



"To Know Jesus And To Make Him Known"

Good News

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December 24, 2017 & January 31, 2018

The prayer below is one of my favorite prayers in the liturgy of the Church. From the "Service of Lessons and Carols," the prayer invites us to lean toward the manger, the Christ Child, and the beauty of Christmas. As we "go in heart and mind to Bethlehem" this week, may this guide our desires and our wills.

Beloved in Christ,
this Christmas Eve it is our duty and delight
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,
and see this thing which is come to pass,
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture
the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin
until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child;
and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart,
let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people;
for peace upon the earth he came to save;
for love and unity within the one Church he did build;
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember
the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;
the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved;
the aged and the little children;
and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not,
or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore and in a greater light,
that multitude which no one can number,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

Amen.

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.

December 31

8:15am Chapel Service with Holy Communion

10:30am Contemporary Worship/CAC

10:30am Traditional Service/Sanctuary

Worship Arts Ministry

Christmas Eve Morning Worship

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

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.

Combined Newsletter

Due to the Christmas holidays, there will be no December 31, 2017 newsletter. This newsletter (December 24) is a combined newsletter including information for both the week of December 24 and the week of December 31.

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.

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!

Calendar Items for 2018

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.

SEED Planting



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/Worldwide), Paul & Sylvia Cummings (Arkansas/Spain), Kristin Fisher (South Carolina/Myanmar), Cameron & Anne Gongwer (Indiana/Ghana), Neal & Shirley Hicks (Tennessee/Japan), Szabolcs Kerekes (Hungary), Jim & Penie Koch (Texas/Jamaica), Davis Rhodes (Tanzania), Adam & Melissa Williford (Mexico), Mark Wittig (Colombia), Mary Woods (Costa Rica), and our missionary nurse in India and church planters in Turkey (unnamed here for their security). Through the AWF Conference we also support Jay & Grace Choi (Philippines), Sara Flores (Ecuador), German Gomez (Clanton, AL), Eric & Liz Soard (Tanzania), and Rhett Thompson (Panama).

Youth Announcements



Coming Up...

- Sunday, December 24th - Worship Service at 10:30, Live Nativity Immediately Following Service, Candlelight Services, 3pm & 6pm

\$5 on the 5th

Mary Ellen's Hearth offers hope, help and healing to homeless women and children throughout the River Region. They are privately funded and rely almost completely on the generosity of churches, businesses and individuals in this area. When we have a fifth Sunday in a month, you will have the opportunity to give a \$5.00 donation (or more) for this very good cause. Our next fifth Sunday is December 31. Checks should be made out to Mary Ellen's Hearth.

Designating a Legacy Gift

Have you thought about a way you could play a role in Aldersgate's future? Designating a Legacy Gift to our church's Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF) by way of your Will or Life Insurance Policy is a means of doing that. For more information, go to the church's website and click on Permanent Endowment Program, or contact the church office. The staff will have a PEF committee member contact you.



UMCH
WHITE CHRISTMAS

Church members Della Little and Roberta Waldrup recently shared some of their experiences of growing up in a Children's Home. They both reminded us of what a blessing it was in the circumstances of their lives to be able to grow up in a safe, nurturing, Christian atmosphere.

In Alabama and West Florida today, children and youth are being served by the United Methodist Home which now consists of group homes strategically placed throughout the two conferences they represent. Please consider giving generously to the WHITE CHRISTMAS offering this year. It can make such a positive and significant difference in a person's future life to have experienced a happy childhood filled with good memories as Della and Roberta both did.



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 infor-
mation.

Aldersgate Food Pantry

December Food of the Month

Spaghetti & Sauce



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



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December 24, 2017

Number 52

Join us for worship this Sunday!

December 24

8:15 Chapel Service with Holy Communion
10:30 Combined Worship Service/CAC

December 31

8:15 Chapel Service with Holy Communion
10:30 Contemporary Worship/CAC
10:30 Traditional Service/Sanctuary

Our gifts to God!

December 17, 2017

Morning Worship—256 Sunday School—182

November 30, 2017

Budget for 2017	\$1,287,351
Operating Budget Requirement to Date	1,184,363
Operating Budget Income Received to Date	1,415,284
Operating Budget Expenses to Date	1,441,125
Total Pledges to Capital Campaign	1,419,823
Total Received through 11/30/17	1,372,199
Total Pledges to Faith Promise	75,935
Total Received through 11/30/17	38,313



Aldersgate Weekly Calendar of Events

December 24, 2017—January 6, 2018



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:15 a.m. Chapel Service with Weekly Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth, Children
10:30 a.m. Combined Worship Service/CAC
3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service/Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service/Sanctuary

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Church Office Closed for Christmas

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church Office Closed for Christmas

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

4:00 p.m. Grief Support Group/Room 25
4:00 p.m. Tutoring Session/Program Office
5:30 p.m. St. James Basketball Practice/CAC

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

5:30 p.m. Ezekiel Academy Girls Basketball/CAC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:15 a.m. Chapel Service with Weekly Communion
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth, Children
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service/CAC
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service/Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. 3-D Kids Worship/Room 22

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

Church Office Closed for New Year's Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

11:30 a.m. Young in Heart/CAC

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

5:30 p.m. Ezekiel Academy Girls Basketball/CAC

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

5:15 a.m. BSF Leaders Meeting/Room 25
6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Lock-in/CAC

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Boy Scout Lock-in until 9:00 a.m.