

Good News

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December 17, 2017

Christmas Beauty

The beauty of Christmas was all around last weekend. Central Alabama experienced a snowfall that hung around for a while. Also, on Sunday morning, we experienced the beauty of Christmas as Rev. Steve Badskey and the Worship Arts Team presented the musical *Almost There*. The beautiful orchestration, solos, and choral music was enhanced as several of our visual artists revealed their depictions of parts of the Christmas story. It was stirring. We give great thanks to Steve and all involved.

The prophet Isaiah, who wrote over 500 years prior to the birth of Jesus, used poetry to talk about the future hope of the world. When Mary is greeted by the angel and told that she was favored to bear the messiah of the world, she sang a song. The birth of Jesus has inspired art for generations.

In this season of Advent, as we continue to anticipate the great joy of Christ, may our lives be works of art for the world. May the birth of Jesus inspire us to live beautiful, inspiring lives so that others might be drawn into the story. When people see us, let them see a representation of the hope of all the world.

Here's the thing: art takes time. You can't half bake this. Art takes focus and attention and intention. My hope for all of us is that we take time during this busy season to focus, pay attention, and intently meditate on the beauty of Jesus. Let him be the muse for our lives.

Peace,



Christmas Eve Morning Worship

10:30am - Christian Activity Center

Enjoy a family-friendly atmosphere with donuts, hot chocolate, and a live nativity featuring live animals!

Candlelight Communion

3:00pm & 6:00pm - Sanctuary

This traditional service will prepare your hearts for Christmas Day and the birth of Jesus.

Worship Arts Ministry



Christmas Eve Morning Worship

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 a.m.

One combined Family Worship Service in the Christian Activity Center with Hot Chocolate, Doughnuts. A Live Nativity will be on the front lawn of the Church.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Sunday, December 24

3:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Communion, Carols and Candlelight

Thank you to our Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, Orchestra, soloists and artists: Howard Adams, John Cates, Sandra Sutton, Brian Whittington and Kay Reed for doing an outstanding job in presenting our "Almost There" musical and to Chancel Choir, Joyful Bells, Adult Ensemble, Youth Choir for the wonderful job they did in our "Great Christmas Cookie Caper" concert and other advent services. 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 nuance of color in the art work, every prop and light placed was done with the goal in mind of magnifying the glorious birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. "Emmanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of Life, Lord Of All, He is the Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Holy One Emmanuel"

Calendar Items for 2017

Please be sure to contact Linda in the church office (272-6152 or office@aldersgateumc.org) if you need to schedule rooms for meetings or events in 2018. Please note: meetings to not carry over from year to year, they need to be rescheduled at the beginning of each year unless you have already made arrangements to put 2018 meetings on the calendar when you listed your 2017 meetings.

2017 Contributions

All contributions to be credited to 2017 must be received in the office by noon on Sunday, December 31, 2017 or placed in the Sunday collection on that day. If you are sending a contribution by U.S. Mail, it must be postmarked no later than Saturday, December 30, 2017. Anything received after that time will be credited to 2018. If you have any questions, please call Dory Hector.

Young in Heart

Everyone (**no age requirement**) is welcome to start off 2018 by becoming a part of Aldersgate's Young in Heart monthly luncheon and program. Please come and find out what you have been missing. We would love to have YOU!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Young in Heart

January 2, 2018

Don't miss out on a wonderful program of piano music by

Anita Roberson
Organist/Pianist at Aldersgate
from July, 1985
through February, 1996

Lunch (11:30 a.m.—\$6.00 each)



Reservations needed by December 31, 2018

Sign up in the atrium, or contact Jane Vardaman at 270-0230 or Margaret Watkins at 272-2212.

SEED Planting



Last Christmas we received \$3,827 in donations for a brick-making machine for our partner ministry in Tanzania. This money was given in memory/honor of loved ones. The International Acts 1:8 Team added \$373 in Faith Promise funds to allow us to send a total of \$4,200, the full amount needed to purchase the machine. Nearly a year later, the machine is up and running, and five young men are having their lives changed as a result.

Their future was bleak, but now they have jobs and a useful skill. They are paid a combination of food and money for each day of work; the money goes into their savings accounts. A local woman is paid to cook for them, providing employment for her. With the brick machine now operational, six people have jobs, and bricks are being made that will soon be ready to sell. Once costs are covered and profits realized, the ministry will be able to subsidize bricks for church construction projects. Check out the Missions bulletin board in the Sunday School hallway to see photos of this transformative project.

Children's Ministry



Please make plans to join us for a special 10:30 am service on Christmas Eve featuring a live nativity. Children of all ages will want to experience the sights and sounds as we journey to Bethlehem to visit with Mary and Joseph, talk to a shepherd, and have the opportunity to pet the animals as we hear the telling of the Christmas Story.

Youth Announcements



Coming Up...

- Sunday, December 17th - Sunday School 9:15am, Worship 10:30am, Worship Arts 3pm, Youth Christmas Bags 5pm. This Sunday Night, the Youth Ministry will partner with Aldersgate Food Pantry in preparing Christmas Food Bags to distribute the following week with Marcia Wheat leading the outreach.
- Wednesday, December 13th, 20th, 27th - No Wednesday Night Bible Studies
- Sunday, December 24th - Worship Service at 10:30, Live Nativity Immediately Following Service, Candlelight Services, 3pm & 6pm

Thanks again to Wendy Askew for leading the Jr High Sunday School class to an outreach to Reality & Truth on Friday, December 8th. What a wonderful blessing it was to be a blessing to a local Missions Outreach.



Giving in 2018

Share in supporting the mission of God through Aldersgate by planning to give financially! If you have not turned in your estimate of giving card for 2018, you can find them in the Atrium as well as the CAC. Prayerfully fill out the card and place them in the boxes for submission. Thank you for your support!



Women's Conference

At Eastern Hills Baptist Church

January 26-27, 2018
With Liz Curtis Higgs

Friday
6:30-8:00 pm

Saturday
8:30 am—noon
(includes brunch)

Tickets are \$20 until
December 25
and \$30 after that

Please contact Betty Cates for tickets or more information.

NO GREATER
GIFT
Than a Place to Call
HOME

Christmas is a special time for all of us. Plan now to support your Methodist Children's Home. We provided care for over 1000 children in 2017. Each year, the number increases. There are White Christmas envelopes in the pew racks for you or plan to present your gift at the Christmas Eve program.

Aldersgate Food Pantry

December Food of the Month

Spaghetti & Sauce



The Food Pantry Ministry thanks you all for your continued support!

www.aldersgateumc.org

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Number 51

Join us for worship this Sunday!

Our gifts to God!

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

10:30 Contemporary—Rev. Richard Williams

10:30 Traditional—Dr. Brian Miller

Psalm 126

“Advent: Holy Waiting”

December 10, 2017	
Morning Worship—367	Sunday School—210
October 31, 2017	
Budget for 2017	\$1,287,351
Operating Budget Requirement to Date	1,068,501
Operating Budget Income Received to Date	1,069,647
Operating Budget Expenses to Date	1,024,878
Total Pledges to Capital Campaign	1,419,823
Total Received through 10/31/17	1,371,934
Total Pledges to Faith Promise	75,935
Total Received through 10/31/17	36,079

Aldersgate Weekly Calendar of Events
December 17-23, 2017

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17		4:00 p.m.	Tutoring Session/Program Office
8:15 a.m.	Chapel Service with Weekly Communion	6:00 p.m.	Scouts/Rooms 22, 25, 26, CAC
9:15 a.m.	Sunday School for Adults, Youth, Children	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20	
10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Worship Service/CAC	9:30 a.m.	The Covenant Bible Study/Room 26
10:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship Service/Sanctuary	2:00 p.m.	Knitting & Crocheting Group/ Room 25
10:30 a.m.	3-D Kids Worship/Room 22	4:00 p.m.	Tutoring Session/Program Office
11:30 a.m.	New Creation Sunday School Class Christmas Party/Room 22	5:30 p.m.	St. James Basketball Practice/CAC
12:00 p.m.	Food Pantry Christmas Bag Storage, Packing/Back of CAC	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
3:00 p.m.	Youth Worship Arts	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21	
5:00 p.m.	Youth Help with Food Pantry Christmas Bags	7:00 a.m.	Set-up for Pathfinders Class Christmas Party/CAC, CAC Kitchen
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18		10:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Waiting Room/Room. 29
8:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Christmas Bag Storage, Packing, Delivery/Back of CAC	10:00 a.m.	Open Time of Prayer/Room 28
7:00 p.m.	Career Christians Circle/Room 25	11:00 a.m.	Pathfinders Class Christmas Party CAC, CAC Kitchen
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19		5:30 p.m.	Ezekiel Academy Girls Basketball/CAC
6:30 a.m.	Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study/Room 22	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22	
10:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Waiting Room/Room 29	9:00 a.m.	WCM K4 Christmas Party/Movie Room 22