



"To Know Jesus And To Make Him Known"

Good News

6610 Vaughn Road • Montgomery, Alabama 36116 • 334.272-6152 • email: office@aldersgateumc.org

Church Staff

Senior Minister

Dr. Brian Miller
brian@aldersgateumc.org

Minister of Discipleship

Rev. Michael Cobb
michael@aldersgateumc.org

Minister of Worship

Rev. Steve Badskey
steve@aldersgateumc.org

Director of Youth Ministries

Brittney Liebbe
brittney@aldersgateumc.org

Director of Children's

Ministries

Katie Blair
katie@aldersgateumc.org

Co-Director of

Weekday Children's Ministry

Lana Ward
lana@aldersgateumc.org

Contemporary Worship

Leader

Sara Cobb
sara@aldersgateumc.org

Church Administrator/ Building Superintendent

Bill Haigler
bill@aldersgateumc.org

Executive Assistant

Linda Anderson
office@aldersgateumc.org

Financial Secretary

Dory Hector
dory@aldersgateumc.org

Bookkeeper

Bettie Miller
bettie@aldersgateumc.org

Program Assistant

Allison Frost
allison@aldersgateumc.org

Music & Youth

Ministry Intern

Eliza Richardson
eliza@aldersgateumc.org

Hospitality Coordinator

Jimmy Dennis
dennisfamily@charter.net

After Hours Minister

On Call:

334/544-0168

December 13, 2015

Telling the Greatest Story

Over the past few months, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival has taught me a lot about good story telling. In September, the Aldersgate staff took a backstage tour of the facility. During the tour, we saw the incredible places where magic seems to happen. Sets come to life in the warehouse where the design of incredibly imaginative minds are constructed to transport theatergoers to early 20th Century London for "Mary Poppins" to Manhattan nightclubs in "Ain't Misbehavin'" to the magical underwater world of "The Little Mermaid." An entire staff works on costuming to create and tailor garments. Dozens are behind the scenes, making sure that everything is in its place and happens at the exact right time.

More recently, I have seen the ASF actors at work. The time, effort, imagination, and emotion they invest for our benefit are inspiring. Our own Katie Cobb, a sophomore at St. James School knows the rigors of acting at ASF. This year, she is currently playing Martha in "A Christmas Carol." In fact, we will be in the same performance at 2:00pm on December 22. They were not thinking clearly when they asked me and a few other area pastors to rotate a short role. You can call ASF and tell them you are from Aldersgate to get 25 percent off that performance.

The elaborate sets. The precise costumes. The minute by minute organizing. The skilled and inspired performing. The Alabama Shakespeare Festival commits itself to all of this in order to tell a story well.

Throughout advent, we have decorated the hallways and worship spaces. We have focused on the Scripture telling of the coming and the birth of Jesus. We have added elements during worship to help us focus. We have planned and experienced special times of service and worship to enhance the experience of the season.

All of this is done in order to tell a story well, the story of a world that is broken and a God who comes near. While Christ is the central character of the story, all of us play a part in its telling. In fact, at every turn, we have the opportunity to act the story out before others.

When we find ourselves trading elbows in the checkout line or battling bumper-to-bumper traffic or overlooking the person in need, may we remember that the world needs our story to be told well.

Peace,

Welcome New Member!

A warm welcome to the newest member of our Aldersgate family, Ed Choquette who comes to us by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Music Ministry



The Silence AND THE SOUND

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL
"The Silence and the Sound"
10:30 a.m., Sunday, December 13

*A heart stirring presentation featuring the Joyful Bells,
Chancel Choir, Children and Youth Choirs and Orchestra*
**One Combined 10:30 Worship Service with Church-wide
Covered Dish Dinner at 11:30**

THE LONGEST NIGHT
SUNDAY, December 20
4:00 p.m.

*A Gathering for those grieving or
having difficulties during the Holidays*

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Thursday, December 24
3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Communion, Carols and Candlelight

MONTGOMERY AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Thursday, December 17
6:00 p.m.

Aldersgate will be hosting the Montgomery Area Middle School Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Our members are encouraged to join us in extending a welcome to all of the Choir members and their families that will be with us on this night.

Senior Saint Winter Schedule

Thurs., Jan. 14 2:00 Sing at Elmcroft

Calendar Items for 2016

Please be sure to contact Linda in the church office (office@aldersgateumc.org or 272-6152) if you need to schedule rooms for meetings or events in 2016. Please note: meetings do not carry over from year to year, they need to be rescheduled at the beginning of each year.



Annual Poinsettias/Water Well Project



Each Christmas the Aldersgate family decorates the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias given in honor or memory of loved ones. This year these will be dis-



played on December 13 for the Sounds of the Season service and on December 24 for the Christmas Eve Service. Those donating poinsettias may pick them up after the services on the selected date or have them sent to one of our sick or shut-in members. This year you may also remember loved ones through a gift of at least \$12 to help our missionary partners Ed and Linda Baker with a water well project. These donations will be used to help provide clean water to needy communities in impoverished areas of the world.

Poinsettias are \$12.00 each. Please make checks payable to Aldersgate UMC with "Poinsettias" or "Water Well Project" in the memo line. Please place the bulletin insert order form together with your payment in the offering plate or turn in to the church office by Sunday, December 6 (or Sunday, December 13 for the Christmas Eve Service).

Missions

Water is essential for life. Worldwide 800 million people routinely have inadequate access to safe drinking water, and 2.5 billion have inadequate access to water for sanitation and waste disposal. A leading cause of death worldwide (and the leading cause for children under five) is waterborne disease. Half of the world's hospital beds are filled with people suffering from a water-related disease. Nearly 90% of all waterborne diseases are caused by unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene.

Our missionary partners Ed and Linda Baker work with missionaries around the world on water and sanitation projects. You'll be able to hear firsthand from the Bakers about their ministry at our 2016 GIC, April 15-17. Through Faith Promise, designated memorials and special Christmas donations for the Bakers' water projects, the people of Aldersgate have been helping to provide clean water to locations that otherwise would not have any.



Dark Hot Chocolate Mix

Now available at the Fair Trade Store, this dark and indulgent hot cocoa features real ground chocolate in the mix! Great for making hot chocolate or adding to coffee. A 12 oz. container is only \$5.00.

Children's Ministry



Our Mission:

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

The Christmas season is a magical season! With that comes excitement, long to-do lists, and many activities. It can become so hectic we forget exactly whose birthday we are celebrating. In 3D Children's Worship, we will be celebrating the Advent season in a unique way: in a bubble! Children ages kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us in the chapel as we sit in a giant bubble and take a trip to meet the wisemen, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus through music, storytelling, and activities. "Bethlehem in a Bubble" will continue at 10:30 THIS Sunday.

Youth Announcements

HUB—We will be taking a break from HUB until the first of the year!!

Our Christmas Party is on December 12 and it is Superhero themed, so dress as your favorite hero. Meet at the church at 5:00 where we will travel to the Tinch house for games and food! Here is what you need to bring. We will be playing Dirty Santa White Elephant so you must bring a gift; the catch is you can't buy the gift, so bring something you made or you found in your home. Also, everyone needs to bring an inexpensive fleece blanket to donate to Reality and truth ministry for the homeless. And lastly, the girls need to bring a 2 liter and the guys need to bring a dessert! Pick up will be at the church by 8:15.

Your \$100 deposit for Colombia is past due! This goes for our college folks that are going as well. If you have not made the decision if you are going or not, I encourage you to think on this. Please don't hesitate to talk with me about the trip if you have any concerns or questions. If you will be going, your \$100 deposit and first payment of \$250 is due December 13. We will be buying plane tickets in December, so I need your money by then. Remember that ALL meetings are mandatory as well as fundraising

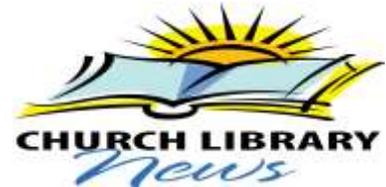
Don't forget to get me your \$30 for "A Christmas Carol" if you plan on going. We have already purchased the tickets, so the first 20 people that turn in money get to go. I will begin asking outside the youth group as well as your parents, as we need to sell the tickets. If you still want to go, please get in touch with me. The date and time that we are going is December 22, at 2:30.

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

Brittney Liebe, Director of Youth Ministries

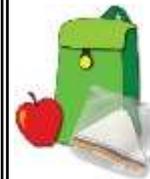
Financial Contributions for 2015

All financial contributions made to Aldersgate for the 2015 calendar year must be received in the church office by noon OR postmarked by December 31, 2015. Please be mindful of that deadline for your tax purposes. Thank you for your generosity to Aldersgate UMC!



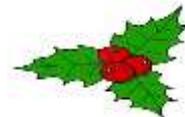
Our Aldersgate library has several new Christian fiction books. Some of the best loved authors are: Karen Kingsbury, Lori Wick, Terri Blackstock, Lauraine Snelling and Thomas Kinkade.

Backpack Ministry



Reminder—The **Pathfinders Class** has signed up for the weeks of November 16 through December 18 to serve in the Backpack Ministry.

Aldersgate Food Pantry



**TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING
PLEASE "MEAT" THE NEED**

December Food of the Month



CANNED MEATS



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

Church Photo Directory



Good News!!! - (revised)

Our pictorial church directories have arrived and are ready to be picked up. We will have a table set up in the hallway between the Parlor and Sanctuary this next Sunday for all of you to pick up one of the new directories. There will be reserved directories with names attached for those who had pictures taken. Due to the generosity of one of our congregational members, additional directories are available to other church families wishing to have a current directory. These are available at no charge.

Join us for worship this Sunday!

8:15 Chapel Service with
Holy Communion—Brittney Liebbe
Isaiah 12:2-7

“Arrival: The Beginning”

10:30 Christmas Musical
In the Sanctuary

“The Silence and the Sound”

Our gifts to God!

December 6, 2015

Morning Worship—346 Sunday School—237

September, 2015

Budget for 2015	\$1,200,181
Operating Budget Requirement to Date	999,750
Operating Budget Income Received to Date	1,021,783
Operating Budget Expenses to Date	972,930
Total Pledges to Faith Promise	82,260
Total Received 4/15/15—11/30/15	52,060

Aldersgate Weekly Calendar of Events
December 13-19, 2015

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 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. Combined Worship Service—Christmas Musical/Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Church-Wide Covered Dish Dinner/CAC
- 12:30 p.m. Ecuador Team Meeting/Room 25

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 11:00 a.m. Women’s Study/Room 25
- 1:00 p.m. Mission Prayer Team/Room 19
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Team Meeting
Administrative Office Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. Cookie Project/Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Career Christians Circle/Room 22
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Singers’ Rehearsal/Choir Room
- 7:15 p.m. Men’s Rec. Basketball/CAC

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 9:30 a.m. Administrative Staff Meeting/Room 26
- 9:30 a.m. Food Pantry Waiting Room/Room 29
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Outreach Circle/Home of Mamie Sellers
- 3:00 p.m. Discipleship Team Meeting
Administrative Office Conference Room

- 6:00 p.m. Cub, Boy Scouts/Rooms 22, 25, 26, CAC
- 6:00 p.m. Violin Senior Recital/Chapel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study/Room 26
- 2:00 p.m. Set-up for 12/17/15 Pathfinder Class Luncheon/Room 22
- 3:00 p.m. Knitting & Crocheting Group/Room 28
- 6:30 p.m. Choir, Orchestra and Handbells Christmas Party—take church bus to Keith and Wyvonne Johnson’s Home

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 6:30 a.m. Men’s Emmaus Reunion Group Meeting
Parlor
- 8:00 a.m. Newsletter, Bulletin Preparation/Room 26
- 8:30 a.m. Mental Health America/CAC
- 9:00 a.m. Pathfinder Class Set-up/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
- 5:00 p.m. Montgomery Middle School Choirs/Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts/Room 28

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 6:00 p.m. Scout Lock-in/CAC