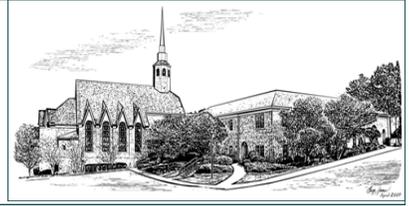




Aldersgate In Motion



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

Volume 6

Issue 117

October 1, 2019

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THOUGHTS OF THE PASTOR

About that Bear

Those of you who were in worship will know that on Sunday, September 29, I used a story in which a bear charged me.

In May 1986, I was performing trail maintenance for the U.S. Forest Service on Big Frog Mountain, which is located in the Big Frog and Cohutta Wilderness Areas of southeast Tennessee and northeast Georgia. Late one day my two companions and I surprised a bear, which caused the bear's cub to go up a tree. The bear immediately stood up at the foot of the tree and roared at us. This is the most terrified I have ever been in the backcountry. The bear dropped and charged, closing about half the distance between us before stopping, rearing up on her hind legs and roaring again. That's where I left off in my sermon...

Several of you have asked me about that bear. So, in the immortal words of the Paul Harvey, here is the rest of the story: There we stood, three terrified young men and one scared and terrifyingly angry bear—separated by maybe 15 yards. It felt like nothing happened for a long time. Many things ran through my mind: You cannot outrun a bear. If one of us ran or made a sudden movement it seemed certain that at least one of us would be mauled, perhaps fatally. Hmmmm.... What to do?

Without moving any part of my body (including my lips) I quietly said, "Let's move slowly down the trail." We slowly sidestepped along the trail. The bear dropped to all fours and, hackles up and huffing, she mirrored our movements. We were soon able to back S-L-O-W-L-Y away and then turn out of the bear's line of sight. Whereupon we ran Q-U-I-C-K-L-Y until we felt like we had gone far enough. Then we collapsed and tried to pull ourselves together. It was an interesting time.

Why am I sharing this story here? Because we live in interesting times. Our world, our nation, our people, our Church, our denomination are divided—badly. You know this. Sadly, it appears that over the next year or so it will get worse before there is any hope of it getting any better—and it may not get any better even then.

The causes of this division are well beyond the scope of this writing, but I believe there are some lessons to be learned from my encounter with that bear. There may come a time when we, like that bear, have to rear up, roar our defiance, and take our stand—come what may. Those times are thankfully rare. Perhaps we should seek to understand, or at least empathize with, the "other." Maybe the wiser course is to turn aside and go another way.

THOUGHTS OF THE PASTOR, con't

We worry and fret about what the future holds. But, as the aforementioned Paul Harvey said, “In times like these it helps to recall that there have always been times like these.” Jesus said, “Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? . . . strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today [Mat. 6:25-42 (NRSV)].” As the saying goes, let’s pray big and worry small.

Let’s devote ourselves to what matters. Let’s focus on the Cause of causes. Let us strive first for the kingdom of God. Let us fulfill together the Greatest Commandment (*Love God. Love neighbors. That’s it.*) and the Great Commission (*make disciples*). And let someone else worry about all those other things. Let’s change things for the better. For everyone. I’ll see you on Sunday.

Enjoying the Journey,

Michael

TRANSFORMATION WALK/RUN—UNITED MINISTRIES

Take a Step. Change a Life. **Sunday, October 6** at First Baptist Church, Greenville. Registration begins at 1pm or register online at united-ministries.org. All proceeds benefit United Ministries’ programs. If you cannot participate in the walk you may donate towards the Aldersgate Team.

TRANSFORMATION WALK/5K-RUN

United Ministries offers programs that serve and empower those in our community who are striving to achieve self-sufficiency.



A poster for a church event. The background is black with teal streamers and pink and teal confetti. The text is in teal and pink.

MESSY CHURCH
THE BIGGEST PARTY EVER!

COME EXPLORE FAITH TOGETHER AS WE LEARN ABOUT THE GREATEST PARTY OF ALL TIME

OCTOBER 13
BEGINNING AT 3:30PM
FACEBOOK.COM/MESSYCHURCH.AUMCSC

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for both of these events. Please contact Johannah Myers to let her know you can help. 864-244-1820 ext. 211 or jmyers@aumcsc.org

A poster for a fall festival. The background is orange with yellow and white bunting. On the left is a cartoon illustration of a circus ringmaster in a red jacket and black top hat, holding a red and blue balloon. The text is in white and yellow.

WE ARE DESIGNED TO SHINE!

FALL FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 3 3:30-5:30 PM
ALDERSGATE UMC
TRUNK OR TREAT & HOT DOG SUPPER

A NEW OUTLET FOR COLLECTIBLE GARAGE SALE ITEMS

The leaders of the garage sale are looking for someone familiar with Ebay or other online sales techniques to help us establish an online store presence for items from the garage sale. This person (s) would take photos and catalogue items that might sell online before or after the garage sale, post them and arrange for payment and pick-up at the church. Currently, the items are Christmas oriented such as Snow Babies, nice Christmas plates and decorative pieces. Just another unique way to share your gifts and talents with us. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 244-1820 and we will put you in touch with the UMW representative.



PRIME TIMERS MINISTRY

The Aldersgate Prime Timers Ministry would like to invite you all to our October luncheon, on Monday October 7th. Our guest will be **Bill Owens and Friends**. Bill is widely known as the "King of Trivia". He is a writer and radio/television announcer whose career spans six decades. He served as host and announcer for the children's program *Discovery* in the 1960's.

Deadline for reservations is this **Wednesday, October 2nd**. If you are on the call list, tell your hostess "Yes"! You may also call Ruth Hughes at 244-1820, Ext. 204 or make reservations by simply responding to this email to save yourself a seat. The cost for lunch is \$7.00. Just want to come for the program? Simply, let the hostess know as you come in.

For those who have never had the chance to experience our First Monday luncheons, make a plan to start with this one! It is a great event for inviting friends and visitors. Our program begins at 11 am and lunch is served around noon. Please forward this email along to all of your family or friends that might be interested in coming. Also, please considering putting a general invite out to those in your social media "friends" lists. You do not have to be a church member to enjoy these programs!

Ruth Hughes





Women of Faith

TUESDAYS

9:30 AM IN PARKER HALL

It's not too late to join in for the Fall
Season of Women of Faith!

Upcoming Speakers include:

Oct 1 - Margaret Justus

Oct 8 - Brenda Ellis

Oct 15 - Susan Smith

Oct 22 - Julie Lee from Refuge Sports

Save the Date!

ALDRSGATE WOMEN'S RETREAT
JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 2, 2020
BONCLARKEN RETREAT CENTER

Registration is now open for the 2020 Retreat. Pick up a registration form in the office or register online:
www.aumcsc.org/womens-retreat

Financial assistance is available. See Johannah for more details. Be on the lookout for upcoming fundraisers!

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER NEWS & INFORMATION

Our Child Development Center is in full swing! We opened the doors for this school year on Tuesday, September 3rd. Ninety-nine (99!) children from 79 different families join our staff of 16 teachers each week for learning, developing friendships and playing. Most of our children are here from 8:45-2 each day, but some children arrive as early as 7:30 and some stay as late as 4:30. The CDC children participate in PE, Music, Chapel and Spanish each week. They visit the playground daily, they enjoy snack and lunch at school, and they fit art, learning centers, sensory tubs, reading, math, science and more into each day. *Recently our K4 classes held a pet parade, showing off both real and stuffed pets. This month we will enjoy a visit from a local fire truck and we will make our own pumpkin patch.* We stay so busy and have so much fun!! The children learn how to sit in chapel and how to pray, and we share the love of Jesus with them every day. We are very grateful for the continued support of our church family.



The CDC is looking for a few people to round out our staff for the 2019-20 school year. If you or someone you know might be interested in any of these spots, please contact Jennifer at 864-268-5028 or jnelson@aumcsc.org. Please join us in prayer that just the right people will fill the following positions:

MUSIC AND CHAPEL: We are in the process of hiring a new Music and Chapel teacher. This position is one full and one half day each week.

PART-TIME FLOATER: We are also in need of someone to work from 12-4:30 each day, helping out in different classrooms, doing light paperwork and helping with our Extended Stay program. This position could be shared between two people, so if you are interested but not available every weekday please get in touch with Jennifer and we can talk it through.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS: Finally, we need substitute teachers that we can call on when our teachers need to be out of school. If you like to have fun and you are available between 9-2 on weekdays, then this is the place for you! We also need subs in the mornings from 7:30-9 and in the afternoons from 2-4:30. DSS does require paperwork, including a background check, to be a substitute.

MISSIONS & LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We have been asked to partner again with our neighbor **Lake Forest Elementary** to provide for weekend packages of food for students who have a need for food, over the weekend while no breakfast and lunch is available from the school. Below is a list of food items we can include. The Kingdom Sunday School class can again house the goods, pack and deliver them each month. You can drop off the donations to the Kingdom class (currently in the Bride's room). If you could provide the items needed we are sure these kids will be so blessed by your actions. Thank you and blessings to all!

The Missions Team

Each bag per student:

- 1 Gallon sized zip lock bag filled with the following items:
- 2 small pop top cans (*Examples include spaghetti o's/chicken noodle soup/tuna/chili/easy mac/peanut butter*)
- 1 100% fruit juice box, 1 Shelf stable chocolate milk box, 1 applesauce 1 fruit cup
- 2 boxes cereal 1-2 Other nutritious snacks, such as peanut butter crackers or granola bars

Other examples include:

Pop-tarts, cereal/granola bars, individual cereal, oatmeal or grits, individual fruit cups, pudding, applesauce, juice boxes, Capri Sun, soup, individual Mac & Cheese, beanie weenies, canned tuna, chicken, Vienna sausage, beef stew, peanut butter or cheese crackers, Chef Boyardee.

DATES OF DELIVERY

Friday, October 11	Friday, November 8	Friday, December 13	Friday, January 10
Friday, February 14	Friday, March 13	Friday, April 10	Friday, May 8

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION



We are now taking registrations for the 2019-2020 basketball season. You can find registration forms in the church office or you can go to the church website at www.aumcsc.org and print one out.

The teams are as follows:

- K5-1st Grade Boys and/or Girls
- 2nd & 3rd Grade Boys and/or Girls
- 4th & 5th Grade Boys
- 4th—6th Grade Girls
- 6th—8th Grade Boys
- 7th & 8th Grade Girls
- 9th & 10th Grade Boys or Girls
- 11th & 12 Grade Boys or Girls

CLUB 56 & VISIONEERS

As is our tradition we will be participating in the Transformation Walk/Run with United Ministries on Sunday, October 6. We will be meeting after the 11:00 am service for a light lunch in Parker Hall. After that we will change in our walking clothes and shoes and carpool or take the church bus to First Baptist Church at 847 Cleveland Street, Greenville. If you are driving directly there, please meet at 1:30 pm. Bring all the funds you have raised with you. We will turn those in prior to the event. *(No evening meeting Oct. 6th or 13th)*

On Sunday, October 13 it is **Messy Church** time. The time is from 3:30—5:00 pm. This will include a light supper so come prepared to have fun and eat something yummy!

At Messy Church you will also have the opportunity to pick up your Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box!

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

CONGRATULATIONS to our Aldersgate United Methodist Women for being named the Greenville District's Large Unit of the year for 2019. They also received the award of Five Star Unit with Special Recognition for support of Missions and the Mission Today Unit Award. They also received the Diamond Award for supporting Racial Justice.

Congratulations

These awards were presented on Saturday, September 21 at the Greenville District Annual UMW meeting held at Salem UMW in Greenville.

WHAT IS IHN?

The Mission of Interfaith Hospitality Network is to assist local congregations to share hospitality with homeless families. Families will work with case managers from United Ministries to achieve self-sufficiency and self-fulfillment.

What are we as a church doing to participate in lives of the homeless?

Aldersgate UMC is a partner with John Knox Presbyterian Church down the street, hosting our Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) families twice a year.

How can I get involved?

Below are the dates and needs we have. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to engage with families who are trying to get back on their feet and striving for a better future. You will be blessed by serving. It would be a great project for Companion groups too!

The 5-7 Greeter/Server needs to be at John Know by 5pm, wait for guests to arrive, assist with serving the meal and spend time with the families.

The 7-9 Host arrives by 7pm at John Knox, checks in then assists families during this time. There are games and activities as well as a television in the parlor. You can feel free to play with the children and engage with the participants. Some families prefer to stay in their rooms during this time, which is fine too.

The Overnight Host arrives at 9pm. There are two single beds set up in the Host room for overnight volunteers. You are responsible for spending time with the guests in the evening, calling lights out at 10:00pm and locking the main door of the building. At 6:30am you will unlock the main church door and guests are responsible for serving their own breakfast and cleaning up. Guests are to be out of the church by 7:15 am.

Providing Meals- Bring a meal to the church around 6pm to the Kerygma Room, meal count will be provided. Please use disposable serving dishes. No need to provide beverages. **If you would like to stay and eat with the families and the hosts that would be wonderful!**

What are the needs for this November?

TUESDAY, November 19, 2019

5-7pm Host

7-9pm Host

Overnight

Meal:

THURSDAY, November 21, 2019

5-7pm Host

7-9pm Host

Overnight

Meal:

SATURDAY, November 23, 2019

5-7PM Host

7-9pm Host

Overnight

Meal:

How can I learn more?

The coordinators of INH at United Ministry will be holding an informational question and answer session on **October 27 at 10:00 am at John Knox**. If you would like more information please consider attending this event.

Thank you,
The Missions Committee at Aldersgate

REFUGE SPORTS

Volunteers still needed for Refuge Sports English (ESL) program (a wonderful partnership with Aldersgate UMC) on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11:30 am - for refugee ladies and pre-schoolers:

For any questions you may call Ruth Ann Gooch at 864-414-1888 or you may email her at ragooch@att.net. She is a champion for this mission and could certainly answer any questions you may have.

1. Our teacher for our 3 advanced ladies needs a regular co- teacher/ or assistant on **Thursdays**.
2. Our other group (of 5 ladies) needs a co-teacher/or assistant on **Tuesdays** and on **Thursdays**. **We are still teaching this group reading.*
3. We need 2 more preschool workers on **Tuesdays** and 2 more on **Thursdays**.
4. **Tuesdays** we need someone to pick up Halimah and twins (Rose and Lily) and take them home.
5. It would be very helpful to have someone in charge of nametags, welcoming everyone and setting up for our 10:30 **hospitality** break (our hot water pot for tea, hot chocolate and coffee)... and cleaning up.

Volunteers should arrive by 9:15 am.

For our **Afterschool** Reading Club on **Thursdays 2:30-4:00** for the refugee children (9 of them) from Lake Forest Elem School, we could use a person to provide their snack - or coordinate others to provide the snack at 2:30. They love ice cream, bananas, mandarins, and few other favs. (Drinks are not needed - to drink they prefer water.)

Thank you so much for what you do to make it possible for all of us together to serve our resettled refugee community. Aldersgate is a wonderful church.

Julie Lee
Refuge Sports
Reaching out to resettled refugees in the USA
864-270-9923

BOXES, BOXES, BOXES

We have lots of boxes left over from the garage sale, so if you are moving or know someone who is moving, we would love to pass these along. Some of them are on the back porch of the gym and some are on the stage in Parker Hall.

First come, first serve.

PRAYER CONCERNS



As of printing Wednesday, October 1, 2019:

Prisma/Greenville Memorial: Waldo Watts

Home: Beth & Warren Rambo, Pete & Martha Hendrix, John & Mary Holmstrand, Tom Barnhill, Rudy Rogers, Joan Sanford, Maxine Hardin, Shirley Cooke

Southern Oaks-Rehabilitation in Piedmont: Ann Armstrong

NHC Mauldin: Atrice Hughey **NHC Greenville:** Mary Murray

Memory Care of Simpsonville: Jennie Ruth Waynick

Myrtle Beach, SC: Randy Hale **The Woodlands:** Peggy Miller **Brookdale/Pelham:** Fred Copeland

Oakview Park: Joan Pawlus **Cascades:** Patti Whelchel **Rolling Green:** Wayne Rowan

Haywood Estates: Ann Linse **Rock Hill/Daughter:** Bill Taylor

Brookdale @ Hawthorne: Nita Bearden **Westminster Senior Living/Augusta Place:** Melba Poole

Local & Other Country Missionaries:

AUMC Family in Greenville: Todd, Pam, & Hannah Grace Attaway -

www.loveshareserve.blogspot.com.

AUMC Supported Missionaries in Ecuador: Daina and Tim Datwyler-

www.Puertadeesperanza.org.

Douglas & Jennings Boone in Democratic Republic Of Congo, Africa -

www.thiscongoleselife.blogspot.com

ATTENDANCE

Sept. 22

S. School- 127
Worship - 314

Sept. 29

S. School- 98
Worship - 248

OUR FINANCIAL RECORD

General Fund Budget Needs (YTD)	\$	561,049.41
Total General Fund Receipts (YTD)	\$	585,611.65
Total General Fund Expenses (YTD)	\$	564,514.88
Surplus in Contributions to Expenses (YTD)	\$	21,096.77
<u>Weekly General Fund Budget Needs</u>	\$	14,385.88
Previous Weeks General Fund Giving – week 39	\$	9,083.00

OUR MILITARY (Family & Friends)



Jack Bissonnette ACT. DUTY

Oryan R. Lahti- ACT. DUTY

Paul Scott- ACT. DUTY

Joseph Churchwell

Paul Browder

Troy McDowell

Nick Page

Katie Pace

Patricia Kreuzberger

Bradley Brown

John Williams

Michael Pompeo

Matthew Russell

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SERVED AND THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING!

Making Disciples
for Jesus Christ



MINISTRY STAFF

864-244-1820

Michael Bingham, **ext. 207**
Pastor

mbingham@aumcsc.org

~

Dr. Johannah Myers,
ext. 211

Director of Christian
Formation

jmyers@aumcsc.org

~

Ruth Hughes, **ext. 204**
Director of Children &
Leisure/Adult Ministries

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~

Dr. Grant Knox,
Director of Music

gwhitknox@gmail.com

~

Ryland Brown
Musician

ryland.brown@charter.net

~

Jennifer Nelson Director
Child Development Center

jnelson@aumcsc.org

864-268-5028

~

Todd & Pam Attaway
Interim-Directors of Youth

~

Susan Hamilton, **ext. 210**
Office Manager/Comm.

shamilton@aumcsc.org

~

Cameron Vaughn, **ext. 206**
Financial Secretary

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—OCTOBER 2019

Tuesday, October 1:

1:00 pm Tuesday Bridge Group

9:30 am Women of Faith

7:00 pm Boy Scouts @ The House

Wednesday, October 2:

9:00 am Staff Meeting—library

10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study—Mac Vinson Companions Class

5:30 pm Connect

6:30 pm Classes/Cherub & Children's Choir Practice

7:15 pm Choir Practice—Choir Room

Sunday, October 6: World Communion

8:45 & 11:00 am Worship

9:45 am Sunday School

12:20 pm Light Lunch for Transformation Walkers/Runners—Parker Hall

2:00 pm Transformation Walk/Run-United Ministries

Monday, October 7:

11:00 am Prime Timers Luncheon

6:30 pm Cub Scouts @ The House

5:30 pm Gardners Group—Parker Hall

Tuesday, October 8:

6:35 am Men's Bible Study Group—Broadway Bagels off Hudson Rd.

9:30 am Women of Faith —Parker Hall

7:00 pm Boy Scouts @ The House

Wednesday, October 9:

9:00 am Staff Meeting—library

10:30 am Pastor's Bible Study—Mac Vinson Companions Class

5:30 pm Connect

6:30 pm Classes/Cherub & Children's Choir Practice

7:15 pm Choir Practice—Choir Room

Thursday, Oct. 10:

9:30 am Pastor's Meeting—Library & Mac Vinson Companions

6:30 pm Scouts Roundtable—Soul Café

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"

