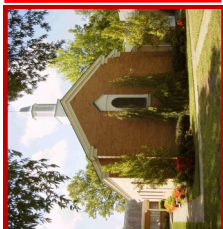


**FEBRUARY!**

2025

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



# The Aldersgate Experience

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*

February 2025

Vol. 28 Issue 2



**No Greater  
Love**

*Join Us on Sundays at 11 am*



Dear Aldersgate Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

As I write this letter, my heart is full of gratitude for each of you. In the midst of life’s challenges and triumphs, we are continually reminded of God’s unchanging love and faithfulness. It is a true blessing to walk this journey of faith together as a community.

I want to take a moment to encourage you to be ever grateful for the many blessings God has poured into our lives. Even in times of trial, we are called to give thanks in all things, knowing that our Heavenly Father works all things together for our good (Romans 8:28). Let us continue to cultivate hearts of gratitude, recognizing the countless ways God provides, sustains, and strengthens us.

As we grow together in Christ, it is essential to remember that spiritual growth is a lifelong journey. Each day presents an opportunity to draw closer to Him through prayer, worship, and the study of His Word. May we be diligent in seeking His presence and striving to live out His love in all that we do. Remember that the Lord is faithful to complete the work He has begun in us (Philippians 1:6), and as we grow in faith, we reflect His glory to the world around us.

I encourage you to take time each day to reflect on God's goodness and grace. Let your hearts be filled with thanksgiving, and may His peace guard your hearts and minds. Together, let us continue to encourage one another, support one another, and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

Thank you for being such a beautiful part of this church family. I am deeply grateful for each of you, and I look forward to all that God has in store for us as we walk forward in faith, hand in hand, growing ever closer to Christ.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Tyrek



**Welcome to Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Norfolk, Virginia!**

**We are a vibrant faith community dedicated to worship, prayer, and learning. Join us every Sunday at 11:00 AM for our uplifting services.**

**Our church offers a range of ministries and outreach programs to help you grow in your faith and serve others.**

**Located at 5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk, VA 23502, we are committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

**Greg Dziagwa**

## **The Aldersgate Experience**

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**  
“Aldersgate...a catalyst for God’s call through fervent prayer, active compassion and meaningful outreach”

**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 Haurpet-Johnson**  
**District Superintendent...Rev. Elizabeth Givens**  
**Pastor..... Tyrek Person**  
**Minister of Music..... Dr. Christina Pinkston**  
**Church Secretary..... Joyce Russo**

**Office Hours.....9 AM--1PM—Monday-Thursday**

**Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM**  
**Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays**

**Some clipart and quotes used with permission only**



For the kid in all of us.

Color and give to someone special in your life.



1 Peter 1:15-16



Psalms 90:2

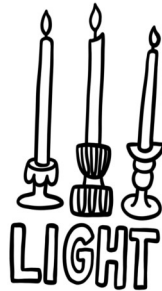


1 Cor. 1:9



Deut. 32:4

GOD is...



1 John 1:5



1 John 4:8



Psalms 34:8



Psalms 46:1



Psalms 116:5

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Thanks to Joyce Thompson for repairing some of our hymnals. They now have a new life.



Thanks to Kevin Floyd for noticing their wear and tear.

Thanks to Bill Bunch and Randy Thrasher for staying on top of the heat situation. I for one am grateful.



Christian Sympathies to Phyllis Day and to Joyce Thompson for the loss of family members.

Praises for healing of all those who have been ill this past month and have returned to our church family and Sunday worship service.

Special thanks to all of those who have signed up as ushers, counters, committee servers for 2025.



Issue in Focus

Pastor's Message

Important Financial Updates,

Lay Ministry Schedules

Parking lot update, and much more





Thanks to our Aldersgate Trio for all of their hard work during the Christmas Season.

Rehearsal Dates for February are:

Wednesdays 6 PM

2/5; 2/12; 2/19; and 2/26...

Thanks to Dr. Christina Pinkston for all of her hard work.



The **Neighborhood Widows' Bible Fellowship** is a wonderful group that meets in a home in our neighborhood every Thursday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

We are currently studying the book "Boundaries, When to say Yes and How to say No to Take Control of Your Life" by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr John Townsend. Discussions focus on the boundaries Jesus had in His earthly life and how we can apply that wisdom to our lives. The overall objective is to have joyful and useful lives that honor God! It's only through establishing and maintaining proper boundaries that we will have a solid operating base from which we can help others.

If you are a widow and would enjoy fellowship with other Christian widows, please call the number below and join us. If you know a widow who might enjoy such a fellowship, please pass this announcement on to her so she can join us.

If God has put on your heart that it's time for **you** to start your own group, be it for widows or widowers, parents of young children, couples, adults singles, or other groups, please call:

**757-515-8194 for more information. If there is no immediate answer, please leave a voicemail.**



## What is a Ministry?



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

The Biblical basis for ministry is love, however remember it is ultimately God's ministry, not yours. Your journey in ministry is not about you it is about God's desire to use you in ministry to others. The calling is bigger than you or I so it relies on God to help you fulfill it. Some people have a **JOB** in the church, others involve themselves in a **MINISTRY**...What is the difference?

**"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 someone criticized you, It was a JOB.  
If you keep on serving, it is a MINISTRY.  
If you do it only 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 is a MINISTRY.**

**If you quit because no one praised or thanked you, it is a JOB  
If you stay even though no one recognized your efforts, it is a MINISTRY.**

**It's hard to get excited about a JOB. It is almost impossible to NOT be excited about a MINISTRY.**

**The average church is filled with people who are doing JOBS.  
A great and growing church is filled with people involved in MINISTRY. Where do you fit in?"**

**As we have grown to be an aging and smaller congregation, please consider serving as a committee member or elsewhere in the church.**

**This writing was taken from an editorial printed in 2011. The writer is Rev. Tan Cheng Huat a senior pastor of the True Way Presbyterian Church. He wrote it because he was very troubled after reading yearend reports "Why Christians are not coming forth to serve and even those who are serving struggle with commitment" This is still true even today, maybe even more so.**

## Christmas greeting from Tennessee

May the magic of Christmas fill your heart with joy and love...Merry Christmas to the Pastor and all of my friends at Aldersgate. I love you all very much. With Love, Arthur Wallace.

**Note:** Arthur we love you too!



Coming Soon!

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Check your emails for dates and title of our new study.



I am taking a vacation..

Please note that I will be in the office on Monday, February 10 but will be out on vacation, Tuesday, February 11—Thursday February 13th.

I will be checking emails from home and of course you can reach me by phone at home.

Joyce Russo

Treasurer's Update:

Dear Aldersgate Family,  
I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to share some important updates about our financial situation.

Our Capital Campaign is still underway, following expenses for air conditioning and roof repairs. As of December 31st, \$13,160 of the \$26,960 borrowed from the Memorial Fund has been raised.

This past year, Aldersgate's income exceeded expenses by \$8,039.98. However, without the \$15,000 from parsonage rent, and given that Pastor Tyrek is only part-time, we would have faced a deficit of \$19,460.02 for 2024.

Also, since Pastor Tyrek's position is part-time, the church was not required to contribute towards his \$4,000 retirement for the six months he has been at Aldersgate. Lastly, AUMC has only met \$21,314.48 of the \$40,341.00 in conference apportionments charged for 2024.

As you can see, the financial situation of Aldersgate is quite serious when viewed in its entirety. So please remain steadfast in your giving and keep our church in your prayers. Together, we can ensure Aldersgate's continued vitality.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment.

Blessings, Kathy Dziagwa  
Aldersgate UMC Treasurer



## Financial Stats for 2024

AUMC Monthly Donations for 2024	
January	\$ 9,145.00
February	\$ 12,658.00
March	\$ 17,534.99
April	\$ 11,354.84
May	\$ 12,911.88
June	\$ 12,854.50
July	\$ 13,582.27
August	\$ 12,441.00
September	\$ 12,131.00
October	\$ 9,042.11
November	\$ 11,795.00
December	\$ 10,721.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$ 146,171.59</b>

### Notes:

2024 Budget	\$ 174,979.00
2024 Expenses	\$ 138,131.61
2024 Conference Apportionments	\$ 40,341.00
2024 Paid Apportionments	\$ 21,314.48



## FEBRUARY Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS

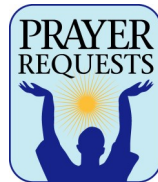
2/7 Beverly Cooper    2/20 Courtney Dziagwa  
2/19 Michele Floyd

### Anniversaries



We currently have no Anniversaries listed for this month. Please let the office know if we missed yours.

### Remember in Prayer



Home: 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. Aaron Russo.

Those who have lost family or friends.

The United Methodist church international;  
Our Bishops and District Superintendents as they continue to make decisions with denomination 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**  
**Saturday, February 15th**  
**for the March 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

Melissa Birge, Kevin Floyd

### Counters

2/2 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson  
2/9 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis  
2/16 Greg Dziagwa, sub  
2/23 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch



### Lawn Maintenance



12/2 Team 3  
12/9 Team 1  
12/16 Team 2  
12/23 Team 3  
12/30 Team 1  
Trash Collection—Randy Thrasher

### Calendar Highlights



2/5; 12; 19; 26—6 PM Choir Rehearsal  
2/6; 2/13; 2/20; 2/27—10 AM Thompson Bible Study  
2/6; 13; 20; 27—5:30 PM Spaghetti Dinners  
2/11, 12, 13 —Secretary on Vacation  
2/25 10 AM—Helping Hands Grp

Consider **Societies Mobile Cleaning (757-719-9274)**  
for your personal and professional needs.

Do you like the “renewed” look of the Aldersgate United Methodist Church’s small and large parking lots? Do you appreciate how beautiful, clean, and welcoming they now appear?

Someone who LOVES the Aldersgate family hired **Mr. Levin Jones**, Owner of the **Societies Mobile Cleaning Company**, and his skilled crew to transform the “antiquated” lots to a fresher, more updated appearance. Specifically, twenty-four cement parking guards/blocks in the smaller parking area were power washed; this lightened them from a near-black color to a much brighter gray. Ninety parking spaces were given a double coating of white paint, and all lines were slightly widened and measured equally to the end. Additionally, the parking spaces with the “disabled” symbols (six of them) were double-coated with white paint that highlight the already-blue background. **Mr. Levin Jones (Owner)** does meticulous work, is first-rate with each job, and comes highly recommended!

**SOCIETIES MOBILE CLEANING**

**Phone: 757-719-9274**

**Mr. Levin Jones, Owner and Facilitator**

**Power washing** sidewalks, driveways, bricks, and siding of your home

**Detailing and waxing** of vehicles (large and small)

**Painting improvements**

**Shampooing carpets**

**Deep cleaning** (sofas, lounge chairs, and so much more; just ask!)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR,**

**ALDERSGATE!**



**Which Part are You?**

I recently had the privilege of hearing a Sunday morning message on the topic “The Church as One Body”.

She continued to explain how it takes all parts in order for the body to function—to walk, to talk, etc.

When I think about Aldersgate I see us as a whole body and we all have a part. We could not do some of our outreach ministries without all of us. From the kitchen volunteers to the clean up crew.

The speaker continued to illustrate how no one part is more or less important than any other. Just like putting a jigsaw puzzle together. It will never be complete without all of the pieces. Think about this the next time you are asked to serve on a committee usher or count.

JR

