

May  
2023

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



May, 2023 Vol. 26 Issue 5

*Sunday, May 14th*





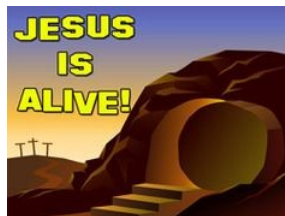
## Jesus is Alive . . . So Now What?

Jesus is alive! He has risen. He has risen indeed... So what am I supposed to do now? Although they shared grief and sorrow (and fear) when Jesus was in the tomb, at least the disciples had a sense of closure. There is great sadness when a loved one dies, and yet when they breathe their last, sometimes you feel like you are exhaling for the first time. There is an odd grace in goodbye.

But Jesus is alive! This is certainly good news, but now our relationship with God is lovingly a bit more complicated. Paul writes in Romans 12 that Christians are to be a "Living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God." A sacrifice is usually something finite and concrete, something you might offer for one particular need. The Jewish People would sacrifice an animal at the Temple as a means of thanksgiving or pardon or in celebration (or continuation) of blessings. Today we might make a special monetary gift or volunteer our time or take on a leadership role in the community or open our home to a friend in need. These sacrifices are a great thing, but they are all temporary.

The resurrection complicates our understanding of sacrifice. No longer is sacrifice a one time offering toward a special cause or a temporary agreement to serve with a foundation. The tomb is about closure, but Jesus is alive. We are to be a living sacrifice, which means that we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving to always be in service to God's kingdom. In other words, a sacrifice is no longer something we do, it is who we are. We no longer volunteer at church. We are the church. We no longer serve the body of Christ. We are the body of Christ. As difficult as it may be to die for what you believe, it is more difficult (and more blessed) to live for what you believe. You only die once. You have to live everyday. Jesus is alive, and through grace, so are we.

Pastor Bert



## 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. 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  
Worship Service/Kid Zone...11 AM  
Music Rehearsals— 6 PM Wednesdays

Some clipart and quotes used with permission only



# Spirit SPINNER

For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

### What you need:

- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue



### What you do:

1. Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper. Carefully cut them out.
2. In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
3. Color the two images with markers.
4. Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
5. Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.



## Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

*Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.*

1. HEAV	6. OGETHE
2. ABLE	7. ES
3. AY OF PENTECOS	8. ONGUE
4. ONGUE	9. A
5. PIRI	10. IND

"When the \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> came, they were all \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> came from \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> what seemed to be \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> of fire that separated and came to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> and began to speak in other \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> as the Spirit \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> them."

**ACTS 2:1-4, NIV**

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind



A picture of our financial health.....

Kathy Dziagwa,

Church Treasurer

### Financial Stats for March, 2023:

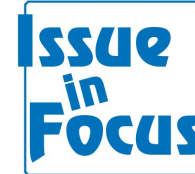
**Income:** \$ 9,471.00  
**Expenses:** \$11,342.36  
**Difference:** \$ -1,871.36

### Year to Date Income/Expenses:

**Income:** \$35,373.15  
**Expenses:** \$42,545.33  
**Difference:** \$ -7,172.18

### December Dedicated Offerings:

**Communion:** \$ 60.00  
**Bunny Breakfast:** \$ 110.00  
**Memorials:** \$ 200.00  
**Spaghetti Dinner Sign** \$ 200.00



A Message from our Pastor

Financial updates

Coastal Virginia District news

Lay minister schedules

News from the Pews

and lots more.



## Bunny Breakfast Update and Thanks

What a joyous feeling to witness. Our social hall alive with the sounds of laughter, church members, grandparents, parents and children. Sounds we haven't heard in a very long time.

All who came were treated to Greg's FAMOUS PANCAKES, along with an assortment of other goodies prepared and served by his helpers Beverly, Gary, Kathy D., Kathy O., and Kevin.

Thanks to helpers: Anna Lee, Ashley B. Hays, Claudia, Cody, Kelly, Michele, and Taylor. The children enjoyed activities including coloring Easter pictures. The most fun of all was finding an overflowing basket of colorful Easter Eggs.

Ending the delight of the day was a visit from M. F. Bunny. The children had pictures taken and received a bag of Easter treats.

Thank you for all of your help and for the many donations. You made it possible for us to bring back one of Aldersgate's long time traditions.

Barbara Harrell



**Coastal Virginia**  
DISTRICT

NEW STAFF AT DISTRICT OFFICE

The voice you will hear when calling the Coastal Virginia District Office is changing from Phyllis Goin, our interim Administrative Assistant, to Maria Davis. This month the Coastal Virginia District welcomes Maria Johnson Davis, as Administrative Manager. Maria is a member of Norfolk United Methodist Church where she is a member of The Triple A Praise Team (Anointed, Appointed, and Assigned).

She brings the experience of a cradle Methodist; an executive secretary for a company president; a church secretary at several churches including Norfolk UMC; an office specialist at the headquarters of a local Fire Department; and most recently working as a Circuit Court Clerk in Chesapeake, Virginia. At the age of seventeen, she began typing the church bulletins and continues which now seems to be the work of the Holy Spirit preparing her for this position under District Superintendent, Dr. C. R. Brooks.

The Coastal Virginia District is excited to have Maria, although we will miss Phyllis' support and thirty-five years of vast knowledge in this position. We look forward to Maria working in the office and we're looking forward to great things in the future!



Secretary Snippets



New **Directories** have been completed and placed in the Narthex. Digital copies have also been sent out. If you need an additional or a different hard copy version, i.e. large print; booklet size, etc. Please call or email the church office.



UPDATE



The **Coastal Virginia District** office has upgraded their phone and internet system. The new phone number is: 757-331-6729—Please make a note in your directory.

Our **Helping Hands** group is back and quite busy. The ladies have done oodles of bears and dolls for children’s hospital and New Borns in Need (a local ministry). If you like to stuff teddy bears or cut them out—consider coming the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10 AM. If you would like any further information please see Lucinda Williams.

There are a lot of changes coming to our church family in the next couple of months. Please watch for emails, bulletin notices and newsletter updates for this information. You won’t want to miss a thing.

The last Sunday of May is **Memorial Day** weekend but it is also **Pentecost Sunday**. Please consider wearing something red and we celebrate the birth of the church.

Have a great **Mother’s Day** and remember you don’t have to give birth to be a mom to someone. You never know the impact you have on a child’s life.



**Rehearsal Schedule for May**

- Wednesday 5/3 6 PM Choir Rehearsal
- Wednesday 5/10 6 PM Choir Rehearsal
- Wednesday 5/17 6 PM Choir Rehearsal
- Wednesday 5/24 6 PM Choir Rehearsal
- Wednesday 5/30 NO CHOIR REHEARSAL

We are always accepting new members—interested??  
Contact Dr. Christina Pinkston at  
<director@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com>



A Note of Thanks.....

THANK YOU for supporting the Aldersgate Choir with your presence, love, and well wishes for its "Easter Concert: “A Sermon in Song” on April 2 (Palm Sunday). The members and I are terrifically grateful for you!

Dr. Christina Pinkston,  
Minister of Music



## Birthdays

5/2 Cindy Albertson      5/15 Taryn Thrasher  
 5/3 Millie Hanson      5/16 Lucinda Williams  
 Dewey Hanson



## Anniversaries



5/1 Kevin and Michele Floyd  
 5/7 Guy and Diane Willis  
 5/19 Bob and Courtney Dziagwa  
 5/24 Vic and Debbie Supper

## Remember in Prayer

Home: Jimmie and Carolyn Powers, Pastor Lee Crosby, Ruth (a friend), Steve Carter, Bob Crabtree and David Nehemiah Cooper.



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

Monday, 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



## Ushers

John and Melissa Floyd

## Counters

5/7 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch  
 5/14 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson  
 5/21 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd  
 5/28 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis  
 6/4 Greg Dziagwa, Sub



## Lawn Maintenance



5/1 Team 3  
 5/8 Team 1  
 5/15 Team 2  
 5/22 Team 3  
 5/29 Team 1

Trash Duty—Vic Supper

## Calendar Highlights

5/2 6 PM Vision Team Meeting  
 5/3 Cooke Elementary Students  
 5/4; 5/11; 5/18 5:30 PMSpaghetti Dinners  
 5/16 7 PM Finance and Admin. Council Meeting  
 5/29 Church office closed for Memorial Day  
 5/30 10 AM Helping Hands Meeting





With  
Deepest  
Sympathy...

Prayers go out to  
Barbara Harrell and  
her family for the  
loss of Barbara's  
brother, Ronnie.

NEWS FROM  
THE PEWS

Healing prayers for Steve Carter as he continues to recover from his recent surgery. Hope he will be back worshipping with us soon.



Healing prayers go out to Bob Crabtree as he recovers from his recent surgery.

Prayers of praise for all of the good reports that Pastor Lee has been getting.

Blessings for all of the great things that have been happening with our missions and ministries in our church.

Thanks for all of the volunteers who work each week on the spaghetti dinners, changing our sign, for those who cut the lawn and keep the grounds looking so nice.



Thanks for all of the Secretary's Day good wishes.. J.R.

June is Graduation Month. Please let the office know if you have a graduate. Whether it be from elementary, middle, high school or college, they are all important mile stones.



### Does Your Christianity Show?

I currently attend a Sunday evening Bible Study and we are studying a book by the late Dr. James Moore entitled "When You're a Christian the Whole World is From Missouri" Did you know that Missouri is known as the "Show Me" state? Hence the title.

His commentary of how we are seen by the world is very thought provoking. We are asked such questions as: Can the world see that we are Christians by our love, spirit, kindness, bigness, faithfulness, etc. Can our neighbors, friends and family tell if we are Christians? Just because we go to church each Sunday is that enough? 'Christians, must show the world that our faith is not only a way of believing but also a way of behaving - that it is not just something we celebrate on Sunday, but something we live out in the world every day.'

Dr. Moore tells a story about a little girl who is playing a ball game and comes in from the field to hand her personal belongings to a stranger sitting in the stands. When the lady asks the child why she chose her, the child responds "You are wearing a cross so you must be a Christian and can be trusted" Makes you think a bit. Do we need to have the outward symbols to let people know of our faith?

May is a month of many changes, we bounce from spring to summer, colleges graduate, we shed our winter clothing for summer shorts and flip flops. More people will be coming out of their homes. When we see our neighbors do we invite them to church? Or do you just pass by.

Can we be more of the "show me faith" group? Help a neighbor with their groceries. Offer to cut a senior's grass. Or just smile and say hello. You may be surprised at the response.

JR.