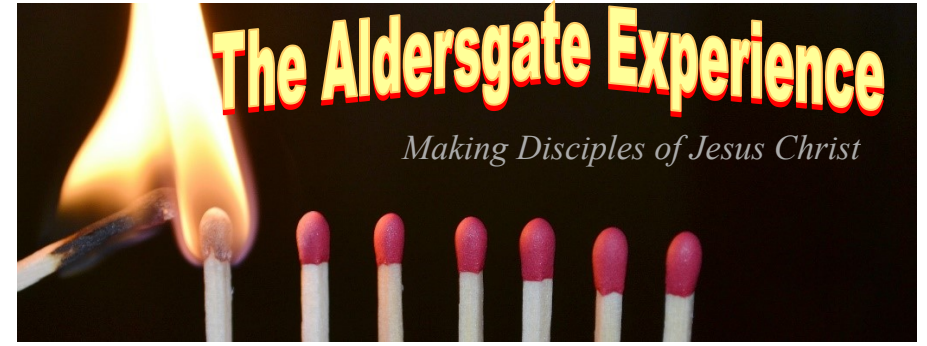




Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239



July 2021 Vol. 24 Issue 7

*The Welcome Mat is Out -
Aldersgate UMC*

*Welcomes
Pastor Bertrand Griffin*



*Sunday, July 4th at
11 AM
Join Us for Worship*



Hello my siblings in Christ.

I am Bertrand Griffin II, the new pastor of Aldersgate UMC in Norfolk beginning in July 2021. I wanted to share a few thoughts and a little bit about myself before my arrival. First, I am overjoyed to have this opportunity to be in ministry with you very soon!

My personal vision is based on the scripture “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

This scripture reminds me that through Christ, I am to lead members in a way that allows them to reach their maximum potential and use their spiritual gifts for kingdom building.

I graduated from Dillard University in New Orleans with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. After graduation I was employed as a chemist and manager with Westinghouse, CH2M Hill and other Department of Energy government contractors for almost seventeen years until heeding God’s call to go into the ministry.

I also have a Master of Divinity from Gammon Theological Seminary (ITC) in Atlanta. Though my informal education in ministry began years before, going through seminary as well as being a student pastor and interning at Wesley Chapel UMC allowed me to understand more fully my call. I began to understand what God wanted to do through my life and that was to show others Christ by example and teaching the way to Him. Show them love, compassion and service and how to share these gifts with others.

One of my theological points is serving others. One of my favorite theologians, Gustavo Gutiérrez, is the founder of Liberation Theology. His ministry and theological emphasis are based on his understanding that Jesus had a “preferential option for the poor.” His words and example resonate with me. I have seen myself as an agent of support and service to others based on this thesis. This includes my work in disaster response, forming a partnership with a healthcare provider for a clinic and social justice focus with community and police conversations.

Another of my points is grace. Without God’s grace, there would be no hope. I have endeavored to show by word and example why grace is so important for us all. This includes showing how God allows for us to have opportunity after opportunity to both show and receive grace. Grace is a frequent guest in my sermons.



Aldersgate receives recognition for good stewardship.

In the Annual Conference Book of Reports this was printed...”There were 12 churches receiving salary support in 2019 that did NOT require salary support in 2020. These are Aldersgate-Elizabeth River (& 11 others)

These churches are commended for their success in providing a ministry in the communities they serve that has enabled them to grow spiritually in their stewardship.”

Way to go Aldersgate!!!



The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”

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Web page: 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
Music Director.....vacant
Church Secretary.....Joyce Russo

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



PUZZLE



As sweet as honey



Honey is both a sweetener and a medicine.
How can our words be used in the same ways?



Directions: Use the hexagon key to fill in the missing vowels and complete Proverbs 16:24, NIV.



Grocooos words

oro o honooocomb,

swoot to tho sool

ond hooolong



to tho bonos.



PROVERBS 16:24, NIV

Answer: Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24, NIV

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Prayers of Christian Sympathy are extended to our following church families:

A Loss in Our Church Family



The family of Magdalene Smith who passed away on June 11th.

The family of Barbara Starcher whose passing was on June 19th.

The Russo family and the loss of their father.

The family of Rev. Wayne and Beth Snead for the loss of Beth's mother.

Thanks for all of the cards and condolences during the recent passing of my father-in-law. Joyce Russo



Issue in Focus

New Pastor's Message

Lay Ministry for the month

News from the Pews— update on some of our church family

Welcoming a New District Superintendent

District Changes go into effect.

And a whole lot more!



More information

Rev. Bertrand Griffin II

Bertrand Griffin II was born in Franklinton, Louisiana to the Reverend Bertrand Griffin and Mrs. Marian Heath Griffin. His home was Baton Rouge for the majority of his formative years.

While in seminary, Rev. Griffin assisted in ministry at Wesley Chapel in GA, where Bishop Lewis was pastor. Rev. Griffin has pastored Red Oak and Free Liberty in Griffin, GA, St. Paul and St. James in Shreveport, LA, Gretna in the New Orleans metro area, and associate pastor of Broadmoor in Baton Rouge. He is currently the pastor of Mt. Crawford and Mt. Sidney in the Harrisonburg District.

In 2017, Rev. Griffin received the Denman Award in Evangelism for receiving over 100 souls for Christ and significant community involvement in the New Orleans area. He has been a mentor and Scoutmaster, working with African American young men to develop future leaders.

Reverend Griffin is the proud father of Nia Griffin, 23, and Kiara Griffin, 21. He is very happily married to the Reverend Kotosha D. Griffin, new pastor at Heritage UMC, VB.



2021 Lay Servant Academy (on-line)

Saturday, August 21st

9 AM—4 PM

Both full day and 1/2 day course offerings.

Come join us for Lay Servant Academy Online Training Day:

NEW THIS YEAR: Both full-day and half-day course offerings! All courses are designed for equipping laity for the work and mission of each person's calling. Instructors for each course include both clergy and laity who are ready to give practical and relevant resources that will be useful in various ministry areas. Lay Servant Academy is for all of the Virginia Conference Laity who feel called to ministry or who currently serve the church and would like to grow in their servant leadership.

[Click here](#) to view the course descriptions and other information (pdf)

Register at this link: <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=623870&>

For more information or for questions, you may contact Tianna Durbin, *Director of Lay Servant Academy* TiannaD@arcolachurch.org.

Basic Course (10-hour course)

Course Instructor: Richard Speirs

Full Day Course: 8:45AM-4:00PM

Serving 101—Missional Leadership (10-hour course)

Course Instructor: RJ Jun

Full Day Course: 8:45AM-4:00PM

And many other courses available..



A Change is Coming!

We have received notice that construction of the Riverside Station Apartments Phase 1 and Phase 2 will begin sometime around the middle to late July.

The construction is expected to last approximately 20 months.

Please be aware of road closures, or inconveniences on Sellger and Curlew Drives. We will try to keep you up to date as much as we can.



Anticipation and Expectation

As a staff member, I both cringe and excite with the thoughts of a new Pastor. Rev. Griffin will be the seventh pastor to come to Aldersgate since I have been in the office. This year I am hoping to be doubly blessed—Rev. Griffin's wife, Rev. Kotosha Griffin, will begin her ministry at Heritage UMC where I am a member.

The expectation of two areas of my life changing all at once is daunting. I have so many questions that will be answered all at once. How much will change regarding office daily life and how much in my spiritual life.

The only true constant will be that God is always there and will continue to be so through all the changes. Of this I have no doubt.

As we enter this time of change (and I know how much we all dislike change) remember that change can be a good thing. It can be an exciting anticipation of expectations. JR



Working together, sharing our talents

For a couple of years now the Ladies of the Helping Hands group at Aldersgate have sewed teddy bears for CHKD, crocheted baby blankets, baby layettes and lap robes for various charities in the community. One of those is Newborns in Need. Linda Crabtree and Lucinda Williams have continued to make such beautiful items for babies in our community that might not have a new outfit to wear home from the hospital.

The Pandemic did not stop these ladies. Jointly with Heritage UMC Methodist Women (who throw a baby shower for this charity each spring) the ladies of have continued to donate homemade items and teddy bears to families in need. This is a picture of this year's donations. Ladies can you pick out your outfits???

Thank you for sharing your talents as sewers and crocheters for such a worth cause.



July is looking like a month of *all new and different* for a lot of things.

On June 30th a new “Parsonage Family” took up residence at 229 Pefley Drive.

Rev. Josh McCauley and his wife, Liz moved in.

Rev. McCauley has been appointed to Ignite Norfolk as Director and Campus Minister of the Wesley Foundation at ODU.

If you happen to see Pastor Josh or his wife on the church grounds please take a minute to introduce yourself and welcome them to our community.



District Re-Alignments

Beginning July 1, 2021 our conference districts will have a new look. Specifically, the two changes that have been announced are as follows:

- 1) Eight District Superintendents have been appointed for the 2021-2022 year. Each DS will lead two districts during that appointment year.
- 2) A new position, that we are calling the “District Developer,” is currently being developed. We anticipate there being seventeen District Developers appointed under the leadership of eight District Superintendents, two for each district (three for the district encompassing the Eastern Shore), taking their first appointments during the 2022-2023 appointment year.

Each DS will lead across two districts, they will have the opportunity to work with the current people and structures in place to discern how best to go about leading and adapting a larger system.

Second, once they discern the strengths and challenges across their districts and begin to implement new leadership approaches that take these into account, the District Developers will join their team, helping the entire system more easily scale up (as we grow) and scale back (if we shrink).

And third, through this process, our District Superintendents will have learned how to effectively lead larger geographic districts alongside District Developers who will aid them in better knowing and resourcing clergy and the unique cultures, opportunities, and challenges of the churches they serve as well as help to facilitate collaboration among clergy and across churches for wider community engagement and missional impact for the Kingdom of God.



That time of year is here!

Hurricane Season arrived on June 1 and is supposedly going to be an active one...(hoping not). Aldersgate does have an emergency plan in effect..booklets are available from the church office.

Here is a basic emergency supply kit just updated.



Your basic emergency supplies kit should include:

- **Water** — One gallon per person per day for several days
- **Food** — At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- **Flashlight**
- **Battery-powered or hand-crank radio**
- **First aid kit**
- **Extra batteries**
- **Medications and medical items** — At least a seven-day supply of medications, plus medical items like prescription eye glasses, contact lenses, and solution
- **Multi-purpose tool**
- **Manual can opener**
- **Sanitation and personal hygiene items**
- **Copies of personal documents** — Pertinent medical information, deed or lease to home, birth certificates, passports, insurance policies, proof of address, etc.
- **Dry bag** — To protect important items from getting wet
- **Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery**
- **Family and emergency contact information**
- **Extra cash**
- **Emergency blanket or sleeping bag for each person**
- **Maps of the area**
- **Whistle** — In case you need to signal for help
- **Matches** — In a waterproof container
- **Rain gear, extra clothing, and sturdy shoes**
- **Plastic sheeting and duct tape** — In case you need to shelter in place

Based on the individual needs of your family, you may need to consider these additional supplies when building your kit:

- **Face masks, soap, hand sanitizer & disinfecting wipes** — As of Spring 2020, the CDC encourages people to include these items to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses.
- **Baby supplies** — Formula, baby food, bottles, and diapers
- **Pet supplies** — ID, leash, food, collar, carrier, and extra water
- **Games, books, and activities for children**

Birthdays



7/2 Maria Davidson
Josiah Washington-Om
7/7 Eric Cramer

7/20 Mary Ellen Gillispie
7/22 Debbie Supper
7/30 Guy Willis III

Anniversaries



We have no Anniversaries for the month of July...

Remember in Prayer

Home: Cassandra Lewis, Chelsie Richburg
Aaron Russo, John Russell, Bonnie Savage, Barbara Jenkins

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.



PRAYER MINISTRY



Ushers

Guy Willis, Michele Floyd

Counters

7/4 Greg Dziagwa, Jim Powers
7/11 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
7/18 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
7/25 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd



Lawn Maintenance



7/5 Team 3
7/12 Team 1
7/19 Team 2
7/26 Team 3

Calendar Highlights

7/4 11 AM
Rev. Griffin's 1st service with us

7/5—Church Office Closed

7/18-Noon—welcome reception for Pastor Griffin

7/20 7 PM Finance and Admin. Brd Mtg.
(note change of day)



Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, July 15th
for the August 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....

Saying Goodbye and Hello.

District Superintendent Wayne Snead will be leaving us. He is officially retiring on June 30 but is assigned to a church in Mechanicsville. Our new DS will be Rev. Seonyoung Kim. We wish Rev. Snead the best and will miss him.

On a happier note....



There will be a virtual Welcoming Service for the new DS, Rev. Seonyoung Kim on **Sunday, July 11 from 2 to 3:30 pm** on Zoom.



Rev. Kim is currently the DS of the York River District and starting July 1, 2021, she will be the DS for the Elizabeth River and Eastern Shore Districts. The service will be on Zoom, followed by a virtual reception.

Check your emails for any updates.



No Mask Required

For the first time in more than a year—if you are fully vaccinated— you are able to take your mask off during worship. If you are still uncomfortable you may continue to wear your mask. This is your choice.

Soon many of our small groups, Sunday School, Kid Zone and community ministries will return to full steam.

We look forward to many of you returning to our church family for worship.

You have been missed.

