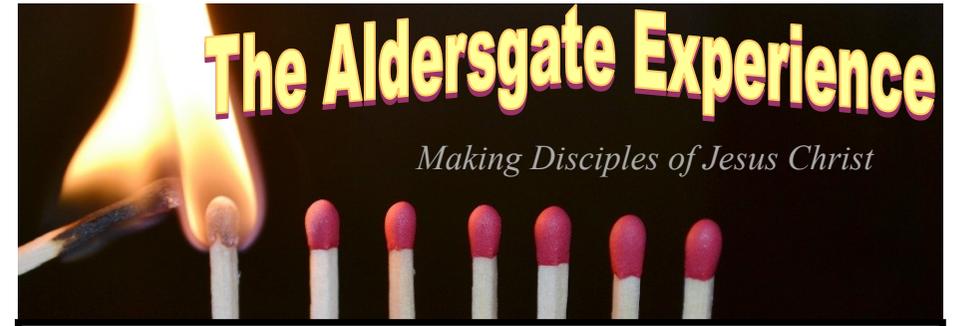




Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239



The Aldersgate Experience

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

January 2021 Vol. 24 Issue 1

It Only Takes a Spark....



Are You That Spark!!



“Let’s Stir the Pot!”

By Pastor Lee

2020 was a difficult year. As we enter a new year, the big question for many is “What’s next?” We still have the threat of COVID-19 as we head into 2021. A vaccine is being talked about, but many are nervous about side effects, and therefore uncertain about taking it. A new president is taking office. Our denomination is still talking divorce. So, what’s in store for us in 2021? What’s next?

We can begin this New Year with a lot of worries about the future...or we can rely on the One who is already there. It can be difficult to trust in the sovereignty of God because we don’t always understand what God is doing. His ways are higher than our ways. So, our circumstances don’t always make sense. But, God really is in control. Remembering that makes a big difference between believers and unbelievers. Both groups can face the same circumstances, yet, we have a great hope in a good God. It is that hope that reflects in our hearts and minds that can be seen by others. It stirs a desire for them to hunger for what we have.

So, let’s do some stirring. Begin by refreshing yourself with a confidence in the sovereignty of our good God. Let that confidence permeate your soul. Allow it to put a smile on your face that says, “God has it covered!” And, if enough of us have that same smile, we can stir up a huge pot of joy that inspires the hunger of our neighbors.



From the Staff...



Prayers and Blessings for a safe and healthy New Year.

The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”

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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...11 AM
Worship Choir - Wednesdays.....6:30 PM
Small Group Study—Thursdays...7 PM

A COLORFUL body

Melt crayons to show how the body of Christ works together.



What you need:

- Crayons
- Metal baking sheet
- Adult help
- Metal gingerbread man cookie cutter

What you do:

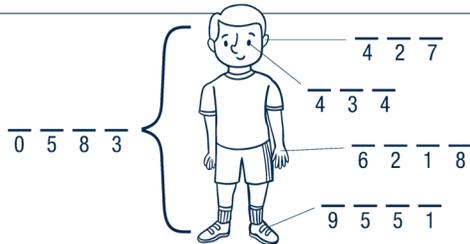
1. Remove labels and break crayons into 1-inch pieces.
2. Scatter pieces on the baking sheet, about two layers thick.
3. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees until melted. Allow to cool 15 minutes.
4. When melted crayons are the consistency of playdough, press the cookie cutter through them (while still on pan).
5. Cool the pan in freezer for 15 minutes until crayons are hardened.
6. Remove from pan and break apart the shapes.



PUZZLE WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church – the body of Christ – is to work together for God's purposes.

Directions: Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the $\frac{\quad}{20}$ should say, "Because I am not a $\frac{\quad}{17}$, I do not belong to the $\frac{\quad}{16}$," ... And if the $\frac{\quad}{13}$ should say, "Because I am not an $\frac{\quad}{11}$, I do not belong to the $\frac{\quad}{16}$," it would not for that reason stop being part of the $\frac{\quad}{16}$. If the whole $\frac{\quad}{16}$ were an $\frac{\quad}{11}$, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole $\frac{\quad}{16}$ were an $\frac{\quad}{13}$, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one $\frac{\quad}{16}$.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 11, ear = 13, hand = 13, foot = 20

Christian sympathies are extended to our Bishop .

Bishop Lewis' mother, Mrs. Alethia Lewis, passed on to glory this morning. No arrangements have been made at this time. Please keep Bishop Lewis and her family in your prayers.

If you would like to send a card, you can send it to the address below or to the Conference Center address (P.O. Box 5606 Glen Allen, VA 23058).

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis
Mrs. Alethia Lewis
P.O. Box 271
Statesboro, GA 30458



Issue in Focus

Our Lay Ministry in Action

Ushers, Counters,
Lawn Maintenance
Schedules for the month

District Training Information
Looking Ahead—

Updates and Pictures for Fireside,
Live Nativity and Christmas Tree
Lighting...

Notes from the Church Office



It only takes a spark...."Pass it On"

Have you ever noticed our newsletter logo? It is a lit match spreading to other matches.

Are you like that match?

Do you spread hope and joy where ever you can?

To me, this is just what our job is going to be for the new year. Trying to spread as much hope to everyone. People are so tired of all of the restrictions, trying to juggle working, schooling and just keeping some form of normalcy in their lives.

This past holiday season I noticed two things—
—Several stores sold out of holiday lights of all types
—One of our tv ads, about a spark of light and a small child, really made an impression on me.

Am I that spark?....can I be that spark?...

The old hymn goes "it only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around will be glowing.....I wish for you my friend the happiness I've found...." Of course they are talking about "God's love" but I think that spark should be spreading the feeling of hope, joy and trust in what God has in store for us in 2021. To be that light that shines for everyone to see in us.

As Christians we have really struggled with having our churches closed, not being able to sing or worship in our usual way...Lets make a pact to be a "spark" in the new year. JR



Notes from the church office



Don't forget to pre-register for Sunday morning services by Thursday each week. You may either call the office or send an email. thanks

Thanks to everyone for following all of the churches' safety guidelines. The masks are uncomfortable, the lack of hugs and handshakes make us sad. However, 2021 is now here and with it brings new hope for normalcy.



Despite Covid-19—new restrictions from our state governor— the show went on. The Live Nativity and Tree Lighting was a sight to behold. It radiated hope and reminded us of the true meaning of the holiday season. If you missed it don't forget to check out all of the great pictures.

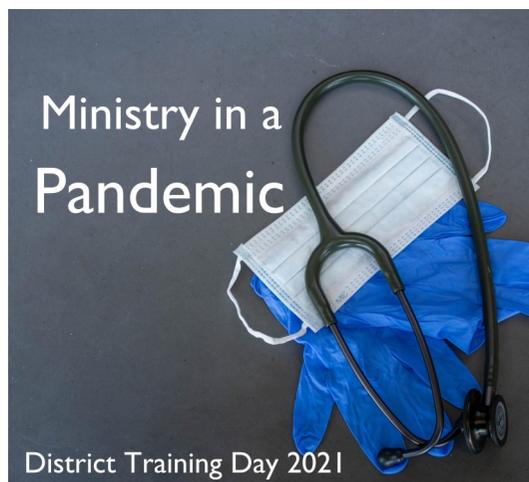
Boxes of Church Envelopes will be going out soon. If you don't need them please let us know. thanks



District Training Day is going virtual on
Saturday, February 6, 2021,
with live, Zoom training opportunities.

Then, on
Saturday, February 13,
we will launch District Training Day
On-Demand.

Both the live and the on-demand webinars
will focus on
how to be in ministry during a pandemic.



Church Leadership for 2021

Administrative Council: Chair—Kevin Floyd

Pastor Lee, Cindy Albertson, Gary Albertson, Neal Windley, Michele Floyd, Kathy Dziagwa, Joyce Russo, Cindy Crosby, Lucinda Williams, Kathleen O'Hara.

Staff Parish: Chair —Michele Floyd

Pastor Lee, Kathleen O'Hara; Lucinda Williams; Jamie Washington; Cindy Albertson; Linda Crabtree; Greg Dziagwa; Beverly Cooper; Phyllis Day.

Trustees: Chair—Neal Windley

Guy Willis; John Floyd; Vic Supper; Randy Thrasher; Jim Powers; Greg Dziagwa; Bill Bunch

Nominations: Chair—Pastor Lee

Kathleen O'Hara; Millie Hanson; Phyllis Day; Beverly Cooper; Barbara Harrell; Linda Crabtree; Barbara Keim

Finance: Chair—Gary Albertson

Kathy Dziagwa; Kathleen O'Hara; Kevin Floyd, Michele Floyd; Joyce Russo; Lucinda Williams; Sherri Williams; Neal Windley

Worship: Chair-Pastor Lee

Cindy Crosby; Lily Tipora; Norma Tipora; Claudia Ganaden; Barbara Harrell

Local Church Workers:

Food Service Mgr: Linda Crabtree

Bereavement Committee Chair: Ann Manuel

Church Officers
& Leaders

Live Nativity and Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Events

Thank you to everyone who helped with preparation, acting, hammering, reading, hanging lights and attending these events. Jesus was certainly honored! Merry Christmas!



See additional photos



From Gary with Jeopardy, to singers, readers, Freshpets, sign language and



Fireside Jeopardy





A Fireside Christmas



More Nativity and Christmas Tree



Mariah Smith to Speak at Aldersgate

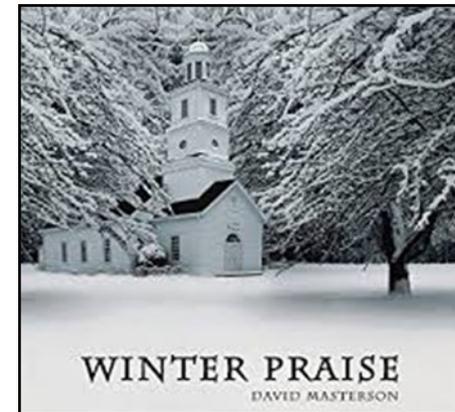
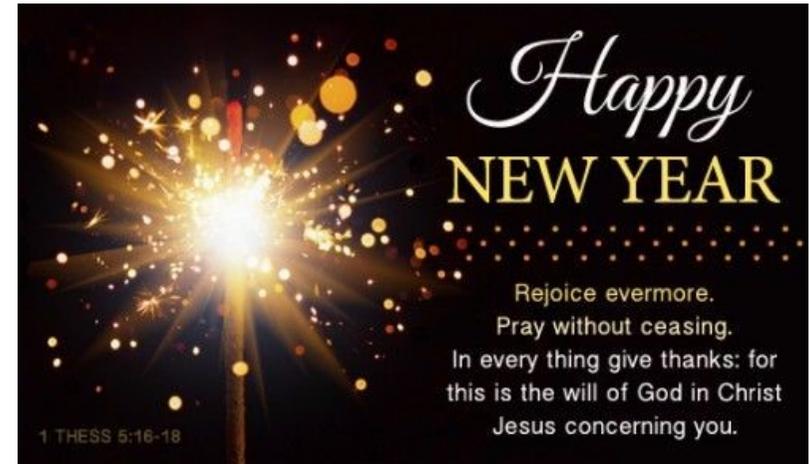
(Sun.) Jan. 10 at 11am



Mariah Smith was born and abandoned on Christmas Eve. She was adopted at 2 years old. At 17, Mariah began a ministry to homeless people in the Virginia Beach area. She provided blankets, food, and more. Her ministry has become a 501(c) (3) called “Blankets for the Homeless”. They provide blankets, clothes, coats, hats, gloves, shoes, back packs, tents, tarps, toiletries, and lunches to the homeless.

Mariah will be our guest speaker at our 11 am worship service on Sunday, Jan. 10th. Listen to her story...and her heart for this wonderful ministry. Also, please plan to bring a special financial offering. Checks can be written to “Blankets for the Homeless”. She is a blessing to so many people. Let’s bless her with a gift for her ongoing efforts during this pandemic.

Check out her website at www.blanketsforthehomeless.org.



Worship Team Rehearsal Schedule

January 3	Team off	
January 10	10:00 am	Sanctuary
January 17	10:00 am	Sanctuary
January 24	10:00 am	Sanctuary
January 31	10:00 pm	Sanctuary



- 1/3 Sherry Williams
- 1/5 Gary Albertson
- 1/6 Linda Crabtree
- 1/12 Cindy Crosby
- 1/30 Kathy Dziagwa



Ushers

Kathy Dziagwa and Neal Windley

We have no anniversaries for the month of January...

Remember in Prayer

Sentara Village, Rosemont —Shirley Henley
Waterside Nursing Facility—Cora Vernon

Our members who have moved out of the area
Those who have lost loved ones to this virus
Those who are ill
Our community, our church and any other
silent requests others may have.



If you know of any others in the congregation who are in need of prayer, please let the church office know.

Counters

- 1/3 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
- 1/10 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd
- 1/17 Kevin Floyd, Sub
- 1/24 Greg Dizagwa, Sub
- 1/31 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch



Lawn Maintenance



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

Calendar Highlights

- December 31st—office closed
- January 1st—office closed
- 1/3—No Worship Team
- 1/18 7 PM Finance and Administrative Board Mtgs.
- 1/18 Holiday—Office Closed



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR February EDITION

Friday, January 15th



You do not have to wait until the deadline to submit articles. Articles may be emailed or left at the office at anytime.