

June  
2024

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

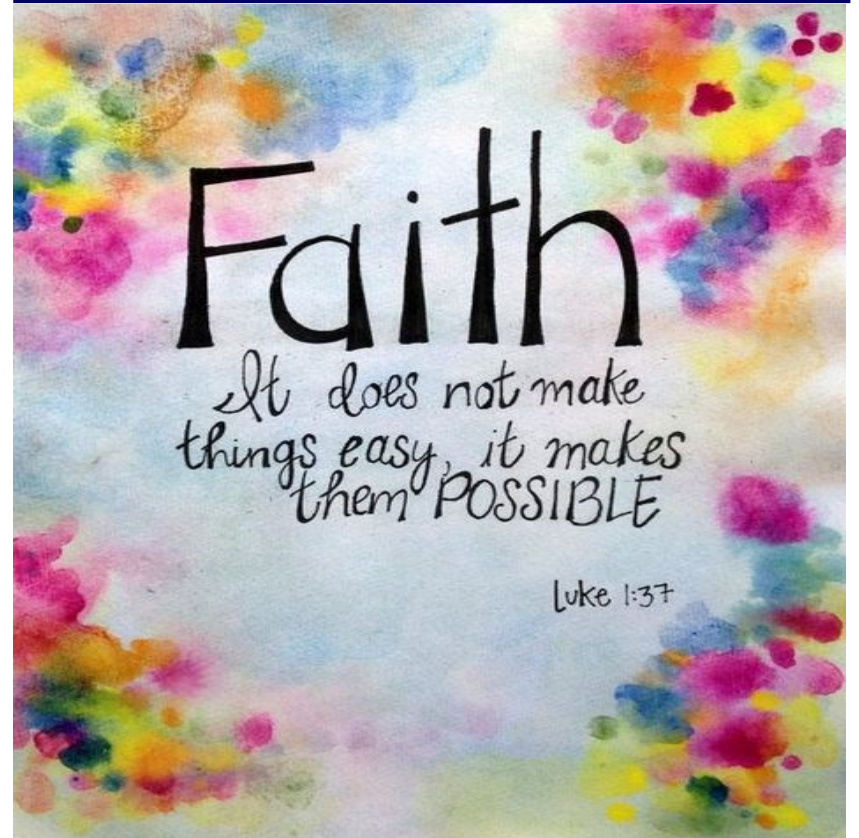


# The Aldersgate Experience

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*

June, 2024

Vol. 27 Issue 6



# Faith

*It does not make  
things easy, it makes  
them POSSIBLE*

Luke 1:37

*Want to know more?*

*Join Us Each Sunday morning at  
11 AM for Worship*

## Bishop Sue recaps love, acceptance at General Conference

By Sam Duenckel - May 3, 2024



On the last day of General Conference, the end of the two-week event that included one week of legislative committees and one week of plenary sessions, Bishop Sue provided a wrap-up of this General Conference session and what she hopes the Virginia Conference focuses on moving forward.

Bishop Sue talked about the love, acceptance, joy, and the embracing of one another rather than what she called the awful division, argument and ugliness that marked the last several General Conference sessions.

“I don’t know about you but that’s the Church I want to be part of,” she said. “Where not everybody agrees – there were traditionalists here, progressives here, I would say most people here are centrists – but we really decided it was more important to love each other and get along and we had enough of the arguing. So we put that behind us and a lot of very positive stuff came out of these last two weeks.”

Bishop Sue, said she would emphasize in local churches that “The United Methodist Church is focused on mission and the love of Jesus Christ and the living out of the Gospel in sacrificial love and outpouring of mission.” She celebrated the sacramental authority granted to ordained deacons and the regionalization work.

“It’s a new day for really living out the Gospel, for really showing and behaving as Jesus did and moving into our communities as forces of love and grace and becoming islands of sanity in our crazy world,” she said.

Find information related to the General Conference session at the conference website: <https://vaumc.org/gc2024/>.

## An Ode to Dads



God took the strength of a mountain,  
the majesty of a tree, the warmth of a  
summer sun, the calm of a quiet sea.

The generous soul of nature,  
the comforting arm of night,  
the wisdom of the ages, the power of the eagle’s flight.

The joy of a morning in spring, the faith of a mustard seed,  
the patience of eternity, the depth of a family need.

Then God combined these qualities, when there was nothing more to  
add, He knew his masterpiece was complete, and so, he called it ...  
Dad.  
Author Unknown

## The Aldersgate Experience

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“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”

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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



## FOLLOWING OUR FATHER'S WILL

Jesus always did his Father's will. What does our heavenly Father desire of us?

*Directions: Using the coordinates, circle the corresponding words.  
Then add those to the blanks below to complete John 6:40, NIV.*

### Coordinates

T3, R1, F6, E2, T1, H5, A6, R4, F5, T5, H3, F2, A4, E6

	F	A	T	H	E	R
1	Father	them	the	believe	that	who
2	have	will	if	heart	to	live
3	perish	whoever	everyone	shall	shall	give
4	God	eternal	send	into	Him	believes
5	in	come	him	Son	rest	with
6	looks	and	forever	Where	life	hope

"For my Father's will is that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

and I will raise them up at the last day." *John 6:40, NIV*

Answer: everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life



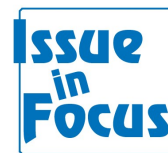
**Hampton Roads  
Convention Center**  
Hampton, VA  
**June 20-22, 2024.**

Changes are coming!

With the changes voted on at General Conference in Charlottesville this year, it is more important than ever that we keep an eye on the Virginia Annual Conference. Pastor Melody and our delegate, Kathy O'Hara, will have a lot of information and updates to the denomination that they will have to vote on. Please keep all the of the clergy and delegates in your prayers as they see us moving forward.

The Coastal Virginia district office will also see some changes. We will bid farewell to DS Dr. Brooks and to Rev. Jason Stanley. Dr. Brooks is relocating to the Three-Notch District to Belmont UMC. Rev. Stanley will be moving to the conference office in Richmond. In July we will welcome a new District Superintendent and a new District Revitalizer person.

A farewell celebration for Dr. Brooks will be held on Saturday, June 15th 10 am—Noon at Baylake UMC, Shore Drive, Virginia Beach. The farewell committee is asking for monetary gifts from individuals or churches. Checks should be made to Coastal Virginia District with CR Brooks in the memo line.



### Message from our Bishop

Lay Ministry for the month

Financial Updates and information



Virginia Annual Conference—date and location

Saying Good Bye to District Staff and much more.....

## 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 have just completed 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?". Each participant has earned their "Certificate of Completion". Clearly, however, a more appropriate title would be "Certificate of Commencement" as now the real work begins in continuing to apply what we learned to our lives. In June, we will begin our study of "The Battlefield of the Mind" by Joyce Meyer. As thoughts always proceed deeds, it is important that we get rid of any "stinking thinking" and learn to think as God would have us think. And yes, our group has opted to continue to meet during the summer.

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 widows' group, or any other small group, please call: 757-515-8194 for more information. If there is no immediate answer, please leave a voicemail.

"Delight yourself in the Lord;  
and He will give you the desires of your heart."  
Psalms 37:4



## Graduation Time in Here!

Do you have any graduates in your family this year? Please let the church office know.

All graduations are important in a child's life, whether it be preschool, elementary, middle, high school or college...

Send us an email with the child's name and grade of graduation and if any college plans.



Our small but committed choir will be taking a break the month of June. Please watch your emails for dates of their return.

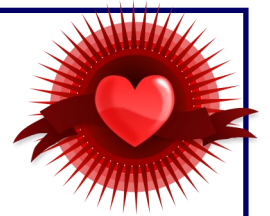
Consider joining us and sing praises to the Lord.

## Vacation Bible School

The date is set.

August 13th, 14th, 15th...

6-8 PM



Yes, it is almost summer-time to share God's light with the children. Come and be that light as a VBS volunteer. We have lots of different jobs—Music; Story Teller; Skit actors; Snacks; media advertising; crafts; game leaders and much more.

We can use your help. I will be waiting to hear from you. I will leave a sign up list in the narthex. Barbara Harrell (757-466-8761)

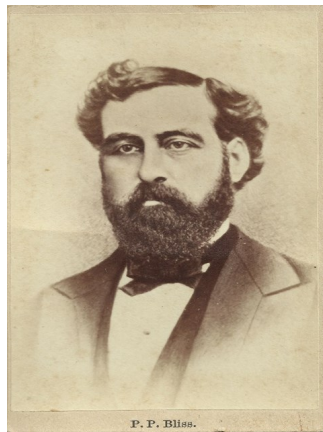


To ALL FATHERS,  
especially in this month of June



from the Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
Music Department

### *Did You Know ...?*



**Philip Paul Bliss** was “an American composer, conductor, writer of hymns, and bass-baritone Gospel singer” ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip\\_Bliss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Bliss)). Born July 9, 1838, in PA and died on Dec. 29, 1876, in OH from a train wreck and fire at the young age of 38, *along with his wife*, Philip P. Bliss is considered “the second most famous Christian song writer in history. Had he lived as long

as his peers--Fanny Crosby, Charles Wesley, and Ira Sankey, he may have surpassed them all as the greatest song writer of all time”

(<https://www.wholesomewords.org/biography/biobliss.html>). In his short life, he wrote more than 300 songs that were published and sung widely! Among his most well-known hymns are these favorites: “*Almost Persuaded*,” “*Dare to Be a Daniel*,” “*Hallelujah 'Tis Done!*,” “*Hallelujah, What a Savior!*,” “*Jesus Loves Even Me*,” “*Let the Lower Lights Be Burning*,” “*The Light of the World Is Jesus*,” “*Whosoever Will*,” and “*Wonderful Words of Life*.” To add, he wrote the music for “*It Is Well with My Soul*,” “*I Gave My Life for Thee*,” and “*Precious Promise*,” but he wrote the lyrics for “*My Redeemer*” ([www.wholesomewords.org/biography/bliss](http://www.wholesomewords.org/biography/bliss)). May his music touch hearts and souls for years to come!

**NEWS FROM  
THE PEWS**

Thanks to everyone for all of the prayers on behalf of my niece, Heaven. She is home from the hospital and has gained 4 lbs. The may have found her a specialist in Tampa, Fla. who can help. Joyce R

The Windley family would like to thank everyone for all of the calls, prayers and cards received during Neal’s passing.

THANKS  
from the  
HEART

The spaghetti dinners have ended for the season but will be back in the fall.

Special thanks to Cindy, Debbie and the many volunteers who helped in any way to make this community outreach such a success. We served more than 400 guests since last October and made a lot of friends.



June is here and with it comes the Hurricane Season. The forecasters are predicting an active season for us this year.



The church does have a Disaster Preparedness and Relief Ministry plan for our congregation in the event of one of these storms. If you would like a copy of this booklet—just let the church office know.

Thanks



6/6 Diane Willis  
 6/10 Melissa Floyd  
 6/26 Dr. Christina Pinkston

### Anniversaries

6/26 Dewey and Millie Hanson



### Remember in Prayer



Home: Jimmie and Carolyn Powers, Barbara Hogwood, Maria Davidson, members 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 and conferences

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

Saturday, June 15th  
 for the July 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

Debbie Supper and Steve Carter

### Communion Servers

Kevin and Michele Floyd

### Counters

6/2	K. Floyd, sub
6/9	G. Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers
6/16	D. Supper, B. Bunch
6/23	M. Hanson; G. Albertson
6/30	K. Floyd, sub



### Lawn Maintenance



6/3	Team 2
6/10	Team 3
6/17	Team 1
6/24	Team 2
7/1	Team 3

Trash—volunteer needed

### Calendar Highlights

Thompson Bible Study— 6/6; 6/13; 6/20 and 6/27

Finance and Administrative Board Meeting  
 6/18 at 6:30 PM

Helping Hands Mtg- 6/25—10 AM

Choir on vacation this month—no rehearsals





**A Message from your Treasurer:**

During the month of April, Aldersgate did not perform as well as it did in March.

**Giving decreased over \$6,000**, while expenses increased by \$1,751.84.

Despite this financial distress, I believe Aldersgate can recover and improve.

Please keep our church in your prayers and if possible, consider contributing a little extra going forward.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Kathy Dziagwa, Aldersgate UMC Treasurer

Financial Stats for April 2024:	
<b>Income:</b>	\$11,354.84
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$13,764.48
<b>Difference:</b>	\$ -2,409.64
<b>Remaining</b>	
<b>Balance:</b>	\$ -206.24
<b>Year to Date Income/Expenses:</b>	
<b>Income:</b>	\$ 50,692.83
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$ 53,379.57
<b>Difference:</b>	\$ - 2,686.74
<b>Dedicated Offerings:</b>	
<b>Communion</b>	\$ 10.00
<b>Memorials</b>	\$ 1,175.00
<b>Receptions</b>	\$ 350.00



**Changes....**

If you are like me, I hate changes. I feel that if something is not broken, do not fix it. If it tastes good, do not try to improve it. There are so many changes happening throughout our world, nation and local communities these days.

With the passing of some new changes to our denomination I continue to wonder which ones will affect the local churches. I have been struggling with some of the suggestions I have been reading about. The one thing that keeps me going is knowing that God does not change.

His love and guidance for us is steadfast and everlasting and He never lets us down or deserts us even if we think He has. He is always just a prayer away.

I feel it is our faith in Christ that we Christians have that keeps the churches going and hopefully growing. Hebrews 13:8 says that “Jesus is the same today, yesterday and forever”. As the “social” world continues to change, I will hold fast to my beliefs and with His help be brave enough to stand up for them.

As we go through the next few months of change in our world with wars, elections of new officials and denominational changes let us keep our eyes on the true prize...Our love and faith in God by praying, caring and sharing His words. I just have to remember this little sign and let Him take the lead. JR

