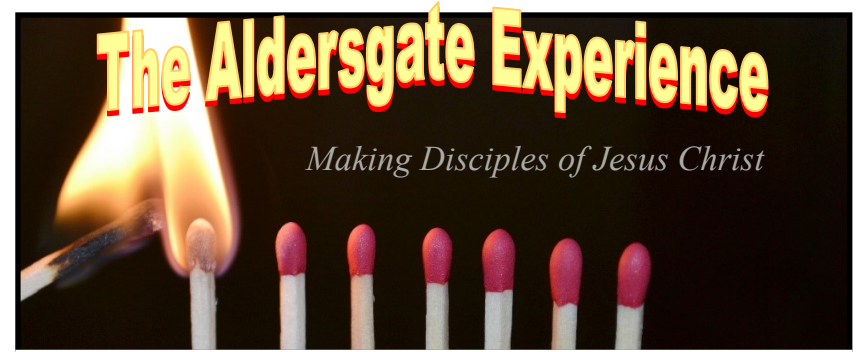
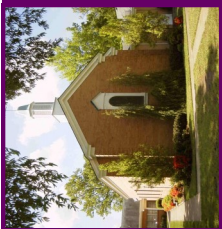




Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
5767 Sellger Drive  
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239



# The Aldersgate Experience

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*

April, 2024

Vol. 27 Issue 4



God makes  
everything  
beautiful  
in its time.

*You're invited  
Join Us Sunday mornings at  
11 AM for Worship*

Jesus had come into town for the Passover celebration and was nearing the time when He would be betrayed by one of his disciples, publicly humiliated and mocked, beaten beyond recognition, and hung on a cross to die. It was the night before His suffering when He made His special request for His followers to remember that He gave his body for them and poured out His blood as a sacrifice for them. The best way to understand the real meaning of Easter would be from Jesus, in His three words ... **the new covenant**. In **Luke 22** we get a picture of the night before His death: The heart of Easter lies in His words, "**the new covenant between God and his people.**"



#### **Passover and the New Covenant**

To put this new covenant in context we must look at history. Long before Jesus was born, God made other covenants with His people (the Israelites) - some to multiply them, some to bless them, and some to give them land. All along the way, God required believers to recognize their sinful nature, confess their sins, ask for forgiveness for their sins, and offer specific animals to the priests as sacrifices for their sins. Their religious observance of Passover included sacrificing unblemished lambs, just as the Israelites had done when they painted their doorposts with the lambs' blood the actual night of Passover - when Moses led God's people out of Egypt- (see **Exodus 12:11-13**).

The sacrificial lamb was a significant part of sparing the lives of the Israelites on Passover as well as in future remembrances of the event. God gave Moses and Aaron specific instructions on how to honor God with annual Passover celebrations. Lamb was the pinnacle of the Passover meal (and still is). The lambs were to be without blemish and even lived with the families for several days before they were sacrificed, adding to the understanding that the ultimate sacrifice was close to the hearts of those whose sins were atoned for.

Easter and Passover have a special relationship for many reasons. Jesus became the "lamb without blemish" as He sacrificed His life for the sins of all who believe in Him - to bring them into right relationship with the Father. Just as the Israelites celebrate freedom from their slavery to the Egyptians as they celebrate Passover, Christians celebrate the victory over sin and death signified in Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus said the new covenant between God and His people was "**an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.**" It was no coincidence that Jesus gave up His life for all at the time of Passover. It was the appointed time, chosen by the Father.

What is the real meaning of Easter? In **John 1:29**, as he sees Jesus approaching, John the Baptist announces to the crowd around him, "**Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"

Continued on page 2

**Helping Hands Group** needs some soft pink material and two different shades of Tan material to make the bears and surgical dolls.

The tan material is so the dolls look more like the multi-racial children who receive them. They only need a yard or two.

The Helping Hands Group is one of the oldest ministries in our church. They meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10 AM. They sew and stuff teddy bears and surgical dolls for Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters.

Come and Join Us...you will experience the joy of making something and great fellowship.



## **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**  
**Minister of Music..... Dr. Christina Pinkston**  
**Church Secretary..... Joyce Russo**

**Office Hours.....9 AM--1PM—Monday-Thursday**  
**Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM**  
**Choir Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays**

# Happy Spring!



## PUZZLE

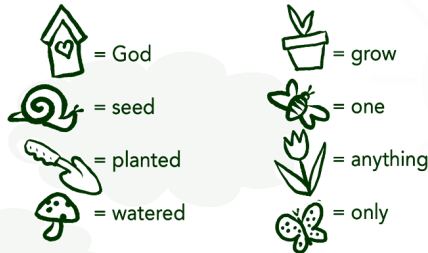


## PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

*Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.*

KEY



I \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, Apollos \_\_\_\_\_ it,

but \_\_\_\_\_ has been making it \_\_\_\_\_.

So neither the \_\_\_\_\_ who plants nor the

\_\_\_\_\_ who waters is \_\_\_\_\_,

but \_\_\_\_\_, who makes things \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, grow, watered, God, grow, one, anything, only, God, grow

Continued from page 1

He knew that Jesus was the son of God, the long-awaited Messiah, the one whom God's prophets had promised to save mankind from their sins and to give them a deep heartfelt relationship with God the Father. The new covenant would be an everlasting one. (**Jeremiah 31:31-34, Jeremiah 32:39-42, Isaiah 55:3**) Jesus, our sacrificial lamb, our Savior, our God, our Redeemer - He laid down His life as our sacrificial lamb to pay for our sins. When He rose from the dead three days later, He gave victory over eternal separation from God (death) to all who put their faith and trust in Him. That is the new covenant - everlasting life spent with God through faith in all that Jesus Christ has done and continues to do. (See 1 John 5:10-12; 1 Corinthians 15:3 and Romans 10:9.)

Prayer:

Father God, there is sometimes controversy about how, when, and what to call the remembrance of the greatest day in history - the day Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, rose from the dead and brought the gift of Your forgiveness and eternal life to all who would like to receive it - the new covenant. Please pour out Your Holy Spirit on all who believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and put us on our knees before You with thankful hearts for Your great love for us. You, oh God, have given us victory over sin and death, and the promise of never leaving us or forsaking us for eternity. Help us to be the body of Christ, the church, united in awe of how You saved our unworthy souls ... Your body and Your blood as a sacrifice for us. Help us bring this message to all who will listen. Help us to love like You love. Thank You forever! Amen

Written by Beth Patch

A message  
from our  
Pastor

Issue  
in  
Focus

Pastor's Message

Lay Ministry for the month

Financial Updates and information

Pics of community events And much more!





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

We are currently beginning our study of **“The Purpose Driven Life”** by **Rick Warren** to help us to answer the question of “What on Earth are we here for?”. Upon completion of Rick Warren's book, we are considering several other excellent studies such as “The Battlefield of the Mind” by Joyce Meyer and “When Christians Get it Wrong” by Alexander Hamilton.

If you are a widow and would enjoy fellowship with other Christian widows, please call 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.

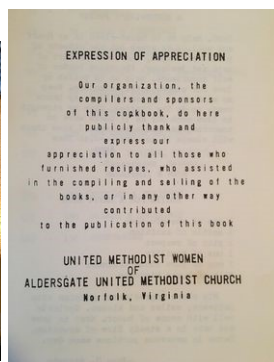
If God has put on your heart that it's time for you to start your own widows' group, please call: 757-515-8194 for more information. If there is no immediate answer, please leave a voicemail.  
**Joyce Thompson**



Do you have one of these cookbooks?

If so, please let the office know. This was found in the home of one of our members who passed away. I would love to Make copies for our newer members..

Joyce



## Breakthrough Prayers Cards are coming

The Sunday morning adult class has been studying “Breakthrough Prayer”. They have come up with a card that you will be able to carry with you or to give to someone who may need it. Keep an eye out for them. They will be available in the Narthex for you to pick up soon. Thanks



You have an OPEN INVITATION to join the Aldersgate Trio.

Says hymn writer Howard B. Grose,  
**“Give of Your Best to the Master!”**

Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays in the church's sanctuary (6:00-7:30 P.M.)

Let's **“PRAISE GOD MORE in 2024!”**  
as we receive  
**“BLESSINGS GALORE in 2024!”**



**Dr. Christina R. Pinkston,**  
Minister of Music



## Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt Update

In spite of the rainy weather, 55 adults and children attended the Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23rd. The food was delicious, the Easter Bunny a big hit and the hunt was loads of fun.

Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped cook the pancakes, the servers, those who hid the eggs, and for those who did the clean up. Special thanks to our Bunny for posing with all the children. I know that all of the smiles on their little faces made this a very special day.

**Barbara Harrell**





## Aldersgate Mission

### Teams At Work...

Union Mission feeding

Delivering winter items to  
Hope Haven



Weekly Spaghetti Dinners for  
the community



As you can see Aldersgate is always busy  
taking care of others.

We also serve dinner to Cooke Elementary  
students the first Wednesday of the month.

We collected items for the homeless at  
Union Mission Center.

Interested in volunteering....See Kathy  
O'Hara for Union Mission; Cindy  
Albertson or Kevin Floyd for Cooke  
Elementary and Debbie for  
Spaghetti Dinners.



The children in our Kidzone have been  
very busy learning things about Easter.

Here are a few pics of what they have  
learned



Making  
Crosses.



Building  
an empty  
tomb.



Going inside  
the empty tomb.



**NEWS FROM  
THE PEWS**

Prayers of thanksgiving—

Barbara Keim's surgery went well.

Greg Dziagwa received good news from his  
doc. Jimmie and Carolyn Powers are back with us in  
worship service once again....

Congrats to Kevin Floyd on his recent retirement.

Barbara Hogwood's eye surgery cancelled as eye sight  
improved on its own. Praises to God...



4/3 Barbara Keim  
 4/13 Brittany Floyd  
 4/26 Barbara Hogwood  
 4/27 John Floyd

## Anniversaries



4/8 Revs. DeWayne and Melody Duncan



## Remember in Prayer

Home: Barbara Keim, Neal Windley, Barbara Hogwood and 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.

Our Bishops and District Superintendents as they continue to make decisions through their cabinet meetings.

For Peace throughout the world

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

## Newsletter Deadline

Monday, April 15th  
 for the May 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, Phyllis Day

## Communion Servers

4/7 Kevin and Michele Floyd

## Counters

4/7 K. Floyd, D. Willis  
 4/14 Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers  
 4/21 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch  
 4/28 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson



## Lawn Maintenance



4/8 Team 3  
 4/15 Team 1  
 4/22 Team 2  
 4/29 Team 3  
 5/6 Team 1

Trash—Vic Supper

## Calendar Highlights

Civic League Meetings— Eliz. Park  
 4/2 7 PM; RFS 4/8 7 PM

Choir— 4/3; 4/10; 4/17; 4/24—6 PM

Thompson Bible Study-4/4; 4/11; 4/18; 4/25 –10 AM

Spaghetti Dinners-4/4; 4/11; 4/18; 4/25-5:30 PM

Finance and Church Council Meeting—4/16 6:30 PM

Helping Hands Mtg-4/23—10 AM







### A Message from your Treasurer:

#### 1. *Monthly Expenses Exceeded Donations:*

- ◇ In February, Aldersgate's expenses (outgoing funds) were **greater** than the donations (incoming funds). The difference was **over \$3,600**.

#### 2. *General Fund Balance:*

- ◇ The **general fund** now has a **negative balance** of \$3,319.
- ◇ Being "in the red" means that the fund has more expenses than income.

#### 3. *Using Dedicated Funds Going Forward:*

- ◇ **Dedicated funds** are specific pools of money that have been donated for a particular purpose, such as missions or memorials.
- ◇ To cover daily expenses (like utilities and salaries), Aldersgate is **borrowing from these dedicated funds**.
- ◇ The hope is to **repay** these borrowed funds in the **coming months**.

#### 4. *Appeal for Additional Support:*

- ◇ Please continue to **pray** and consider giving a little more.
- ◇ Even small contributions can make a difference in maintaining our church's financial stability.

*Thank you for your dedication in your continuing support of Aldersgate!*

*Kathy Dziagwa, Treasurer*



#### **Financial Stats for February 2024:**

**Income:** \$ 12,658.00  
**Expenses:** \$16,271.61  
**Difference:** \$ -3,613.61  
**Remaining Balance:** \$ -3,318.95

#### **Year to Date Income/ Expenses:**

**Income:** \$ 21,803.00  
**Expenses:** \$ 27,602.45  
**Difference:** \$ -5,799.45

#### **Dedicated Offerings:**

**Missions** \$ 50.00  
**Spaghetti Din.** \$ 50.00



### **Is God a Co-Pilot or Pilot?**

If you are as old as I, you may remember an old WWII movie "God is my Co-Pilot" The movie is based on a book written by Col. Robert L. Scott, Jr who flew with the Flying Tigers in WWII. He flew the P-51 Mustang, a single seat, propeller driven, fighter plane the best of it's day. He always felt God was with him when he flew a mission.

I frequently use this term when I drive if someone pulls out in front of me or slams on their breaks. I first thank God and then say "thanks for being my Co-Pilot".

When researching the year this movie was made, I was surprised to learn of the theological controversy regarding this statement. This is what I found..

"The pilot is responsible for the safety of his crew, passengers, cargo and plane. The pilot decides whether the plane flies straight ahead, banks right or left, goes up or down, the pilot physically puts the plane on its course.

The analogy.

Pilot being an aeronautical term, what are the representations? The plane represents my life, pilot represents my body. So the question is, who is controlling the body? My spirit or God? Flying a plane is just like driving a car-there can only be one set of hands on the wheel. So again the real question here is, who is flying the plane? When we say God is the Co-Pilot that means we are the ones piloting and God is not. By saying God is the Co-Pilot are we saying we are in control and we do as we please. Or is God in control of our lives?"

I really needed to think about this. Is God my Pilot or am I only allowing him to Co-Pilot my life. Interesting quandary, don't you think?

JR

Read more: Analogy taken from Steve Patterson, "Courageous Christian Father" blog.

