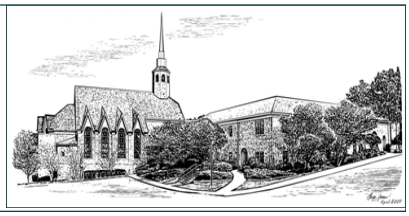
Aldersgate In Motion



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 6
Issue 101
January 11, 2019

In This Issue

Thoughts of the Pastor	2-3
Apportionment Corner	3
Upcoming Sermons	4
The Women's Book Club	4
Sunday Morning Bible Study	4
Re-Newed Members Class	5
Baptism of our Lord Sunday	5
Human Relations Sunday	5
Bible Study of Mark	5
2019 Budget Established	6
Youth	6
Club 56	6
UMM	7
Men of Integrity	7
Connect	8
Messy Church	9
Prayer Concerns	10
Attendance/Tithes & Offerings	10
Serving Aldersgate	11
Memorials/Honorariums	11
Calendar/Other Dates	12

THOUGHTS OF THE PASTOR

I'm Excited About a New Year at Aldersgate!

As we enter a new year at Aldersgate, I am excited about 2019! I have seen so much growth and change this past year and the years before. Of course you know that personally church music has always been an important part of my faith expression. I have seen so much growth in Aldersgate's music. The quality and variety of Aldersgate's musical offerings to God have deepened. If you remember back to 2015, shortly after I arrived here, we had to hire a new music staff, and God blessed us with a wonderful pianist/organist and a talented director. Over the next few years the choir developed and expanded its repertoire and the quality of its sound. Also in that time the handbell choir and the praise team did the same! This past year we hired Dr. Grant Knox to direct our music and he has picked up the ball and run with it. We have further expanded our musical offerings. At the same time our Children's and Cherub Choirs have grown! God is certainly glorified at Aldersgate and I look forward to seeing further growth.

Aldersgate has expanded its ministries. We have always had a number of groups meeting at the church, but if the past years we have expanded the number of people that we minister to and with. The growth of Messy Church has expanded our outreach into the community, and through promoting its use elsewhere it has expanded that outreach to the southeaster region of the country. This past year Messy Church even gave us an opportunity to help people in NC effected by hurricane Florence! We have also added the Mosaic after school program and the Refuge Sports English as a second language classes. This year the Child Development Center added a whole new class!

I am excited about the growth of mission efforts at Aldersgate. While continuing our support of the Datwylers and Attaways in their ministry, we have also expanded our support of local ministries. On top of the 2 Great Days of Service, the 1,000 Acts of Love, we have continued our commitments to Habitat for Humanity, Redbird Mission, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and other local ministries! The church's continued commitment to supporting missions through Apportionments is significant. Even though a budget crunch caused us to suspend apportionment payments, members of the congregation stepped up and donated over $19,000 at the end of the year to help make up some of that apportionment shortfall. I am excited about this level of dedication to missions.

I am also excited about the progress made on the Sanctuary Media Project this year. Firstly the way that the congregation was able to discuss and make a decision on a potentially divisive issue in a Christian manner is significant. It demonstrated Aldersgate's level of spiritual maturity. Secondly, that individuals in the church gave, in a matter of 8 months, over $43,000 to carry out this project is also noteworthy.

THOUGHTS OF THE PASTOR-(CON'T)

We have also grown in our evangelism! Between the expanded ministries, the continued emphasis on hospitality, and people just plain inviting others to church, our numbers have grown. During the previous three years we had averaged 20 people joining Aldersgate each year. In 2018 we had 26 join! While a 30% increase in people joining is good, that is not the most significant thing. In the three previous years, 64% of those new members were over 40. In 2018, 88% were under 40, and of those 46% were children and youth! That is a significant demographic shift, and I hope to see that trend continue and grow in 2019!

Over the past few months individual member of the congregation have shared in the newsletter, and in Ministry Celebration Moments in worship, why they are excited about Aldersgate. I know I am excited about what Aldersgate will do in 2019. What are you excited about at Aldersgate? If you would like to share what excites you about Aldersgate in the New Year, please send your thoughts to me, and we will share a different member's thoughts in each newsletter. I look forward to hearing about what you are excited about!

~ Pastor Alex

APPORTIONMENT CORNER: WORLD SERVICE

What are Apportionments? In the United Methodist Church we share the cost of the general mission of the church. Conferences and churches are given a portion of the overall cost of the missions and outreach of the world wide church. This apportioning of the cost is done by a formula that compares each church's financial abilities compared to the whole. **Membership numbers are not included in this formula!** In our case, Aldersgate is apportioned $91,450 for 2019. That is about 12% of our total budget. Some think of this as a tithe to the larger ministry of the church. It is the cornerstone of Aldersgate's support of the Church's ministry in our state, the nation and around the world. Apportionments are "Our-portion-ment" of the ministry of the world wide church!

The first of these Apportionments is World Service. World Service, is the heart of our denomination wide ministry, underwriting Christian mission and ministry worldwide. Through this fund Aldersgate supports ministries like a soup kitchen in South Africa, a house church in an extended care facility in upstate NY, a hunger relief ministry in Maryland and missionaries and other ministries of love, care, and empowerment in 137 countries around the world. From starting churches to healing diseases World Service funds God's work. "Our-portion-ment" for World Service is $10,563 in 2019.

Please give faithfully so that Aldersgate can support these apportionments. To find out more about apportionments go to: http://www.umcgiving.org.

UPCOMING SERMONS

Sermon Series: Knowing God

Sunday, January 6th we will begin a Sermon Series on "*Knowing God*." January 6th is Epiphany Sunday. An epiphany is a revelation of God, a moment of spiritual realization. The themes of that Sunday, and the Sundays after Epiphany, are about God revealing God's self. The sermons for the next several Sundays are:

January 13: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
"Knowing God: "Your Calling"

January 20: John 2:1-11
"Knowing God: Spirit"

January 27: Luke 4:14-21
"Knowing God: Jesus"

February 3: 1 Corinthians 13
"Knowing God: Love"

February 10: - Boy Scout Sunday

February 17: Luke 6:17-26
"Knowing God: Radical Talk"

February 24: Luke 6:27-38
"Knowing God: Generosity"

March 3: Luke 9:28-36, Exodus 34:29-35 "Knowing God: Transfiguration"

SERMON SERIES

THE WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The January book that will be highlighted for ladies to read is "Hospitable Planet" by Stephen Jurovics. It is based on the five books of Moses and is an important work of witness stating that faith and our connection to God should lead us to save and heal our planet. It is a bonus book from the Social Action UMW Book Category.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

A new study will begin on January 20 called *Animate*. The first study is on the Bible and is 7 sessions. Some topics are the canons, history, and genre. Quoting from their descriptions: "One look at this and it is clear it is something different. It is an open-ended approach that invites sharing questions, experiences, and opinions. The right side of your brain is about to get a work out." It is not your standard study format. The purchase of participant book is recommended. This class meets at 9:45 am in the library. Contact Susan Smith, 268-6602 for any questions.

RENEWED MEMBERS CLASS

Pastor Alex will offer a "Re"-newed Members Class on Sunday mornings during Sunday School from January 20—March 17. This is a class for those who are new members or who are considering membership at Aldersgate. But it is also a class for long time members who would like a refresher course in Methodism. We will study Methodist history, theology, and tradition. If you are interested please contact Susan Hamilton in the church office to sign up. shamilton@aumcsc.org
864-244-1820 ext. 210

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD SUNDAY

The first Sunday after Epiphany, Jan. 13th, is the Sunday that the church celebrates Jesus' Baptism. This event is important to Christians because it helps define who we are and whose we are as believers in Christ. At Jesus' baptism God said, "This is my beloved son." At our baptisms God says through the church "This is my beloved child." That word of God defines who we are. On Baptism of Our Lord Sunday it is traditional for churches to celebrate a Congregation Reaffirmation of Baptism. This is a moving service of rededication! Baptism of Our Lord Sunday is Jan. 13th this year. Come and rededicate yourself to live as a child of God!

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY

Human Relation Sunday is the Sunday before Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. (*January 20*)Your gifts to **Human Relations Day** provide avenues to restored relationships through ministries like Youth Offender Rehabilitation, Community Developers, self-improvement programs, and United Methodist Voluntary Services community advocacy programs. We will receive a special offering on Human Relations Day. To find out more about the programs supported by the Human Relations Sunday offerings go to: http://www.umcgiving.org, click on "Special Sundays," then on "Human Relations Day."

BIBLE STUDY OF MARK

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study has begun a study of The Gospel According to Mark. It started on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 but it is not too late for you to join us. Mark is the shortest of the four gospels, but it is also the most concentrated gospel. It often gets straight to the point. We meet at 10 am on Wednesdays in the Mac Vinson Companions classroom. The lessons for the next few weeks are:

Jan. 16: Chapter 2-3
Ministry in Galilee Part 1

Jan. 23: Chapter 4-
Ministry in Galilee Part 2

Jan. 30: Chapter 6-7
Moving beyond Galilee

2019 BUDGET ESTABLISHED

In late December the Church Council established a budget of $740,865.88 for 2019. This budget is based on your estimates of giving at the time the budget was written of $505,516 (That estimate of giving total has gone up since then to $574,356!), and an estimated unpledged income of about $200,000. This estimate for unpledged gifts is based on the unpledged gifts of previous years as a percentage of your estimates of giving. This 2019 budget is a reduction of $65,065.12 from 2018's budget. It was achieved by the different ministry areas and committees reducing their requests by about $21,000 from 2018's budget, and then the Finance Committee trimming them further by about another $44,000. This 2019 budget includes 100% of Aldersgate's 2019 apportionments. It is a very conservative and achievable budget.

Please continue to give faithfully, and we can meet and possibly exceed this budget. There are a number of items that had to be cut out to reach this budget. If giving exceeds these conservative estimates, we may be able to add back some of the amount that we trimmed out of the budget. Continue to pray for Aldersgate. Exciting things are happening and God is blessing this church.

JOSH HAS ALL THE INFO! CALL OR TEXT HIM AT 704-434-0864

CLUB 56

JANUARY 13—WHAT'S YOUR CHARACTER LIKE?

JANUARY 20—*NO CLUB 56*—HOLIDAY WEEKEND

JANUARY 27—THE COURAGE TO SAY NO! **(MESSY CHURCH)**

Club 56 happens on Sunday evenings from 5:00 pm—6:30 pm

For any questions email Ruth at ruthhughes@charter.net or call 380-8706.

The Five Fingers Of Club 56 "FEWSD"

FELLOWSHIP
EVANGELISM
WORSHIP
SERVICE
DISCIPLESHIP

UNITED METHODIST MEN

HERE ARE THE NEXT FEW DATES FOR THE UNITED METHODIST MEN MEETINGS. ALL THESE ARE ON MONDAY'S IN PARKER HALL.

BEGINNING AT 6:32 PM

FEBRUARY 18—GENERAL MEETING

MARCH 18—GENERAL MEETING

Other events are coming! Golf, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Stay tuned!!!

TUESDAY MORNING *MEN OF INTEGRITY* STUDY GROUP

Meet at ***6:35 am*** at Broadway Bagels, located at 2426 Hudson rd., Greer, SC 29650.

MEN'S THURSDAY MORNING STUDY

We have another group of men who also meet early in the morning on Thursday mornings, at ***5:30 am*** in the Mac Vinson Companions Classroom . Any man is invited to come and take part in listening/learning.

OUR MILITARY (Family & Friends)

Jack Bissionette **Paul Browder**

Oryan R. Lahti- ACT. DUTY **Troy McDowell**

Bradley Brown **Nick Page**

Joseph Churchwell **Katie Pace**

Patricia Kreuzberger **Hank Gettys**

Matthew Russell **Paul Scott– ACT. DUTY**

Michael Pompeo **John Williams**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY!

fellowship study music crafts service

connect

Wednesdays @ Aldersgate UMC

Seeing Aldersgate: Creative Arts
Led by Greg Joens
January 9 – February 6

Explore our church with fresh eyes through a variety of artistic mediums. This class will meet from 6:30 until 7 to brainstorm and consult with artist Greg Joens. Participants then have the opportunity to explore and work on their art.

Short Stories By Jesus
Led by Johannah Myers
January 9 – February 13

Using the book by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, professor of NT at Vanderbilt, we will explore several of Jesus' most famous – and often misunderstood parables.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Every Wednesday

Come crochet with this group. All skill levels welcome. Blankets, shawls, and more – all going to those who could use a sign of God's love.

MENU FOR THE REMAINDER OF JANUARY

1/16: Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, dessert

1/23: Pork tenderloin, potatoes, squash, dessert

1/30: Lasagna, salad, dessert

Make reservations by calling or emailing Cameron Vaughn in the church office. Meals are $6 for adults, $4 for children.

Dinner is served from 5:30-6:20

Messy Church

Where Do I Belong?

Luke 2:41-52

Join us at Messy Church on January 27
at 9:45 a.m. (during the Sunday School hour)
Everyone is welcome!

Volunteers are Needed!
Contact Johannah to
sign up!

PRAYER CONCERNS

As of printing Tuesday, January 10, 2019:
Home: Alton Durham, Warren & Beth Rambo, Freida Parker, Pete & Martha Hendrix, Peggy Miller, Ann Armstrong, Annette McDuffee, Lillis Smith, John & Mary Holmstrand
Brookdale @ Hawthorne: Nita Bearden
Cascades: Patti Whelchel **Mt. Pleasant, SC**: Florence Hale
Myrtle Beach, SC: Randy Hale **Haywood Estates**: Ann Linse
NHC Mauldin: Atrice Hughey
Rosecrest: Jennie Ruth Waynick **Rolling Green**: Wayne Rowan, Ralph Bell
Westminster Senior Living at Augusta Place: Melba Poole
Rock Hill /Daughter: Bill Taylor **Mt. Home Health/Rehab, NC**: Nancy Reitz
Local & Other Country Missionaries:
AUMC Family in Greenville: Todd, Pam, & Hannah Grace Attaway, go to their blog to read more 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

ATTENDANCE 2018/2019

	Sunday School	Worship
December 16	133	408
December 23	116	274
December 30	80	155
January 6, 2019	109	257

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Worship the Lord through giving. **January 6, 2019**

2019Average Weekly Budget	$ 14,732.57
2019 Average Weekly Giving	$ 17,382.27
2019 Avg. General Fund Weekly Expenses	$ 271.37
Previous Week's General Fund Giving	$ 17,382.27

CONSECRATION SUNDAY REPORT

163 families have estimated their giving for 2019! The new total is **$579,756**

SERVING ALDERSGATE ON SUNDAYS

January 20, 2019:

Lay Reader:	8:45 am Julian Gettys	11:00 am Tom Angster
Greeters:	8:45 am	11:00 am
Acolytes:	8:45 am Julian Gettys	11:00 am Coley Altman
Crucifer:		11:00 am Hudson Patrick
Usher Captain	8:45 am Jack Cornell	**Usher Captain** 11:00 am Hunt Redfern
	Ushers: Jim Dansby, Danny Dobbs Jordan Truesdale, Suzanne Haney	Ushers: Terry Tallon, Steve Graves Joel Vanderwood, Bruce Royal

January 27, 2019:

Lay Readers:	8:45 am Gayle Mason	11:00 am Ruth McAllister
Greeters:	8:45 am	11:00 am
Acolytes:	8:45 am Bobby Keith	11:00 am Anna Hoffman
Crucifer:		11:00 am Graham Addis
Usher Captain	8:45 am Austin Watts	**Usher Captain** 11:00 am David Rose
	Ushers: Doug Jordan Phil Martin, Waldo Watts	Ushers: Clay Garrison David Ayer, Cody Owens

February 3, 2019:

Lay Readers:	8:45 am John Myers	11:00 am Karis King
Greeters:	8:45 am	11:00 am
Acolytes:	8:45 am Karis King	11:00 am James Whiteman
Crucifer:		11:00 am Rebekah MacGregor
Usher Captain	8:45 am Brad Smoak	**Usher Captain** 11:00 am Rick Lankford
	Ushers: Scott Bagley, Trevor King, Mark Wessel	Ushers: Doug Patrick, Coley Altman, Gray Walsh, Grant Lankford

MEMORIALS/HONORARIUMS

GENERAL FUND:
In memory of Jerry Thomas by Elizabeth Monts, Anonymous, C. Joel & Gayle Sprague
In memory of Lois Klamfoth by C. Joel & Gayle Sprague
In memory of Barbara Morrow by C. Joel & Gayle Sprague
In memory of Sterling Watts by C. Joel & Gayle Sprague
In memory of Bill Smith by The Mary Teasley Circle, Rainer & Brenda Ellis

APPORTIONMENTS/WORLD SERVICE:
In honor of the AUMC Staff by Jack & Wilma Reitz

APPORTIONMENTS:
In honor of Dr. Grant & Danielle Knox and Ryland Brown by Toby & Barbara Hunter
In memory of Bayard Lindell by Bob & Darien Pickens
In honor of Barb Taylor by Mary Ann Repaire

VETERANS:
In honor of Dick McGaughey by Danny & Cookie Dobbs

SECURITY SYSTEM:
In memory of Jerry Thomas by The Haddon Friendship Class

Making Disciples
for Jesus Christ

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

MINISTRY STAFF

Alex Stevenson, ext. 207
Sr. Pastor
alex@aumcsc.org
~
Johannah Myers, ext. 211
Director of Christian Formation
jmyers@aumcsc.org
~
Ruth Hughes, ext. 204
Director of Children & Leisure/Adult Ministries
rhughes@aumcsc.org
~
Dr. Grant Knox, ext. 208
Director of Music
gwhitknox@gmail.com
~
Ryland Brown
Musican
ryland.brown@charter.net
~
Jennifer Nelson Director
Child Development Center
jnelson@aumcsc.org
864-268-5028
~
Josh Consalvo, ext. 212
Director of Youth
joshconsalvo@gmail.com
~
Susan Hamilton, ext. 210
Office Manager/Comm.
shamilton@aumcsc.org
~
Cameron Vaughn, ext. 206
Financial Secretary
cvaughn@aumcsc.org

CALENDAR DATES—*January 2019*

Sunday, January 13:
8:45 am & 11:00 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
4:30 pm Church Council—Mac Vinson Companions Class
5:00 pm Club 56 & Youth
Monday, January 14:
9:00 am Staff Meeting – Library
12:30 pm Bridge – Parker Hall
6:30 pm Cub Scouts @ The House
Tuesday, January 15:
6:35 am Men of Integrity–Broadway Bagels @ Hudson Corners
7:00 am Boy Scouts
Wednesday, January 16:
10:00 am Pastor's Bible Study – Mac Vinson Companions Class
5:30 pm Connect—Meal
6:20 pm Children's Music
6:30 pm Connect Classes
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room
Thursday, January 17:
5:30 am Men's Study—Mac Vinson Companions Class
Sunday, January 20:
8:45 am & 11:00 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
4:00 pm UMW Executive Board Mtg.—Mac Vinson Companions Class
Monday, January 21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Church Office Closed
Tuesday, January 22:
7:00 am –7:00 pm Special Elections Held—Parker Hall Used
9:30 am Women of Faith—Soul Café for Gathering
7:00 pm Boy Scouts @ The House

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"