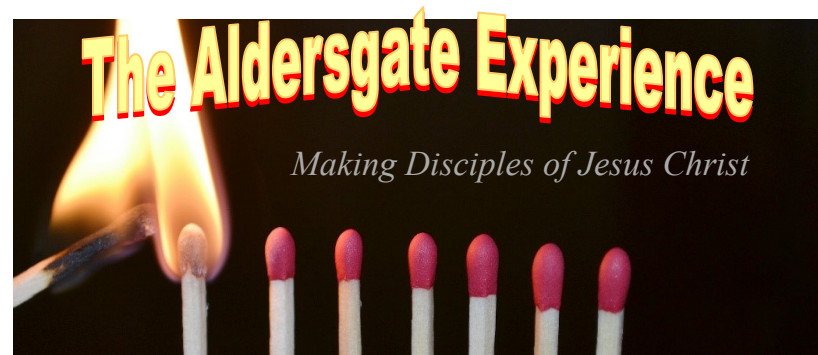


JANUARY
2022

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



January, 2022 Vol. 25 Issue 1



Join Us for Worship in this new year!



It's the new year! How can you thrive in your faith in 2022? Living abundantly....
It's a New Year for a new you!

New Year's resolutions are often blown off or completely forgotten by the middle of January of each year. But thriving in our faith and living abundantly means doing things differently. Let's look at what this means.

When we make a resolution, we often do so without having the tools we need to be successful. However, when we begin from a position of our faith, we allow for our spiritual tools (prayer, scripture, meditation, etc.) to support the accomplishment of our plans and goals.

Another aspect of resolutions is that we often set them with arbitrary, faulty, societal standards. Living our lives, not by the world's standards, but through our faith, allows us to be free from setting standards and simply living by the ones established by our Creator. Living by God's standards also brings promises. John 10:10 shares a promise with us that Jesus came to give us life, and that life would be abundant. Our faith helps us to believe in this statement. Our hope keeps us focused on this statement.

But what is abundant living? It is living engulfed within the love we were created from. Abundant life is being content with who you are and whose you are. It is living life in all its fullness, not as the world defines it, but as Christ defines it.

Finally, we often set resolutions without fully knowing why. But the why of our faith is to have a deeper relationship with God. This relationship is a foundation that will sustain us in good and even in turbulent times. Our faith allows us to have peace even when things don't go as we may have hoped.

So, when we look back at the time in which we would have set a resolution, we realize how that precious time would have been wasted. But our faith assures us that none of our time is ever wasted in Christ.

Pastor Bertrand Griffin, II



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
Pastor: 1-678-463-9334 –cell

Email: joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com
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
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



Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.



A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek re___ or bear a grudge against anyone among your ___ople, but love your neig___ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do right; seek jus___. Defend the ___pressed. Take up the cause of the ___less; plead the ___e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown you, O mortal, what is go___ ...

To act justly and to love me___ and to walk ___ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

So in ___ything, do to ot___ what you would ___ve them d___ to you, for this s___ms up the ___w and the Proph___s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

- father_
- pe_
- _venge
- _od
- _rcy
- op_
- _hbor
- humb_
- cas_
- _tice

Answers: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, law, Prophets



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Congratulations to the family of Rev. Joshua and Liz McCauley on the birth of their daughter, Adalynn.

I thank my loving Aldersgate family for sharing with me so many beautiful Christmas cards and filled with thoughtful expressions, too. I am terrifically happy to serve as your new Minister of Music! To God be all the glory, praise, and honor!
Dr. Christina Pinkston



I would also like to thank the members of the Aldersgate family for all the holiday well wishes, cards and special gifts.
Joyce Russo, office

If you need a new box of offering envelopes— please let the church office know. Thanks

Union Mission: Thanks to everyone who donated to the Capt. Underpants mission project. It was a tremendous success. We donated over a hundred items plus gift cards.
Thanks again, Bill and Kathy O.

Issue in Focus

Pastor's Message

Lay Ministry for the month

Pictures from Live Nativity

Union Mission Update

And much more!



A Night of Light and Magic



A Community Traditional Favorite



Annual Tree Lighting and



Living Nativity



What Type of a Team Member Are You?

Several years ago I co-captained a Relay for Life Team, I learned several things about myself and what it means to be a “team member”.

As part of a team you bring with you several components of yourself that will help to make the team a success in whatever it is that you are trying to accomplish. Your personality, your talents and your commitment are different from any other member of that team. In doing the “Relay for Life”, it had taken several months of meetings, fundraisers, and individual commitments to accomplish our primary goal.

The Aldersgate family has several “teams” all working together to achieve a common goal—Worship, Missions, Sunday School Classes, Choir, Trustees, etc. the list goes on and on. Each team has a different perspective on reaching the same goal. Some do programming; some do community things, some keep the building together, some just help to nourish the soul. But no one team is more important than the other. It takes all of us to reach that goal – “spreading the good news and bringing others to Jesus”.

I also learned that we can’t wait for someone else to step up to the plate and suggest things for us to do either. If you have a passion or desire to do something you need to bring that idea to the team not just sit back and complain about what is NOT being done. What type of a team member are you? Do you take the initiative and bring your ideas to your “team” or do you just go around complaining about what the team is not doing? Will you be the one to start a Relay team of another sort? JR



Church Leadership for 2022

Administrative Council: Chair—Kevin Floyd

Pastor Bert, Cindy Albertson, Gary Albertson, Neal Windley, Michele Floyd, Kathy Dziagwa, Joyce Russo, Cindy Crosby, Lucinda Williams, Kathleen O’Hara.

Staff Parish: Chair —Michele Floyd

Pastor Bert, Kathleen O’Hara; Lucinda Williams; Jamie Washington; Cindy Albertson; Greg Dziagwa; Beverly Cooper; Phyllis Day.

Trustees: Chair—Neal Windley

Guy Willis; John Floyd; Vic Supper; Randy Thrasher; Jim Powers; Greg Dziagwa; Bill Bunch

Nominations: Chair—Pastor Bert

Kathleen O’Hara; Millie Hanson; Phyllis Day; Beverly Cooper; Barbara Harrell; Barbara Keim

Finance: Chair—Gary Albertson

Kathy Dziagwa; Kathleen O’Hara; Kevin Floyd, Michele Floyd; Joyce Russo; Lucinda Williams; Neal Windley

Worship: Chair-Pastor Bert

Dr. Christina Pinkston; Lily Tipora; Norma Tipora; Claudia Ganaden; Barbara Harrell

Local Church Workers:

Food Service Mgr: **vacant**

Bereavement Committee Chair: **vacant**





Birthdays

1/3/22 Sherry Williams 1/30 Kathy Dziagwa
1/5/ Gary Albertson

Anniversaries

We currently have no one on our Anniversary list for this month.



Remember in Prayer

Home: Bonnie Savage, and Barbara Jenkins,
Lucinda Williams, 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

Saturday, Jan. 15th
for the February 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

Neal Windley, Kathy Dziagwa

Counters

1/2/22 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch
1/9 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson
1/16 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd
1/23 Kevin Floyd, Diane Willis
1/30 Greg Dziagwa, Jimmie Powers



Lawn Maintenance



1/3/22 Team 3
1/10 Team 1
1/17 Team 2
1/24 Team 3
1/31 Team 1

Calendar Highlights



Happy New Year

1/4/22 7 PM SPRC Meeting

1/17 Church Office closed

1/18 7 PM Administrative Board and Finance Meeting

Check bulletin and emails for updates on Civic League Meetings dates and times



Rehearsal Dates for Choir

Wednesdays at 6 PM
1/5; 12; 19; 26

Just a little tip for the New Year

How many of you still read the Sunday comics? I do. In the Thanksgiving weekend edition there was a strip I read called “Mutts” by Meister Eckhart. Mutts is a small black and white dog who voices his opinion on the world as he sees it.

Mutt decided to talk about prayer and its importance. His definition is quite profound when you think about it. He says

“If the only prayer you say in your life is thank you” “That would suffice”

Most of us struggle when we pray to God, we are not sure if we are doing it right. We question are we asking for too much? Or too little? Are we not thinking of others enough. Some of us only pray when we have a problem, or someone is ill or has died. Do we still pray “Now I lay me down to sleep?”

Our Lord only asks that we give Thanks. Thanks for a new day, for our community, our blessings, our nation and world. So simple but so complex.

Mutt was saying thanks to his owner for taking him on a walk.

The next time you are speaking to God or Jesus—just give your thanks. It will more than suffice.

JR



A Pondering for the New Year.....

As we embark on a new year we are still striving to get back “to normal”. God has blessed us with scientists, physicians and hundreds of medical professionals who are still working to keep us in good health.

We can be grateful that our denomination is still working diligently to implement safety plans so are able to keep our churches open. We are able to come, praise and thank God as often wish.

Soon we will continue our Sunday School classes, Kid zone, and small group studies. We may even be able to have potlucks and dinners again. Only then will we truly be “back to normal” JR



BI-DISTRICT TRAINING DAY

January 15, 2022

FEATURING:
Michael Beck

Director of Re-Missioning: Fresh Expressions
Author of **Contextual Intelligence: Unlocking the Ancient Secret to Mission on the Front Lines**



Bi-District Training Day will take place **online** on January 15, 2022.

REGISTRATION OPENS IN DECEMBER: [BTD2022.HEYSUMMIT.COM](https://bdt2022.heysummit.com)

The Alexandria and Arlington Districts will host our annual Bi-District Training Day on **January 15, 2022**. This year our event will take place virtually, and we are excited to open registration to all districts of the Virginia Con. Elizabeth River District, DS Kim encourages your participation in this training event!

Bi-District Training Day will be online only in 2022
Register for Bi-District Training Day:

<https://bdt2022.heysummit.com/>