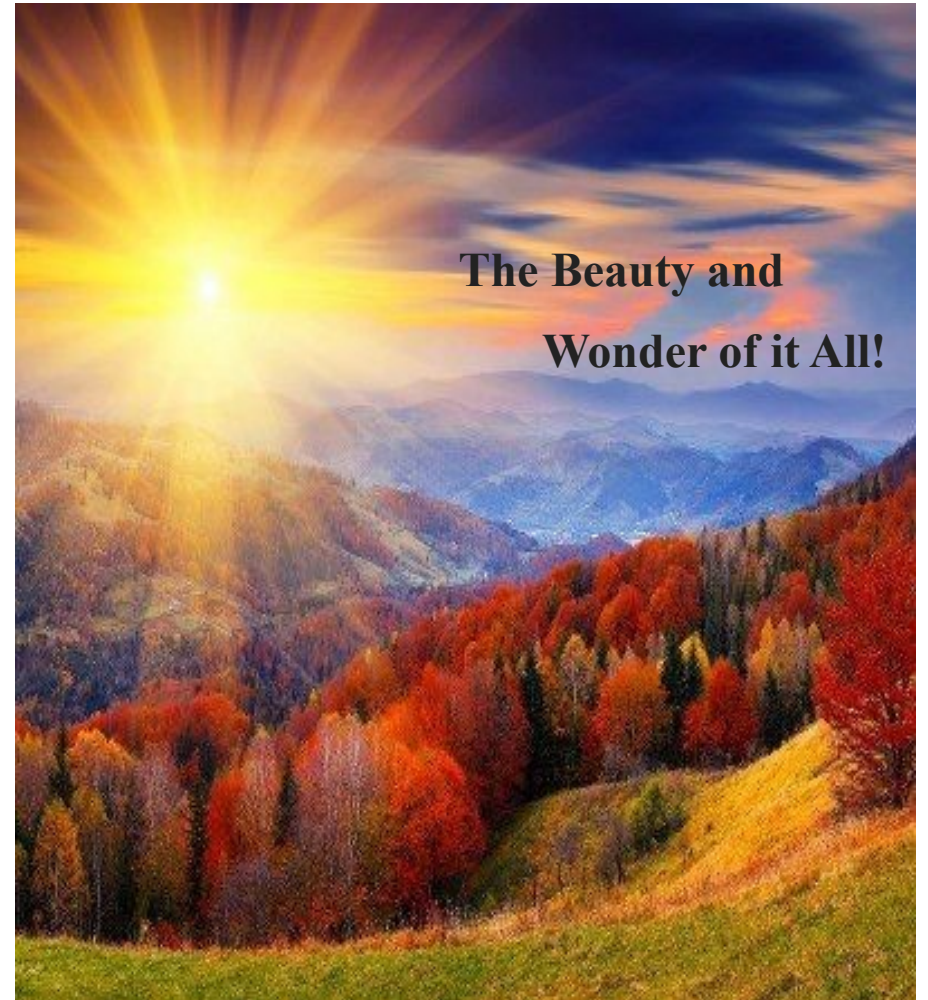


Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239

 **SEPTEMBER**
2022



September, 2022 Vol. 25 Issue 9



**The Beauty and
Wonder of it All!**



Coming Out of the COVID Cave

Over a year ago, I preached a sermon entitled, “Coming Out of Your Cave”, illustrating the similarities between David hiding in a cave, then coming out prepared for what was next, and Christians coming out of our

COVID cave prepared for what God has next for us. Well, we are at that point in which the light is beginning to shine at the end of the tunnel. Mind you, COVID is not over, but we can no longer allow all our decisions be driven by fear of COVID.

Tied to the sermon series “Revival!” this past month, some of our activities are highlighting our abilities to navigate around COVID and still remain safe and healthy. This includes our church-wide Spring (Summer) Cleaning Day, hosting our first Vacation Bible School since be-



fore COVID, hosting our first “Rise Against Hunger” event since COVID (packaging 10,000 meals to be sent around the world), and being able to share in Communion in a more traditional way! All of that to say, we’re back and we won’t let a pandemic stop us from doing what God is leading us to do.



We will continue to be safe and prudent in doing everything that God has assigned for us, but we look forward and not back, knowing that God is and always has been with us throughout this challenging time. We are open to what God is leading us to next. And we will go knowing that where God has brought us to, God will bring us through!

LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT’S NEXT!!!

Pastor Bert



Healthy Journey Fundraiser

Thurs. Sept 15th

6 PM—8:30 PM

Burrito Perdido



A portion of every purchase will be given to Healthy Journey. Come, Join Us...

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
Pastor: 1-678-463-9334 –cell

Email: joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com
Web page: www.aldersgatenorfolk.org
“Like” us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Sharma D. Lewis
District Superintendent...Rev. Cecelia Brooks, Ph.D.
Pastor..... Rev. Bertrand Griffin, II
Lay Leader..... Kathleen O’Hara
Minister of Music..... Dr. Christina Pinkston
Church Secretary..... Joyce Russo

Office Hours.....9 AM--1PM—Monday-Thursday
9:30 AM-1:30 PM—Friday
Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM
Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays

Some clipart and quotes used with permission only



Envelope EMBRACE

Show long-distance love to grandparents and other relatives by sending a flat hug!



What you need:

- Craft paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers
- Envelope



What you do:

1. Roll out some craft paper (long enough to spread your arms across it).
2. Lie down on your back on the paper, with arms outstretched. Have someone trace around your arms, hands and head with a pencil.
3. Cut out the outline of your hug.
4. Draw your face and features on the paper. Use markers to color your hug to look like yourself. Write a note on the back.
5. Fold up and mail your two-dimensional hug to a loved one.



A full Quiver

Our heavenly Father loves families and has a special purpose for each generation.

Directions: Use the key to match the number of each arrow with the correct letter.



Like _____
56 21 71 28 60 42

in the hands of a warrior are

14 33 52 47 65 2 9 39

born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

PSALM 127:4-5, NIV

Answers: arrows, children



Sunday, September 11th

Make a call, send a card,
give them a hug.

Early Response Certification Training
Saturday, September 10th
9 am—4 pm
Aldersgate UMC, Norfolk VA. 23502

This is an 8 hour training session. Early Response Teams respond during the first phase of disaster relief, providing a caring Christian presence. Your church and community could truly benefit if faced with a disaster. You are also trained to respond, when, requested, to other Conferences during a disaster.

Registration fee: \$35.00 (included training manual, badge, t-shirt and lunch)

Make checks payable to the Virginia Annual Conference –submit to Rev. Bertrand on the day of training. If interested contact Pastor Griffin at bertgriffin@vaumc.org or call the church office at 757-466-8999



Pastor's Message

Rise Against Hunger Update

Fundraiser information for Healthy Journey Group

Lay ministry schedule

News from the Pews, Sunday School news and much more



Aldersgate Christmas Special

When: December (date to be determined)

Who: Aldersgate members, family, and close friends

Where: Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Why: This will be a glorious opportunity for loud laughter, fabulous fellowship, and terrific family focus.

Showcase your talents and skills! Be an active participant!

There will be music, games, comedy, refreshments, and more. Make plans, now, to attend with friends, to laugh loudly, to play competitively, to sing vibrantly, to enjoy wholeheartedly the FABULUS FUN of Aldersgate fellowship!

Let's have some FUN!!!
More details are forthcoming.
Dr. Christina Pinkston



Donations Still Needed

The Helping Hands Group is in need of scrap cotton fabric to make their little surgery bears. Minimum of 1/2 yard is needed. These little bears are still putting the smiles on a lot of children's faces. Over 112 were donated so far this month. Please see Lucinda Williams if you are able to help.



Rehearsals dates

Wednesdays 6 PM
9/7; 14; 21; and 28

Join Us...

Come Make a Joyful Noise



**We Are Open
For
Learning!**

September is usually the month we welcome our children back for another year of Sunday School. This September is no different. We would like to welcome your children, neighbors, friends, grandchildren back to our Kid Zone.

We meet each Sunday at 11 AM in the Sunday School Classroom.

Hope to see you there!

Need information—see Barbara Harrell

Our Adult Sunday School Class is taking a short break but will return at 9:30 am on Sunday, September 11th.

We will begin a new study on the book of Revelation, taught by Pastor Griffin. Hope to see you there!

**Adult Sunday
School**





Coastal Virginia
DISTRICT

Please keep checking your emails for updates on district meetings and events. Some will be on zoom—some in person.

Charge Conference time is almost here. There are several things a church has to do to get ready for this Annual church-wide meeting.

Budgets have to be done, committees have to be compiled. Some members of committees will be coming off while new members will be going on.



Trustees

If you are serving on a committee and wish to be removed—please let your chair know as soon as possible. Especially, Trustees, SPRC or Lay Leadership.

If you are someone who has to turn in a report, please make sure the church office has all your paperwork. Dates have not been determined yet but they are usually during October-November.



SPRC

Please be on the lookout for the date for Aldersgate.



THANK YOU

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 25th at the 11:00 AM worship service where Aldersgate UMC will recognize Joyce Russo on her 25th Anniversary as Aldersgate's office manager. We are so appreciative of Joyce's keen oversight in the day-to-day management of our church's administrative operations and as an advisor to the many pastors that have served us for these many years!

From the Staff Pastor Parish Committee:

Congratulations Joyce!

Rise Against Hunger Update

42 persons participated in the August 13th "Rise Against Hunger" event. Thanks to Gary Albertson, who did such a great job of organizing it. He is such a blessing! 10,000 meals were packed and will be shipped out. Thanks to everyone who took time out of their weekend to help with this mission.



Please check out additional photos on the church's website.

Birthdays

9/19 Jimmie Powers
9/24 Phyllis Day

9/25 Vic Supper



Anniversaries



9/17 Greg and Kathy Dziagwa

Remember in Prayer

Home: Barbara Keim,

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 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
Thursday, 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

Melissa and Kevin Floyd

Counters

9/4 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
9/11 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
9/18 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd
9/25 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis
10/2 Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers



**OFFERING
COUNTERS**

Lawn Maintenance

Lawn
Care
Schedule



9/5 Team 2
9/12 Team 3
9/19 Team 1
9/26 Team 2

Calendar Highlights

9/4—No Sunday School— Adult Class will resume on 9/11
9/8—6 PM Vision Team Meeting
9/12—6:30 PM SPRC Meeting
9/15-Healthy Journey Fundraiser
9/20 Finance and Administrative Board Meeting



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The Family of Ben Hogwood would like to thank everyone for all of the calls, cards, meals, prayers and concerns during the recent passing of a husband, father, grandfather, and brother.

Barbara, Bennie, Michael and Randy Hogwood

Special thanks to **Michele Floyd** for her faithfulness and dedication for revising Aldersgate's church sign weekly/monthly for the past 15 years. Her commitment to service is well deserved—If you see her please let her know how much she is appreciated.

Eric Cramer and Chelsie Richburg will be taking over the task of changing our church sign. They will work as a team under the supervision of Pastor Bert. See a sign you especially appreciate or sends a message to you—please let them know. If you are interested in volunteering for a second team of 2-3 persons—please see Neal Windley, Trustees.

The **Trustees** would like to thank everyone who came to "Clean Up Day". The church looked great. We would also like to thank everyone who helped put things back in order after VBS school.

A great deal of thanks to **Anna Lee Long** and her crew for a successful Vacation Bible School. In total we had 19 teachers and staff each evening with 15-17 children attending. The program on Sunday was heartwarming. If you missed it—check it out on the church website...

We would all like to thank our devoted "**Church Mice**" who help to keep our building looking so nice each week. Please know that your are very much appreciated.



To Change or Not to Change?

When I think of September, I am reminded of all of the new and changing things around us.

New school years, grads going off to new adventures in college, the changing coolness of the weather and of course the beautiful fall colors of the leaves. Have you ever thought of how we are changed?

As we get older all sorts of things happen to our bodies and life as changes are more frequent.—most of the time more often than we like. One thing in our lives never changes! God's love for us as his children. However, his love changes us. This "Agape" love is what will get us through even the toughest of times.

In the next year we are going to experience a lot of changes—in our world, denomination, conferences, and districts. There may even be some in our local churches.

We will all do our best to stay informed of these changes and stay positive. Foremost we will remember to continue to spread the "good news", work to expand our ministries and missions and strive for growing the Christian community.

Good luck to all of our children as they embark on a new school year (whatever grade) and to enjoy all the changes. There will be many more to come.



Just like the trees, we all have to accept change.

JR