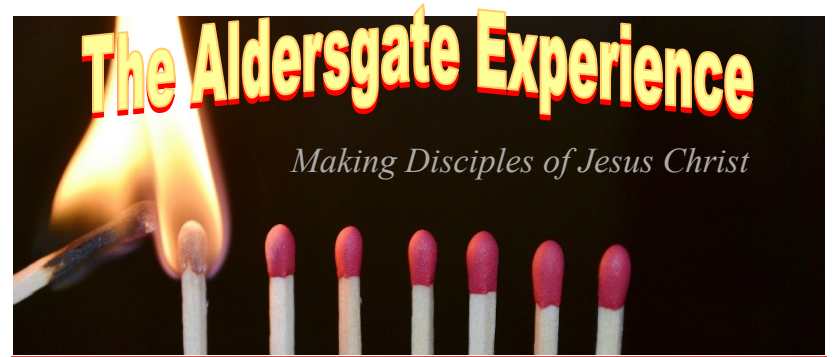


**FEBRUARY**

**2022**

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

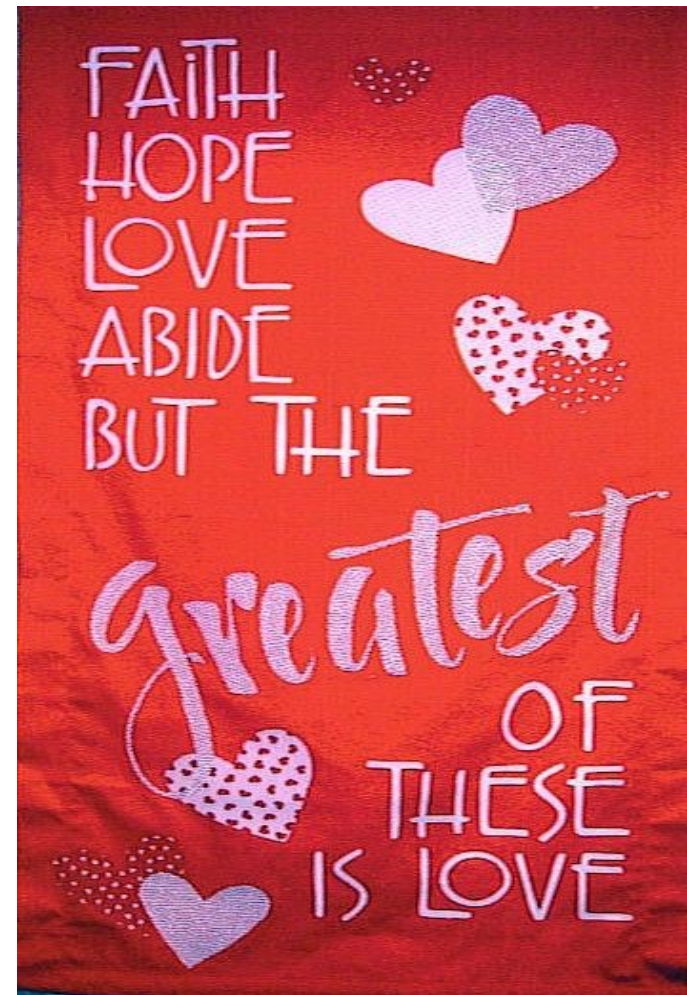


# The Aldersgate Experience

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*

**February, 2022**

**Vol. 25 Issue 2**





## Valentine's Day

*"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8*



This month, stores are putting out Valentine's Day items. People are wondering what will I get my significant other. This year, Americans are expected to spend \$18.2 billion on Valentine's Day. The five most common items purchased on this day are a box of chocolates, diamond earrings, a dozen roses, dinner for two, and a bottle of champagne. Approximately 180 million cards will be exchanged today. And an estimated 14% of women will send flowers to themselves! All of this will be done in honor of St. Valentine.

The history of Valentine's Day – and the story of St. Valentine – is murky. The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine, all of whom were martyred. One legend says that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and children, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Other stories suggest that Valentine might have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and punished. According to one legend, while Valentine was imprisoned he sent the first "valentine" greeting after he fell in love with a girl who visited him in jail. It is said that he wrote his love a letter before he died signed, "From Your Valentine," an expression still used today. We will probably never know the whole truth about St. Valentine. But one thing these various legends have in common is that Valentine loved others sacrificially. The stories differ, but the bottom line is the same: Valentine stood up for justice. He risked his life...eventually losing it...demonstrating his love for others, and for what was right.

Micah 6:8 tells us that there are three things the Lord desires from us: To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Him. Is this the type of love that is being celebrated today? Unfortunately, in many cases it is not. The world celebrates a love that is self-centered and dependent on feelings that come and go. Biblical love stands in stark contrast to that love. Godly love is patient, kind, honest, and sacrificial. It is rooted in God and not in self. It seeks to serve rather than to be served.

This Valentine's Day, think about how you love others. Is God honored in the way you love?

*God, thank you for the love you have demonstrated through Your Son, Jesus. Help me to love others sacrificially and biblically, so that my life brings glory to Your Name. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Pastor Bert

*Cut me out  
and give to  
a friend or  
loved one*



## The Aldersgate Experience

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**  
"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"

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Web page: [www.aldersgatenorfolk.org](http://www.aldersgatenorfolk.org)  
"Like" us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Sharma D. Lewis  
District Superintendent...Rev. Seonyoung Kim  
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  
Sunday School.....9:30 AM-resuming soon  
Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM –resuming soon  
Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays



## Friendship SOUP

Make jars of Italian barley soup to share love and warmth with friends.



### What you need:

- 1 cup pearled barley
- ½ cup sundried tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp dry minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp dry minced onion
- 1 veggie bouillon cube
- Glass pint jars with lids
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Pen

### What you do:

1. In order, layer the first five ingredients into the jar.
2. Trace the outline of the lid onto cardstock. Cut out.
3. On the card, write these directions: Remove wrapper from bouillon cube. Add contents of jar to saucepan. Add 4 cups water and a can of diced tomatoes. Bring to a boil over high heat, reduce to low. Simmer about 20 minutes, until barley is tender. Serve with parmesan cheese.
4. Place the card atop the lid. Screw on the canning ring to keep it in place.



## The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

*Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.*



Above all, love each other   D  , because love  
   over a multitude of   . Offer  
   to one another without  
  . Each of you should use whatever  
   you have received to    others, as faithful  
   stewards of God's    in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, grumbling, gift, serve, grace

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Dr. Christina and I would very much like to thank the members of Aldersgate for all of the generous gifts during the holidays. It is so heart-warming to know how much our work has been appreciated.



Joyce Russo and  
Dr. Christina Pinkston

**End of Year Finance** statements were placed in the Narthex on Sunday 1/9...If you did not get a chance to pick yours up—those left by the end of the month will be mailed.

Coming Soon...

**New directories.** The office will be working on new directories for 2022. I would like to include cell/mobile numbers in this one. If you would *NOT* want to have your cell number published—please notify the church office by email. If there have been any other changes to your information, new address, email, etc. let the office know.

## Issue in Focus

### Pastor's Message

Updates on Missions and Ministries

Lay Ministry for the month

Super Bowl Sunday information

Looking Ahead to Ash Wednesday

And much more!

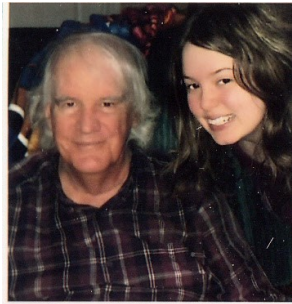




## A Special Thank You

Dear Rev. Bertrand,

This was the best Christmas gift I could ever receive. It was such a pleasure receiving all of these Christmas cards from by brothers and sisters at Aldersgate Church.



My family asks me what I want for Christmas and I tell them nothing. I have been showering myself with gifts all year long. I have made enough money so that I can pretty much buy what I want, but hearing from all these friends at Aldersgate is priceless.

I love the church that my brother pastors and I have made many friends, but my heart is in two places at one time. I miss Norfolk and Aldersgate and the many friends that I left behind. I will return to Norfolk when the Lord finally calls me, at least.

Well, I guess that I have said enough for now. I give my friend, Beverly Cooper, thanks for keeping in touch with me a lot of credit. Beverly is one of my dearest friends. I shall look forward to keeping in touch with you and Beverly and the rest of Aldersgate Church in the future.

God Bless you, Rev. Bertrand, for all the good work you are doing and I will continue to keep in touch and keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Your brother in Jesus Christ,

Arthur Wallace



Ash Wednesday Service will be on March 2, 2022 at 7pm at the church.

*Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focuses on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ.*

*The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. The Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday's observance and gave the day its name. It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Passion/Palm Sunday service and burn them ahead of time to produce the ashes for this service.*

*Come join us and bring a friend to our Ash Wednesday Service*



## End of the Year Reports for Va. Conference

Each year all churches in the Virginia Conference are required to do year-end statistics. I thought you might be interested in some of the numbers that were reported this year.

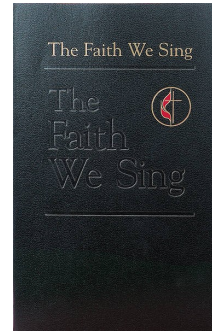
According to our conference—Aldersgate currently has 199 people on our roles...yet only an average of 36 attend services. (We do a membership audit each year— maybe we can lower this number to be more actual).

In 2021 we had an average of 160 people each week visit our youtube and web pages. Actual hits was 8,685.

We serviced an average of 7 missions and ministries through out this past year. An average of 135 persons served in these ministries and 3,106 persons were served. These were: Cooke Elementary, Union Mission, Salvation Army, Newborns in Need; Wesley Ministry in Portsmouth; Partners in Education, Blankets for Homeless and UMCOR.

The Aldersgate family can be a little proud of these reported stats. As we strive to do more this year with our missions and ministries remember all of the comfort you are giving to our brothers and sisters in the community.

Just remember.....



Want to do something to honor or memorialize someone special...

Donate a copy or two of *The Faith We Sing* hymnal.

The church is in need of about 50 copies at 14.99 each.

If you would like to donate towards this campaign—check your upcoming bulletins and newsletters for more information.

Thanks

Music Ministry



On Super Bowl Sunday, people get refreshments for the game, have on their team's paraphernalia and do some tailgating. Before we celebrate the game, let's first celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death.

On that Sunday, we will wear our favorite team's jersey or hat. Come and be a part of worship and celebrate your teams on **February 13, 2022.**



## Birthdays

2/7 Beverly Cooper  
2/19 Michele Floyd

2/20 Courtney Dziagwa

## Anniversaries

2/15 Neal & Marguerite Windley  
2/20 Pastor Bert and Kotosha Griffin



## Remember in Prayer

Home: Bonnie Savage, and Barbara Jenkins,  
and Ben Hogwood

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

Tuesday, February 15th  
for the March 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

Kevin Floyd, Melissa Floyd

## Counters

2/6 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch  
2/13 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson  
2/20 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd  
2/27 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis  
3/6 Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers



OFFERING  
COUNTERS

## Lawn Maintenance



2/7 Team 2  
2/14 Team 3  
2/21 Team 1  
2/28 Team 2  
3/7 Team 3

## Calendar Highlights



2/6 Noon—CRT Meeting  
Immediately following church services

2/14 Happy Valentine's Day

2/21 7 PM RFS/WM/EP Civic League Meeting  
Church office closed—President's Day



## Rehearsal Dates for Choir

Wednesdays at 6 PM  
2/2; 2/9; 2/16; 2/23



## ***Final Delivery made to Union Mission***

*Pastor Bert made the final delivery to Union Mission of items and monies from the "Captain Underpants"*

*campaign. Total items donated were 93 undergarment items; 20 gift cards plus \$95.00 in cash...*

## ***Cooke Elementary returns and doing well.***

*Members of Aldersgate are back and serving the ministry of feeding the children and adults of the Cooke Elementary afterschool program. An average of 6 Aldersgate members go each month, with an average of 15 children and 10 adults fed. Keep it up...*



## ***A New Opportunity for Outreach***

*At the Administrative Board Meeting in January, Anna Lee Long and a friend presented information concerning "Healthy Journey" a mission for providing love, support and education for mothers-to-be and their children.*

*This non-profit group currently meets each month in our building. They are in need of some financial support for insurance costs and also donations of a lap top; diapers, formula; wipes, bottles, swaddles, bibs, baby clothes but most of all volunteers. Watch your bulletins and newsletters for more information of how YOU can help.*



## **Are We There Yet??**

Many of us who have traveled with children have heard this more times than we would like to remember.

As we enter another month of this "pandemic or endemic" I am hearing this more and more from my friends and family—only it is "Are we done yet??"

A new variant "Omicron" has taken over our lives again. Some of our churches have had to shut down (as a precaution) because congregational members have either contacted Covid or one of their family members have.

It seems we are having "Groundhog Day" moments. Repeating the same day over and over again. Do we wear masks, No masks, singing or no singing, sanitizing, don't sit together unless the same family. Children safe or unsafe in schools. When will it end? Will we ever be back to *normal*.

As we continue to ponder some of these issues and try to stay safe and healthy let me give you some "Gifts to give all year long" tips.

1. Smile—say "Good Morning even if it isn't"
2. Let someone ahead of you in line
3. Do a kind deed anonymously
4. Do what you value and value what you do.
5. Say something nice to someone
6. Laugh at an old joke or share a dream

Last but not least : Spread a little joy.

These tips are excerpted from  
"Acts Of Kindness"  
Chicken Soup for the Soul.

