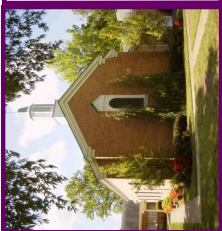




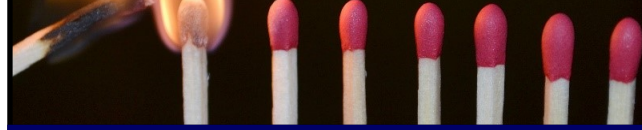
2024

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



# The Aldersgate Experience

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*



May, 2024

Vol. 27 Issue 5



To everything, there is a  
season and a time to every  
purpose under heaven

Ecclesiastes 3:1



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

A message  
from our  
Pastor

As we Spring into May with all its celebrations, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on the birthday of the church, Pentecost. Please read Acts 2:14-21 to get the full context of this article. "When the Holy Spirit Does Something Not in the Bulletin"



Our movement, (aka the church Jesus is building) began with phenomenology: tornadic sounding winds, tongues of fire descending on people, men and women speaking in foreign languages they could not themselves understand. This was not a pre-scripted ceremony as one might expect at say, a Passover celebration. This was live reality television. Things were happening that were not in the bulletin. The Holy Spirit did not come with an announcement of his arrival. He just arrived.

Note the two very divergent responses from those present.

1. Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"
2. Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

As it was then, so it is now. When the boundaries of one's experience with God are stretched, it reveals two basic responses: self-abandonment or self-protection. The former marvels in stunned awe. The latter mocks with sarcastic antagonism.

To be sure, much of what gets passed off as Holy Spirit phenomenology these days may be dramatic expressions of human personality, but how we respond says much more about us than it does about them.

Written by J.D. Walt

- When it comes to the phenomena surrounding the Holy Spirit do you tend to be one who responds with abandonment and awe or with skepticism or suspicion or even cynicism and sarcasm?

What is it about you that makes you respond in this way?

The office staff would like to wish all of the congregation a very



Sunday, May 12th

a Happy and safe Memorial Day Holiday

Monday, May 27th



Sunday May 19th is Pentecost Sunday..

Wear something red.

## 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

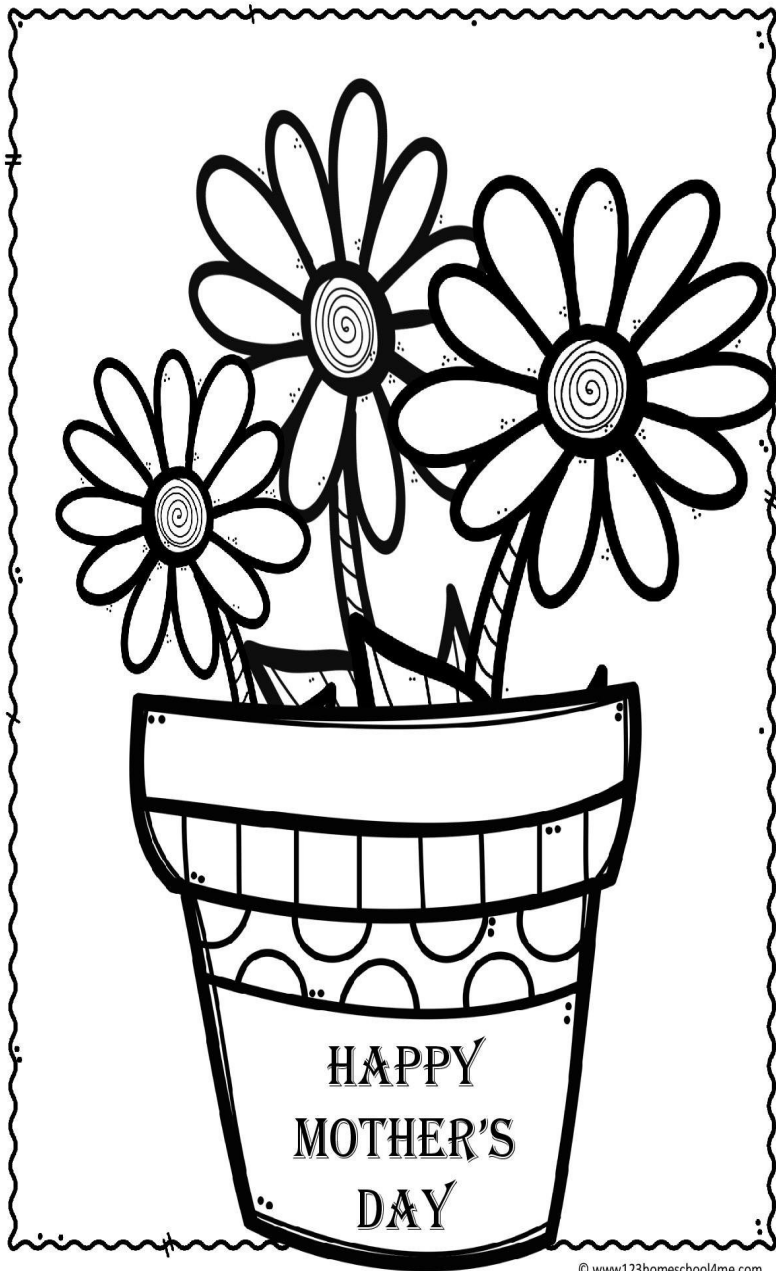
Email: [joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com](mailto:joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com)  
Web page: [www.aldersgatenorfolk.org](http://www.aldersgatenorfolk.org)  
"Like" us on Facebook

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



A page to color and give to  
someone who is a mom.



© www.123homeschool4me.com

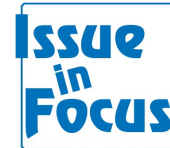
Looking forward....



Our denomination's General Conference will meet the end of April 27-May 3. Delegates from all over the world will convene in North Carolina to decide on some very important changes. The General Conference only meets every four years so it has been awhile since they last convened and a lot of changes have taken place in our world.

Also the members of the Coastal Virginia District will be looking forward to some changes after our Annual Conference in June. Pastor Melody and Kathy O'Hara (our representative) will meet with pastors and delegates from all over Virginia to make decisions that may cause some changes. New D.S.; new pastor appointments; retirements; and even passing of conference members.

Please keep these two groups in your prayers the next couple of months as they decide what happens next.



Pastor's Message

Lay Ministry for the month

Financial Updates and information

Conference and National Conference information  
and much more!



## Neighborhood Widows' Bible Fellowship

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

We are currently completing our study of “**The Purpose Driven Life**” by **Rick Warren** it helps us to answer the question of “What on Earth are we here for?”. In mid-May, we plan to begin our study of “**The Battlefield of the Mind**” by **Joyce Meyer**, followed by “**When Christians Get it Wrong**” by **Alexander Hamilton** and then another best seller, “**In His Steps**” by **Charles M. Sheldon**.

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, please call: **757-515-8194 for more information. If there is no immediate answer, please leave a Message.**  
Joyce Thompson



## Church Wide Work Day

There will be a church wide work day on May 18th from 9 am -noon. The trustees will have a list of items that need cleaning, painting or repairing.



Please see **Bill Bunch** if you have any questions.

Several of our church leaders are going to be very busy in the next few months. There are several reports that will be coming due soon that have to be submitted to the District Office. If you serve on one of these committees please check your emails so you don't miss any meetings.

SPRC will be meeting Sunday, May 5th immediately following the 11 AM Worship Service.

Parsonage Inspection is due June 1

New Clergy Housing Evaluation due June 1

Planning for the upcoming VBS

If you do not serve on any church committees, consider doing so. See Pastor Melody if you would like to serve communion or be a liturgist; see Kevin Floyd if you would like to join the ushers/greeters or see Gary Albertson or Kathy Dziagwa if you would like to be a counter.

## FREE Weekly Spaghetti Dinner



Serving Neighbors  
Seeking Friends



5:30 Thursdays

Cindy Albertson and Debbie Supper will soon be taking a break from cooking, shopping and serving our Community Spaghetti Dinners. Final dinner will be Thursday, May 23rd. Thanks to all of our volunteers.



*Happy Mother's Day and Month  
of May*

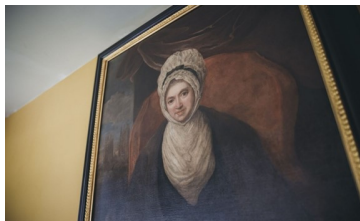


**Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
Music Department**

To ALL Mothers

*Did You Know ...?*

Susanna Annesley Wesley was a 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century English hymnwriter. She and her husband, Samuel, had **nineteen (19) children**, but only ten lived to adulthood, which include their sons, John and Charles Wesley ([www.wisdomonline.org/teachings/susanna-wesley](http://www.wisdomonline.org/teachings/susanna-wesley)). Believed to have inspired much of her sons' work, **Susanna Wesley** is considered to be "**The Mother of Methodism**" (<https://epwortholdrectory.org.uk/family/susanna-wesley/>).



**NEWS FROM  
THE PEWS**

Christian Sympathies are extended

to Marguerite, Randy and Brian Windley for the loss of their husband and father, Neal Windley. He will be dearly missed.

I am filled with gratitude for your overwhelming support and well wishes during my surgery and recovery. Your meals, visits, and uplifting prayer messages brought much needed light!  
Michele Floyd



Special thanks to everyone who stepped up to help with the funeral reception for the Windley Family. Thanks to Anna Lee Hays and Kathy Windley for coordinating with Millie Hanson.

Dear Aldersgate Family, Thank you for all the birthday cards and the love that went into them. I had a wonderful birthday thanks to you and my family. The 1st time I attended Aldersgate I fell in love with the church and the community. Everyone made me feel welcomed. I would have loved to make a home there but I guess Tennessee is the best place for me right now. I have a few physical difficulties and I have to have some help from my family. All in all, I have a pretty good life. This just proves that God is good all the time. I have quite a few friends here and with all of my friends in Norfolk, if anyone needs to count their blessings, it should be me. I love all of you and I hope you will have a healthy and happy rest of the year. With lots of love.  
Arthur Wallace

**Breakthrough Prayers Cards are here**

They are available in the Narthex for you to pick up. Thanks





5/2 Cindy Albertson  
 5/3 Millie Hanson  
       Dewey Hanson  
 5/16 Lucinda Williams

### Anniversaries

5/1 Kevin and Michele Floyd  
 5/7 Guy and Diane Willis  
 5/24 Vic and Debbie Supper



### Remember in Prayer

Home: The Windley Family 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 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

Wednesday, May 15th  
 for the June 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

John and Melissa Floyd

### Communion Servers

5/5 Claudia Ganaden, Norma Tipora

### Counters

5/5 K. Floyd, sub  
 5/12 G. Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers  
 5/19 D. Supper, B. Bunch  
 5/26 M. Hanson; G. Albertson



### Lawn Maintenance



4/29 Team 3  
 5/6 Team 1  
 5/13 Team 2  
 5/20 Team 3  
 5/27 Team 1

Trash—Vic Supper

### Calendar Highlights

SPRC Mtg. 5/5 at noon

Civic League Meetings— Eliz. Park  
 5/7 7 PM; RFS 5/13 7 PM

Choir— 5/1; 5/8; 5/15; 5/22—6 PM —No rehearsal on 5/29

Thompson Bible Study— 5/2; 5/9; 5/16; 5/23;5/30—10 AM

Spaghetti Dinners--5/2; 5/9; 5/16; 5/23—5:30 PM

Church wide work day—5/18 —9 AM

Helping Hands Mtg-5/28—10 AM





**A Message from your Treasurer:**

- **Donations Exceeded Expenses:**

Aldersgate had a successful month, with donations surpassing expenses by over \$5,500.

- **Year-to-Date Deficit:**

Although there's still a minor deficit of **-\$277.10** for the year, it has significantly improved.

**Appreciation:** The church expresses its gratitude for everyone's efforts and encourages your continued support.

Kathy Dziagwa, Treasurer

<b>Financial Stats for March 2024:</b>	
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$17,534.99</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$12,012.64</b>
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>\$ 5,522.35</b>
<b>Remaining</b>	
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 2,203.40</b>
<b>Year to Date Income/ Expenses:</b>	
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$ 39,337.99</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 39,615.09</b>
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>\$ - 277.10</b>
<b>Dedicated Offerings:</b>	
<b>Communion</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Spaghetti Din.</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Bunny Break.</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>



**The Lighthouse**

Recently my pastor, Donna, gave a sermon using the reference of a lighthouse as a visual. The picture of a lighthouse brought back some memories and also gave me food for thought.

On my windowsill in my office is a lighthouse made out of flower pots, a fuzzy ball and black and white paint. It was given to me from the VBS crew at Aldersgate after their program of "let you light shine for others". Pastor Donna used the beacon of a lighthouse in a different way. She used it in relation to our looking to God for guidance and a reminder that He is with us in all things.

Have you every thought of God in that way?

A lighthouse's beacon provides a way of safety for sailing ships; planes and other crafts during a fog or bad storm or in the dark of night. It also shines bright on sunny days. That is what God does for us, He provides a way during the good times and comfort during the bad times.

Living on the coast of Virginia, we have the privilege of being able to visit several lighthouses. The next time you have time visit on. Think of how God is that beacon for each of us. He always shows us what path to follow if we just follow the beam.

JR

