



The Reflections of a Pastor

As I write this final installment as my tenure comes to an end, I can't help but have mixed emotions about leaving Aldersgate. I think back on the plethora of conversations and activities we have enjoyed together. I think about all of the worship services we have shared with each other. I have contemplated the times we have prayed and played together! All of these and so many other times have given my heart profound joy as I prepare to transition to my next appointment.

I will share the following activities and then I will share why! We worked diligently on our Rise Against Hunger project to package 10,000 meals for those in need around the world. We volunteered at the Union Mission to serve those in need in our community. We served our new members of the Virginia Wesleyan University community by welcoming the incoming freshmen. We served the neighborhood at our spaghetti dinners including our new residents in the apartment complex across the street from Aldersgate. We served the students of Cooke Elementary School. WE...Now for the WHY! I shared this to remind us that in spite of COVID-19 and all the challenges that came with it, WE persevered and continued to be a blessing to our community, in the neighborhood, in the city, in the region and in the world!!! And WE did this all to the Glory of GOD!!!



As Kathy O'Hara has shared with me on numerous occasions, "Aldersgate is the little church that can!" And I know in my heart, that she will continue to be for the communities that she serves. The reason that I share this is because WE have a new Aldersgate Vision Statement and I will share this as well as the Mission statement. Mission Statement: Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Vision Statement: Aldersgate will be a catalyst for God's call through fervent prayer, active compassion and meaningful outreach.

All of these ministries and all the preparation for them exemplifies the vision statement. We prayed for our siblings (that's who you are to me), neighbors and communities as we saw the needs (daily prayer started on January 1st). We shared active compassion when we fed our neighbors (spaghetti dinners) and had relationship building fellowship with them and each other.

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I write all of this to illustrate that WE did all that and so much more! I had a wonderful time being in ministry with ya'll (LOL) as we ministered to various parts of our community. I want to encourage you to continue to be the "little church that can" as you welcome your new pastor. I want to let you know that you have been one of the most satisfying appointments of my ministry! And I want you to know that you will al-ways be in my prayers, as I move to the next leg of my journey. I pray God's richest blessings upon you as you journey along with a new shepherd. AMEN!!!

Pastor Bert

