016
Ann Manuel	2016
Kevin Floyd	2017
Barbara Harrell	2018
Ben Hogwood	2018

(continued on next page)

