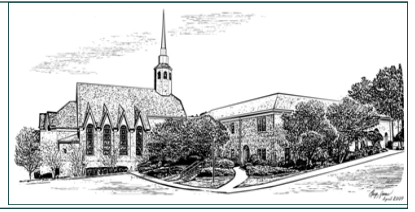




# Aldersgate In Motion



## ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors  
The People of the United Methodist Church

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Volume 4

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*"As God's children,  
we are all brothers  
and sisters in  
His eyes. Let us  
demonstrate that by  
helping each other."*

Quote by:  
Catherine Pulsifer

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## THOUGHTS OF THE PASTOR

### The Holly and the Ivy

We use a lot of special greenery at Christmas time, but many people are not aware of the special symbolism of these greens. Here are a few interpretations of traditional Christmas greenery:

**Holly:** According to tradition the pointy leaves represent the thorns of Christ's Crown. The perennial green leaves represent eternal life. The red berries represent the blood shed for our salvation. There is even a tradition that holly was used to make the crown of thorns. At that time the berries were yellow. In honor to the blood shed by Christ the berries turned red. While holly is most often pictured as having red berries, the berries come in other colors too. One tradition say that white berries represent Jesus purity, green berries the cross of wood, and black berries his death.

**Legend of the Shepherd Boy and the Wreath:** A poor boy had no gift to give the Holy Child, so he made a tiny crown of leaves from a Holly Bush. Compared to the expensive gifts that the others had given, the crown seemed of little value, so the little shepherd boy began to cry as he presented it. But when the Babe touched the Holly crown with His tiny hand, the leaves suddenly gleamed and the teardrops turned to scarlet berries. Through the centuries the Holly wreath became a traditional Christmas decoration, reminding us of the Miracle of Christ's Birth.

**Rosemary:** Humility is the main idea behind the legends about rosemary. Every Nativity set I have ever seen pictures Mary wearing blue. According to one legend Mary's blue cloak is where rosemary got its color. The flowers are said to have been white. Then as Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus were fleeing to Egypt, Mary laid her cloak on a rosemary bush. Since that time rosemary has been blue. Another legend says that Mary washed Jesus clothes in a stream while fleeing to Egypt and she laid them on a rosemary bush to let them dry. In honor for the humble service they gave the Savior rosemary were made blue. It is also said that the humble rosemary will never grow higher than Jesus and that if it outlives Jesus' 33 years it will not grow up but out.

**Poinsettias:** The Poinsettia was named for Joel Robert Poinsett, a native of South Carolina who brought the Poinsettia to SC from Mexico. The general shape of the plant and the arrangement of leaves is seen as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the wise men to the baby Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity. When you see the poinsettias this Christmas take time to think about the Christ child and the star that led the magi to him.

**The Christmas Rose:** The legend associated with the Christmas rose begins with a poor girl wanting to give a gift to the Christ child. When Jesus was born in the little town of Bethlehem, there came Wise Men from the East bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. A little shepherdess, watching from afar, wept because she had no gift to offer the Christ Child. Where her tears fell to the ground there instantly sprang up flowers. She hastened to gather them and bring them to the infant. In adoration she knelt at the crib, so Jesus could see the flowers. When and where His blessed little hands touched the petals, a delicate pink appeared. So a flower that never bloomed before came into existence. To this day, the Christmas Rose blooms more abundantly at Christmas time than at any other season.

**Ivy:** Like the evergreens, ivy is also seen as a symbol of eternal life and is used in Christmas decorations but not to the extent of pine, fir, mistletoe and holly.

**Mistletoe:** In winter, trees lose their leaves revealing the perennially green mistletoe. Ancient druids noted this fact. Later Christians latched onto this and proclaimed the mistletoe as symbol of eternal life.

As you enjoy your holly, ivy, and mistletoe meditate on the spiritual symbolism of these Christmas decorations.

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

We use plants and greenery as we decorate for Christmas. Even in the church we use poinsettias, garlands, wreaths and Christmas trees as symbols of the season. On the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will begin our service with a hanging of the greens. This service celebrates and recalls the symbolism of the decorations we use in Advent and Christmas.



## LESSONS & CAROLS

**Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:45 and 11 am**

Experience an inspiring service using Bible readings and Christmas hymns and carols with music from The Chancel Choir and Cathedral Handbells to proclaim the Good News of Jesus' Birth. The theme is "Christmas Around the World!"



## BLUE CHRISTMAS

"It's the most wonderful time of the year..." At least that's what the song says. But sometimes it isn't. Sometimes it can be time where loved ones who have passed away are missed to a greater extent or a time when losses are felt more deeply. It can be difficult to find comfort and room to grieve when the church's worship is so focused on the Joy of the coming of Christ. This service recognizes those losses and is designed as an opportunity to grieve and to lift our pain and loss and confusion to God in prayer. Come join us at 6:30 for this special service on December 20<sup>th</sup>.



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. To try to accommodate all our usual Sunday services and Christmas Eve services we will have our regular service with sermon at 8:45 am.

Then we will have the **Moravian Lovefest** at 11 am. This Traditional Moravian service uses Christmas songs and the breaking of bread together to celebrate the gift of Peace and Joy through Christmas.

Finally the **Candlelight Communion** service will be at 7 pm. This is a special service including Holy Communion and candlelight to celebrate the birth of Jesus and coming of God's light into the darkness of our world!

Please plan to attend one or all of these moving services celebrating the coming of God's Son into the world!

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday this year so our Sunday morning

### COVENANT RENEWAL

services on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> will include elements of the Covenant Renewal and Watchnight traditions. It is a long standing Wesleyan traditional to take advantage of the new year as an opportunity to recommit ourselves to Christ. These services remember and celebrate God's promises and covenants throughout the ages and gives people an opportunity to recommit themselves. Plan to come to church and bring a friend to celebrate God's goodness and devote ourselves to serving God in the new year.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

The 2018 Women's Retreat is **February 2-4, 2018** at Bonclarken Retreat Center in Flat Rock, NC. While this year's theme is quite the mystery, based on previous years we are confident that the 2018 will be a wonderful weekend. Registration is now open and filling up fast!! Get those registration sheets in quick! Cost is \$150, all inclusive based on double occupancy. Make sure to get those registration forms in to Johannah Myers or Susan Hamilton. Scholarships are available.

We will have bake sales on December 3, 10 & 17 to raise money for scholarships. If you would like to participate, please contact Johannah or Susan.



## UPCOMING SERMONS

**Dec. 3:** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

"A Few Christmas Gifts for You"

**Dec. 10:** Lessons & Carols with Choir and Handbells

**Dec. 17:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

"Bearing Witness to the Light"

**Dec. 24:** 8:45 am Luke 1:26-38, 47-55

"From Heaven to Nazareth - From Gabriel to Mary"

**Dec. 24:** 11 am Moravian Lovefeast

**Dec. 24:** 7 pm Luke 2:1-7

"Las Posadas"

**Dec. 31:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

"A New Testament"

## YOUTH NEWS

**December 3**—BIG QUESTIONS  
3 & 4

**December 10**—Angel Tree Shopping

**December 17**—Messy Christmas  
Help with the Kids/Program/Meal  
3:30—6:00 pm

**December 24—31** Christmas Break  
No Youth





## CONSECRATION REPORT

We have had a total of **128 families** estimate their giving for next year. The new total is now **\$466,620**. Continue to keep this campaign in your prayers. If you have not turned in your Estimate of Giving Card, please do so.

**UNITED MINISTRIES HONOR CARDS ARE HERE!** A great way to give a gift in honor or memory of someone while helping others as well. See Ruth Hughes or anyone in the church office to get yours!



## THE UNITED MINISTRIES COAT DRIVE IS STILL GOING ON—

Bring your new and gently used coats, gloves and hats to support United Ministries Place of Hope. Boxes are in the Commons area of the church. Deadline to bring the items is on Wednesday, December 13 before 10:00 am. Most needed sizes are Large, X-large & XX-large. (No wool coats please.)

## CLUB 56/VISIONEERS

### UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

**Dec. 3-Club 56 & Visioneers  
Advent Adventure**

**Club 56-Dec. 10-Angel Tree  
Shopping**

**Dec. 17-  
Messy Christmas  
3:30—6:00**



*A Program of Prison Fellowship*

The Angel Tree will be out in the Commons until all the Angels are taken. Please make sure that you talk to Daylene or Coley Altman, or Dee Walsh to find out what this is all about. Aldersgate has been doing this Angel Tree Ministry for many years. Thank you in advance!

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PROGRAM



The United Methodist Women will have their Christmas Brunch and General Meeting on **Saturday, December 9 beginning at 10:30 am in Parker Hall.** *The guest speaker has changed!* We will now have our very own **Pam Attaway**, who is back from Thailand, speak to us on their time there in Thailand. The cost of the meal is \$7.00 and is due no later than noon on **Monday, Dec. 4.** Circle chairs have their instructions on taking those reservations. Anyone not in a circle that would like to attend, please

place your name on the outside of an envelope and enclose your check. Place the envelope in the wooden box in the front office. There are some envelopes on the box for your convenience.



### GENERATIONS GROUP HOME

The charity for this event is ***Generations Group Home***, which is a residential program for boys ages 10-18. A member of Aldersgate, Kathleen Reynolds, is the founder of this program. Items requested for the charity are: *twin size sheets (solid colors), bath towels (light/solid colors), white undershirts-men's small-medium-large-xl-xxl, boxers-men's small-medium-large-xl, toothpaste, toothbrush, Axe deodorant, Advil, Tylenol, sinus/cold medicines, hair combs/hair picks, hand/body lotion, hand sanitizers, fingernail/toenail clippers, band-aids, kleenex, kitchen towels.* Please place these items in the boxes in the work room. **Deadline for items is Dec. 4.**

## UNITED METHODIST MEN CHRISTMAS DINNER

The UMM Christmas Dinner and a Movie will be on **December 18** here at Aldersgate's Parker Hall. Please arrive by 6:30 pm so you can pay and be checked in. Dinner will be served beginning at 7:00 pm as well as the movie. The movie this year is "The Christmas Story." The cost is \$25.00 per couple or \$15.00 for an individual. Childcare will be provided. *(Spouses or significant others are invited, as always)*

To register, please reply to Trevor King at [trevor.king33@gmail.com](mailto:trevor.king33@gmail.com) or find the Aldersgates Facebook UMM events page or call the church office and get your name on the list. *The deadline to register is December 14.* ***REGISTER EARLY!!***

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS STUDY**

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS STUDY:** “*Christmas Gifts That Can’t Be Broken*” by James W. Moore. Cokesbury describes this study: A time to “reflect on the unbreakable gifts that God has given us: hope, love, joy, and peace, and be reminded of God’s greatest gift...a baby who leads us through all the days of our lives. Beloved teacher James W. Moore explores the spirit of Christmas with stories, Scriptures, and thoughts that warm our hearts throughout the season while challenging us to rethink the gifts we ask for and give at this time.” All are welcome to come attend this 5 week class starting on December 10, 2017 and ending on January 7, 2018 at 9:45 to 10:45 am in the Library. There is a DVD viewing, and then facilitator presentation and discussion. Come take an hour to center yourselves through this hectic, yet joyous time of year.

**DISCIPLES FAST TRACK**

DISCIPLES FAST TRACK, part of the Disciple family of Bible studies, provides an option for busy people who seek to gain a better understanding of the bible and want to grow as disciples. On January 14, 2018, all are welcome to come at 9:45 am in the library for an overview and class organization for the 12 week study “*Into the Word, Into the World: Genesis/Exodus*”. Then, those who wish to attend can sign up and receive their books. Class begins the following Sunday, January 21, 2018 in the Library at 9:45am. Contact Susan Smith at 864-268-6602, or Johannah Myers at 864-244-1820 ext. 211.







## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



November sure flew by in a hurry! Our CDC classes held feasts during the week of Thanksgiving to celebrate the holiday in a special way. Some of our classes invited families in to feast together while other classes enjoyed a smaller feast with teachers and friends. We all enjoyed this special time of fellowship. Our K3 friends dressed as turkeys and held a "turkey parade" around the school. They were the cutest turkeys we've ever seen! We appreciated taking time to stop

and count our many blessings. Top among those is this church home. We are so thankful for your prayers for us and your support of our CDC. We are thankful for each of YOU!



## MEN'S "EARLY MORNING" STUDY GROUP

Our *early* Thursday morning men's study group has selected a book for our next morning study group called, "*Play the Man: Becoming the Man God Created You to Be*" by best-selling Christian Author Mark Batterson.

We would like to extend an invitation to any man in the congregation that is interested in joining us for discussion, scripture reading and prayer. We will meet at Starbucks at Pelham Rd & East North St. beginning at 5:30 am—6:30 am. You should be able to purchase the book locally at one of the Christian book stores or on-line. For questions, call Greg Joens—382-6353.

## ALDERSGATE TRAVELERS

**ALDERSGATE TRAVELS** announces the 2018 Tour. "Colorado Trains" is an 8-day guided trip, including round trip air to Denver, followed by a tour of Colorado featuring 4 scenic train rides like the famous Durango to Silverton route. First class lodging and many meals are included.

Dates Aug. 16-23, 2018. A great value at \$2695 per person double.

For more information please contact Dave Herndon at 864-244-2159 or [dbhern-don1@gmail.com](mailto:dbhern-don1@gmail.com)



## OUR MILITARY

Paul Browder  
Joseph Churchwell  
Hank Gettys  
Patricia Kreuzberger

Katie Pace  
Michael Pompeo  
Troy McDowell  
John Williams

Bradley Brown  
Matthew Russell  
Oryan R. Lahti- ACTIVE

Nick Page  
Paul Scott- ACTIVE

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE  
TO OUR COUNTRY!**

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Pray  
together

**As of printing Tuesday, December 1, 2017:**

**Greenville Memorial:** Larry Stallcup

**Home:** Phil & Jennie Ruth Waynick, Fred Copeland, Ralph Bell, Alton Durham, Freida Parker, Bill Tribble, Beth Rambo, Tom Barnhill, Kim Beam

**Mt. Pleasant, SC:** Florence Hale **Myrtle Beach, SC:** Randy Hale

**The Palmettos:** Atrice Hughey **Brookdale @ Hawthorne:** Nita Bearden

**Waterstone:** Ruth Gunter **Oakview Park:** Joan Pawlus

**Rock Hill /Daughter:** Bill Taylor

**Westminster Senior Living at Augusta Place:** Melba Poole

**Rolling Green:** Jan Ellington, Wilma Tiedeman, Wayne & Audrey Rowan **Haywood Estates:** Ann Linse

**The Cascades:** Patty Andersen, Patti Whelchel **Mt. Home Health & Rehab, NC:** Nancy Reitz

### Other Country Missionaries:

**AUMC Family in Greenville:** Todd, Pam, & Hannah Grace Attaway, go to their blog to read more [www.loveshareserve.blogspot.com](http://www.loveshareserve.blogspot.com).

**AUMC Supported Missionaries in Ecuador:** Daina and Tim Datwyler, visit their website at <http://www.Puertadeesperanza.org>.

**Douglas & Jennings Boone** in Democratic Republic Of Congo, Africa - (Wycliffe Bible Translators) [www.thiscongoleselife.blogspot.com](http://www.thiscongoleselife.blogspot.com)

## ATTENDANCE

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Worship</u>
<b>November 19</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>275</b>
<b>November 26</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>220</b>

**E-Giving  
QR Code**



**SERVING ALDERSGATE ON SUNDAYS****December 10****Lay Readers:**

**8:45 am** Lessons &  
**11:00 am** Carols

**Greeters:**

**8:45 am** Nina & Cody Owens  
**11:00 am** Darlene & Jeff Caviness

**Acolyte:**

**8:45 am** Adyson Davis  
**11:00 am** Laura MacGregor

**Crucifer:**

**11:00 am** Daniel Whiteman

**Usher Captain:**

**8:45 am** Brad Smoak  
**Ushers:** Scott Bagley  
 Trevor King  
 Mark Wessel

**Usher Captain:**

**11:00 am** Rick Lankford  
**Ushers:** Doug Patrick  
 Coley Altman  
 Gray Walsh  
 Grant Lankford

**December 17****Lay Readers:**

John Myers  
 Lee Gettys

**Greeters:**

Barbara & John Sanders  
 Lee & Robert Gettys

**Acolyte:**

Bobby Keith  
 James Whiteman

**Crucifer:**

Julian Gettys

**Usher Captain:**

**8:45** David McAvoy  
**Ushers:** Eddie Beam  
 Henry Scoggins  
 Suzanne Haney

**Usher Captain:**

**11:00** Frank Mathis  
**Ushers:** Jim Cox  
 Bonnie Lampe  
 Trey Covington  
 Coley Altman, III  
 Paul Sleight

**December 24****Lay Readers:**

Gayle Mason  
 Moravian Love Feast

**Greeters:**

Sandy Sanford/Logan Bagley  
 Sara & Bruce Colegate

**Acolyte:**

Ben Keith  
 Graham Addis  
 Brooks Schemm

**7:00 pm**

**Crucifer:**

Ansley Addis  
 Reid Schemm

**7:00 pm**

**Usher Captain:**

**8:45** Jack Cornell  
**Ushers:** Jim Dansby  
 Danny Dobbs  
 Jordan Truesdale  
 Suzanne Haney

**Usher Captain:**

**11:00** Hunt Redfern  
**Ushers:** Terry Tallon  
 Bob Pickens  
 Steve Graves  
 Joel Vanderwood  
 Bruce Royal

**MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS**

**GENERAL FUND:** In memory of Vera Chrismon by Barbara Harris

**PARKER HALL MINISTRY:** In memory of Russell Parker by Barbara Harris





Making Disciples  
for Jesus Christ



#### MINISTRY STAFF

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cvaughn@aumcsc.org

**Sunday Worship Schedule**  
8:45 am & 11:00 am Worship Services  
9:45 am Sunday School  
**Church Office Hours**  
Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am-4:00 pm  
Friday: 9:00 am-12:00 pm

ALDERSGATE UMC  
7 Shannon Dr. Greenville, SC 29615  
Phone: 864-244-1820  
Fax: 864-244-9701  
Child Development Center 864-268-5028  
E-mail: shamilton@aumcsc.org

### CALENDAR DATES—NOVEMBER 2017

#### Sunday, December 3, 2017-Hanging of the Greens

8:45 am & 11:00 am Worship – Children's Choir Singing  
9:45 am Sunday School  
5:00 pm Youth @ The House  
5:00 pm Club 56 & Visioneers

#### Monday, December 4, 2017:

11:00 am Prime Timers Christmas Party – Parker Hall  
1:00 pm Bridge—Parker Hall  
1:00 pm Stephen Ministry - Library

#### Tuesday, December 5, 2017:

Parker Hall Kitchen Out of Commission Due to Cleaning  
9:30 am Women of Faith Christmas Party– Off Site

#### Wednesday, December 6, 2017:

10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study – Companions Classroom  
12:00 pm Mary Teasley & Louise Best Meet at Poinsett Club  
6:00 pm Companions Group Meet in P. Hall (1st Group)

#### Thursday, December 7, 2017:

6:00 pm Widowed Person's Organization—Parker Hall

#### Friday, December 8, 2017:

3:00 pm United Methodist Women Set up Parker Hall for Saturday

#### Saturday, December 9, 2017:

10:30 pm United Methodist Women's Brunch—Parker Hall

#### Sunday, December 10, 2017-Lessons & Carols

8:45 am & 11:00 am Worship – Chancel Choir & Handbells  
9:45 am Sunday School  
5:00 pm Youth @ The House  
5:00 pm Club 56—Angel Tree Shopping  
5:00 pm Youth—Angel Tree Shopping

#### Monday, December 11, 2017:

1:00 pm Prime Timers Bridge—Parker Hall  
6:30 pm UMM Christmas Dinner & A Movie—Parker Hall

#### MISSION STATEMENT

... We are called to make disciples by embracing all people with God's love in Christ and equipping each other for service to God and His world.

#### OUR VISION

**Hearts on Fire...Seeking, Sharing, Serving...For God**

*"A Stephen Ministry Congregation"*

