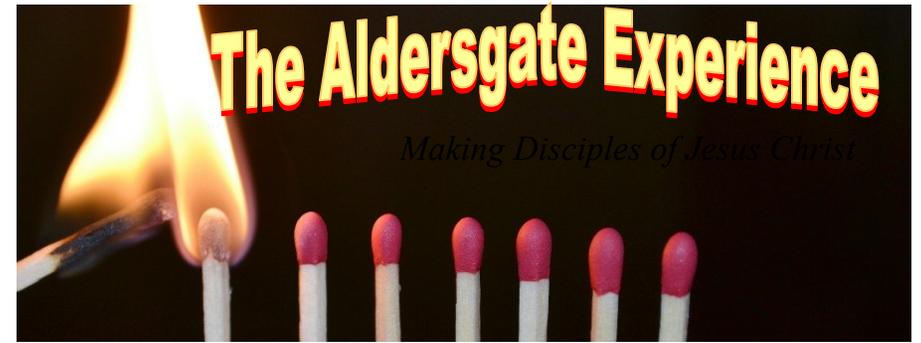


DECEMBER
2018

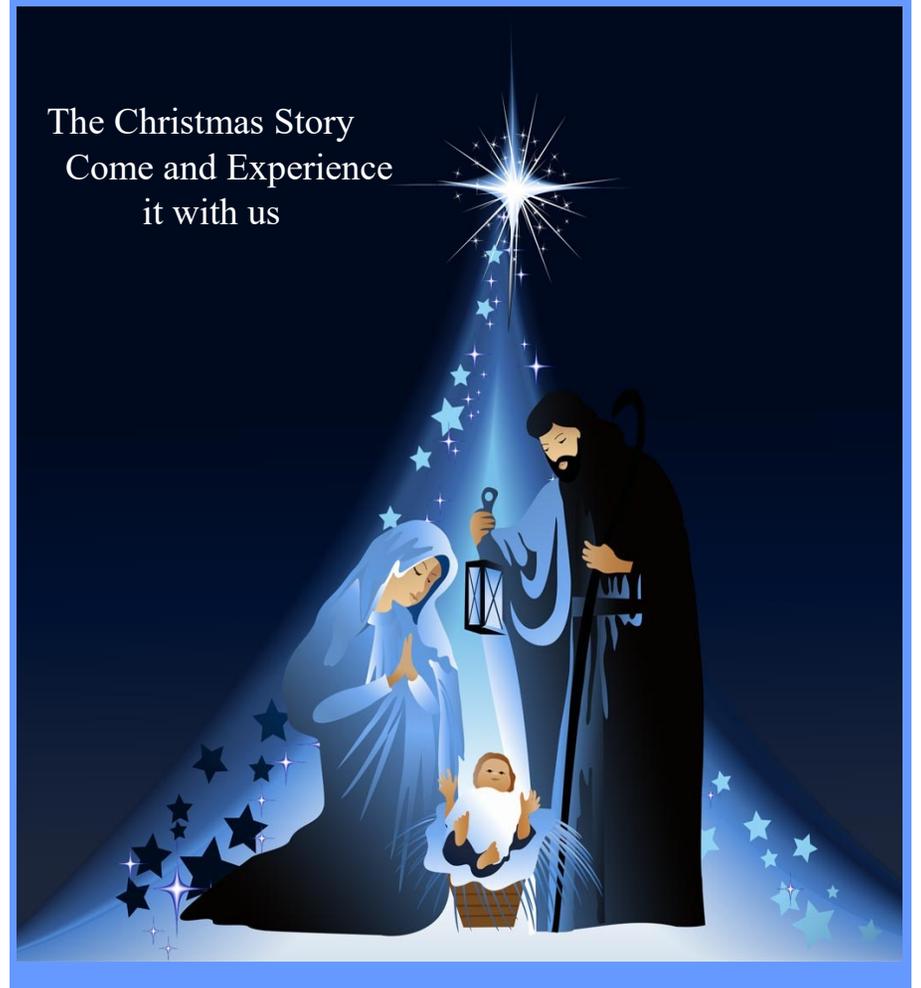
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239
Merry Christmas



December, 2018

Vol. 21 Issue 12

The Christmas Story
Come and Experience
it with us





Why Worship?

Why worship God? Is God insecure, that we need to stroke his ego once a week? Of course not. Worship is not for God's benefit. It is for our benefit. Here are 4 reasons why we should worship God.

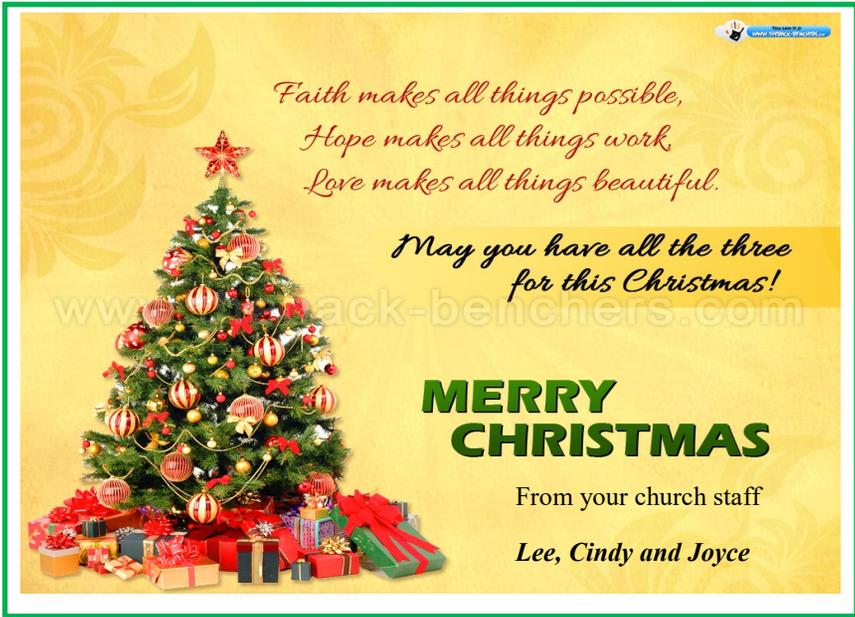
1. God commands it. Sabbath day worship is so important to our spiritual growth that God made it one of the Ten Commandments. Worship reminds us that God is in charge, not us. It reminds us that we have someone far greater to go to than ourselves.

2. It helps others. When we gather together in worship, we are in community. We greet one another, pray for one another, and sing with one another. We have the opportunity to encourage, love, and serve one another. We also have the opportunity to welcome guests who may be seeking God for the first time.

3. You demonstrate that God is worthy of worship. Where we spend our time shows what we truly value. When we choose to worship rather than sleeping in, watching/playing sports, or many other ways to spend our time, we say to the world, God is my priority. He is worthy of my time, attention, and energy.

4. You get a foretaste of Heaven. God created us to worship. And one day we will come face to face with God for eternity. The natural response will be worship. Worship in the world is a foretaste of worship in Heaven.

So, don't miss the beauty and blessing of weekly worship!



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
Parsonage: 757-461-3201

Email: joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com
Web page: www.aldersgatenorfolk.org
"Like" us on Facebook

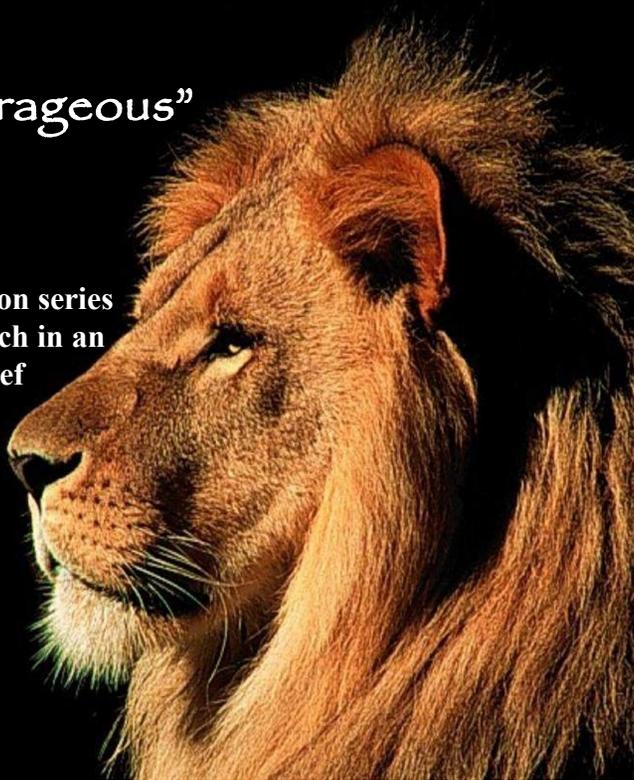
- Bishop.....Rev. Sharma D. Lewis
- District Superintendent...Rev. Wayne Snead
- Pastor..... Rev. Lee J. Crosby
- Lay Leader..... Beverly Cooper
- Music Director.....Cindy Crosby
- Church Secretary.....Joyce Russo

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

“Courageous”

3-week sermon series
for the Church in an
age of unbelief

STARTS
JAN. 06



— Join us for —

CHRISTMAS EVE

a night of HOPE and JOY

77 PM



Sunday, December 23rd

11 AM Worship Service will be
held in the Social Hall

We will have an “Agape Meal” Potluck so
bring your favorite dish to share. This will be followed
by a Birthday Party for Jesus.

A great way to begin the celebration of our Savior’s
birth!



In this Issue:

- *Christmas Eve Worship Service
- *Special Events and Celebrations throughout
the Holiday Season—dates and times
- *New Sermon Series details
- *Corn Hole Tournament Updates
- *Elizabeth District News and Updates



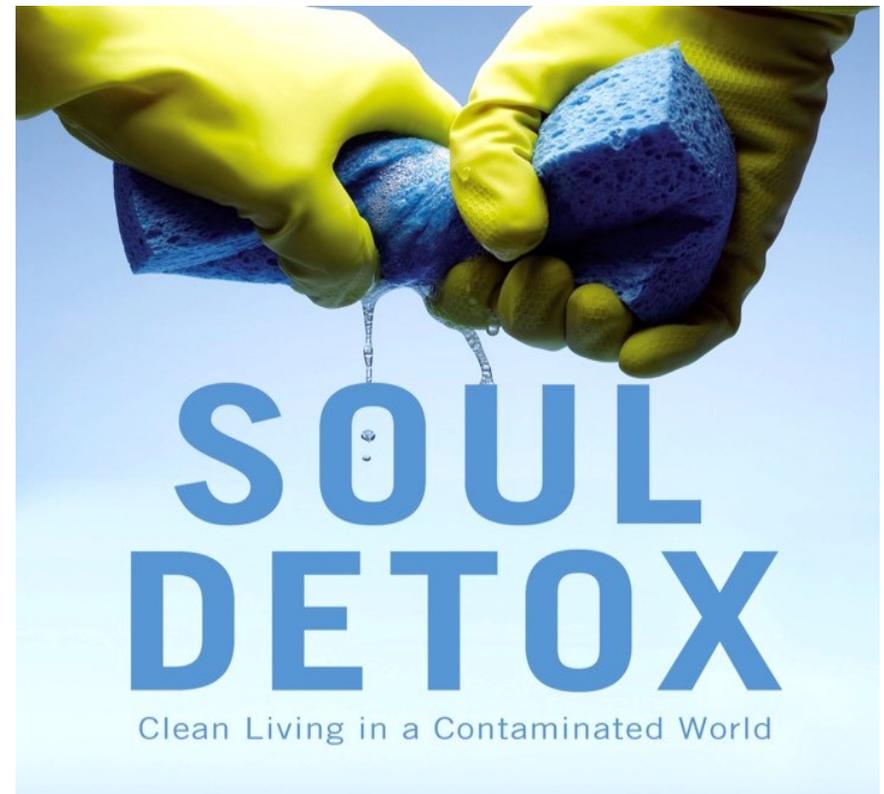
**Elizabeth River District Conference -
October 20, 2018
Update**

At the Elizabeth River District Conference, held on October 20, 2018, District Superintendent Wayne Snead cast a vision for the Elizabeth River District. Recognizing that the local church and local ministries are on the front line of making disciples who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve, the District seeks to assist the laity and clergy to accomplish the mission given by God.

The first of the three strategies is **“Empowering.”** The District is committed to providing laity and clergy with high-quality training that is practical, usable, and hands-on. Examples include Connect, Breakthrough Prayer, and District Training Day with leadership from the General Board of Discipleship.

The second strategy is **“Equipping.”** Training events are great, but in addition to that, the District is committed to working with laity and clergy within the context of their congregation. The focus shifts from events to equipping within the congregation’s context of ministry. Examples include Next Level Innovations and Shift.

The final strategy is **“Planting.”** While there have been restarts and mergers on the District, there will be a renewed emphasis on planting new faith communities. The Elizabeth River District Board of Missions, Inc. along with the District Building and Location and the New Faith Community Task Force, will survey the District considering new and fresh ways to do church, with or without a building.



5 Week Discussion Group —Thurs. Nights

Starts Jan. 10th, 7:00-8:45 pm

(We will gather in the Social Hall)

Jan. 10—The power of life-giving words

Jan. 17—Unlocking the chokehold of fear

Jan. 24—Loving unhealthy people without getting sick

Jan. 31—Overcoming false beliefs

Feb. 07—Cleansing our lives of cultural toxins

For more Info. email Pastor Lee at

<leecrosby@vaumc.org>

Email Issues

The church office has recently encountered several problems with many of our members not receiving emails sent from the church office from both Joyce and Cindy. Or not receiving them in a timely manner. After spending much time on the phone w/Cox Communications troubleshooting the problem, their recommendations to alleviate these issues are as follows:



1. Check to make sure your spam filter has not “flagged” any correspondence from Aldersgate – specifically (joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com or director@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com).
2. If it’s checked as Spam, you will not see any email from the church office and you will need to disable this feature or else all email will go to Spam instead of your “Inbox”.
3. Routinely check your email! Several people have too many emails or don’t check their messages regularly and it is causing a problem especially with Cox.Net recipients. (Apparently this is a glitch associated primarily with Cox customers but could apply to other users as well-sometimes yahoo or gmail). Several browsers have updated recently. Just deleting your messages from your inbox is not enough—you have to empty your trash bin also.
4. For those messages you desire to save, create a folder or folders under your Inbox to sort and save your emails to - i.e. business mail, online orders, etc. This will free up space.
5. If you don’t read or check your messages on a regular basis, please let the office know as this is creating a problem with kicked back/not delivered emails resulting in other church members not receiving what could be important messages

Contact the church office if you have any questions.



Cornhole Tournament Winners!

Congratulations to:

- 1st Place
Artie and Kathy—The Danger Mice
2d Place
Randy and Kevin—Pink Floyd
3d Place
Elijah and Johnny—The Young Boys

What a great day with good food, fun, and friendly competition. A huge thanks to all helping hands who brought this yearly event together! See you next year! ...rain or shine



Elizabeth River District Training Day
Saturday, January 19, 2019
Community UMC,
1072 Old Kempsville Rd. VB, VA 23464

8:30 AM—3 PM

Session 1 Workshops:

Get Fresh: Fresh Expressions for Existing Churches;
How to Double Your Easter Attendance this year;
Transactional & Transformational;
What's Your Plan? Developing Discipleship Systems in Your Community;
Trustees; Money Matters (Treasurers and Finance);
Alzheimer's Awareness;
4 Simple Ways to Share Jesus;
Social Media & Youth Ministry;
What if We Boomers' Reinvented 'Senior Adult Ministry' & Changed the Church

Session 2 Workshops:

Mission & Justice;
The Power of Team-Based Leadership;
See All the People: Go and Make Disciples;
11 Tools for Stewardship;
5 Reasons to have a Child Protective Policy;
First Impressions: How to Create a WOW Experience;
Everything You Need to Know About S/PPRC;
Who Are You?;
The Art of Being Senior Friendly;
How to Lead Change in Your Church (and not get fired!)

Registration Deadline: January 11th

Cost: \$20.00

You can register online or by mail— Send checks made out to "Elizabeth River District with Training Day" on the memo line..



**Sweet Sounds
of Christmas Concert**



Thursday, Dec 20th
1:00 pm

**Come for an afternoon filled with the
sounds of Christmas. Relax with dessert
and good friends in the Cozy Café.**

**Bring some of your favorite delights to
share and your recipe if you like!**

Vocalist: Cindy Crosby



Come join in for an intimate evening at "A Fireside Christmas." Honoring Jesus with acts filled with joy, love, comedy, and music! Come find your Christmas spirit!

Delicious desserts served afterward!



AUMC Staff Christmas Bonus



Merry Christmas!

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

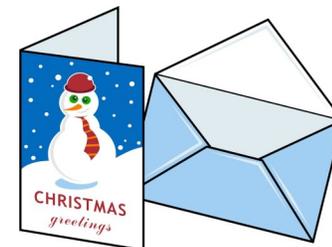
Aldersgate does not allocate any monies in the annual budget for this holiday tradition. Instead, we rely totally on the generosity of the congregation to contribute towards the staff's little "extra something" to recognize their devotion, efforts and dedication over the past year. If you would like 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 Kathy to make your contribution or you can place your gift in the offering baskets in addition to your regular offering.

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!



Christmas Card Post Office

Each Sunday morning during December— send holiday greetings to your church family and friends \$.25 each.





Birthdays

12/17 Vernon Williams
12/19 Cristen Cross

12/22 Lucille Hulock
Barbara Starche
12/27 Nick Albertson
12/29 Michael Hogwood

12/30

Rev. Reginald and Susan Burgess



Prayer List

Remember in Prayer

Sentara Village: Rosemont Rd— Shirley Henley

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



Newsletter Deadline
Friday, December 15, 2018
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....



Ushers

Randy Thrasher, Kevin Floyd

Counters

12/2 Greg Dziagwa, Jim Powers
12/9 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
12/16 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
12/23 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd
12/30 Kevin Floyd, Ben Hogwood



Lawn Maintenance

12/3 Team 1
12/10 Team 2
12/17 Team 3
12/24 Team 1
12/31 Team 2

Calendar Highlights

12/8 Saturday 6 PM
"A Fireside Christmas"
12/14 Friday 6-8 PM
"Living Nativity"
12/20 Thursday 1 PM
"Sweet Sounds of Christmas"
12/23 Sunday Noon "Birthday Party for Jesus"
12/24 Monday 7 PM Christmas Eve Service



Each Sunday during December the Christmas Card Post Office will be open

Worship Team News



December Schedule

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 5 December | 6:30 Rehearsal |
| 12 December | 6:30 Rehearsal |
| 19 December | 6:30 Rehearsal |
| 24 December | 6:30 Warm up and Service |
| 26 Dec/2 Jan 19 | Winter Break |

← LOOKING BACK
LOOKING AHEAD →

Appreciation Dinner



→ 1.9.19 6:30 Team App Dinner



→ 1.16.19 6:30 Gathering & Review

The Living Nativity

Come enjoy the living Nativity this year!
One night only—don't miss it!

December 14th, from 6-8pm

We are soliciting volunteers to costume up so our community can see the face of Christ in Christmas. We are serving hot chocolate this year.



Sign up today! Ann Manuel or Cindy Crosby

Keiran Lee Gentry

November 2, 2018
11:21 am 6lb 9 oz



Pastor Lee and Cindy bring greetings from Bill, May and Baby Keiran. It is with great joy we announce his birth and everyone is doing well!

Bill and May especially would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the church family for the outpouring of love, support, and gifts for their family. May God bless you!