



"To Know Jesus And To Make Him Known"

Good News

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

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334/544-0168

December 20, 2015

Christmas After The Longest Night

For some, we are in a stretch of weeks that are the most difficult of the year. If the combination of Thanksgiving and Christmas is painful for you, you are not alone. Grief over the loss of loved ones, regrets about conflicted relationships, disappointment with how life has turned out can all make for a tough holiday season.

Then, of course, there are seasonal environmental reasons for this time to be tough emotionally. For those of us in the northern hemisphere, Christmas always falls just days after the shortest day of the year, the Winter Solstice. Shortened exposure time to sunlight and decreased outside activity leads to Seasonal Affective Disorder. Why can't we celebrate Christmas at a happier time of year?!

It's still a mystery how Christmas came to be celebrated on December 25, always following just a few days after the longest night of the year. Of course, there is no calendar date given in the gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus. In fact, there is evidence that the earliest of Christians didn't have a ritual remembrance of Christ's birth. The first mention of December 25 as a celebration day is around the year 200.

Maybe, it's right for us to have to experience the difficulties and darkness as we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus. After all, as John reminds us, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." Perhaps, it is through the pain, the grief, the hurt, the fog that we can be most glad to see the one who Charles Wesley describes as our "strength and consolation, hope of all the earth."

On December 20 at 4:00pm in Room 22, we will create a space for those who are experiencing difficulties during this season. In this meaningful time of worship, we will share in our sadness, hear the promises of God, and lean on the hope we have in the light that has come into the world.

Peace,

Christmas Eve Services—Thursday, December 24

3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Communion, Carols and Candlelight

Music Ministry



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

Thank You...

Thank you to our Chancel Choir, Joyful Bells, Youth Choir, Carol Choir, Orchestra and crew for doing an outstanding job in presenting our "The Silence and the Sound" musical and to all of our Choirs and ensembles for the wonderful job they did in our "Great Christmas Cookie Caper" concert and activities. We are very grateful to everyone for their part in making the miracle of Jesus birth come alive in a fresh new way. We are very appreciative for the numerous hours of preparation everyone put in behind the scenes to make our musical presentations the best they could be. Every note sung and word spoken, every dramatic effect carefully planned, every riser positioned, every prop and light placed was done with the goal in mind of magnifying the glorious birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. "Unto us a Child is born, unto us He's come."

Our Sound Tech Multi-Media Team Needs You!

We're seeking new members to fill out our roster. Training is fast and commitment can be as little as one Sunday a month. Email Steve Badskey steve@aldersgateumc.org or call him at 272-6152 if you're interested.

Senior Saint Winter Schedule

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



In Memoriam

*Carol Turner
December 11, 2015*

Reminder...

If you haven't already, add your Estimate of Giving Card to an already strong response! So far, we have received 161 cards for a total commitment of \$880,698. You can find blank Estimate of Giving Cards and a box in which to place it in the Atrium and Christian Activity Center. You may also choose to mail yours to the church.

Pastoral Care During Christmas and New Year—544-0168

While we hope all are well during this Christmas season, we know that difficulties and emergency health situations arise in all seasons. As always, the ministerial staff of Aldersgate will be on call to offer support. If the church office is not open when an emergency arises, call 544-0168. One of the ministers will be scheduled to answer. Have a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year!

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!

Fair Trade Holiday Chocolates

These delicious bite-sized chocolates are beautifully packaged, making them perfect for a Christmas gift. Adorned with snowflakes, each box includes 20 minis for \$6. Available in Dark or Milk Chocolate while supplies last. Support farmers in developing countries by buying from the Aldersgate Fair Trade store!



Missions

As you celebrate Christmas this year, please remember the missionaries Aldersgate supports (listed below). Some will be celebrating in a foreign land this year because of their service for the Lord. Others will be celebrating here in the states, half a world away from their beloved ministry. Your prayers for them personally as well as for their families, their ministries and those they serve will be appreciated.

Through Faith Promise we support Ed & Linda Baker (Atlanta), Kristin Fisher (South Carolina), Cameron & Anne Gongwer (Indiana), Neal Hicks (Tennessee), Andrew & Margaret Howell (Prattville), Szabolcs Kerekes (Hungary), Jim & Penie Koch (Jamaica), Adam & Melissa Williford (Mexico), Mark Wittig (Colombia), Marion & Mary Woods (Costa Rica), and our missionary nurse in India (unnamed here for her security). Through the AWF Conference we also support Alex & Brenda Awad (retiring this month from service in Israel), Jay & Grace Choi (Philippians), Dakin Cook & Sara Flores (Ecuador), German Gomez (Clanton, AL), and Rhett Thompson (Panama).

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 continue our Bethlehem in a bubble series and discover just whose birthday it really is.

The WCM would like to thank all who assisted with the preschool Christmas program. We had a full house and a wonderful time listening to the children present the good news of Christ's birth. The WCM is grateful for the ongoing support of the United Methodist Women and the many others who assist in ministering to our families each and every day.

Youth Announcements

We will be taking a break from our Wednesday night HUB and Sunday night small groups until January!

Our Christmas Party was a success! Thank you all that helped put that on. We collected quite a few blankets to take to the homeless people down at Reality and Truth.

As of right now if you are going to Colombia, you should have paid \$350 to date. A payment of \$250 was due last Sunday, December 13. I know that it is really close to Christmas and things are tight right now, but we desperately need to buy the airline tickets and to do that, we need some money. If you have not even paid your deposit yet, I am going to assume that you do not want to go. I will be contacting some of these folks just to double check. If you have any questions regarding payment, travel, well anything really, please do not hesitate to contact me. Remember that ALL meetings are mandatory as well as fundraising. Our next meeting will be on February 21 at 3:00 p.m.

On December 22nd, we will be going to see our very own Katie Cobb and Brian Miller in "A Christmas Carol"!!! We have a few tickets left so if you want to go, let me know ASAP. I will be working hard to sell these tickets in the next few days as we have already paid for them, so I need people to claim them. The show is at 2:00. We will meet at the church at 11:50 and leave together to go to Newks for lunch. Please bring some money to pay for your lunch. We will then go to Shakespeare for the play. I would imagine we will be back to the church around 4:30, but we will keep you posted.

Winter Retreat is literally a month away!! It is so crazy to think about. January 15-17, we will leave the church at 5:00 to travel to Camp Alamisco. It is \$85 a person or \$135 for families. There will be other churches going with us including Lucas Tribble's youth. Lucas and I have been working on the weekend and we have an awesome theme planned for you all "Love Joy" - stay tuned for what that means to us. It will be a great weekend of worship, games, and lots of food. Y'all invite your friends. If you have a friend come with you, we will count that person as part of your family and you can have the family discount. Please start signing up NOW and bringing your form and money. We need to start planning on how many supplies and how much food we will need.

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

Brittney Liebke, Director of Youth Ministries

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.

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.

Good News!!!

Church Photo Directory



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. *Please note: This will be the last Sunday these directories will be left in the hallway to be picked up.*

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.

GOOD NEWS
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www.aldersgateumc.org

Volume 51

December 20, 2015

Number 51

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
Luke 1:39-45

“Arrival: Expectant Joy”

Our gifts to God!

December 13, 2015

Morning Worship—435 Sunday School—260

September, 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
December 20-26, 2015

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. “The Longest Night”/Room 22
- 6:15 p.m. Church Council Meeting/Chapel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 11:00 a.m. Women’s Study/Room 25
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Team Meeting
Administrative Office Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Singers’ Rehearsal/Choir Room
- 7:15 p.m. Men’s Rec. Basketball/CAC

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 9:00 a.m. History Committee/Room 119
- 9:30 a.m. Administrative Staff Meeting/Room 26
- 3:00 p.m. Discipleship Team Meeting
Administrative Office Conference Room

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study/Room 26

- 3:00 p.m. Knitting & Crocheting Group/Room 28

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 6:30 a.m. Men’s Emmaus Reunion Group Meeting
Parlor
- 8:00 a.m. Newsletter, Bulletin Preparation/Room 26
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group/Room 20
- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service/Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service/Sanctuary

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

