

Aldersgate Advocate



But we have this
treasure in jars of
clay to show that
this all-surpassing
power is from God
and not from us.

2 Corinthians 4:7

Beside the Alabaster Jar

June, 2006

Dear friends,

Personal holiness and social holiness; these are the two foundations of our Wesleyan theology. We speak about these concepts when one thinks of their call to be in personal relationship with God and their call to be part of a community that works for justice and peace. The personal relationship with God is acted out as we seek to foster social holiness by loving and caring for our sisters and brothers

Jesus asks us even today, "What are the greatest commandments?" The answer is to love God with your whole self and to love neighbor as yourself. And who is my neighbor? The story of the Good Samaritan teaches that even one's enemy is one's neighbor. The nationality of the person in this story has come to define the one who helps others.

Our work in Nicaragua is one way that we are engaged in social holiness. Thank you so much for the gift of representing you at Sierra Maestra. The school is doing well with this year's class preparing to graduate in November. Even though they are graduating, they were clear about the need for a computer lab for their brothers and sisters who will continue to study. My husband, Richard, and I were able to go to an appliance store and a hardware store and make the purchases to install the air conditioning which begins the process of creating this lab. Once completed, we will send funds for three computers and the Sierra Maestra Board has made a commitment to purchase two more. With five computers in place, the school will be able to receive a certificate from the Nicaraguan Education Department for a computer lab. If all goes well we would like to eventually increase the stations. Richard's knowledge of buildings and air conditioning was very helpful in getting started on this project.

Another way that we express our social holiness is through our work with the Merrimack Valley Project, a group that organizes churches, congregations, labor unions, and other groups to address common issues right here in the Merrimack Valley. Working through the Greater Lowell Chapter, we are seeking to address the high cost of housing by encouraging non-profit developers to build affordable housing and promoting the need for workforce housing in all of our communities. If the high cost of housing is stressing your family, I would be interested in hearing from you.

Personal holiness, including the practices of prayer, devotion, Bible Study, attending worship, receiving communion, lead one in closer relationship with God. That personal relationship with Jesus Christ leads one to emulate the practices of Christ and seek social holiness. As you re-create during these summer months, may your faith also be strengthened and renewed.

Pastor Sharon

Worship News

Pastor Sharon will be on vacation during the first two weeks of July and counseling a week at Camp Mechuwana, during the fourth week. We will welcome Charles McCrea on July 2nd, John Park on July 9th, and Rev. Wi Lee Tan, executive director of the United Methodist Foundation on July 23rd.

On July 16th we will celebrate the sacrament of Baptism and Pastor Sharon will preach on Psalm 24. "Who is this king of glory?" (Psalm 24:10)

In August the lectionary has us spending time with King David; we hear about his "abduction" of Bathsheba, Uriah's wife, and God's displeasure. Each week, we unfold a new episode of David's saga and realize that God chooses to work through humanity even giving our foibles. The gospel lessons, drawn from God focus on Jesus as the bread of life and emphasize the need for him in our lives.

We hope that you will join with your community of faith for worship on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in July and August. We return to two services on the Sunday after Labor Day Weekend. During the summer months, children will be invited to share a picture book and an activity during the sermon time.



Scripture Readings - July and August

July 2

Psalm 130
2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

July 23

Psalm 89:20-37
2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

August 13

Psalm 130
2 Samuel 18:5-9,15,
31-33
Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

July 9

Psalm 48
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 30

Psalm 14
2 Samuel 11:1-15
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

August 20

Psalm 111
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

July 16

Psalm 24
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

August 6

Psalm 51:1-12
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 27

Psalm 84
1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11)
22-30, 41-43
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

Summer Concert

Please join us for a dinner and concert with a group of Russian children on Tuesday, August 1, 2006. Dinner will be at 6:30 and tickets are available from Donna Leary. The concert begins at 8:00 and all are invited to join us for what will be a very enjoyable evening. If you are interested in helping to host, please speak to Donna Leary.

Aldersgate's Prayer Ministry

As a community of faith, Aldersgate believes strongly in the power of prayer. There are many opportunities for you to participate in a group prayer ministry such as the Prayer Gathering on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 here at Aldersgate or at home. Please continue to pray for Jack and Nancy.

If you have a prayer request, please notify Debbie. She will alert AUMC's faithful prayer partners! We continue to hold all the people you have requested in prayer in the Sunday morning bulletin. It is helpful if you keep Pastor Sharon or the Church Office aware of any additions, changes, and celebrations of recovery or news you wish to share.

LOOKING BACK



Once upon a time I heard a really great analogy on life – and it had to do with driving a car! Do you remember when you learned how to drive? Your hands were on the wheel at the 10/2 position? And you were told to keep your eyes on the road ahead and to occasionally look back to see what or who was behind you!

This article is something like that.

We look in the rear view mirror to see what is behind us. Our eyes then focus on what is directly in our immediate view. We are also able to look down the road to prepare for what is just ahead of us or, to plan for the exciting days ahead in our church. For a few minutes, we will spend a little time looking in the rear-view mirror and where we are right now! You are invited to ride the Aldersgate Express! With our Mission Statement in mind, **Aldersgate is a family of faith called out by Jesus Christ to serve our congregation, community, and the world by loving, witnessing and teaching God's Word**, we are on our way!

A FAMILY OF FAITH

Births:

Zarah, daughter of Juliet and Nilesh
Jaida Ryan, daughter of Kimberly and Michael
Meghan, granddaughter of Deborah
Pearce, son of Christine and Jason
Alex, son of Sherri and Ed
Chloe Mae, granddaughter of Jo-Ann
Erin Muriel, daughter of Mary and Michael

Anniversaries:

Peter and Debbie celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary in July
Jim and Jean celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August
Charles and Jean celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October
Bob and Ardith celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary in October
Chris and Jack celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary in December
John and Kathy celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary in January
Garth and Elaine celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in February
John and Wendy celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary in February
Joe and Pat celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary in March
Noel and Evelyn celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary in May
Jim and Cheryl celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary in May
Melvin and Harriet will celebrate their 30th anniversary on June 19

Graduates:

From Chelmsford High: Brandon, Robert, Christopher, Justine, Jeremy
From Lexington Christian Academy: Erin
From Seekonk High School: Leslyn
From UMA Amherst: Katie
From Holy Cross: Alison
From University of Oregon: Clare
From Northeastern University: Anne

From The McCallum Graduate School at Bentley College: Martin
From Boston University, School of Theology: John
From Andover Newton Theological School: Rev. Dr. Sharon

New Church Members:

Beth, Lorraine, Janice, Jo-Ann, Janice, Sheri Ann,
Joanne – transfers of membership.
Gabriel, Joshua, Niles, Rebecca, Christopher, Matthew, and Alex – by profession of faith.

New Staff Member:

Rebecca – Director of Children's Music. Becky formed a new junior choir for youth in grades 4-8 and a Junior Bell Ringing Group. Our children and youth participated in "Archangel Gabriel's Awesome Adventure," on a Sunday in December – and it was a joyful event! In May, the Junior Choir and Worship Arts reminded us to become "fishers of people" in their musical message, "Fishtales."

Deaths:

Kent passed away in November, 2005. The family established an endowment in Kent's name that will be used to support drama ministries at Aldersgate. We remember Kent with love and admiration.

Ellen passed away in January, 2006. Ellen is remembered fondly by the Aldersgate Church Family.

We learned that Jim's brother, Colonel (Chaplain) Sterling, passed away in February in Florida. Chaplain Sterling preached at Aldersgate when Rev. Ned Watts was pastor.

George passed away in April, 2006. George enjoyed attending worship at Aldersgate when he was able to do so.

CALLED OUT BY JESUS CHRIST TO SERVE OUR CONGREGATION

- ❖ Aldersgate is a praying church! Debbie leads an email group of faithful prayer partners known as the Aldersgate Prayer Circle. A prayer request is brought to Debbie's attention and she sends it on out. You can become a "Prayer Partner" with us!
- ❖ Prayer Gathering meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM in the Concord Room. This group is privileged to pray for any person and/or situation. "The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us." Join us on Tuesday evenings for an hour – or pray at home!
- ❖ Our own FTD delivery person is Lois, who faithfully delivers altar flowers to people who need a bit of encouragement and a kind word!
- ❖ "Jerusalem Marketplace" was a hit with the thirty-seven children and twenty one adults participating in last summer's Vacation Bible School. Everyone is excited about VBS this year!
- ❖ Worship Arts, a program of music, storytelling, games, bell ringing and craft activities, met weekly for our church children and their friends from the community.
- ❖ Through the efforts of Cheryl and her team, a Junior Youth Group for fourth and fifth graders was created with the purpose of having fun together and helping them to learn about their similarities and differences.
- ❖ The Senior Youth Group for students in grades 6 – 12 continue to serve the congregation and community. Activities included the 4th of July Booth and other fund-raisers to support special events including their trip to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania last summer.

- ❖ Fall brought a study on "Invitation to the Old Testament" held both in the church as well as in the homes of some of our people.
- ❖ The dedication of our new organ on October 23rd was a very special occasion. Local organists from other churches in Chelmsford and our own Jane brought sounds from the organ never thought possible! It was a great evening – thanks to our Organ Committee and to your generosity!
- ❖ The annual Holiday Faire and Festival in December offered a new and very successful table with the theme – "Gracious Regifting." The traditions continued – the wreaths and center pieces were beautiful and the baked goods delicious. Jewelry was a hit and face painting was a joy for the children. The Aldersgate Café was open and the food - excellent!
- ❖ A Lenten Planning Party at the parsonage was a time to share ideas for Lent. The general theme for Lent was "Open the Door." *Invitation to the New Testament* was the study book. Highlights included "A Lenten Prayer Journey" guide prepared by Debbie and a music CD with our Chancel Choir, Shepherd Bells, flute, solos, organ and piano. Both the journal and the CD were utilized during the Prayer Vigil held every Tuesday night into Wednesday night during Lent at one's own home. Debbie prepared a list taken from our Aldersgate mailing list and divided it so that at the end of our Lenten experience, every member and friend of Aldersgate was prayed for! Soup and Bread on Wednesday evenings (an Aldersgate tradition) contributed to a meaningful Lenten experience! On Holy Thursday, communion was given in the Concord Room at a table for 12, and the Station's of the Cross on Good Friday prepared us for the abundant joy that resounded from Aldersgate on Easter Sunday morning!
- ❖ Our annual stewardship program, "Taking the Next Step Together" was generously supported by our members and friends. It included neighborhood meetings to determine where God is leading us. With some modifications, a balanced budget was presented and voted at the Annual Church Conference.
- ❖ The "Together for Tomorrow" campaign, through the New England Annual Conference, incorporates the Conference request of \$70,000 from Aldersgate, plus our building renovations of at least \$200,000 given over a five-year period. **As of 5/31/2006, the Conference reports Aldersgate has contributed \$27,601.99!** Preceding this official and successful campaign, and to the delight of the congregation, the members and friends of Aldersgate raised \$43,000 for a new Rodgers Organ. The organ was completely paid for in just a few months!
- ❖ There were and are many opportunities for learning. Study groups included Early Bird Bible Study at 6 a.m. on Tuesday mornings, the Adult Study Class on Thursdays at 10 a.m., Children and Adult Church School on Sunday mornings. These classes - all well received, result in the continuation of learning and provide the opportunity to grow in our faith journey. Adult classes will continue throughout the summer following morning worship.
- ❖ The Women's Ministry presented their annual mini-retreat in October called "The Light of the World." Keynote speaker was Ruth Morrison. Women's Ministry also led a study group based on the book, "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World." The Women's Ministry has become an active part of the church; "nurturing and equipping women through mentoring, fellowship, Bible study and prayer."
- ❖ The Prayer Shawl Ministry met and continues to do so on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. with Cheryl's leadership. This group includes knitters of all ages and skill levels who create beautiful prayer shawls for those who need comfort, spiritual support, and a reminder of God's loving spirit. The Prayer Shawl Ministry has expanded their repertoire to include a beautiful afghan and knitted hats for chemotherapy patients that Steven calls "Hope Hats."

- ❖ Several members participated in a School of Congregational Development held in Rochester, NH in October with Rev. Curtis Brown, Director of Congregational Development of our New England Annual Conference, providing the leadership, together with noted speakers who challenged, inspired, and encouraged us to continue the process of “growing the church.” Several other members attended the Growing Healthy Congregations workshop in Haverhill in April.

TO SERVE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD THROUGH LOVING AND WITNESSING, AND TEACHING GOD’S WORD

- ❖ Aldersgate participates in a feeding ministry at the Eliot Street Church in Lowell on the third Wednesday of each month. Thanks to our Aldersgate Committees for preparing/serving the meals and to Leo for delivering rolls and desserts **every** month! And through the generosity of one of our young people who asked **his** guests to bring personal care items in lieu of birthday gifts, a box of toiletries was given to each dinner guest at Eliot.
- ❖ Used-Stamp Ministry is led by Charlotte Lombar who collects our used stamps and sends them to the Alliance Women’s Stamp Ministry. This group uses the money to purchase Sunday School supplies for their missionary work in Central and South America. Save your used stamps!
- ❖ Aldersgate Food Pantry provides non-perishable items for those who need help. Maureen, Leo and Joe continue to work diligently to make this service available and our church family helps to keep the pantry well stocked. Cash donations allow the purchase of store gift certificates for perishable items.
- ❖ Thanksgiving Baskets (30 were distributed to church families, local schools and My Father’s House), the Santa Tree (for Chelmsford area children), and the Angel Tree Christmas sponsored by Prison Fellowship Ministries (provide gifts to the children who have a parent in prison), the Easter Basket Program (for 29 local children) are just some of the ways our Aldersgate family helps to support local families and those in nearby communities.
- ❖ Nicaragua Covenant continues to be supported generously by the Aldersgate family and the New England Conference. Through our dedicated Outreach Committee and many others in Aldersgate, school supplies, sewing materials, over the counter medications, tooth paste and tooth brushes, clothing and shoes are collected and stored in preparation to be sent to Nicaragua. Pastor Sharon and Richard recently returned from a trip to Nicaragua on our behalf.
- ❖ Habitat for Humanity is an active outreach for our church by our members who generously donate time, monetary gifts, and talent. Several times during the year, a “buy a board” fundraiser for Habitat occurs at the Church. Over \$2600 has been given to Habitat over and above the budgeted amount designated in the Outreach Committee budget.
- ❖ Aldersgate participated in several world wide relief programs to aid in supplying dollars through UMCOR and Church World Service. Aldersgate generously gave more than \$5500 to UMCOR for Katrina relief – imagine! An amount of \$620 has been given so far to purchase blankets for those devastated by loss of homes both in our country and abroad. Shoes for Orphan Soles were another successful venture led by the Leary Family in cooperation with the Church School, and together they were able to supply 200 pairs of shoes to be sent to Russia. Thank you for your generosity!
- ❖ Sue brought a message to us from her experiences in Ghana. Sue, along with a group of trained nurses and nursing students from UMA Amherst went to Africa with the mission of bringing basic health care to a rural community clinic. Sue is grateful for the support of her 5th and 6th grade church school students as well as the congregation for

their generous donations of over the counter medications and financial support to enable Sue to purchase needed supplies.

- ❖ The Merrimack Valley Project is the newest endeavor initiated by Pastor Sharon and supported by Aldersgate. It addresses the basic concerns of living including affordable housing in the Valley area.

In conclusion, these highlights are from the last ten months of the church year. It is difficult to write about the program and ministries of Aldersgate UMC in the past tense – we continue – we plan – we look to the future with optimism. It becomes so clear that in order to accomplish this amazing list of notable events in the life of our church, we are blessed to have the dedicated leadership of Pastor Sharon; the talents of our staff, Cheryl, Carol, Jane, Becky, Sherry, Henry, and Steve; musicians and choirs; the enthusiasm of our teachers, the wisdom of our Church Council and the guidance of our committees and the partnership we have with all of you! It *does* take a village!

You may have other memorable events or people who should be recognized – please email (aumc@gis.net) or call the Church Office (978-256-9400). We would love it if you would share your thoughts with us!



Are you ready to get on board the Aldersgate Express? The best is yet to be!
Joanne

LATE NEWS

**Mark your calendars for the Holiday Faire
& Festival
on**

December 1 and 2, 2006

Faire Planning Meetings:

Monday, September 11	7 p.m.
Monday, November 6	7 p.m.
Monday, October 2	7 P.m.

We always have something wonderful to look forward to!

Aldersgate is a family of faith ...

Congratulations to our Confirmation Class – we welcome you as members of Aldersgate!

Congratulations to our high school and college graduates!

We ask God's continued blessings to be with you, and we wish you continued success as you continue your faith journey. We are so proud of you! And, congratulations to all who celebrate birthdays this summer!

The Confirmation Class

Niles
Christopher
Gabriel
Joshua
Matthew

Mentors

Jill
Peter
Walter
Curt
Ben

Alexander
Rebecca

Beverly
Debbie

Our High School Graduates

Brandon
Robert
Jeremy
Christopher
Erin
Justine
Leslyn

Chelmsford High School
Chelmsford High School
Chelmsford High School
Chelmsford High School
Lexington Christian Academy
Chelmsford High School
Seekonk High School

Our College Graduates

Katie
Alison
John

UMA Amherst
Holy Cross
Boston University, School of Theology

Clare
Anne
Martin

University of Oregon
Northeastern University
The McCallum Graduate School of
Bentley College
Andover Newton Theological School

Pastor (Rev. Dr. Sharon G.W. Jones)

Baptisms

Alex Robert
Gabriel Louis

Sunday, June 4, 2006
Sunday, June 4, 2006

**. . . called out by Jesus Christ to serve our
congregation, community ...**



If you enjoy knitting or would like to learn, you are invited to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry. This group of people of all ages (including several children) meets on Thursday evening from 7 – 8:30 p.m. in the Concord Room. Please join us whenever you would like to knit, sing, and pray!

**OPEN DOOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP
6 - 9 P.M.**

We will be opening our doors to the community this summer when we host a potluck dinner, short worship experience, a special topic program and activities for the children and youth. We learned the significance of opening the door during the season of Lent, so we are reaching out into the community by offering the following programs this summer:

Wednesday, July 12 - FREE MONEY
Wednesday, July 26 - DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS
Wednesday, August 23 - COMMUNITY HOUSING

. . .and the world through loving, witnessing...

Pastor Sharon received a note from Gale, a recent visitor to Aldersgate:

"I am safely returned home to Colorado after a wonderful trip to the Boston/Cape Cod area. One of the highlights of the trip was Sunday Services at Aldersgate UMC. It was my good fortune to come on your special day celebrating your Sunday School/Youth. "Fish Tales" was a delightful presentation. Others in the congregation reached out to me in warm welcome and invited me to join you all at the Church Barbecue. After that good lunch and conversation, I went on to visit the National Historical Monument in Lexington and followed that historical "Battle Rd" to Concord, visiting the significant points of our country's history. Thank you for your warm outreach."

News from Outreach Ministry

Aldersgate demonstrated its continued support of Habitat for Humanity on Sunday, March 7, when over \$1,000 was raised during the Habitat for Humanity Board Sale. The Outreach Committee is grateful for the generous response of the congregation to this seasonal fundraising activity, which helps the church to fulfill the financial part of our covenant with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell.

Covenant churches commit as a congregation to providing volunteers (both committee members and construction workers), to provide financial support for ongoing projects, and to lift up the message and mission of Habitat through prayer and worship. Habitat is a nonprofit ecumenical Christian housing ministry, seeking to eliminate poverty and homelessness through building decent affordable houses with and for low income families living in substandard housing.

Since its beginning in 1991, Lowell Habitat has placed 50 family members in 18 quality renovated or constructed houses in Lowell, Billerica, Westford and Concord. Currently two houses on Governors Drive in Reading, MA are under construction in partnership with corporations, churches, other volunteer groups and the future homeowners, who promise 400 hours per family of "sweat equity" in the construction of the houses.

Habitat for Humanity has fundraisers throughout the year, including the "Take a Hike for Humanity" bike a thon at Mt. Monadnock, in Jaffrey, NH, and the Blue Hills Reserve in Milton, MA each spring. This past Friday, June 9, there was a fundraiser at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium with Wayne Brady providing the entertainment. Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, etc. were provided by our Mike, Tom, Eric, and Lil. It was a success!

For further information about Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell, the housing programs past and present, volunteer opportunities or general information you can view their website at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell. Org, call (978) 454-1046, or email for info at Lowell Habitat.org.

Submitted by Pat

Blankets for Mother's and Father's Day

Through Church World Service, Aldersgate I participated in a fund-raising drive for blankets (cost \$5 each) to help offer comfort to someone in need across the world or here at home. Following Hurricane Katrina, the city of New Orleans was crippled and large sections of the Gulf Coast left in ruins; displacing tens of thousands of people. Church World Service as well as UMCOR responded with over 48,000 blankets. Aldersgate responded in this recent drive of more than \$600! Thank you!

And teaching God's Word.

SUMMER SUNDAY SHORT TERM STUDY GROUPS

<u>Book of Ruth</u> , June 18, 25, 10:45 a.m.	Leader: Peter
<u>America's Godly Heritage</u> , July 2, 9	Leader: Ginny
<u>Book of James</u> , July 16, 23	Leader: Charles
<u>3 Godly Men</u> , July 30 & August 6	Leader: Peter
<u>Stewards of the Earth</u> , August 13, 20	Leader: TBA
<u>John Wesley & Stewardship</u> , August 27 & September 3	Leader: TBA



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

LENTEN MISSION PROJECT SHOE COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone that donated all the new and slightly used shoes for, "Shoes for Orphan Souls" and our sisters and brothers in Nicaragua. We take many things for granted that others do not have. These shoes will make a big difference to the orphans in Russia and the children, youth and adults in Nicaragua. Thank you to Donna Leary for organizing this shoe collection!

CHILDREN'S STORY AND CRAFT TIME

During the months of July and August, the children in grade 3 or younger can participate in a story time and craft after the theme conversation. You will leave the service and go down to room 7 & 8 to listen to a special story, and make a special craft. We are looking for people to volunteer a read and teach a craft for a Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet in the hall downstairs with the date and the book and craft that will be offered. We will provide the book, craft directions, supplies and snack. If you have any questions, please see Cheryl.

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Time is running out to sign up for a camp this summer. Please look for the camp brochures downstairs in the hall. There are scholarships available to all children and youth who attend a camp program, thanks to our Doris Camp Scholarship Fund. Please see Cheryl for any questions.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

HOLY LAND ADVENTURE: BETHLEHEM VILLAGE

August 7 – 11, 2006 9 – 12 noon each day

Christmas Will Never Be the Same Again!

This year we're transforming our church into a little – and crowded – Bethlehem Village. Each day you can become part of history as you see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in Bible times! You can explore authentic marketplace shops, visit the Census Taker, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as you discover more about life when Jesus was born. These experiences will make God's Word come alive with more meaning for all who participate. Please refer to the enclosed registration form and ways that you can volunteer. **The deadline to register a child is Sunday, July 16th.** There is scholarship money available for all families if needed. Please see Cheryl for any questions. ***There will be a planning meeting on Wednesday, June 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the Library for all those interested in helping for an hour, a day, or for the whole week!***

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

July 12th, 26th and August 23rd 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

We are opening the doors of Aldersgate U.M.C. for food, worship, fellowship and discussion during this summer. We will begin with a potluck dinner from 6:00 – 6:45 p.m., have a short worship experience and then break up for different activities. The families with children or younger youth can play softball, make a special craft, or watch a movie, the senior youth will have pizza and focus on a specific topic for the night. The adults can participate in a focused discussion on Free Money, Difficult Conversations or Affordable Housing. This is open to the community, so invite a friend!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION MINISTRY MEETING: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30TH - 7:00 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY

TEACHER'S MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 31ST - 7:00 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY

RALLY DAY - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

Church School Registration: 9:15 a.m.

Church School: 9:30 a.m.

Adult Classes: 9:35 a.m. in Concord Room & Library

10:45 a.m. Worship Service: Bible Presentation

Noon: Potluck Luncheon for all – Bring your favorite side dish or dessert, we will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks.

JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

All young youth in grades 4 – 5 are welcome to join us. Friends are always welcome! Our next meeting will be on **Friday, June 30th** from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Please watch for the postcard that will explain what we will be doing on this day. Please review the following dates, times, and activities for this summer:

Monday, July 3rd & July 4th: Chelmsford Country Fair – Please see Cheryl to sign up for an hour to work at our booth. You can help on Monday night, from 6 – 9 p.m. or Tuesday, from 9 – 2 p.m. We will have a ring toss game that you can help with.

Friday – Sunday, July 14 – 16th: Camping Trip to Wyman's Beach – Please let Maria know ASAP if you would like to join us for a Western Theme weekend at Wyman's Beach. You can reach her through the church off ice at: 978 256-9400. We have reserved 3 sites and space is limited.

Friday, August 25th: Movie Night – 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. – Come join us watch a movie and have popcorn!

SENIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

All youth in grades 7 – 12 are welcome to join us at any time; you do not have to be a member of the SENIOR youth group. There is no special sign-up sheet; you just come when you can. We ALWAYS welcome friends, or anyone else that happens to be with you. You are an important part of this group!

Calendar for Senior Youth Fellowship

July 4th Fair: Monday, July 3rd: 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. & Tuesday, July 4th: 9:00 – 3:00 p.m.

You can sign up for 2 hour shifts to help set up, work at the booth, and clean up. **Please see me to sign up for a time slot by Sunday, June 25th.** We will be making and selling cotton candy, selling water, and having a ring toss game for the children. The Junior Youth will also be helping, but they will only be working a 1 hour shift. We will be at a new location this year, on Academy Ave.

Pizza & Topic Forum: Wednesday, July 12th: 6 – 9 p.m.

Please bring \$3.00 for pizza and a drink. We will eat from 6 – 6:30 p.m. and then explore what drinking and drugs are all about. This will be a safe place for you to share any concerns or questions you may have about these difficult topics. You will need a permission slip signed by a parent/guardian to join us. Anything you say will not be shared outside this group. **Please let me know by Sunday, July 9th if you are planning on attending.**

Bike Trip to Kimball's in Carlisle: Saturday, July 22nd: 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Please bring a bike (we can find one for you if you do not have one), some money for ice cream, water and a smile as we travel to Kimball's for ice cream! **Please let me know by Monday, July 17th if you plan on going.**

Pawtucket Red Sox Game: Sunday, July 30th: 11:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Both the Junior and Senior Youth and their families are invited to join a caravan of cars travel to this baseball game in Providence, Rhode Island. The cost for a group ticket is \$5.50 (general admission) or \$8.50 (box seats) for adults and youth, \$3.50 (for general admission) or \$8.50 (box seats) for children 12 and under. We will leave the church at 11:00 a.m. – bring a bag lunch to eat in the car. The game begins at 1:05 p.m. After the game we will stop for dinner at a fast food restaurant. We should return around 7:00 p.m. **Please let me know by Sunday, July 2nd if you plan on going, I will need 25 people to purchase group tickets.**

Dinner & Concert: Tuesday, August 1st: 4 – 9 p.m.

We will be hosting a youth chorale group from Russia! We will prepare a typical Russian dinner (with help) and enjoy a special chorale concert performed by these youth. We will also be looking for homes for these youth and their chaperones to stay in for the evening. They request a bed to sleep in since they have a very ambitious performance schedule this summer and need a good nights sleep! Please let Donna Leary know if you can host a group. **Please let me know by Sunday, July 23rd if you would like to help.**

Soul Fest at Gunstock, New Hampshire: Thursday, August 3rd – Friday, August 4th

We will leave on Thursday morning at 8:00 a.m. and return home on Friday night at 11:00 p.m. The Jars of Clay will be performing on Friday. We will be staying over night in a local motel. The total cost for 2 days without souvenirs is: \$125. **The deadline to sign up for this music trip is Sunday, July 16th.**

Pizza & Topic Forum: Wednesday, August 23rd: 6 – 9 p.m.

Please bring \$3.00 for pizza and a drink. We will eat from 6 – 6:30 p.m. and then explore what sex is all about. This will be a safe place for you to share any concerns or questions you may have about this hot topic. You will need a permission slip signed by a parent/guardian to join us. Anything you say will not be shared outside this group. **Please let me know by Sunday, August 20th if you are planning on attending.**

... AND TEACHING GOD'S WORD.



ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND SMALL GROUPS

Prayer Gathering

Tuesdays: 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Concord Room

Leaders: Debbie, Carol

Join us for a time of prayer and quiet time. If you have a particular prayer request, please contact the Church Office, Carol, or Debbie. "The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us."

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thursdays: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Concord Room

Leader: Cheryl

If you like to knit, or would like to learn how to knit, please join us on Thursday evening in the Concord Room to knit Prayer Shawls. If you have someone in mind who would love a Prayer Shawl as a reminder of God's love that surrounds and gives comfort, please let us know.

The August Advocate will have the schedule of classes for the fall

