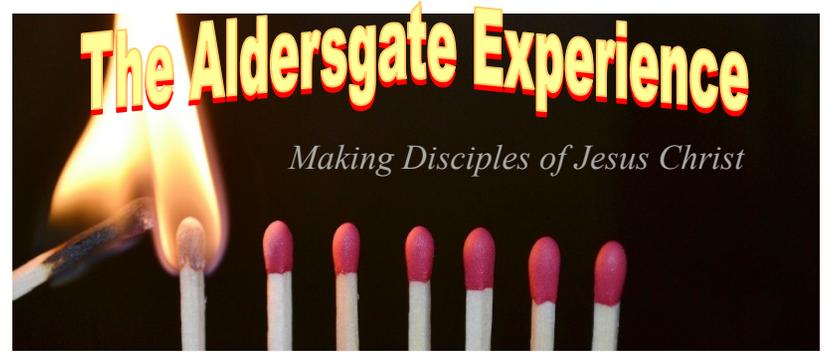




Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
5767 Sellger Drive  
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239



September, 2023 Vol. 26 Issue 9



Sunday Mornings  
11 AM  
We look forward to meeting you



From the Pastor

Ah September! A month of new starts. The planning for the Labor Day weekend starts. Cooler weather starts. School starts. Everyone back to work from vacations starts. And it's the start of planning for National Back to Church Sunday which is on September 17.

Yes, September is the start of all kinds of things, but back to church? Yes. People have been gone. Programs have been on standstill. Only Vacation Bible School, as for most churches, was the primary summer activity. But now, planning for events will take on a fresh seriousness.

Quite a few big events are coming up: Fall Harvest, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas. Even smaller ones like weekly dinners and gathering events designed to meet new people and reestablish connections with those familiar to us. This all takes careful thought to be successful in reaching out to the community around us.

When you think about it, a church can be a very busy place. It can easily become tedious and tiring. That is why we constantly need to remind ourselves of our mission and why we do what we do. I guess that's a question that each of us needs to answer for ourselves. Why do we do all this? Whom are we doing it for? Who gains from all this work? And what is the difference that we make to those around us? Would anyone miss what we do if we stopped?

I think I can answer all five questions with one word: JESUS. If everything we do is not for the sake of Jesus, then we are probably doing it for the wrong reasons and seriously missing the point. This is why we need to keep Jesus in the forefront of everything. As Scripture reminds us, *"We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne"* (Hebrews 12:2, NLT).

Now, let's start September by dreaming big!

Blessings,  
Pastor Melody A. Duncan

Enjoy your Labor Day Holiday.

The office will be closed.



# 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

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. Susan Hauptert-Johnson  
District Superintendent...Rev. Dr. Cecelia Brooks  
Pastor..... Rev. Melody A. Duncan  
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



## SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.

### What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

### What you do:

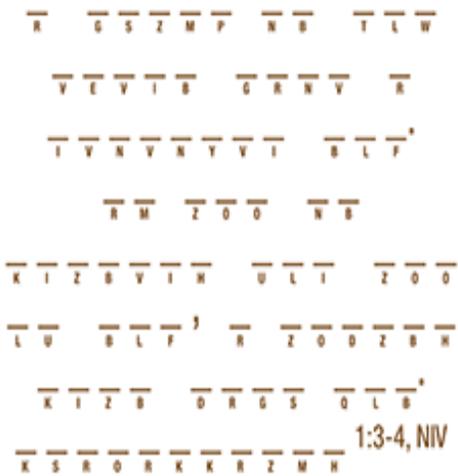
1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they're returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.



## A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.



Answers: I thank my God every time I remember you in all my prayers for all of you. I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV



Volunteers gathered on Saturday morning (8/12) to pack food for Rise Against Hunger. Each bag represents 6 meals and approximately 2000 bags were packed. Great job to all of the hard workers.

Gary Albertson



A Message from our Pastor

Financial Updates

Coastal Virginia District news

Lay minister schedules

Mission updates

VBS information

News from the Pews

and lots more.



**Financial Stats for July, 2023:**

**Income: \$12,941.00**

**Expenses: \$10,289.16**

**Difference: \$ 2,651.84**

**Year to Date Income/  
Expenses:**

**Income: \$ 83,222.58**

**Expenses: \$ 90,700.21**

**Difference: \$ -7,477.63**

**Dedicated Offerings:**

**Rise Against Hunger \$ 3,045.00**



**A Message from your Treasurer:**

I would like to thank everyone for their due diligence in trying to help make up for the deficit for this year. Income was up for July and expenses were down a little. Thank you!!

Aldersgate did not get that far in the hole in just a month or two and it will take some time to rebound from it but we are headed in the right direction. Please try to keep it up for a while longer.

**Thank you!!!**

**Kathy Dziagwa, Treasurer**

**We're Back!!**



**Weekly Spaghetti dinners will begin on  
Thursdays  
September 14th, 5 PM**

**See Cindy Albertson or Debbie Supper if  
you would like to volunteer to help.**



**Helping Hands Group**

**Meeting Date**

**Tuesday, September 26th**

**10 AM**

**Don't forget your bagged lunch**



Secretary Snippets



**DISTRICT PALOOZA**  
November 18th  
9:30 AM—2:00 PM  
Oak Grove UMC  
472 North Battlefield Blvd,  
Chesapeake, VA 23320



This one-day event will include worship, District Conference, Annual Charge Conferences, and leadership workshops. More information and registration will be coming soon.

**Committee Leaders**—this year’s forms will be available soon. Watch your emails for more information. All churches will be doing Charge Conference the same day at Oak Grove UMC.



**Liturgists Needed:** If you are interesting in being a part of the Sunday Morning Service please see Pastor Melody. She is looking for volunteers who would like to be liturgists.

**Administrative Board and Finance Meeting.**— The TIME has changed. Meeting is Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30 PM.

The Office will be working on **Updated Directories** during September. If you have changed your email, phone/cell number or address. Please contact the church office by email or leave a note in the box outside the office.

**New Prayer Group Coming!** Keep an eye on your emails and church bulletin announcements for more information on this.



© VEXELS



**COME! JOIN!**  
**THE ALDERSGATE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH (AUMC)  
CHOIR**

Do you love music?

The members of the AUMC Choir and Dr. Christina Pinkston would like to extend to you a “melodic” invitation to join the choir and to become part of its glorious fellowship as we, together, honor the Lord in song. Choir rehearsal is each Wednesday (6:00-7:30 P.M.—*only 90 minutes*) in the church’s sanctuary. AUMC choir members and I look forward to welcoming you with open arms, bright smiles, and absolute joy! See you soon!



### Choir Rehearsal Schedule for September

Wednesdays Sept 6; 13; 20; and 27 at 6 PM



Welcome Back to **Norma Tipora**. Norma spent part of the summer in her home in the Philippines. **Lily Tipora** is still there for an extended stay. We will miss her.

**Millie Hanson** is home and recovering nicely. Looking forward to having her back with us soon.

Welcome back to all of our vacationers. It is great to have you worshipping with us again.





## Birthdays

9/16 Joyce Thompson  
9/19 Jimmie Powers

9/24 Phyllis Day  
9/25 Vic Supper

## Anniversaries

9/17 Greg and Kathy Dziagwa



## Remember in Prayer

Home: Pastor Lee Crosby, Millie Hanson

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 Pastors, 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

Friday, Sept. 15th  
for the October 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

Kevin and Melissa Floyd

## Counters

9/3 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd  
9/10 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis  
9/17 Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers  
9/24 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch  
10/1 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson



## Lawn Care Schedule



## Lawn Maintenance

9/4 Team 3  
9/11 Team 1  
9/18 Team 2  
9/25 Team 3  
10/2 Team 1

Trash Duty—Guy Willis

## Calendar Highlights

9/5 7 PM Eliz. Park Civic League

9/6 10 AM District Meeting for office

9/11 7 PM RFS/WM/EP Civic League

9/14 5 PM Spaghetti Dinners begin again

9/19 6:30 PM Finance and Admin Board Meeting

9/26 10 AM Helping Hands Meetings resume

Spaghetti Dinners Thursdays 9/14;9/21; 9/28

Choir Rehearsals Wednesdays 9/6; 9/13; 9/20; 9/27



## VBS Time!

A great time was had by all who assisted with our Vacation Bible School in August. The children learned about Daniel, some lions, some men in a fire and a women who sewed clothes for the needy. They sang songs, had snacks and played several games.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with registrations, preparing the snacks; taking pictures; leading the music and coming up with a bunch of games.

See you next year! Barbara Harrell



## It's that time of year again!

With September comes Annual Charge Conference and all that goes with it.

As we prepare to complete all of the required paperwork, budgets, committee changes, etc. We need to keep this in mind. If you are asked to serve on a committee, seriously consider the appointment.

This poem was written by James N. Spurgeon it may help in your decision:

A job is at your choice  
A ministry is at Christ's call  
In a job you expect to receive  
In a ministry you expect to give  
In a job you give something to get something  
In a ministry you return something that has already been given to you  
A job depends on your abilities  
A ministry depends on your availability to God  
A job done well brings you praise  
A ministry done well brings honor to Christ.

Deciding to continue an appointment or to give it up: Consider these words:

If you are doing it just because no one else will; it's a job  
If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry  
If you quit because somebody criticized you, it was a job  
If you keep on serving, it's a ministry  
If you do it only so long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it's a job  
If you are committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry  
If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it's a job  
If you stay with it even if nobody recognizes your efforts, it's a ministry  
It's hard to get excited about a job, It's almost impossible not to be excited about a ministry.  
An average church is filled with people doing jobs;  
a great and growing church is filled with people involved in ministry.



Where do you fit in?

JR

