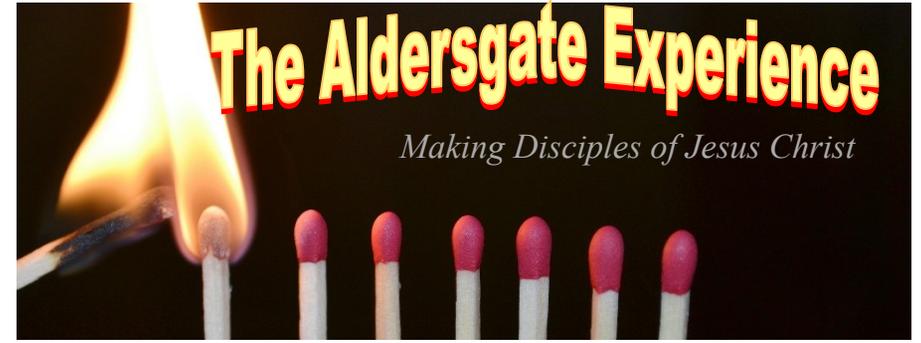




2020

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



The Aldersgate Experience

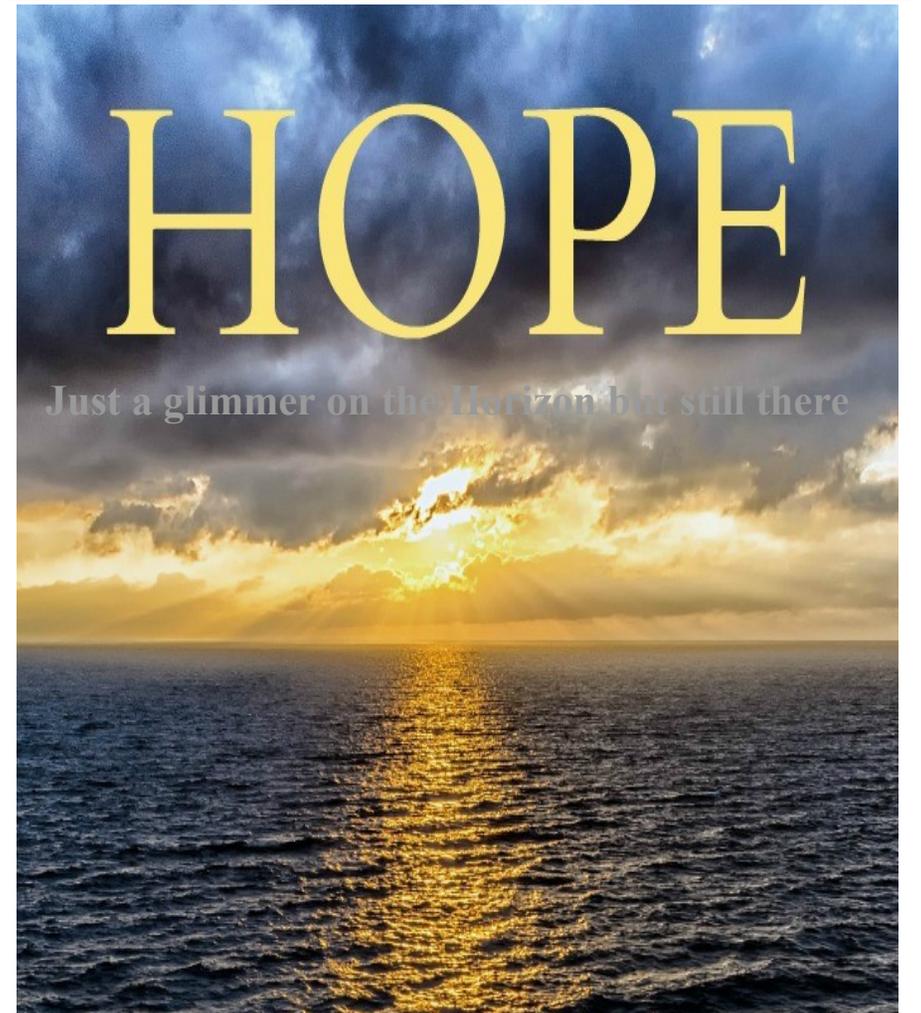
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

May 2020

Vol. 23 Issue 5

HOPE

Just a glimmer on the Horizon but still there





The Pastor's Corner

“Let the Feathers Fly”

By Pastor Lee

Years ago, Cindy and I organized a lock-in where the youth spent the night at the church. After all the games, activities, and bible study, it was time to get some sleep. The boys were in one classroom, and the girls were in another. A couple of boys came to me and said, “We want to surprise the girls with a pillow fight after they are asleep.” I said, “Let’s do it.” The plan was to get up at 2:30 am, sneak into the girl’s room with pillows in hand, and surround them while in they were in their sleeping bags. My job was to turn on the light, and the boys would then launch the pillow attack. But what the boys didn’t know was that I told Cindy about our plan. And we devised another plan. We had the girls stuff their sleeping bags to make it look like they were still in them. And just before the boys came in, they would hide on the outside edge of the room in the dark, armed with their own pillows. When the boys came in, they formed a tight circle around the sleeping bags. And when I turned on the light, they began hitting empty sleeping bags. Immediately, the girls let out a war cry and...the greatest pillow fight in human history commenced.

Teenagers taught me not to take life too seriously. During this pandemic, we need to think of creative ways to keep up our spirits. Maybe we need to plan some “pillow fights” in our lives. What are some ways you can...let the feathers fly!



Food for thought



Never lose hope....

*Remember—when the sun goes down,
The stars come out.*

The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”

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“Like” us on Facebook

Bishop.....Rev. Sharma D. Lewis
 District Superintendent...Rev. Wayne Snead
 Pastor..... Rev. Lee J. Crosby
 Lay Leader..... Kathleen O’Hara
 Music Director.....Cindy Crosby
 Church Secretary.....Joyce Russo

Office Hours.....8:30-12:30 PM
 Sunday School.....9:30 AM
 Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM
 Worship Team Rehearsal - Wednesdays.....6:30 PM

June Session of Virginia Annual Conference postponed until September

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the June 2020 session of the Virginia Annual Conference has been postponed until September 18 -19, 2020.

Information regarding the location of the September 2020 Annual Conference is forthcoming.



Recently I read a letter in the newspaper which thanked pastors and congregations for not going to church. A quote from that letter is this:

“I am so grateful to the many church and pastors who have expanded their online ministries during this time of social distancing. The message of hope and compassion has not been compromised at all, as these congregations have diligently found new ways to express praise and worship with out gathering. I have been reminded that church is *not* the building, but rather is the caring people who live their faith. Many of us can offer encouragement and appreciation to our churches as they responsibly serve God and all of us”

This is just another example how our God’s light is still shining through all of us.



What If????

What if the quarantine is lifted and church services resumed in May?



Your Lay Ministry for the week of May 3rd would be:

Ushers: John and Melissa Floyd

Counters: Kevin Floyd, Ben Hogwood

Lawn Crew: Team 3

- ◆ We would celebrate the “Great Thanksgiving” and rejoice at being back together and that everyone made it through the storm.
- ◆ Our Praise Team would one again lift their voices in hallelujahs. Rehearsals would resume. We would all make a “joyful noise”.
- ◆ We would celebrate Easter in grand fashion.

Let’s pray that the “What if” becomes reality -see you then.

In light of the recent proposals set by our federal response team this may be a reality. The Phase 1,2,3 process could become a reality. States (and some cities) are already looking to reopening around May 1.

Our Bishop has currently sent out correspondence stating we will reopen June 10 in compliance with our Governor. But the “glimmer of hope” for May is still there.



“Insider Trading”

Insider Trading is an opportunity for the church family to *trade* brief stories, comments, pictures, funny stories, poems, etc. while we remain confined *inside*. Send me your responses to the following questions and suggestions. I will organize it into an email and send it out to everyone. Choose whatever questions/suggestions you wish to respond.

The deadline for your responses is April 27.

Send your responses to leecrosby@vaumc.org

1. Describe some activities you are doing during this pandemic to occupy your time.
2. Send a picture of you/your family. It can be a photo of you doing something, a portrait, making a funny face, etc.
3. What are some things you miss doing while confined at home?
4. Tell us a favorite joke or funny story.
5. What encouragement would you like to pass on to others?
6. What has been most challenging for you during this time?
7. Where have you seen God at work, or how have you grown spiritually?

Join in the conversation for some “*Insider Trading*”!



EXCUSE ME...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Music Ministry Page

Music...

Speaks what cannot be expressed
Soothes the mind and gives it rest
Heals the heart and makes it whole
Flows from heaven to the soul.”



The LORD replied,
“My Presence **will** go with **you**, and I
will give you rest.”

Exodus 33:13

Take a walk with God today and hum a special praise song to Him as you walk along. Remember He is always with you!

The upcoming Worship Schedule is tentatively set for May 6th for rehearsals. We will resume as soon as we hear from our Bishop. I am being hopeful that certain gatherings may be approved soon. Until then please be in prayer for our church, our nation, and our world. Do not despair, the Lord is near. Blessings, Cindy





Change Is Not the Only Constant in Our World: From a Lay Leader's Perspective



Hello, Aldersgate Family!

I hope this latest missive finds everyone doing well, that you have gotten the hang of sheltering in place and that you are no longer bored or going stir crazy. No doubt about it, COVID-19 has changed our lifestyles considerably.

Recently Bill told me he felt the pandemic was not just temporarily life-altering, that it could very well be world-changing. I reflected on that statement a lot. Bill has a way of tossing out observations that sound like they are coming off the top of his head, but in retrospect are really thought provoking. He has a good point. Because when the stay at home orders are lifted, I don't think we will be surprised to find folks have lost a lot of their passion for big crowd celebrations; that there are some serious changes in power elite line-ups in cities, states and countries; and that vacationing in Europe, South America or Asia isn't quite the popular option it used to be. Sorry, Italy! You have now seriously slipped down my "to visit" list.

Yes, change is all around us on the collective level, but also gets us individually too. We change a lot as we age - waistlines get thicker, smooth skins gets lined, hair turns gray and Mr. Arthritis comes to visit and never leaves. Our ethical and political viewpoints tend to change too. Think about it. What we considered quite sane and rationale when we were in our teens or 20's is often a lot different than what we regard as sane and rationale now.

I had a boss who once said, "When changes are made, somebody's ox usually gets gored." While I think my boss may have exaggerated a wee bit with that statement, his point is well taken. Change can be scary. Fortunately, as believers our faith in Christ can ease our fear, especially when something or someone we thought was stable and trustworthy is now gone with the wind and a new situation is facing us.

Let us never forget that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8). The same chapter that points out our Savior's constancy, also reminds us that God said, "Never will I leave, never will I forsake you." The Father and the Son are ever-present for us as is the Holy Spirit who was sent to be our comforter. Change may throw us for a loop, make us stumble, even gore our metaphorical ox for a season (be that finances, relationships, careers, etc), but we can endure, even thrive and come out all the better for it. In the end, there really is no need to fear change because His love for us is unchanging and will be a sustaining force. No matter what.

Kathleen O'Hara

A special thank you to Bill Bunch for special lighting of our Sanctuary Stain-glass window.

As you drive down Sellger Drive past the church this window is lit for all to see.

Thanks Bill

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

Virtual Celebration
for
Ann Manuel's 92nd Birthday



We may not be able
to be face to face but
the celebrations
continue.



A coloring page for you....





Did you know the District Superintendent, Rev. Wayne Snead, holds a “zoom” call each Thursday afternoon????

All clergy and laity are invited to join DS Wayne Snead at 3 PM. This is a time for you to ask questions, gain clarity and to pray for one another. The link below will be the same link each week. You can send questions you may have to the DS in advance, email them to <elizabethriverds@vaumc.org>

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/9343602346>

Meeting ID: 934 360 2346

One tap mobile
+13126266799,,9343602346# US (Chicago)
+16468769923,,9343602346# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US
+1 301 715 8592 US
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 934 360 2346

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abjBjaCKOw>
Rev. Wayne Snead

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Christian Sympathies are extended to Greg and Kathy Dziagwa and their family. Greg’s mother passed away in April.

Kathy and Greg Dziagwa would like to thank everyone for all of the cards, calls and especially prayers of comfort during the passing of Greg’s mom.

Please let us know if you have any news you would like to share with your church family.

Have you been worshipping with us each Sunday?

Even though we have not been able to be in the Sanctuary our computer rooms have become our place of worship each week.

Thanks to Pastor Lee, Cindy and Greg Dziagwa an order of service email is sent out each week for you to follow along as you watch them on you tube.

In using the you tube service you are able to watch as often as you like and whenever you like.

Example—Service for April 19th.

Worship Song: “*Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone*” by Cindy Crosby <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>

Sermon: “*Embrace His Grace*” (Acts 9:1-6, 13-15) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S29jAJ1sfnQ>

Special Music: “*Praise You in The Storm*” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgpaULjZO18>

Closing Song: “*Great is Thy Faithfulness*” (Lyrics below) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kc7SPIK7K6M>

**Service is also available on our website:
aldersgatenorfolk.org**

Birthdays

5/2 Cindy Albertson 5/16 Lucinda Williams
 5/3 Millie Hanson 5/18 Barbara Jenkins
 Dewey Hanson
 5/9 Pastor Lee Crosby



Ushers

John and Melissa Floyd

Counters

5/3 Kevin Floyd, Ben Hogwood
 5/10 Greg Dziagwa, Jim Powers
 5/17 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
 5/24 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
 5/31 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd



Anniversaries

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

Remember in Prayer

Home: Barbara Jenkins, Phyllis Day,

Sentara Village: Rosemont Rd—
 Shirley Henley

Dominion Village Asst. Living—
 Cora Vernon



If you know of others in the congregation who need to be included on this prayer list, please call the church office.

Lawn Care Schedule



Lawn Maintenance

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

Calendar Highlights



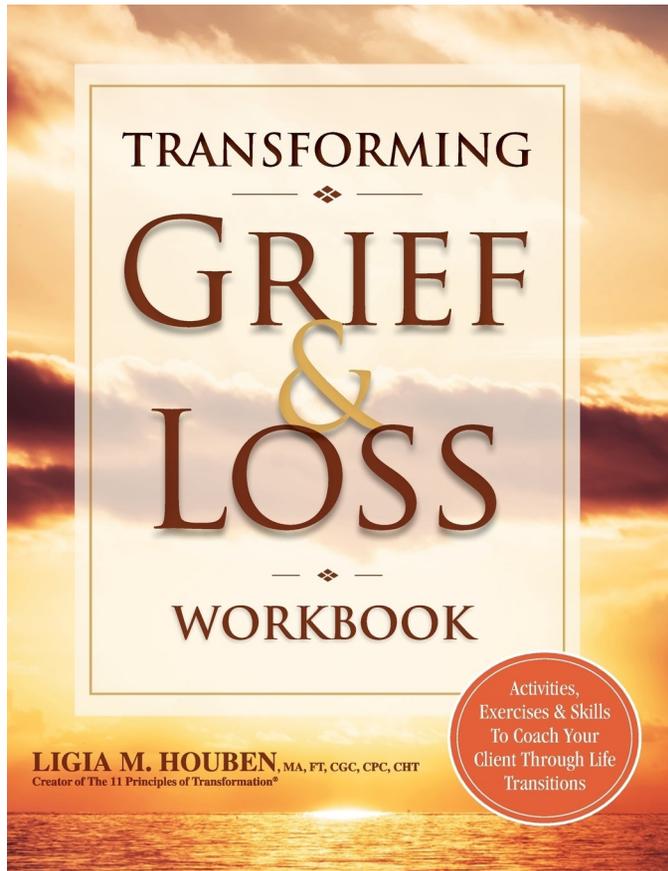
5/10 MOTHER'S DAY

5/25 MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS



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....



Managing Trauma and Grief Class

Wednesday Evenings
Dates to be announced
7-8:30 PM

Contact Leslie Garrett: 757-576-9110 or
LeslieG0939@gmail.com

If you are interested in attending or have any questions.

Have you checked out our “Blues Singing Pastor” on YouTube? If you go to our Facebook Page you will find him singing the Quarantine Blues by Goober Hockins.

For those of you who do not do computers Mr. Hockins has given permission for us to print his words.

The Quarantine Blues

My name is Goober, My friends call me Hock.
I’m stuck in my house, just watching the clock.
I miss eating out. I miss seeing folks.
Can’t laugh with a neighbor. Can only tell *inside* jokes.

I got the blues, baby. Got the Quarantine Blues.
Run to my door—and if I dare ring the bell— to see who’s there
quarantine blues.

My hair’s gotten long, but I can’t do a thing.
The barbershop’s closed, and I look like Don King.
Needed food delivered. Called the grocery store.
Only got ham & cheese. It’s all they can slide through the door.

I got the blues, baby. Got the Quarantine Blues.
Run to my door—and if I dare ring the bell— to see who’s there
quarantine blues.

We celebrate Easter, while stuck in this rut.
Like Jesus’ tomb. Our homes are sealed shut.
But on the third day, the tomb opens wide,
And Jesus steps out, In him we now can abide.

I got the blues, baby. Got the Quarantine Blues.
Run to my door—and if I dare ring the bell— to see who’s there
quarantine blues.

There’s no more blues, baby. Got the really Good News.
I can shout— to the outside. He is risen and glorified.
I got Good News.

