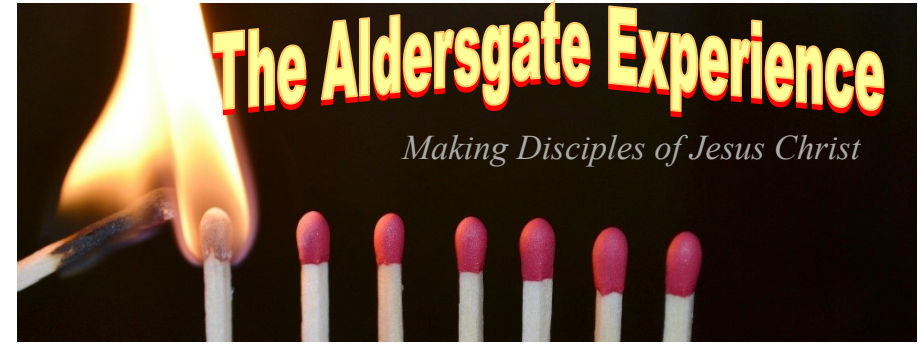


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2019

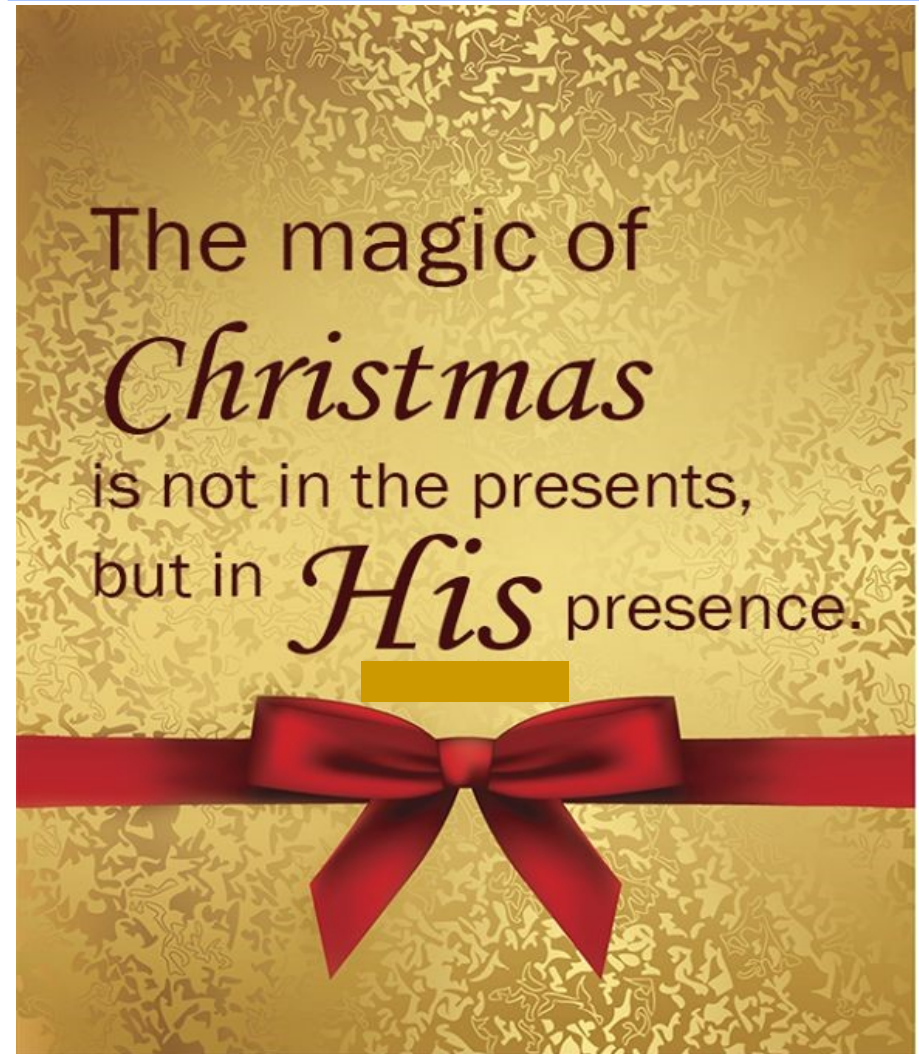
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
5767 Sellger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502-5239
Merry Christmas



The Aldersgate Experience

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ

December, 2019 Vol. 22 Issue 12



The magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents,
but in *His* presence.

“Do You Know Your Why?”

By Pastor Lee



People celebrate Christmas in a variety of ways, like gift-giving, house decorating, and family gatherings. But as Jesus-followers, *why* do we celebrate Christmas? We may celebrate it in different *ways* like gift-giving, house decorating, and family gatherings, but that is not our *why*. The *why* is to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It’s important to know the *why* so it doesn’t get lost in the *way* we celebrate. Clarity can untangle hectic schedules so that we don’t have to be wearied by it.

That is true, not only at Christmas, but every day. If we focus on our *why*, we can discover our *way*. So *why* do you exist? What is your core purpose in life? Is it your family, your career, or your finances? What is the primary reason you exist? It’s not that the other things are unimportant. But by focusing on your *why*, you can discover your *way* with greater clarity. I have thought about the question, “Why do I exist?” Here’s what I came up with.

I exist to glorify God by loving him, serving him, and helping others do the same.

When I focus on my *why*, it clarifies my *way*. I don’t have to get entangled with busy work when I can see my primary work. I can prioritize my activities in light of my *why*.

What is your *why*? Why do you exist? How would you answer that? It’s a great question to ponder. Make it a Christmas gift you give to yourself? Write it down. Then, ask how your *why* clarifies and directs your *way*.



The Aldersgate Experience

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”


5767 Sellger Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23502
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Email: joyce@aldersgateumcnorfolk.hrcoxmail.com
Web page: 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/Kid Zone...11 AM
Worship Team Rehearsal - Wednesdays.....6:30 PM

Apply the Good News to your daily life.

<p>▼ Sunday Services Held every Sunday at 11 a.m. We welcome you to praise God with us.</p>	<p>▼ Adult Sunday School Winton Bible Class Circle of Friends</p>
<p>▼ Small Groups Meets every Thursday Evening.</p>	<p>▼ Community Service Our outreach programs help us bring the gospels to life every month.</p>
<p>▼ Make Donation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Donate</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	



Let Pastor Lee help grow your faith.

Growing your faith in the Lord is rewarding when you have a faithful Shepherd. Our congregation is led by Pastor Lee Crosby. Come witness one of his amazing, energetic sermons this Sunday.

We're Located at: 5767 Selger Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23502
Tel: 757-466-8999

Sample Sermons:
[Burn the Plow](#)
[Baggage](#)
[Dance Steps for Wives](#)

— *Join us for* —

CHRISTMAS EVE

a night of HOPE and JOY

77 PM

Online Giving Now Available

Via our Website or From Your Mobile Device!

<www.aldersgatenorfolk.org>



In this Issue:

- *Christmas Eve Worship Service
- *Special Events and Celebrations throughout the Holiday Season—dates and times
- *Corn Hole Tournament Winners
- * Looking Ahead to next year



Christmas Celebration Meal

(Sun.) Dec. 22nd. 11 am

Let's celebrate and worship God as we gather at the table for a potluck meal. Bring your favorite dish.

Also:

- * Birthday cake (Jesus' birthday)
- * Photo backdrop for "selfies"
- * Games & gifts for children

Meet us in the social hall's Cozy Café



Come join in for an intimate evening at "A Fireside Christmas." Honoring Jesus with acts filled with joy, love, comedy, and music!

Come find your Christmas spirit!
Delicious desserts served afterward!



Worship Team News



...and MORE

Holiday Schedule

4 December	6:30 Rehearsal
7 December	6pm Team Christmas Gathering
11 December	6:30 Rehearsal
18 December	6:30 Rehearsal
24 December	6:30 Warm up and Service
25 Dec—5 Jan 20	Winter Break
8 January	Team Appreciation Dinner
15 January	Team Meeting
22 January	6:30 Return to Rehearsal

The Worship Team will begin its 2020 rehearsal schedule on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:30. If you play an instrument or are gifted vocally please contact Cindy. We would love to have you stop by to check out the music small group in the New Year.

Cornhole Tournament Winners!

Congratulations to:

OOPS! Due a publication error the list of Cornhole Tournament Winners was incomplete. Here is the entire list.

- 1st Place—Danger Mice AJ and Kathleen
- 2nd Place—Tie Dyed Eric and Jo Beth
- 3rd Place—Norfolk Nationals Guy and Kevin



Holiday Office Hours

Each Friday from November 30—December 27th the church office will be closed.

The office will also be closed 12/24; 12/25; 12/26, 12/31 and 1/1/2020.





Elizabeth River District Training Day
Saturday, January 18, 2020
New Creation United Methodist Church
4320 Bruce Rd., Chesapeake VA
8:30 AM—3 PM

Session 1 Workshops:

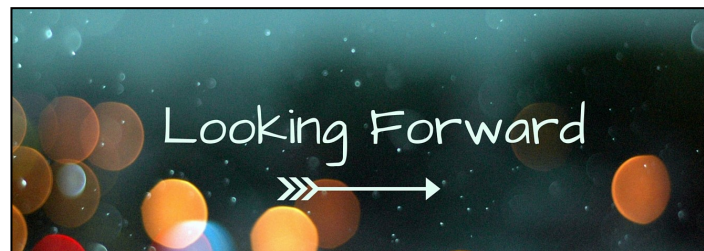
8 Systems that will Change Your Church-Pt. 1
Everything You Needed to know about S/PPRC
Lead Bold
How to Share Your Faith
How to Develop an Intentional Discipleship Plan
Local Church Finances
Conflicts in Church Transformation
How to Recruit and Keep Volunteers
How to Create a Welcoming Environment
4 (or more) Ways to Cultivate a Culture of Call

Session 2 Workshops:

8 Systems that will Change Your Church -Pt. 2
Everything You Needed to know about S/PPRC
Lead Bold
Stewardship Made Easier
How to Structure for Ministry
Worship Design and Planning
How to Start a Small Group
How to Follow-up with Guests
What's a Trustee
How to Be in Ministry w/Millennials

Registration Deadline: January 8th
Cost: \$30.00

You can register online or by mail– Send checks made out to “Elizabeth River District with Training Day” on the memo line..



On January 9th, Aldersgate is beginning a new community outreach. Free spaghetti dinners every Thursday - 5:30-6:30 pm. An opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors; a time to enjoy great fellowship while serving Christ.

There are casual small groups afterward for those who wish to join in. A place to get to know each other and share God's love.

If you would like to help with this effort please use the a sign up sheet in the lobby. Volunteers are needed to help with the dinner!

May this be a blessing to our community.

Contact: Cindy Crosby, 461-3201



Sweet Sounds of Christmas Concert

December 17th, 2pm

The Cozy Café, Aldersgate Church



Come out for an afternoon filled with Christmas melodies and friends! Bring your favorite sweets to share!

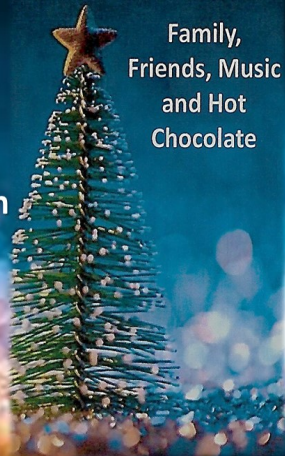
joy TO THE world

3:00-5:00 Hayrides
5:00-5:30 Living Nativity
5:30 Christmas Tree Lighting

FREE Community Event

A Cozy Christmas Afternoon
Come Make a Memory

Family,
Friends, Music
and Hot
Chocolate



Saturday, December 21st
Aldersgate Church, 5767 Sellger Dr, Norfolk
Web: Aldersgatenorfolk.org

Annual AUMC Staff Christmas Bonus

Merry Christmas!

It's that time of the year again where you have the opportunity to recognize the 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 Kathy to make your contribution or you can place your gift in the offering baskets in addition to your regular offering.

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



This

Christmas Card Post Office

12/1/19-12/29/19— Still only \$.25

Each Sunday morning during December— send holiday greetings to your church family and friends.

All proceeds to benefit the Union Mission of Norfolk.





Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 12/1 Makenzie Wiggs | 12/22 Barbara Starcher |
| 12/17 Vernon Williams | 12/27 Nick Albertson |
| 12/19 Cristen Cross | 12/29 Michael Hogwood |

Please let the church off know if you have a wedding anniversary in December.



Prayer List Remember in Prayer

Home: Barbara Jenkins, Ed and Harriet Heath, and Ben Hogwood

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.



Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, December 15, 2019
for the January 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

Randy Thrasher, Kevin Floyd

Counters

- | |
|------------------------------------|
| 12/1 Millie Hanson, Gary Albertson |
| 12/8 Neal Windley, Michele Floyd |
| 12/15 Kevin Floyd, Ben Hogwood |
| 12/22 Greg Dziagwa, Jim Powers |
| 12/29 Debbie Supper, Bill Bunch |



Lawn Maintenance

- | | |
|-------|--------|
| 12/2 | Team 2 |
| 12/9 | Team 3 |
| 12/16 | Team 1 |
| 12/23 | Team 2 |
| 12/30 | Team 3 |

Calendar Highlights

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------|---|
| 12/1 | Sunday 9:30 AM | Christmas Card Post Office opens |
| 12/14 | Saturday 6 PM | “A Fireside Christmas” |
| 12/17 | Tuesday 2 PM | “Sweet Sounds of Christmas” |
| 12/21 | Saturday 3-6 PM | “Living Nativity” |
| 12/2 | Sunday 11 AM | Potluck with “Birthday Party for Jesus” |
| 12/24 | Tuesday 7 PM | Christmas Eve Service |





The Christmas Presence

Jesus came bearing gifts.

Open the presents of his presence.

Dec. 1, 11 am—Gift of Forgiveness

Dec. 8, 11 am—Gift of Freedom

Dec. 15, 11 am—Gift of Focus

Dec. 22, 11 am—Gift of Family (meet us in the Social Hall for a potluck meal)

**Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve Candlelight Service)
at 7 pm—Gift of Friendship w/ God**

Lay Leadership for 2020

Beginning January 1, 2020 the following leaders will take office

Church Council - Chair: Kevin Floyd

Pastor Lee Crosby
Gary Albertson; Neal Windley; Michele Floyd; Kathleen O'Hara;
Lucinda Williams; Kathy Dziagwa Cindy Albertson and Cindy Crosby.

Trustees: Neal Windley, Chair

Guy Willis; John Floyd; Vic Supper; Randy Thrasher; Jim Powers;
Greg Dziagwa; Cynthia Stanley and Pastor Lee.

Staff—Parish: Michele Floyd, Chair

Pastor Lee; Kathleen O'Hara; Lucinda Williams; Jamie Washington;
Cindy Albertson; Linda Crabtree; and Greg Dziagwa.

Finance Committee: Gary Albertson, Chair

Pastor Lee; Kathy Dziagwa; Kevin Floyd; Neal Windley; Michele Floyd; Joyce Russo; Kathleen O'Hara; Lucinda Williams and Sherri Williams.

Nominations Committee: Pastor Lee, Chair

Kathleen O'Hara; Mary Ellen Gillispie; Debbie Supper; Millie Hanson; Phyllis Day; Beverly Cooper; and Barbara Harrell.

Worship Committee: Pastor Lee, Chair

Cindy Crosby; Lily Tipora; Norma Tipora; Claudia Ganaden; and Barbara Harrell.

Food Service Manager: Linda Crabtree

Bereavement Committee Chair: Ann Manuel

Church Officers
& Leaders