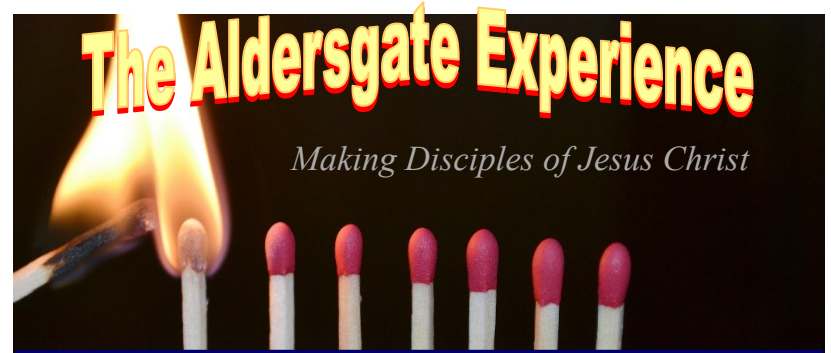


JANUARY
2023

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



The Aldersgate Experience

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

January, 2023 Vol. 26 Issue 1



**Bless us
in this
New Year**

O Lord

My times are in your hands

Psalm 31:15

*Start the New Year off right—Join us for
Worship each Sunday at 11 AM*



What's New in the New Year?

It is a new year!!! What will we do differently than we did last year. Or are we planning to do the same thing this year. That is why there must be a shifting in our lives.

Shifting in life provide us with an opportunity to stop and evaluate our current situation. We can set new goals and priorities for ourselves. We can

make choices that reflect who we have become and who we want to be in the future.

Shifting occurs when we find ourselves experiencing a sense of discontentment and a sense that life is somehow out of balance. A life shifting can occur anytime, but we can be sure, that it is a time of major introspection.

- *It can be the start of a marriage
- *A new career
- *The empty nest syndrome as our kids leave home
- *We may be facing retirement and what does it mean not to work a 9 to 5 anymore

Shifting always involves change, and change can be difficult. Change turns the familiar into the unfamiliar, which causes feelings of fear and inadequacy as we enter the unknown. However, whatever changes may be on the horizon, you can be sure that you can persevere when you focus on God. God may not remove the challenge, but rest assured, He will be with you every step of the way.

So, no matter what comes your way, know that Christ is THE WAY to get through any shift, challenge or anything else you may face. Then, you can go into the new year with an assurance that the challenges you see before you are maybe but a bump in the road. Pastor Bert



The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"

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"Like" us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Susan Hauptert-Johnson
District Superintendent...Rev. Dr. Cecelia Brooks
Pastor..... Rev. Bertrand Griffin, II
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
Choir Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays



Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.



A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek re____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your ____ople, but love your neig____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do right; seek jus____. Defend the ____pressed. Take up the cause of the ____less; plead the ____e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown you, O mortal, what is go____ ...

To act justly and to love me____ and to walk ____ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

So in ____ything, do to ot____ what you would ____ve them d____ to you, for this s____ms up the ____w and the Proph____s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

- father_
- pe_
- venge
- od
- rcy
- op_
- hbor
- humb_
- cas_
- tice

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, law, Forphers



FREE Weekly Spaghetti Dinner



Serving Neighbors
Seeking Friends



5:30 Thursdays Beginning Jan 12th

Volunteers Needed: We need a core team to set the tables, prepare the coffee and lemonade, put out the chafing dishes, etc. We begin preparations at approximately 4:30, cook until 6:30, serve until about 6:45, and clean up afterward. (We mostly use paper plates and cups, so cleanup isn't too bad.)

During the dinner we need at least 3 people to stand at the chafing dishes to serve and at least 2 others to monitor for adequate beverages and supplies. The more people available the better. In addition, we encourage the Aldersgate family to join us to dine, chat, and mingle with visitors.



Issue in Focus

Pastor's Message

Lay Ministry for the month

Pictures from Live Nativity

New Leadership Committees for 2023

Financial Updates and information

And much more!



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

What's Happening!!

2023 is upon us and there are lots of exciting things that will be happening this year.

To begin with: Spaghetti Dinners are back! Beginning Thursday, January 12th. Our Helping Hands Ladies will be back to making teddy bears and surgery dolls on Tuesday, January 24th 10 AM-Noon...Don't forget your bagged lunch.

We have new members on our church committees and we would like to welcome them to their new positions.

We welcome back Healthy Journey, the Civic Leagues and especially our new Choir Member: Ashley Phillips.

Keep your eyes on the church bulletins, emails and newsletters for all of the upcoming events. You won't want to be left out.



Thank You Notes

The church staff would like to express our thanks and appreciation for all the holiday wishes, cards and gifts...

THANK YOU, my dear Aldersgate family, for sharing your very generous "Christmas Blessing" with me! I find you to be exceptionally thoughtful, kind-hearted, and giving. I love and appreciate you ever so much! Dr. Christina Pinkston

Continued prayers for healing for Greg Dziagwa, Carolyn Powers, Barbara Hogwood, Ann Manuel and any of our church family who are feeling a little under the weather.



Congratulations to Gary Albertson on his recent retirement.

Congrats to any of our church family who have had any college graduations during the month of December.

A Unique Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25th proved to be a very special Christmas Day Service for all of those who attended. It was an informal service held in the Social Hall with an "Ugly Sweater" theme. Enjoy the pics!





**2022 Annual
Living
Nativity
and
Tree Lighting**



**Enjoyed by
One
and All**



Church Leadership for 2023

Administrative Council: Chair—Kevin Floyd

Pastor Bert, Cindy Albertson, Gary Albertson, Neal Windley, Kathy Dziagwa, Kathleen O’Hara, Lay Leader, Dr. Pinkston

Staff Parish: Chair —Cindy Albertson

Pastor Bert, Kathleen O’Hara, Cindy Albertson, Greg Dziagwa; Beverly Cooper, Phyllis Day, Debbie Supper

Trustees: Chair—Neal Windley

Guy Willis, John Floyd, Vic Supper, Randy Thrasher, Jimmie Powers, Greg Dziagwa, Bill Bunch

Nominations: Chair—Pastor Bert

Kathleen O’Hara, Millie Hanson, Phyllis Day, Beverly Cooper, Barbara Keim

Finance: Chair—Gary Albertson

Kathy Dziagwa, Kathleen O’Hara, Kevin Floyd, Cindy Albertson, Joyce Russo, Neal Windley

Worship: Chair-Pastor Bert

Dr. Christina Pinkston, Lily Tipora, Norma Tipora, Claudia Ganaden, Barbara Harrell

Local Church Workers:

Food Service Mgr: Guy Willis

Care Response Team/Bereavement Committee: Millie Hanson, Chair





Birthdays

1/1 Anna Lee Long
 1/3 Sherry Williams 1/30 Kathy Dziagwa
 1/5 Gary Albertson

Anniversaries



We currently have no one on our Anniversary list for this month.

Remember in Prayer

Home: The Powers family, Greg Dziagwa, Barbara Hogwood and any of our church family who are at home and still not able to attend worship in-person



Hospital: Ann Manuel

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 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

Sunday, Jan. 15th
for the February 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

Neal Windley, Michele Floyd

Counters

1/1/23 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd
 1/8 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis
 1/15 Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers
 1/22 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
 1/29 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson



Lawn Maintenance



1/2/23 Team 1
 1/9 Team 2
 1/16 Team 3
 1/23 Team 1
 1/30 Team 2

Calendar Highlights



1/4; 11; 18; 25 6 PM Choir Rehearsals
 1/5 5 PM Planning Meeting for Spaghetti Dinners
 1/7 9 AM Called Staff Parish Meeting
 10 AM Undecorate the Church
 1/12; 19; 26 4:30 –7:30 PM Spaghetti Dinner
 1/14 Elizabeth Park C. L in Social Hall
 1/16 Office Closed
 7 PM RFS/WM/EP Civic League
 1/17 7 PM Administrative Board and Finance Meeting
 Vision Team Update
 1/19 6:30 Healthy Journey

THANK YOU to everyone who participated so wonderfully in the *Aldersgate Christmas Extravaganza* by showcasing your talents of singing, comedy, Knitted items, and home-made baked goods.

Thank you ❤️

THANK YOU to the five judges who did a terrific job tasting 14 different scrumptious desserts in the Baking Contest! Congratulations to Ms. Ann for winning First Place with your delectable, mouth-watering carrot cake! 2nd Place went to Michele Floyd and 3rd Place to Cindy Albertson.

THANK YOU to all who played competitively (and hilariously) in the various game competitions.

THANK YOU to all who attended the event; there were more than 40 persons present (*from the stage to the back of the room*)!!

THANK YOU to Gary Albertson who did an outstanding job as Master of Ceremonies; he is truly gifted with a FAB personality!

THANK YOU to everyone who did a marvelous job with the setting up of the venue, the serving of the food and desserts, as well as the clean-up period.

ALDERSGATE -- THANK YOU!!! You are my JOY! May you be tremendously and continuously blessed!

Dr. Christina Pinkston



New, New, New or Is It?

Why is it that we say all things become new on January 1st? Do all things really become new. We wake up and for most of us everything is the same. Same job, same house, same concerns we had before the ball dropped. Does it have to be that way?

We make resolutions to eat better, exercise more, lose weight but where is your church life in these resolutions? How about committing to one new Bible Study, or a Prayer routine, maybe even coming up with a new outreach ministry idea and being the chair of that event.

God is always with us and a new year does not change that fact. Do we do anything to refresh that faith? Should we try to go from our normal routines and do more to recommit our love for his ministries, missions and his church?

2023 promises to be a better year for the most part but there are still others struggling in our world. What can we do the show the community that we do "Love Our Neighbors"

JR

Financial Stats for November, 2022:

Income: \$12,842.00
 Expenses: \$10,347.44
 Difference: \$ 2,494.56

Year to Date Income/Expenses:

Income: \$130,978.87
 Expenses: \$132,352.78
 Difference: \$ -1,373.91

October Dedicated Offerings:

Communion: \$ 90.00
 Staff Presents: \$ 340.00



Please let the church office know if you are in need of a new box of offering envelopes for 2023.

Joyce R

