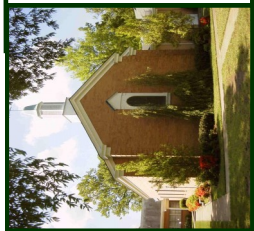


December  
2016

Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
5767 Sellger Drive  
Norfolk, Virginia 23502



# The Aldersgate Experience

*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ*

**DECEMBER, 2016**

Newsletter

Vol. 19 Issue 12

## Aldersgate--Sharing Good Times with the Community



**Corn-Hole  
Anyone?**



**Can you guess  
who this is?**



(hint: he stands  
at the pulpit on  
Sunday morning)



**Trunk  
or  
Treat**



**Some friendly  
candy givers**





We have begun the season of Advent. It is a season of celebration, preparation, and expectation. The first Advent is about the celebration of Jesus' arrival in the past. The last Advent is about the preparation for Jesus' return in the future. But, there is another Advent that fits snugly between the first and the last. It's when Jesus arrived in *our* lives.

When we accepted God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus, an Advent took place in our lives. Jesus arrived! It was more than a historical celebration of the past. It was more than a promised revelation of the future. It was an experienced transformation of our present. We became children of God, citizens in God's kingdom, and ambassadors for Christ. We are not the same! And we can continue to experience his arrival in our lives. We can expect it.

As we enter the season of Advent, let us fully seek out fresh encounters with the Lord. Don't get so rushed with activity, and miss the hush of Nativity. Take time to be still. Take time to just sit in his presence...and enjoy Him. His multiple arrivals in our lives is the greatest gift of all. So prepare for his arrival, expect it again and again, and then celebrate it. Merry Christmas!

In His Grip,  
Pastor Lee

#### Christmas Through Our Senses

Dec. 4	The Smell of Christmas
Dec. 11	The Touch of Christmas
Dec. 18	The Sight of Christmas
Dec. 24	The Taste of Christmas



## 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. Wayne Snead  
Pastor..... Rev. Lee J. Crosby  
Lay Leader..... Beverly Cooper  
Music Director.....Cindy Crosby  
Church Secretary.....Joyce Russo

Office Hours.....8:30-12:30 PM  
Sunday School.....9:30 AM  
Worship Service...11 AM





## Updates on our church family

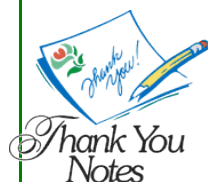
Once again we have suffered a loss in our church family. Roy Smith joined God's band on October 25th. I am sure he is having a great time playing music for masses.

News from the Pews

Please keep Magdalene and her family in your prayers this holiday season.



This time of year is especially hard on families who have lost loved ones but particularly those who will be having Christmas for the first time with those family members. Remember all of our families who have lost Spouses, Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Sisters or Brothers and say a special prayer for them this Christmas.



Thank you all so very much for all your kind loving prayers, phone calls and hospital visits during my recent knee replacement surgery. I am very fortunate to have my church family. My heart is warmed.

Michele Floyd

## Office Staff Christmas Bonus

With Christmas rapidly approaching, Aldersgate once again has the opportunity to recognize its staff with a little something for the holidays in the form of a Christmas bonus.



Aldersgate does not allocate any monies in the annual budget for this holiday tradition. Instead, we rely totally on the generosity of the congregation to contribute towards the staff's little "extra something" to recognize their devotion, efforts and dedication over the past year. If you would like to contribute towards this annual tradition, please make your checks payable towards AUMC (be sure to note Staff Christmas Gift in the memo line). Cash is always acceptable and you may see **Greg or Gary** to make your contribution or you can place your gift in the offering baskets.



Please consider brightening the Christmas Season with your generosity and gifts. Merry Christmas and may God continue to bless you for your caring and generosity - Merry Christmas!!

## Sweet Sounds of the Season



Join us for an afternoon of classic songs of Christmas, faith and love.

Bring a dozen sweets and your recipe to share!

Hot beverages provided.

6 December, Tuesday  
2:00 pm  
AUMC Social Hall



## Holiday Happenings at a glance

Nov. 26 6 PM Decorate the Church

Nov. 27 Christmas Card Post Office Opens

Dec. 4 Toys for Tots collection deadline

Dec. 6 "Sweet Sounds of the Season" 2 PM

Dec. 7 Worship Choir Christmas Concert at Sentara Village - S. Newtown Road - All Welcome

Dec. 10- 6 PM "A Fireside Christmas"

Dec. 16-17 6-8 PM Living Nativity

Dec. 18 - Noon - Birthday Party for Jesus

Dec. 24 7 PM Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 15 - No Sunday School - Worship Service at 11 AM





## Corn-Hole Gathering – Wow a Great Time!!



Corn-hole, fire pits, marsh mellow, volleyball, great food, lively fellowship and beautiful weather provided by God for the day.

Aldersgate was the place to be for the corn-hole event. Many friends and neighbors came out to eat, play games and several sat together and talked the afternoon away sharing stories and building relationships.

The office staff plans to develop a special bulletin board to show-off the many

pictures that were taken that day capturing the fun and fellowship! Watch for it!

A huge thanks goes out to the corn-hole gang team and the civic league for making the event a success!



**1<sup>st</sup>: The Danger Mice**  
Kathy O'Hara  
Artie Bulman

**2d: The Outlaws**  
Jesse James  
Gary Drew

**3d: Fear No Man and One Woman**  
Guy Willis and Guy Willis



Not so boring!

I hear people say they don't like church because the sermons are boring.....

**RED  
NOSE  
DAY**

On October 23rd, Pastor Lee's sermon on "Harness Joy" was anything but boring. Based on the scripture,

*Philippians 4:4..Rejoice in the Lord always.  
Let your gentleness be evident to all.*

As you can see from the picture he spread a lot of joy throughout his congregation.

He passed out red noses to everyone and asked everyone to take a look around at each other. Everyone started to laugh and the "joy" spread to fill the entire church.

God wants us to be joyful and not to take ourselves so seriously - he also wants church to be an experience not something to dread. The next time someone says "Church is boring" - show them this picture and wait for the shock on their face.



RICK WARREN

STUDY GUIDE



A SIX-SESSION VIDEO-BASED STUDY FOR GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS

### **My Heart Small Group** **January 2017**

On January 5th, My Heart begins a new 6-week study from Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Life—What on Earth Am I Here For?

We will see a short video clip and then discuss questions on everyone's mind today — such as “Why am I here?” and “Does my life have a purpose?”

**Thursdays, 7pm**  
**Social Hall**

Sign up to guarantee your study guide for this series.  
Contact Cindy  
(757) 461-3201

### **Capital Improvement – Church Steeple**

Some weeks ago the trustees implemented a decision to restore and paint the church steeple that had deteriorated significantly since the last painting project several years ago.

Solicitations were sent out and a bid was accepted in the amount of \$1,950.00 to undertake this improvement.

A decision was made to earmark \$1,000.00 from the memorial fund and the Winton Sunday School Class pledged an amount as well. The remaining monies will be made up of contributions from the congregation with any shortfall to come from the general fund.

If you would like to contribute towards this capital improvement please designate your gift/check memo line with  
“Capital Improvement”  
or “Steeple Project”.

As always, your generosity does not go unnoticed and a special thank you in advance for your consideration in supporting another AUMC improvement.



**Let the peace  
of Christ  
rule in  
your**



Colossians 3:15

### **My Heart Small Group**

We are finishing up the amazing reading of “My Heart Christ Home”. During these past several weeks we have learned what it means to have Christ reside with us at all times in every aspect of our lives. We know we can lean on Him and trust Him to help us make discerning decisions about life and living for Him.

The group is planning to continue meeting after the December holidays. In January – same great time, same great place!

JOIN us for warm fellowship, great conversation, and coffee. Come be blessed!

**Thursdays, 7:00 pm**  
**Social Hall**



### **A Fireside Christmas**

**6:00 pm, Saturday**  
**10 December**  
**AUMC Social Hall**

Join us by the fireside on December 10<sup>th</sup> for a wonderful and intimate Christmas Program. This program is devoted to bringing our best to honor Jesus Christ. This family oriented event is filled with the creative arts and is brimming over with love.

A delicious dessert is provided afterwards for that sweet tooth! There might even be a few “angels” there. Come and see!

Yuletide by the  
fireside and  
joyful memories  
there



## Christmas Card Post Office Ministry

It's time to think about sending  
Christmas greetings to our friends and neighbors.

The Post Office Ministry began as a Sunday School mission project to raise funds and to give us a way to deliver Christmas cards to our church family and friends. The cost is still \$.25 each and the funds collected will be given to a designated mission.

You can bring your cards to the post office (located in the social hall) before Sunday School, during the social hour and after church.

If you would like to help with the Post Office please see Barbara Harrell.



**Living Nativity  
Friday and Saturday  
Dec. 16-17  
6-8 PM**



**Sign Up Now!**

**See Ann Manuel to reserve your spot portraying your Favorite character in the "Greatest Story" ever told.**

**The holidays are here and this will be the 16th year of celebrating Jesus' birth with a Living Nativity.**

**The church and neighborhood have enjoyed this event each year and it has become a tradition for many families who participate.**

**Any questions, please see Mary Ellen Gillispie or Ann Manuel.**

## MISSION'S REPORT

40 Salvation Army Christmas stockings were filled through your generosity. Can't you just visualize the happiness these will bring to the children that receive these special gifts!

Toys for Tots will be collected Sunday, Dec. 4th.

The Mitten and Hat Christmas Tree will be set up in the social hall Nov. 26th. We hope to fill the tree to overflowing with items to help adults and children stay warm throughout the winter.

The Food Cart is located in the Narthex. All non-perishable food items are welcomed. This will be the last time we collect food as we will be looking for ways to build relationships with those in our community. Thank you for your participation in the past months!

Blessing Bags are available in the Narthex. Thanks to the Circle of Friends class for putting these together!

Photos of these projects will be included in the January newsletter. Thanks to all for your loving support of these projects!

In His service,

Cynthia Stanley







Christmas  
Eve  
Worship

December 24th  
at 7 PM



Come, join us for a special  
*Christmas Morning Service*

*and*

*Potluck Brunch*

**11 AM  
in the Social Hall**

Please bring a breakfast/brunch side dish to share.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors

## Aldersgate Worship Choir – December News



Worship Him and RAISE the PRAISE. The worship choir meets regularly every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30. Thanksgiving has come and Christmas is upon us; how grateful we are to the Lord for His many blessings.

### 7 December

6:30 pm  
Sentara Village, Newtown Road, Worship Choir Christmas Concert  
Join us!

### 10 December

6:00 pm  
A Fireside Christmas  
Social Hall, AUMC

The worship choir will be sharing music ministry with the Sentara Village on Newtown Road in December -- giving back in love what God has given us.

### 14, 21 December

6:30 pm  
Wednesday rehearsal

This event is open to the church family – sit and talk with the residents and enjoy the music.

### 28 December

Team off – Christmas Holiday

Our children and youth are participating with the music also during service and special events! We love having them sing.

Please contact Cindy if you have questions,  
(757) 461-3201.



## ***Birthdays and Anniversaries***

12/12	Bill Halsey	12/22	Lucille Hulock
12/14	William Thrasher		Barbara Starcher
12/17	Vernon Williams	12/27	Nick Albertson
12/19	Cristen Cross	12/29	Michael Hogwood

12/30 Rev. Reginald and Susan Burgess



## ***Remember in Prayer***

Home: Larkin & Jane Jones, Shirley Briggs, Phil Floyd,  
Dave Dentel, Barbara Jenkins and Sherrie Harden

The Gardens of Va. Beach—Milton Midgett  
Sentara Village S.—Shirley Henley  
Mila Home Care—Jackie Wilkinson  
Sentara Rosemont Road--Pat Sauer  
Georgian Nursing Facility--Billy Thrasher

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

## ***Altar Flowers***

12/4	Communion—No Flowers
12/11	Beverly Cooper
12/18	Charles and Lucille Hulock
12/25	Marie Barker



## ***Ushers***

Randy Thrasher, Chas Hulock

## ***Counters***

12/4	Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
12/11	Neal Windley, Michelle Floyd
12/18	Kevin Floyd, Randy Thrasher
12/25	Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers

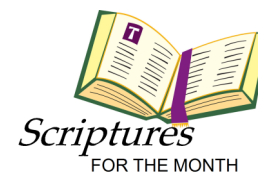


## ***Lawn Maintenance***

12/5	Team 2
12/12	Team 3
12/19	Team 1
12/26	Team 2

## ***Scripture Notes for December***

12/4	2 Corinthians 2:15-16
12/11	1 John 4:9-12
12/18	Isaiah 9:2
12/24	Christmas Eve Psalm 34-8
12/25	Christmas Day



## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is December 15**

**You do not have to wait for the deadline to submit your information you can email it anytime during the month, or just call the church office**







## District Leadership Training Set January 21st Oak Grove UMC, Chesapeake

This year the district is offering several different workshops from which to choose.

### Topics include:

Reclaiming Christian  
Servanthood,  
Who are my neighbors?  
Radical Hospitality,  
The Method of Jesus, the Method of Methodists,  
Communications Check-up,  
Child Abuse Training and many more

Some of the work shops are 2 sessions and some are 1 session either am or pm.

To check out a complete listing of all the available classes, pick up a brochure in the Narthex or call the church office.

Lunch and child care are provided.

You can register on line at <[Elizabthriverriverdistrict.org](http://Elizabthriverriverdistrict.org)>

Or

Fill out a form and mail your check to:

P.O. Box 12654, Norfolk, VA 23541

Attn: Jason Stanley

place "Training Day" on the memo line of your check

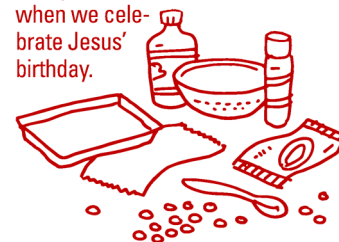
Or

Just drop off at the district office. **Registration deadline is  
January 8th - cost is \$12**

**Note:** You can go online to the [Elizabthriverriverdistrict.org](http://Elizabthriverriverdistrict.org) for a complete listing of special events offered by our local churches, any job openings, and updates on Virginia Conference events

## birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.



### What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

### What you do:

1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.

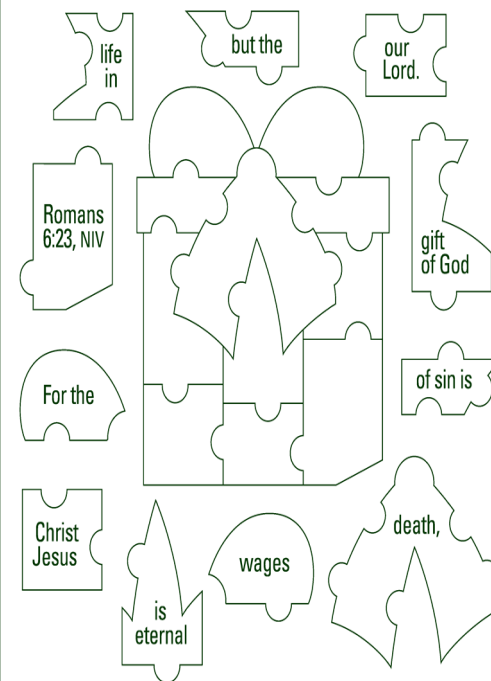


Just for Kids



Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition.  
What very special gift has God given to you?

**Directions:** Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV