



"To Know Jesus And To Make Him Known"

Good News

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January 17, 2016

Pressing on Toward the Goal

Another championship is coming back to Alabama with Alabama's win over Clemson in Arizona. As Nick Saban began leading his team toward his fifth national title, the word that he continually placed before the players was "finish." Of all people, Saban knew that to reach the goals the team had set would require focus, discipline, and perseverance. So, from the weight room to the rehab room to the position meeting rooms, the message was "finish." The players needed to take every opportunity to gain strength, knowledge, a winner's mentality.

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he shares about his own motivation. "Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own" (v.3:12). There is a sense of striving to Paul's words. He knows that there is a goal, and he wants to get there.

Strangely, though, Paul's striving is as much about his losing than his gaining. In the chapter before the verse above, Paul calls the Philippians to imitate Christ who emptied himself, humbled himself, and became a servant. This is not a striving to gain power or prestige. Instead, Paul wants to know "Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his suffering" (v.3:10). Paul is striving to give his life so that he might gain resurrection.

Striving to give our lives takes as much (or more) focus, discipline, and perseverance as gaining power and prestige. Something within us wants to grab control, to take back the reigns, to be self determining. Maybe, our reminder needs to be "finish," too, inviting the Holy Spirit to finish his work within us. When that happens, we win and the world can win through us.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless
let us be. Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory
into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we
cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Peace,

Music Ministry

Never Thirst Again

Our spring Easter musical, "Never Thirst Again," will present the life-changing story of Jesus' death and resurrection through the eyes of the Samaritan woman at the well. Everyone is invited to join our Chancel Choir at our 7:00 Wednesday night rehearsals as we begin learning this intimate and compelling work, "Never Thirst Again." Three simple words—and our past is forgiven, our present is fulfilled, and our future is eternally secured. That's the promise of Easter!



Altar Flowers

The Worship Committee would like to remind all church members that they can honor the life or memory of someone special by donating flowers on the altar in the sanctuary. . . If you want to designate a Sunday when you or your class would like to purchase the flowers, all you need to do is contact Allison Frost in the church office at allison@aldersgateumc.org or 272-6152. The weekly cost for the flowers is \$50.00. We encourage you to remember this opportunity throughout the year and select a date that you would like to reserve.

Thank You,
Aldersgate Worship Committee

Prayer and Praise Email

All members are encouraged to join our Aldersgate Prayer and Praise email list. Prayer requests and notes of praise are sent out several times a week to our more than 140 different current and former Aldersgate members. You can join our email list by sending an email aumcprayerandpraise@gmail.com or call the church office at 272-6152.

UMW Sewing/Quilting Group Time Change

Beginning in 2016, the United Methodist Women's Sewing/Quilting Group will change their meeting time to the 1st Thursday of each month (9:00 a.m.—noon). This spring we will focus on making lap quilts for seniors and children's quilts for the Sunshine Center—also school bags for UMCOR. Come share your sewing talents in this ministry.

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

Our Tuesday morning Bible Study and Breakfast began January 5, but it's not too late to join us! Rev. Derek Frost (husband of our Program Assistant, Allison), brings the Word to us for the month of January. Derek is a gifted teacher/preacher of the Word and is Pastor of Highland Avenue Baptist church. He is a regular teacher for our group and always has great insights for us. We hope you will join us one or more weeks in January. We begin at 6:30 a.m. (in room 22) and are always done by 7:30 a.m., but will let you slip out early if needed!

Lunch With the Pastor

Guests and new members are invited to "Lunch with the Pastor" immediately following the 10:30 am worship hour on January 31 in the parlor. During the time, Dr. Brian Miller and Rev. Michael Cobb will share about the people of God at Aldersgate and ways that we are fulfilling the mission. If you would like to join "Lunch with the Pastor," please call 272-6152 or email office@aldersgateumc.org.

Young at Heart...

...will return soon! As we navigate leadership change, keep your eyes open for the next time together!

Strong Financial Finish to 2015

The mission of God is always dependent upon the work of the Holy Spirit moving within the hearts of his people. In 2015, the people of God at Aldersgate gave a faithful financial response. Contributions toward the budget totaled \$1,286,977. Our 2015 expenses total \$1,175,036. Because of your faithfulness, we are able to pay for our new buses and begin 216 with grand plans for ministry.

An Evening of Service

An Evening of Service will be hosted by the United Methodist Women on Monday January 18, from 4:00-8:00 pm in room 22. All ladies are invited to attend and participate in hands-on mission projects to benefit the Weekday Children's Ministry and the Aldersgate nursery. This is a come-and-go event and a light dinner will be served around 5:30 pm. For any questions, please contact Wendy Askew at 271-8922 or askewquad@juno.com.

Missions

2015 was another great year in missions, and we are expecting an even bigger year in 2016. Last year we sent out one mission team (our ninth to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY); this year we will be sending out three. Our annual adult mission trip to Red Bird will be May 1-7. Watch for information soon on this opportunity to join in serving with our ministry partner in Appalachia.

A youth-and-young-adults mission team will be going to Medellin, Colombia, June 4-12, to work with our missionary partner Mark Wittig. Three weeks later, an intergenerational team will serve near Quito, Ecuador, with SIFAT, another one of our ministry partners. Both of these international teams have been meeting and making preparations, but they can't do it alone. An integral component of any mission trip is prayer and financial support from those who aren't able to travel. Please pray about how you can be involved.

Children's Ministry



Our Mission:

*To know Jesus and to make Him known
in each child's HEART!*

Children ages kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us for 3D Kids worship in the chapel at 10:30 on Sunday. Parents can sign their children in beginning at 10:20. This week we will begin a new series: Kids in the Bible. Come join us and find out that God can use us, no matter the age.

Youth Announcements

HUB-Wednesdays nights are back on as we looked toward our summer missions and see what God has in store for us. We begin at 5:30 with dinner; if you want to join for an awesome meal bring \$5. We will gather for hangout at 6 and then have worship, prayer, and scripture. We will read all how the scriptures guide us for missions.

Sunday Nights-from 3:30-4 there will be youth handbells. From 4-5:30 there will be choir practice as we prepare for our February 7th fundraiser. No small groups for a few more weeks.

Sunday Mornings are moving right along with the new schedule. Come and join us at 9:15 for fellowship and Jesus. Be in prayer for our confirmation class as they are learning about their faith and the church.

We are looking for 10-15 "Big ticket" items for our fundraiser that we will raffle off. If your family has a getaway house or if you have season tickets to football games or a really good themed gift basket, these are the things that we are hoping to bring a little extra money in for missions. Let me know if you have something to donate.

Let me know what I can do for each of you all and keep me posted as to what is going on.

River Region Readers Set Books for 2016

The Aldersgate Book Club has set its book lineup for 2016. Make plans to join us at any point during the year.

- February 21: *An Invisible Thread*, by Laura Schroff
- March 13: *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, by Lisa See
- April 10: *The Devil Within*, by Lauren Greene
- May 15: *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls
- June 12: *The Boston Girl*, by Anita Diamant
- July 10: *The Speech Writer*, by Barton Swaim
- August 14: *Love Does*, by Bob Goff
- September 11: *Unchartered Waters*, by Sara DuBose
- October 9: *Born on a Blue Day*, by Daniel Tammet
- November 6: TBA

Empty Pill Bottles?



If anyone has any empty pill bottles to recycle, please bring them to the church. There will be a box outside the Program Staff Office to put them in. If you have any questions, please contact Ronnie Watkins at 272-2212. **(Don't forget to remove all labels before turning these in!)**

Aldersgate Food Pantry

JANUARY FOOD OF THE MONTH



CANNED FRUIT
(2 cans per bag)



"Do my donations really help??" YES!!

In 2015 the Food Pantry donated 959 bags of groceries. (+ 102 Thanksgiving Bags) The Food Pantry distributes, on average, 80 bags per month; monthly average of total # of people served is 217!

The Food Pantry thanks you all for your generous support in food donations, money, and time given to support this wonderful ministry of Aldersgate.

Please place in collection baskets located in the Atrium, Christian Activity Center and outside the Program Staff Offices.

Aldersgate Café

January 20, 2016 5:15-6:00 p.m.

Serving & Clean-up:

Ambassadors Class

Adults & Children:

Roasted Pork Loin, Squash Casserole,
Turnip Greens, Cornbread,
Peach Cobbler

Kid's Option: Pizza

Or:

Entrée Salad

(Cost is Adults/\$6.00,
Youth & College/\$5.00,
Children/\$3.00,
Family/\$25.00 maximum)

To register, please sign up on the sheet provided in the attendance pads or call the church office by Monday noon (272-6152).

Join us for worship this Sunday!

8:15 Chapel Service with
Holy Communion—Dr. Brian Miller

10:30 Contemporary—Rev. Michael Cobb

10:30 Traditional—Dr. Brian Miller
Jeremiah 29:4-7

Fearless 2016—“When the World Makes No Sense”

Our gifts to God!

January 10, 2016

Morning Worship—345 Sunday School—235

November, 2015

Budget for 2015	\$1,200,181
Operating Budget Requirement to Date	1,104,166
Operating Budget Income Received to Date	1,129,557
Operating Budget Expenses to Date	1,071,515
Total Pledges to Capital Campaign	1,419,823
Total Received to date	1,360,994

Aldersgate Weekly Calendar of Events
January 17-23, 2016

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

- 8:15 a.m. Chapel Service with Weekly Communion
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth, Children
- 9:15 a.m. Confirmation Class/Room 29
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service/Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service/CAC
- 3:30 p.m. Jr. Bells/Room 29
- 4:00 p.m. Carol Choir/Room 25
- 4:00 p.m. Joyful bells/Room 29
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Choir/Choir Room

MONDAY, JANUARY 18

- Church Office Closed in Observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 6:00 p.m. Career Christians Circle/Room 25
- 6:55 p.m. BSF/Chapel, Parlor, All Rooms including 114,
excluding 22, 25
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Singers

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

- 6:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study/Room 22
- 9:30 a.m. Administrative Staff Meeting/Room 26
- 9:30 a.m. Food Pantry Waiting Room/Room 29
- 9:30 a.m. Lester Spencer Circle/Room 119
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Outreach Circle
Home of Louise Majors

- 3:00 p.m. Discipleship Team Meeting
Administrative Office Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Cub/Boy Scout Pack Meetings
Rooms 22, 25, 26, CAC

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20

- 9:30 a.m. The Covenant Bible Study/Room 26
- 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper/CAC
- 6:00 p.m. Weds. Night Bible Studies and Small Groups
- 6:00 p.m. HUB (Youth)/Upstairs CAC
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

- 6:30 a.m. Men’s Emmaus Reunion Group Meeting/Parlor
- 8:00 a.m. Newsletter, Bulletin Preparation/Room 26
- 9:00 a.m. Set-up for Pathfinder Class Luncheon/Room 22
- 9:30 a.m. Food Pantry Waiting Room/Room 29
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group/Room 20
- 11:30 a.m. Pathfinder Class Luncheon/Room 22
- 3:30 p.m. St. James School Dance Team/CAC
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts/Room 28
- 6:15 p.m. PPR Committee Meeting/Room 119
- 6:30 p.m. Embroidery Guild of America/Room 27

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

- 5:15 a.m. BSF Leaders Meeting/Room 25