



Aldersgate In Motion

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

7 Shannon Drive Greenville, SC 29615
864-244-1820 phone 864-244-9701 fax
www.aumcsc.org



Volume 5

Issue 92

August 1, 2018

Mini-Issue's—thru Summer

Thoughts of the Pastor

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ... He has made everything beautiful in its time; also he has put eternity into man's mind, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11)

It's August. Family vacations are coming to an end and kids are starting back to school. Even at the church we will be gearing up for Connect, Fall Festival and Back to School Activities. New Bible Studies will be forming. Groups that took the summer off will be starting up again.

When I was a child I wondered why summer vacation had to end, but times change and that is part of life. Every season has its place in the grand scheme of things and each one is beautiful in the role it plays in life. Often we can only see it if we claim the sense of the eternal that God has placed in us. If we allow the Holy Spirit to help us see things from God's grand perspective, we may not understand it, but we can appreciate its beauty.

Sermon Series on Ephesians - “The Body of Christ”

What is the church? Who are we? What is our purpose and our place in God's plans for the universe? Almost 2,000 years ago the book of Ephesians was inspired to answer these very questions. This letter from 1st century Asia Minor still speaks to us in 21st century Greenville, SC. This month I will finish preaching through the book of Ephesians. Come join us and let us together discover what it means to be the Body of Christ in the world today. The sermons planned for this series are:

August 5: Ephesians 4:1-16 “The Body of Christ: Braggin’ on the Church”

August 12: Ephesians 4:25-5:2 “The Body of Christ: Imitating God”

August 19: Ephesians 5:15-20 “The Body of Christ: Defining a Christian Marriage”

August 26: Ephesians 6:10-20 “The Body of Christ: Onward Christian Soldiers”

ALDERSGATE SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

We are all familiar with Epworth Children's Home, which has served children in SC for over 100 years and with the three senior living centers in Florence, Greenwood, and Orangeburg, which have been serving the needs of seniors for decades.

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry is the new kid on the block serving the needs of adults with special needs. Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry celebrates its 15th anniversary this year! Currently there are three homes in operation in Orangeburg, Columbia, and Florence. Please keep this important ministry in your prayers. On **August 19** we will receive a special offering for Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry. Please plan to give a little extra to support this valuable ministry.



DISCIPLE

FAST TRACK

Into the Word, Into the World

LUKE-ACTS
STUDY MANUAL

DISCIPLES FAST TRACK

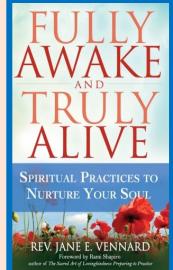
Curious about Disciple Bible studies? Want to know more? No commitment, just come on Sunday, August 5 at 9:45 am in the church library for information and orientation. At the end of this session those interested can sign up for the next study being offered, "Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles", starting on Sunday, August 12. This will be an approximately 12 week study. Contact: Susan Smith, 268-6602 or suesmithumw@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP

The Women's Reading Group will meet at 10:00 am on **August 23** in the church library with the following book chosen:

August 23: Fully Awake & Truly Alive
by Rev. Jane E. Vennard

(A UMW Spiritual Growth
Category for the UMW
Reading
Program)



SAVE THE DATE!

Women of Faith will begin its Fall season on September 18. Women of Faith meets on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 until 11:30. Our mornings include refreshments, prayer, inspirational speakers and small group studies.

Join us on September 18 at 9:30 in Parker Hall for brunch. We'll learn about the small group opportunities for the fall and hear from Toni Norris Taylor. Toni is the founder and director of Circles South Carolina, Inc, a non-profit working with children and families in poverty.



MESSY CHURCH KICKED OFF VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thank You All For A Wonderful Vacation Bible School!

As our VBS week comes to an end, it is only right to thank God for many answered prayers during our four days. We welcomed our members and friends into God's House and had a chance to tell them every day how much God loves them and how we can be disciples of His son Jesus. Our teachers, specialists and daily volunteers did an outstanding job and it was a joy to watch on the second, third and fourth days as the kids excitedly called their names and gave out a bunch of hugs. Relationships were formed and will continue to grow in the coming year.

Our mission project for the week was the organization Water of Life, <https://www.givefreshwater.org/>. We challenged the classes to raise money for the building of a well in either Liberia, Sierra Leone or India and by the end of the week, we raised close to \$1,000. They loved the excitement of helping and have a more world view of how children live in other places. Creating a generous and caring heart is very important at this age.

Lastly, thank you to the church staff (great outfit Alex!), the volunteers that came in to help prep the crafts and those that donated money and/or physical supplies. You are my support system, prayer warriors and I couldn't do it without all of you!

Ruth Hughes



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACK

On August 19, in both worship services, we will mark the beginning of another school year with our annual Blessing of the Backpack. Have your child bring their backpack and during the children's sermon a special prayer will be said.



VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED

The Worship Committee has a need for help with Communion set-up each month. You would work with another person and coordinate setting up the monthly service for the 8:45 am Communion elements. If you are interested, please give Pam Martin a call at 864-884-2684 to learn more.

NEW OFFICE CHAIRS



If you have walked into the church office area in the last 2 or 3 weeks, you will have noticed 2 beautiful new chairs. These chairs were donated by the UMW. A special thanks goes to Mary Ann Repaire who researched and picked out the material. And also to Dick McGaughey who was able to get us a great price from his furniture connections and drove to Georgia to pick them up, saving us a ton in shipping cost! They are beautiful!!

TEACHER NEEDED

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED!

We are looking for a Sunday School teacher for the 3rd-5th grade class from September-May. You would work with another teacher to create a schedule that works for both of you. Lesson plans are provided. This is a GREAT group of kids! Let Johannah know by emailing her at—jmyers@aumesc.org—if you would like to volunteer.



SUMMER SUPPERS

SUMMER SUPPERS will continue thru **August 15** with the meal being served @ 5:30 pm. The cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Make sure you call Cameron Vaughn in the church office **before 1:00 pm** on the Monday before the Wednesday you would like to eat, if you are calling for weekly reservations. Here are the last weeks menus:

Aug. 1- Tacos, chicken or beef and all the fixings!

Aug. 8- Hamburgers & Hotdogs, chips, watermelon, dessert, etc.

Aug. 15-Baked chicken, squash casserole, green beans, rolls, etc.



If you would be willing to help with a team of people one Wednesday night a month during Connect (September, October, November) to prepare and set up for the meal, or clean up after the meal, please let Johannah or Mary Anne Repair know.

Connect Begins August 29

Join us on Wednesday nights at Aldersgate for food, fellowship, study and music.

Dinner is served from 5:30-6:20, \$6 for adults, \$4 for children – Advanced reservations required. Make your reservation by calling Cameron Vaughn in the church office.

Menus for the fall will be available mid-August.

Small Group Opportunities at Connect this Fall

***Prayer Shawl Group** – come crochet together, making prayer shawls, blankets for Killingsworth House, graduation blankets and more. Don't know how to crochet? Here's a great chance to learn! Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm in the Library



***Drawing Class** – led by artist Greg Joens. This class will meet September 12 through October 3 from 6:30-7pm in the Bride's Room

***Animate the Bible** – led by Johannah Myers. This 9 week course will run August 29 through October 24, 6:30 – 7:30pm in the Mac Vinson/Companions Classroom. As the United Methodist Church continues to wrestle with hard issues, one of the ways people will try to draw lines is over how we understand Scripture. Inerrancy, Inspired, Interpretation...what do we mean when we say these things? How do we, as Methodists, traditionally understand the role of the Bible? Where does the Bible even come from? Who wrote it? How do we read it? During these 9 weeks, we will look at how our canon of Scripture came to be and how we read it together. We'll use a video series with discussions by leading theologians and pastors including Will Willimon, Phyllis Tickle, Rachel Held Evans, and Nadia Bolz-Weber. We will also look at a couple of chapters of pastor Adam Hamilton's book, *Making Sense of the Bible*, as we consider the nature of Scripture. We will also include a week to discuss what the Bible says (and doesn't say) about sexuality.



YOUTH NEWS

On August 12, we will kick off the school year with a pool party! This will be at the home of Austin & Katie Watts who have graciously allowed us to use their pool. The party will be from 5:00-7:00 pm and we will be providing the food that night.

I am very excited about the upcoming year in the youth group. We have a great group of 7th graders coming up from the Confirmation class, along with the students already involved. I am looking forward to building something special.

I am still working on the fall schedule but I did want to make sure you had the pool information. Check with me for any other details.



Josh Consalvo,
Youth Director
244-1820
ext. 212

CLUB 56/Vissioneers

Upcoming dates and events:

August 26: 3:30-5:00 pm

Messy Church/Back-to-School Cook-out

September 2: - No 56—Labor Day

September 8: - 56/Visioneers—Trip to Asbury Hills

September 9: - No 56

September 16: - 56—Famous Friends of the Bible

September 23: - 56—Service Night

September 30: - 56—Minute to Win It

The Five Fingers of Club 56
“FEWSD”
Fellowship, Evangelism,
Worship,
Service and Discipleship



*Meeting time is from 5:00—7:00 pm
unless otherwise noted.*

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY—GERMANY/AUSTRIA TRIP

Brochures and registration forms are now available for the **June 15, 2020** trip to see the Oberammergau Passion Play. Join us on this 9 day trip to Germany and Austria. The highlight of the trip will be the 2020 Passion Play. This play is performed by the villagers of Oberammergau, Germany every ten years as it has been for the past 380 years. Pick up a brochure on the volunteer desk in the office area or in the Commons area. The trip includes airfare, some breakfast/dinner, travel, hotel and play tickets. You can also see Johannah for more infor-



OBERAMMERGAU 2020
A ONCE-IN-A-DECade OPPORTUNITY





Join us as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year!
Activities, celebration, and a huge cookout – Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, August 26 beginning at 3:30
Aldersgate UMC 7 Shannon Dr Greenville
www.facebook.com/messychurch.aumcsc

HELP WILL BE NEEDED! If you can help volunteer with the activities we need you!

This is also the time when the United Methodist Men can use your help with the Cookout.

Just let Johannah Myers know if you can help with Messy Church or with the Cookout.

You are needed!

We **LOVE** our
Volunteers!!!



INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

One of the ministries Aldersgate is involved with is United Ministries' Interfaith Hospitality Network program (IHN, formerly GAIHN). We work along side John Knox Presbyterian Church in this process. This is a wonderful program with many success stories helping families become self sufficient, but we need more Aldersgate members to help with this ministry to continue to make it successful.

Volunteers visit with the families for two hours in the evening, or provide nutritious meals for them, or stay overnight with them.

If you are interested in learning more about this process, there will be a group from the Haddon Sunday school class who will be meeting on Sunday, Aug. 12 at 10:00 at John Knox, instead of going to our Sunday school class. Feel free to join us. We want to get a better look at where this hosting is done. We will talk about the program, how it's the only shelter that keeps families together and how they have become part of United Ministries' integrated services model to help them get out of poverty.

Enter at the main entrance which faces Aldersgate. Refreshments will be served. Parking is available at John Knox and in the Lake Forest Elementary lot.

For questions call: Bruce Schug 864-616-1573 or Michele Schultz: 864-448-4228



UNITED MINISTRIES REQUEST

Calling All Professionals!

Just this past month, a current participant of Employment Readiness, who is also one of our own GED graduates, was unexpectedly served with a warrant from a neighboring county for two ten-year-old charges that he did not commit. While this participant has recently completed a truck driver training course at Greenville Tech with assistance from United Ministries and is now working full-time in his new career field, he did not have the funds to pay for an attorney to assist him in fighting these charges.

Thanks to an introduction made by a United Ministries board member, our participant followed the advice of a lawyer, at no charge. As a result, the erroneous charges were dismissed, and our participant was able to refocus on his career.

If you have a professional skill and are willing to donate some free expertise and time to a participant at United Ministries who needs the specific services you can offer, please contact Ethan Friddle, Director of Programs and Operations at (864) 242-9326 or efriddle@united-ministries.org. No assistance or advice is too small!

Below is a note sent to Bruce Schug regarding our Aldersgate Interns, Rachel Lawrence & Katherine Armstrong. How wonderful!!!

By the way, we have really appreciated having Rachel and Katherine with us this week at children's camp. They have been exceptionally present for our IHN kids, and related so well to all of the other children who were there. They have been among the finest interns we have ever had! We really appreciate you and Aldersgate United Methodist Church creating this mutually beneficial partnership...

Tony McDade, United Ministries

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The 2018 Faith Build house is complete with the dedication service held on Sunday, July 22, 2018. Our pastor, Alex Stevenson, provided the opening prayer for the dedication service. This year, Aldersgate UMC partnered with John Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, Earle St. Baptist Church and the Golden Strip Coalition of Churches to build a house for Jacob and Danielle Beard and their family in Simpsonville. Aldersgate provided financial support in addition to manual labor for the construction of the house. Aldersgate was the host church for the Friday, May 18, 2018 build date. A team of volunteers from Aldersgate worked on the house that day by painting walls and trim and installing exterior siding and trim. Special thanks goes to Nina Scoggins and Susan Royal who prepared and served a wonderful lunch to the entire work crew. Thanks also goes to all that supported this mission with monetary contributions to the Habitat Fund thru Aldersgate.

Don't forget the 2019 Faith Build will be coming soon. Donations can be made now for that by making a check to Aldersgate UMC and note "Habitat Fund."

Thank you!



THE ATTAWAY'S & TMS (*THE MISSION SOCIETY*)

Hello friends.

We hope you all are having a blessed summer. We pray for you and thank you for following along what God is doing in our lives and in Thailand. We have just gotten back from a month-long visit to Thailand. We took the Greenlight Gateway students and served as hosts for the country.

Hannah Grace had a very happy reunion with her Thai sister CJ! Both had grown up over the past 8 months, but they picked right back up where they left off. We feel fortunate and blessed to be able to keep up many of our friendships and treasure our Thai adopted family.

This is our 3rd year having the opportunity to host the Greenlight Gateway program through TMS-Global. This year we took 7 college aged students from all over the country to Thailand, along with a leader who is currently a second year student at Asbury Seminary. It is amazing and we get the chance to see first hand, people get out of their comfort zones and in new contexts that they are often able to hear more clearly from God. Their experiences gave a lot of time with Thai nationals, many who are Buddhist. These exchanges allowed them to learn about a culture of people much different from theirs, but also with many similarities. Each one was impacted and felt stirrings from God in their walk with him. Most of them feel like the Lord is calling them to serve either in the US or internationally whenever the time is right. God grew them on this trip and we are grateful for his presence.

The trip was also a blessing for the American and Thai missionaries serving in Thailand. The group was able to bring small gifts from the US and offer them encouragement. Each missionary unit spent time with the group sharing what life is like on the field. Most of the students were interested in what were the hardest parts and the best parts of serving cross culturally. Usually the differences in food and availability of food and language barriers were the common sources of stress as well as being so far from loved ones. Encouragement came from the relationships with the Thai people and the opportunity to share the love of Christ and to get to learn and do many new things!

The Greenlight experience is designed to help students discerning a call to mission to see what living as a cross cultural worker is really like. The trip includes some hard parts of ministry including a prayer walk through one of the slums of Bangkok. This along with a prayer walk in the Redlight district and a visit to an orphanage were some of the most challenging parts for the group. These experiences helped them to see the needs and burdens that exist in the culture.

Many of the Thai people we know and love came, sometimes long distances, to see us while we were in Thailand. Despite distance, culture and language barriers God can form beautiful friendships and community.

Since working in mobilization we have been blessed with the chance to walk alongside some really wonderful people the Lord is calling to missions. One in particular is Graysen who arrived to start his term with TMS serving out of the Muang Thai church in Bangkok. It was a great joy to see him on that side of the world and to be there his first Sunday to introduce him to our students and friends from the church. He will now be able to share life and his passion of discipleship which the Lord has called him to among the least reached in Thailand.

Again we are so grateful for you and for your prayers for us and for the Thai people. We are sure the Lord is moving there and look forward to what he will continue to do in this land that He loves.

Prayer Requests:

- ◆ Please pray for the most recent Greenlight group as they continue to process all they learned this summer and seek the Lord's direction in their life.
- ◆ Pray for us as we begin to plan for next summer and begin training with potential hosts around the world to expand this program.
- ◆ Please continue to pray for our adjustment to America and for our work here expanding God's kingdom through mobilization and sharing our lives with people, as well a continued resources and financial support so we can continue to serve.
- ◆ Please pray for the Thai people and for the ongoing ministry there. Pray the Lord will raise up more Thai nationals to serve in ministry and let the Western missionaries there work to empower the Thai believers.
- ◆ Please pray for our children and our parents.

Blessings to each of you,

Todd, Pam & Hannah Grace Attaway

See pictures on the next page



ATTAWAY THAILAND PICTURES

Below left top: Todd & Pam at the Chedi. **Below right top:** Todd & Life.

Below left middle: Graysen starting his ministry. **Below right middle:** Hannah Grace and best friend, CJ.

Below left: Greenlight and Thai English Students in Chinatown doing an "Amazing Race."



ATTENDANCE 2018

<u>DATE</u>	<u>S.S.</u>	<u>WORSHIP</u>
July 15-	77	195
July 22-	65	269
July 29-	84	236



TITHES & OFFERINGS

Worship the Lord through giving.

2018 Average Weekly Budget	\$ 15,498.09
2018 Average Weekly Giving	\$ 13,583.45
Previous Week's General Fund Giving	\$ 9,255.01
2018 Avg. General Fund Weekly Expenses*	\$ 14,302.58

*Average weekly expenses include approximately \$29,000 paid to replace air conditioning units.

Sanctuary Media Project to Date	\$ 18,387.21
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MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

GENERAL FUND:

In memory of Barbara Morrow by The Prime Timers

In memory of Lois Klamfot by Jennifer Boling

In memory of Bea Nash by The Prime Timers

FLAG FUND:

In memory of Donald Haton by Jim & Keith Rutherford

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER:

In memory of Lois Klamfot by Woody & Katherine Bayne

MUSIC FUND:

In memory of Garnett & Elwood Winfrey (*Wilma's brothers*) by Jack & Wilma Reitz

OUR MILITARY FAMILY/FRIENDS

Bradley Brown	Oryan R. Lahti- <u>ACT. DUTY</u>
Joseph Churchwell	Troy McDowell
Hank Gettys	Katie Pace
Patricia Kreuzberger	Nick Page
	Michael Pompeo
	Matthew Russell
	Paul Scott- <u>ACT. DUTY</u>
	John Williams



PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR THESE FAMILY & FRIENDS SERVING!