

# Aldersgate Advocate

## October 2006



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

Dear Friends,

As we move into the season of fall each year, the focus of our Church Council moves toward planning for the coming year. In part this is driven by the return to our regular program year, in part by drawing to the end of the church liturgical year and the beginning of a new year in December, and in part by our annual Pledge Drive.

This year, our leadership retreat, during the morning of Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, will focus on God's vision for this congregation, Aldersgate United Methodist Church. What is God calling us to become? Members of committees are invited to attend this planning session as well as members of the congregation. Please help us to discern together who, what, and where God is calling us to become.

In a parallel sense, this planning accompanies the planning that we see happening in our natural world. As leaves fall from the trees, they remind us of the planning process taking place within the tree. Leaves falling from trees make room for the tree to be dormant in the winter and focus all its energy on producing the new leaves in the spring.

Joyce Rupp raises the question of vulnerability in a poem about trees and leaves:

Autumn,  
The season of vulnerability,  
When the great arms of oak  
Stretch their summer leaves  
To the wild October winds.

All that has been life and green  
Is stripped from strong trees,

and the tall, wide branches  
seem to be deadly wounded.

Across the lawns layers  
lie the near-dead leaves;  
onto the forest floors they fall  
As if to say: "all is lost."

This is the season of vulnerability  
when trees open wide to wounding,  
when all summer security  
is given away to another season.

Wiser are the trees than humans  
who clutch small arms round self,  
shielding their fragile hearts  
and stifling future springtimes.

Rupp reminds us that letting go and trusting God is an important part of growth and moving toward maturity. We are a strong congregation with a healthy church school, engaging worship, and many opportunities for Christian growth.

Yet, God is always calling us to something new! We pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Jesus tells us that God's kingdom is at hand, but are we truly open to doing God's will?

What vision do we believe that God has in mind for this congregation? How can we move closer to that vision? Let's gather for a morning and talk.

Pastor Sharon

## Worship News

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Jones will be away on vacation with her family. Rev. Dr. Wendell Luke will be our guest preacher. Wendell recently retired from his position as assistant to our bishop and now lives in Chelmsford. His name may be familiar for his father Wendell Luke, Sr. was involved in helping to establish Aldersgate in the 1960's.

On this Sunday, we will be celebrating the National Children's Sabbath. Prayers from our children will be distributed to adults who are willing to offer these prayers.

October 15<sup>th</sup> will be laity Sunday as our Lay Leaders lead us in worship. Curt will be our preacher. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with the baptism of Michael Charles, son of Charles and Audrey.

On Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women in the United Methodist Church. Our guest preacher is Rev. Lynn Josselin, one of our first women in leadership as a District Superintendent. The day before, Saturday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> is our Women's Ministry Retreat and we will have the book store open on Sunday for men and others who were not able to be at the retreat.

Reformation Sunday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> is a good opportunity for us to consider our gifts and talk about stewardship as we prepare for Pledge Sunday on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Jones will preach from Psalm 34:3 "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." What does it mean to magnify? To make larger. When we acknowledge to the world that God is the source of all goodness and grace, then we make God larger for the world.

In addition to receiving pledges on the 5<sup>th</sup>, we will all celebrate All Saints, but remembering all who have gone before us and particularly naming those who have died over this past year. If there are family our friends whom you would like to name, please complete the form at the bottom of this page.

### Lectionary Readings

#### October 8

Psalm 25  
Job 1:1; 2:1-10  
Hebrews 1:1-4  
Mark 10:2-16

#### October 15

Psalm 22: 1-15  
Job 23:1-9, 16-17  
Hebrews 4:12-16  
Mark 10:17-31

#### October 22

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c  
Job 38:1-7 (34-41)  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

#### October 29

Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)  
Job 42:1-6, 10-17  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:35-45

### **Aldersgate's Prayer Ministry**

As a community of faith, our Aldersgate Church family believes strongly in the power of prayer. There are many opportunities for you to participate in a group prayer ministry such as the Early Bird Bible Study on Tuesday Mornings at 6 a.m. and Prayer Gathering on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Aldersgate and always at home.

Please continue to pray for 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 for a four-week period. Feel free to contact the Church Office if there is a need to continue for another four week period. **Please update Pastor Sharon or the Church Office aware of any additions, changes, and celebrations of recovery or news you wish to share. It is a privilege to hold one another in prayer! Please continue to pray for the Falla family and the Bourne family as they relocate out of state. Also, pray for Judy, Nancy, Deborah, Dave, & Jack. Pray for the children of our world – we hold the children in Pennsylvania close in our hearts at this time.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**ALL SAINT'S DAY, Sunday, November 5, 2006**

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I will light candle at 8:30 or 10:45 service (Please circle one)

Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and return to the Church Office or put form in the Offering Plate.

## Aldersgate is a family of faith ...

### **Congratulations**

Our congratulations to Laurel and Paul who celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 13<sup>th</sup>!

Congratulations to Debbie, who recently celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

50 is a significant number and we hope it leads to 50 more for all of you!

*We wish you all God's blessing as you celebrate these special times in your lives!*

### **It is with Gratitude...**

Dear Aldersgate Family,  
Thank you for keeping me in your prayers, all the cards, beautiful flowers and phone calls during my recent illness. I appreciate your thoughtfulness!

Doris

The men of Aldersgate will paint the church office on Saturday, October 7 – It will be beautiful and I am so grateful! Thank you! Joanne

Also, thanks to GiGi for the beautiful roses from Dirk and GiGi's garden that graced the Church Office desk this summer.

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

### **Can You Help?**

**One of our Aldersgate members** will need some help with transportation to and from Mass General Hospital for treatment and appointments. If you can help, please contact the Church Office 256-9400 to add your name to a list of volunteers. Thank you!

**SPRC** will host our St. Paul's Feeding Ministry at Eliot Church on Wednesday, October 18. If you can help prepare and serve **please let Elaine Brown know of your offer**. Aldersgate serves about 70 guests at Eliot. Their need continues and Aldersgate responds cheerfully.



**Aldersgate UMC's**

**Women's Ministry Presents:**

**A Woman's Spiritual Harvest**

**Saturday, October 21**

**8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Keynote Speaker, Anne Robertson,  
Book Author, Writer, Speaker, Minister  
"Blowing the Lid Off the God Box"**

**The deadline for registration is October 18.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Course \_\_\_\_\_

The cost is \$25.00 which includes fellowship continental breakfast, lunch, workshops, speaker and registration. Please send your check payable to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Attn. Ginny to Aldersgate at 242 Boston Road, Chelmsford, 01824.

There are four workshops for you to choose from, so Please indicate your choice:

1. **Please Pass the Salt** Have you lost your "zip?" We're called the salt of the earth but some of us have gotten pretty bland. Find out just what it means to be "salty!"
2. **Knowing me, Knowing You, Now What?** You know the Lord, but you seek to find a deeper relationship. Explore the ways to encourage your soul along.
3. **Pasting Together: To collage and Reflect on Sarah's Life as Recorded in Genesis.** Pat and Pastor Sharon will help you discover an image of who *you* are.
4. **Finding the Seventh Day of Rest** Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Come join us and learn ways to help you slow down, grow spiritually, and make time for yourself!

**Luncheon with Keynote Speaker,  
Anne Robertson**

**Session Two: God's Top Ten: *Blowing the Lid Off the Commandments* – a group gathering with Anne –**

Rev. Anne Robertson is pastor of the Westford UMC and you don't want to miss the opportunity to meet and hear Anne speak.

Please indicate the choice for your course – We will all have the opportunity to meet with Anne, and SooKim

will give her personal testimony. There will be singing and a great opportunity for fellowship. The bookstore will be open! A great day at Aldersgate!

**Our Conference** is offering a Healthy Congregations/Healthy Boundaries workshop. The closest one to Aldersgate will be held on October 27 at Grace UMC, Lynn, MA from 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. If you need more information, visit the Conference web site – The cost is \$25.00 per person. Fees will be collected at the door. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Sharon or the Church Office know and we will make a reservation for you.

## **Rolling Ridge - A Sacred and Beautiful Space Set Apart for Rest and Renewal Discovery and Community**

### **Upcoming Opportunities**

#### **November 7: *Companions of the Way: Henri Nouwen*, Retreat Leader:**

**Dr. Robert Jonas, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$35.00**

This retreat will be led by one of Fr. Henri Nouwen's friends, Dr. Jonas. Dr. Jonas will create a space where he and participants can share personal stories about Henri Nouwen. The retreat will consist of presentations, dialogue, music and prayer. A new documentary on Henri Nouwen, "Journey of the Heart" will be viewed – this documentary is soon to be aired nationally on PBS TV. Some of AUMC staff is planning to attend. If you would like to join us, please contact Joanne or Pastor Sharon.

**On November 8-10**, Bonnie will lead a retreat on *Conflict as a Ministry Tool*. Bonnie teaches groups and individuals to confront conflict constructively and direct energy toward growth, reconciliation and healing. Bonnie believes the restoration of our relationship with each other is critical to our relationship with God. Bonnie is a member of Aldersgate and also serves as a Parish Consultant for the New England Conference.

Contact Rolling Ridge at [www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org)

#### **Humor Corner – bulletin bloopers (Oh-Oh!)**

*The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.*

Thank you, Carol Brown!

### ***Stewardship Emphasis***

*"Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."* 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

### **Saying "Yes" to God is risky.**

A sensible person simply wouldn't do it. Think about it.

We often hear nice, tame prayers without thinking too much about it. Who can argue with "open our hearts" and "strengthen our lives"? Certainly, these prayer let us sound like we are saying "Yes" to God—but without taking any unnecessary chances.

But what if our prayer went more like one of these:

- Lord, grab me out of my safe life and compel me to heal and teach and reveal your love so powerfully that I am scorned by the complacent, feared by the unjust, and hated by the evil one.
- Lord, rip open the sky and mark me with a fire of conviction so eternally sure that the very walls of unbelief and hatred and prejudice crumble before me.

### **But isn't God a "No"-sayer?**

The Ten Commandments, for example, are called the 10 *words* in Hebrew. Very brief, they can be translated in phrases as simple as "No other gods! No false witness! No murder! No adultery! No coveting!" While not all the commandments are about what we should *not* do, most are. In that view, God seems to be constantly blaming, scolding, limiting, judging, condemning, and punishing people.

The earliest stories in Scripture establish human accountability. The story of the fall turns on God's questions to God's erring creatures: "Where are you?" and "What have you done?" Adam and Eve broke the limits of freedom that God had established, and they were called to account.

Similarly, the story of Cain and Abel establishes another accountability for humankind. The center of the story is God's question to Cain, "Where is your brother?" And Cain's response, "Am I my brother's keeper?" is answered with a resounding, "Yes," as Cain is held to account for his action against his brother.

Fundamental to being human beings created in the image of God, is that we are accountable to God. God continues to call out the questions: "Where are you? What have you done? Where is your brother?"

While those questions may seem intrusive—indeed a kind of "No"-saying—in truth they establish the very character of our life on earth. Human life is not a meaningless chasing after stuff to call mine at the expense of others.

### **God the "No"-sayer is at heart a "Yes"-sayer**

Though it may seem that Scripture is full of judgments, it is filled even more with the story of God's love, God's choosing, and God's gifts and promises. Indeed,

promises abound.

If a promise is a “Yes,” then God can be called a “Yes”-saying God, because the God of Scripture is indeed a promising God. The Bible continually tells of God’s promises, God’s intention to keep God’s promises, and God’s fulfillment of those promises.

### **Living the “Yes”**

By living the way of the cross, we do not gain heaven or earn God’s favor. We have already been given those things. We do not gain status or achieve blessings. God gives status and blessings as God chooses. We live God’s way, accountable for our time and talents and treasures, because we have said “Yes” to God in Christ—“Yes” by the power of the Spirit.

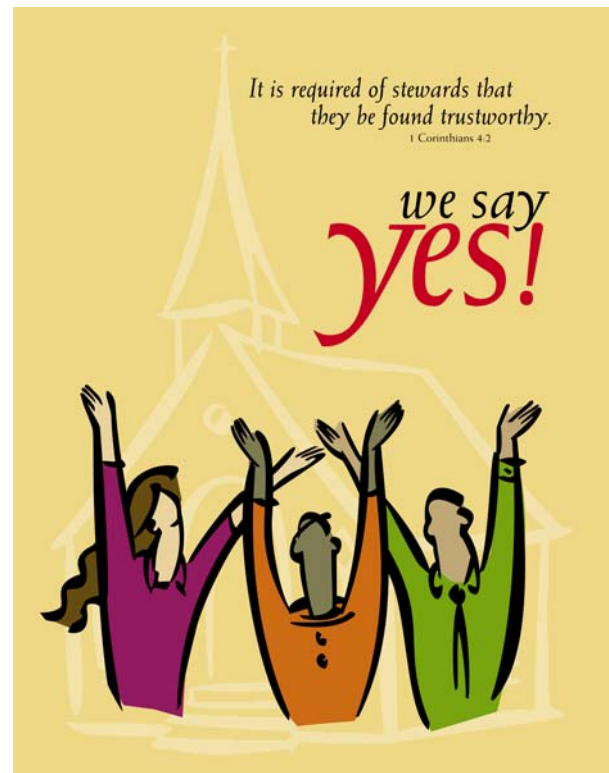
Being empowered to say “Yes” to God, we are able to say “Yes” to life. We live, not in fear, but in hope. “Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.” (Romans 5:1-2).

Of course there is some risk in living the “Yes”-saying life. Saying “Yes” can indeed put us in what some people would call danger. The challenge of our Christian life is the challenge to be willing to live out the calling to which we have been called. We dare to abandon the quest for the good life and receive the gift of the abundant life—the life in Christ. That life allows us, calls us, challenges us to say “Yes.”

And as “Yes”-sayers, rather than “nay-sayers,” we might be bold and pray:

*Lord, storm me with the wind of the Spirit; seize me and soar with me up and away from the minor crises that fasten my sight on the ground; fire my eyes with a vision of what your Spirit loose in my world could tear down, and heal, and make new.*

Amen and Amen  
“Yes” and “Yes” again.



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

# CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

## RALLY DAY

On Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the beginning of church school and our fall program. There were 80 children, youth, teachers and helpers that came together to remember how we are all part of God's family. Thank you to everyone that helped with the luncheon after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service! The following 3<sup>rd</sup> graders received a Bible: *George, Stephen, Jared, Taylor, Jack, Matthew, Andrea, and Sarah.*

## CHILDREN'S SABBATH

On Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, we lifted up the children of our church family and the world. Each class created a poster on how we can show God's love. The children and youth also wrote their name and a prayer concern on a heart. These hearts were distributed after each service to an adult for them to pray for this child during the year

## HALLOWEEN FAMILY FEST

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 8 p.m.**

All families are invited to join us for an evening of food, fellowship and haunting good fun! We will begin the festivities at 5:00 p.m. with a very special Halloween supper that our very own Junior Youth group will prepare. The Senior Youth group will then offer Halloween crafts and games for the younger children, and our famous haunted house for the older children. We encourage everyone to come in costume and friends and neighbors are welcome to join us. You may help with the cost of this event by making a donation to help cover the costs of food and supplies.

## FOOD COLLECTION FOR THANKSGIVING BASKETS

The church school will once again help our Outreach committee by supplying items needed for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Each class will also make a card to include in the basket. Please bring in the following items on October 29<sup>th</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup> or November 12<sup>th</sup> and place in the box in the hall:

Preschool Class – Canned Fruit  
Kindergarten & 5 year old Class – Cranberry

Sauce

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class – Canned Juice  
3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class – Canned Green Beans  
5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class – Canned Corn  
7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Class – Rice/Minute Rice

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Pastor Sharon and Cheryl will be leading a confirmation class for any youth in grade 7 or higher beginning in January. This class will help you learn more about taking the next step in your faith journey. Their will be

an informational luncheon on November 5<sup>th</sup> for anyone interested in participating in this class or being a mentor.

## CHURCH SCHOOL SURVEYS

We really care about your thoughts for the various programs we offer for the children and youth of our church family. We recently distributed surveys on junior choir, a time for the Christmas pageant, and the senior youth group. If you received one of these surveys, please turn it in downstairs asap. Thank you!

## SAFE SANCTUARY POLICY

The Children's Ministry Team and church school teachers have reviewed our safe sanctuary policy that was approved by the church in 2000. We have made some changes to update the policy and will distribute it after it is approved by the church council at the charge conference in November.

## WORSHIP ARTS

Children, ages 4 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join our worship arts team this fall! We meet on Tuesdays, from 4 – 5:30 p.m. Cheryl will also pick your child up after school at the South Row School. Please talk to her ahead of time so you can make the proper arrangements with the school

## JUNIOR CHOIR:

**Tuesdays: from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

All youth in grades 4 – 8 are welcome to join us in this exciting choir! Our Children's Music Director, Rebecca, will be leading us in singing, learning to play some instruments, and having fun! We have begun practicing our musical for Christmas. We are looking for more children to help us in presenting this special musical during worship.

## JUNIOR BELLS:

**Thursdays: from 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.**

All children (in grade 3 or higher), youth and adults are welcome to join us as we have fun learning how to play bells. You do not have to have any experience to join us. If you have any questions, please see Becky.

## JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

*We are beginning our second year of this new fellowship group for young youth in grades 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Our mission is to provide your children with a safe,*

*healthy and loving environment to help them grow and experience Christianity. We are always looking for feedback from you and your child. Is there a specific topic you would like us to explore? Do you have any suggestions for events or activities? Would you be interested in volunteering or chaperoning? Please put your ideas in the suggestion box downstairs in the hall. Please see Cheryl, David or Maria if you have any questions or would like to help.*

### **CORN MAZE ADVENTURE**

**Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>: 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

Come join us and bring a friend! We will meet at church and then travel to the Parlee Corn Maze in Chelmsford and have fun finding our way through their giant corn maze. The cost will be \$2.00

### **HALLOWEEN FAMILY FEST**

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>: 5 – 8 p.m.**

The junior youth will cook up a spooky delight for our supper. The junior youth should plan on arriving at 4:00 p.m. to help cook the special feast of fun. After we serve supper, you will be able to explore the haunted house and other activities that the senior youth will offer. Please let us know if you can help cook. Friends are always welcome.

### **GAME NIGHT**

**Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>: 7 – 9 p.m.**

Come join us for popcorn and games of fun. You are welcome to bring your favorite game/s and a friend or two@

### **SKATING PARTY**

**Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

Come join us for an evening of roller skating at Roller Kingdom in Tyngsboro, MA. The cost is \$7.00. Please eat before you come, and bring money if you want refreshments at the rink. Friends are always welcome.

## **SENIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

*We are a fun group of spiritually focused youth who celebrate Christ's presence among us by engaging in community and group activities, church participation and mission projects.*

**... and teaching God's Word.**

This is our mission statement that our Youth Council created a couple years ago. We are using this as a foundation for helping us put together plans for this fall. Niles has joined our team this year and is very excited to meet you and get to know you. This will be an exciting year as we are also planning on attending Youth 2007 in July. This event is designed by United Methodist youth. A big part of planning for this trip is fundraising. Each time you help with an event you will earn points that can be cashed in to help pay for your trip.

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!

### **LUNCHEON AND INFO**

**Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>: noon – 2:00 p.m.**

You and your parents/guardians are welcome to join us learn more about youth group and our big trip this summer. We will provide sandwiches, chips, drinks and dessert. We will break into 2 groups after the youth 2007 presentation. The adults will have an opportunity to share their ideas and volunteer to help with our program, and the youth will have time to get to know one another and share their ideas. Friends are welcome!

### **HALLOWEEN PREPARATIONS**

**Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>: noon – 1:30 p.m.**

The Halloween party is back by popular demand! Please bring your ideas, and we will work on some of the projects needed for our haunted house. Bring any props you can share with us!

### **HALLOWEEN FAMILY FEST**

**Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>: from 5 – 8 p.m.**

This will be a church wide event! The junior youth will cook us a Halloween supper, the senior youth will have a haunted house and crafts for children. The adults will have other fall activities to participate in upstairs in the fellowship hall. We will need volunteers to help from 2 – 5 p.m., 5 – 8 p.m. and clean up from 8 – 9:30 p.m. You will earn 1 point for every hour you help towards Youth 2007. There will be a sign up sheet for you to pick a time.

### **YOUTH GROUP CRAFT DAY**

**Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>: noon – 1:30 p.m.**

We will be deciding what crafts we will offer for the Christmas faire.

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH CLASSES AND  
SMALL GROUPS**

*Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." This summer we continued a time for adults to gather and study the Word of God after the worship service. Our Lord helped us open our eyes and ears to how we need to incorporate his teachings into our daily lives.*

***We are encouraging you to join one small group this year to help connect with our church family and also help you in your faith journey.***

*The adult study team has been visioning about how to best connect with you and have renamed our committee to: **Adult Ministry – strengthening and growing our congregation.***

*We want to get to know you better and see how we can help you in your life and in your faith journey. If you have any thoughts or information about how we can better connect with your needs, please leave your ideas in the box labeled: Adult Ministry Ideas located in the Fellowship Hall.*

### **Early Bird Class**

**Tuesdays: 6 – 6:45 a.m. Concord Room**  
**Leader: Charles**

The theme for the coming year is "Being a Faith Community". Plan to rise early and participate in this Bible study as together we explore and gain understanding of what it is to be a community of faith.

### **Thursday Morning**

**Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. Concord Room**  
**Leader: Pastor Sharon**

This class is a low key community study that acts as much as a support group as it does a Bible study. We are studying the gospel of Luke using the Interpretations study guide book.

### **Prayer Gathering**

**Tuesdays: 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Concord Room**  
**Leaders: Debbie, Carol**

#### ***My House Will Be A House of Prayer***

Is Aldersgate a house of prayer? We sure hope so, and we also hope that you'll consider on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 for our weekly prayer gathering. There's no pressure to pray out loud; some weeks we've spent the better part of 45 minutes in silent prayer, and it has been a powerful experience. There are other weeks when the 45 minutes seems barely long enough to speak all the requests that are on our hearts. This is a really rewarding time spent in the presence of God Who Hears what is on our lips and in our hearts. Please join us! For more information, call the church office.

### **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.

### **ADULT VOICE CHOIR**

**CHANCEL CHOIR – Rehearsal, Tuesday 7:30 p.m.**  
**Director: Carol**

This choir provides musical leadership for our 10:45 a.m. service. As always, new members are sought and welcome. Youth are also welcome to join us. The only requirements are a tuneful voice and a joyful spirit! There are plenty of strong voices and music readers to support those who would like to develop music skills and have a chance to sing the praises of God.

### **HANDBELL CHOIR**

**SHEPHERD BELLS – Rehearsal, Thursday 7:15 p.m. Director: Carol**

This is a performing choir for people wanting to have fun playing bells. You may have the opportunity to play at weddings, handbell festivals, Christmas performances and community events in addition to monthly participation in worship.

### **The Holy Mystery Class**

**Sunday Mornings**  
**October 8, 15, 22**

**Concord Room**

**Leaders: Pastor Sharon & Walt**  
**9:35 – 10:35 a.m.**

All are welcome to learn more about the official United Methodist position on Holy Communion.

### **Begin at the Beginning – A New Study in Genesis**

**Sunday afternoons: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Leaders: Debbie & others**

There's something new this year at Aldersgate – a Bible study that will continue as long as necessary!

Would you like to really dig in to Scripture? To linger on difficult passages and ask the hard questions? This is your chance. We'll start at "In the beginning..." and journey through Genesis, encountering huge lives lived in faith for a great and glorious God.

This study will be structured to fit the needs and desires of the class. We'll spend as much time as we need to mine the riches of God's Word. Will everyone make every class? Of course not, but that's okay. We'll take notes and provide extra materials for all who want them. And who knows... when we've made it to Genesis 50:26, we may keep right on going through Exodus!

### **Parenting Your Teen Class**

**Beginning on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> for 6 to 8 weeks at 9:35 a.m. in the Library**

**Leader: Cheryl**

All are welcome as we use a resource that includes a video on 24 powerful stories from parents and teens, and a workbook that includes such topics as: identity, turmoil, rebellion and legacy. There will also be an opportunity for us to share our stories and struggles. The following is an excerpt from the producer of the series:

"I've heard it said that all kids really want is to see us light up when they walk in the room. It sounds a bit simplistic, but I believe it's true because it speaks of unconditional love. Sure, when they're little it's easy to be enthralled by most everything they do, even when they're naughty. But there are times when a teen is struggling with authority and you're in agony over the choices they're making. They know you love them enough to 'jump in front of a train' for them, but do they know you're simply glad to see them at the end of the day? In those difficult phases, it takes a lot of creativity to let a defiant teen know that you are still thankful they're part of the family.

Parenting Your Teenager features Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott. They are authors and experts in the field of relationships. The Parrotts have an uncomplicated and effective way of conveying Biblical and practical help to parents. Their instruction on parenting will help you and your class with the many issues facing parents of teens."

This class is not just for parents/guardians of teens, it's never too early to learn skills when your child reaches that time in their life! There will be a limit of 12 for the class. If you have any questions, please see Cheryl.

**Advent study on the Gospel of Luke**

**Beginning on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> for 8 weeks**

**Leader: Peter**

**Concord Room**

**9:35 – 10:35 a.m.**

All are welcome to join us as we prepare for the season of Advent. The gospel of Luke sets forth the words and works of Jesus as the divine-human Savior, whose compassion and tenderness extended to all who were needy. In addition to presenting the story of Jesus' work in Galilee and his last week at Jerusalem, Luke includes more episodes of Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem than do any of the other Evangelists. We will be using various resource materials in helping us study the gospel of Luke. Please see Peter for more information.

# Holiday Faire and Festival



**Celebrating the Reason for the Season!**

**December 1 3-8pm and December 2 9am-1pm**

**Preview for church members:**

**Thursday 6-7pm before Charge Conference**

Plans for Aldersgate's Holiday Faire and Festival on December 1-2, 2006 are coasting along and you are invited to join in! *New for 2006* – Seasoned Vinegars and Perfume Making, plus expanded activities in the sanctuary!

Please contact the appropriate person listed below for more information by calling the church office at (978) 256-9400. Sign up Sheets will be available in November with options for donations or service on the Elf Team (set up, sales, hospitality, clean-up). Final planning meeting is **November 6 at 7pm**. Leadership and contributors are encouraged to attend as we finalize the Faire!

For general information, please contact Bonnie, (256-9400). Good cheer!

Christmas Crafts . . . . . Bonnie and Melinda

Kringle's Kitchen . . . . . Deana

Jingling Jewelry . . . . . Sally (donations welcome now!)

Glad Tidings Greens . . . . . Carmen

Children's Shoppe . . . . . Chery

Country Store & Bakery . . . . . Pastor Sharon 978-256-9400

Gracious Re-Gifting . . . . . Carole

**Greens Harvesting**

On Friday and Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Faire Elves will trim your branches! Seeking Evergreens, Holly or Decorative Tree cuttings for Christmas Faire items. Contact Bob or David if you would like to help the Elves and have some greens to share!!