

# Aldersgate Advocate

Beside the Alabaster Jar

June 27, 2008

When I visited with Jim the Monday after Annual Conference, one of the first things he asked me was how was the Conference session. I did not know at that visit that it would be the last time I saw Jim in this life. But given that Jim was one of our lay delegates to Annual Conference during the early years of Aldersgate, I should not have been surprised that he asked me about the session.

Others have also asked me about the meetings and the worship that happened June 12-15, 2008, so I wanted to share my impressions with you. Martha was our lay delegate so you could also talk with her or Bonnie, who is the Conference Choreographer. And Jim manned the Nicaragua collection trailer in the parking lot and has of course a different perspective. Aldersgate was well represented.

This year's theme, "Living the NET-work" was perhaps the most successful in recent years. From the opening worship to the closing celebration with confirmands, this theme helped us to see how we can reach beyond our local churches and have an impact on community and world.

Each of our eight districts, stretching from northern Maine to the Connecticut River, adopted a different type of net as their symbol. We are part of the Central Mass District and our symbol was a butterfly NET. Rev. Gary Shaw's District, Rhode Island and Southeastern Mass and former pastor here at Aldersgate, was a little more creative. Gary stood on the stage about one hundred feet away fluffed his hair (a little less than six years ago), stretched his hands in front of him, and then moved them over his hand and down by his ears. "Oh, he's got a hair NET!" I laughed to myself.

But the most humorous was the district up in Northern New Hampshire whose symbol was fish NET stockings. Yes, they were even modeled by Rev. John Blackadar! Our Bishop, Peter Weaver, brought all this together impersonating the 1950's detective from DragNET.

Expanding our Network, we celebrated the success of the "Nothing But Nets" campaign, heard from the representative for the Black College Fund, Jasmine Johnson, from Dillard University, and also from various Conference leaders who have visited in West Angola and Nicaragua, our two sister Conferences. An exciting new website, [www.umfne.org](http://www.umfne.org), for our United Methodist Foundation was also introduced. (Check out the planned giving section.) We heard about many churches who are moving out in new directions and received the annual statistics report. We also took an initial step to welcome over 140 Vermont United Methodist churches in the New England Annual Conference.

Also, I was excited to learn about WOW, this year's School of Congregational Development, Nov. 6-8, 2008 in Bloomfield, CT. Speakers/preachers will include Safiyah Fosua, Director of Invitational Preaching at the General Board of Discipleship and Paul Nixon, author of *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*. It would be great to have a team from Aldersgate go to the Conference with me.

A resolution affirming the Conference Advance Specials, ways to give in New England and beyond, was passed. "There was a healthy debate on **Resolution 208** regarding solidarity and support for justice for undocumented immigrants. After hearing both sides, the resolution passed. **Resolution 214** was not up for a vote, but was a resolution sponsored by the Reconciling Ministries Committee to engage the body in discussion of more inclusive language regarding homosexuality, as we seek to live Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors more fully. Instead of the usual debate, attendees discussed their thoughts and ideas in small groups. **Resolution 205 and 206** regarding white privilege, antiracism,

and resources and trainings for cross-racial/cross-cultural appointments was also passed.” (adapted from Conference web site, [www.neumc.org](http://www.neumc.org))

It is hard to express in words the excitement of worshipping with a diverse group of over 1,000 people at our Memorial Service and Ordination Service. The music and preaching was electrifying as we acknowledged clergy and lay members who have died in the past year. Next year, I hope to have Jim's name lifted as a former member of the Southern New England annual Conference. The ordination service is always a unique experience for me, remembering my own call to ordained ministry and thinking back over the years. This year we commissioned Rev. John Park, our student intern three years ago, into the Order of Elder.

As a way of supporting Bonnie, I was pleased to direct the Closing Worship that included a skit about fishing and evangelism (what did you expect with my penchant for drama?) and a testimony from a young woman who immigrated from Kenya just a few years ago, as well as three distinct liturgical dance groups. Bishop Weaver lifted up our theme once again taking a beach ball that looked like a basketball, drew latitude lines on it which connected with the longitude lines already present converting the basketball into a globe, and tossed it into the congregation. We connect throughout the world as the body known as the United Methodist Church.

Peace be with you, Sharon Jones

## Worship News

During July and August we worship at 9:30 with children leaving for book and craft during the sermon.

On July sixth, we will consider how God gets our attention. The focus of the sermon will be Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 and Romans 7:15-25a. Please read these over and think about freedom in relation to the passages.

Genesis 25:19-34, the Old Testament lesson for July 13<sup>th</sup>, raises questions of birth right, not very common in our culture, yet as Christians we find our birth right in God's grace. The gospel lesson is the familiar parable of the sower sowing seeds. Pay attention to where your seeds fall this week.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, we read Romans 8:12-25 which uses a birthing metaphor for the continuing work of God in creation. The gospel lesson is the parable of the weeds and teaches that we need to focus on growing wheat rather than rooting out weeds. I wonder how this message relates to the garden that is growing at church?

The Romans passage on July 27<sup>th</sup> drew the attention of the Worship Planning Committee. Romans 8:26-39 reminded us of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Sonnets from the Portuguese*.

*With my lost saints,—I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life!—and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.*

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will consider how Jesus is our oasis in the desert. This theme comes from Matthew 14:13-21. When you read it, think of the dryness of the desert and the sudden appearance of grass for the crowds to sit on.

Lessons for August 10, 17, 24 and 31 include the story of Joseph and the sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt which eventually leads to their enslavement and the story of the Exodus. God was always with them although there were times when they did not realize it. So to in our lives. May you relish the presence of God in your life during these summer months as you re-create and renew.

**Beginning on July 6<sup>th</sup> and continuing through Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>, worship will begin at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings.**

The Office will be closed on Monday, beginning Monday, June 30 through Monday, August 18.

The Church Office will be open again on Monday beginning August 25.

## **Bible Readings For July and August**

### **July 6**

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalms 45:10-17 or Psalm 72

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### **July 13**

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalms 119:105-112 or Psalm 25

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### **July 20**

Genesis 28:10-19*a*

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### **July 27**

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 105:1-11, 45*b*

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### **August 3**

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

### **August 10**

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45*b*

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-23

### **August 17**

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Romans 11:1-2*a*, 29-32

Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

### **August 24**

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalms 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

### **August 31**

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45*c*

Romans 12:9-21

## **New Staff Member at Aldersgate**

The Staff Parish Relations Committee would like to announce the addition of Kurt to the Aldersgate staff. Kurt is a recent graduate of Boston University and has a Masters degree in Sacred Music and a Masters in Divinity. Starting on July 14<sup>th</sup> Kurt will be our Director of Small Group Ministries, a newly developed position that we hope will strengthen ties in our congregation by involving more members in small groups. Kurt will also be preaching on a periodic basis which will allow Pastor Sharon more time for Pastoral care.

Starting on September 7<sup>th</sup>, Kurt will also be sharing the organist duties with Jane. A couple of years ago Jane asked SPRC to find someone willing to share her duties because the arthritis in her hands was making it difficult to play as frequently as she has in the past.

Kurt auditioned for Jane, Carol, Elaine and Chris and all were very impressed with his abilities. SPRC hopes you will welcome Kurt in his new roles at Aldersgate and take part in some of the new groups he helps to develop.

## **Prayer Concerns**

Please keep Jim's Family, Alex, Maureen, Dave, Charlotte, Sheri, Jack, Gigi and Dirk, Deborah, Lillian and Linda in your prayers.

Pray for our youth on their trip to Mission Central in July – the VBS in August and children – all the children of our world - that they may live in freedom and without fear. From the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, we have been asked to pray for the people of Zimbabwe who have endured so much.

## **With Gratitude**

Words don't seem enough but that is all I have to thank you for your prayers, cards and calls during the last few months. Knowing I am in your thoughts and being lifted to God in your prayers gives me great comfort.

My prayers are also with you.

Charlotte

Dear Aldersgate family,

It is with true humility that we thank you for the love and support you have shown us upon the loss of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Jim. You were a very important part of Jim's life, with whom he shared many happy times and in whom he felt a bond of warm affection. We shall long remember your kindness in our hours of sorrow. We take great consolation from the help and understanding of true friends like you.

We would especially like to thank Pastor Sharon and the choir for making Jim's funeral service such a comforting memory, and those members who selflessly spent their time and effort in preparing and presenting the thoughtful luncheon.

God bless you, Jim's Family

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone – for visits, cards, flowers and particularly for your prayers to help me get well. I am on my way and I appreciate your love and concern!

Maureen

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your generosity. As you know, the needs are great, but with your help, so much can be done. Thanks to donors like you, we can provide help in some 80 countries build a more sustainable future. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

Rev. John L. McCullough,  
Executive Director and CEO, Church World Service.

**(Our Aldersgate Church** family gave \$432 to the Tools and Blanket Program through Church World Service. Thank you for your gifts in support of this – now annual - giving program.)

**A big thank you from the Outreach Committee** for all the clothes and white elephant treasures sold at the recent Rummage Sale. About \$820 was raised to be able to continue giving to mission needs throughout the year. Thank you to those who helped set-up, sort, and sell! The Committee is thinking about having another sale in October – but more help will be needed in order for this to happen. More about this in the future!

### **To Our Church Family,**

Thank you for the way in which you respond as a congregation to those who are going through difficult times. For those who step forward to coordinate meals or transportation; for those who cook the meals and for those who provide the transportation and for all who support through prayer – thank you!

Pastor Sharon

Thank you very much for the stamps you sent to the Stamp Ministry. In 2007 Alliance Stamp Ministry was able to send \$36,000 to the Sunday School project! More than 50 lesson series have been published and are being used in churches of 40 different denominations and missions in 19 Latin American countries.

Charlotte is in charge of our Stamp Ministry project at Aldersgate. The box is to the right as you enter the front door nearest the church office. Thank you, Charlotte for continuing this important ministry. Please, let's continue to help Charlotte in her cause by saving your used postage stamps for her. She asks that you leave at least ½ inch around the stamp. Thank you! Keep the stamps coming!

Thank you to my volunteers who help with the Advocate and are always willing to help out whenever they can in the Church Office. Aldersgate is really blessed to have so many who are willing to give their time and talent in the service of this wonderful church. If you would like to serve, please let Pastor Sharon or Joanne know and we will be happy to share with you and with our new Director of Group Ministries – all the opportunities for service.

## **College Graduates**

**Marlene** received her BS in Nursing from UMass Lowell on May 31. Marlene is the daughter of Walt and Gail.

**Nicole** graduated on May 17<sup>th</sup> Summa Cum Laude from Fitchburg State College with a Bachelor of Science in Communications Media and a Minor in Art. Nicole is the daughter of Bob and Deana.

## **Graduate Degrees**

**Alison** received her MS in Applied Math from the University of Colorado Graduate School on May 9. Alison is the daughter of Garth and Elaine Brown.

**Kendra** receives her Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine from the University of New England on June 7. Kendra is the niece of Rebecca Biggar.

**Kathy** received her MBA From Bentley College. Congratulations!

### High School Graduates

**Annika Elise, Kathrine Ann, Wesley James, Kieran, Megan McCoy, Sean Ives, Kristine, James**

Congratulations and best wishes to all the graduates. May God bless you in every future endeavor!

### Summer Wednesday Events for our Church Family

Summer is such a great time for relaxing and enjoying one another's company that we for a few years now have planned for Wednesday evening activities. We hope you will take advantage of the longer day time hours and children home off from school to be part of as many of these as possible:

Pizza and Bible – 6 PM, Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>  
Potluck Dinner and a Movie – Wednesday July 16<sup>th</sup>  
Pizza and Bible – 6 PM, Wednesday July 23  
Ice Cream Social and Game Night – 6 PM, August 6<sup>th</sup>  
Pizza and Bible – 6 PM, Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

Our newly reconstituted Congregational Life Committee invites the congregation to our first ever strawberry festival. The Potluck Dinner will begin at 6pm with strawberry shortcake and a chocolate fountain following at 7pm. Ginny has promised real whipped cream for the shortcakes – so please come and enjoy!

The summer Wednesday evening Bible reflections, **Inspiration from the Psalms**, will be taken from the book of Psalms. We will look to that wonderful book for inspiration to help and guide us as we fellowship with God and abide in His tabernacle. We will delve into the question of how shall we show forth His salvation or serve the Lord with gladness. As members of the faith community we are to praise the Lord. We will discuss some of the many reasons the psalmist found it easy to love God and to give Him praise. And yes, we will look to the hills from whence comes our help.

Plan to be in the number as we seek inspiration form the Psalms and share our own faith stories. The Dates are: July 9, 23, and August 20. Join us!

### Bountiful Baskets

Our Basket Auction was a great success at last years Christmas Faire! Remember the Basket Auction as we spring clean and share your ideas for basket themes (see basket in Office). Theme ideas already in process include:

Pasta Basket	Chocolate Basket
Go Green Basket	Sports Basket
Dinner Date Basket	Games Basket

For more information, contact Melinda through the church office..

## Change for Change

### Hear Your Change Jingle in the Offering Plate!

Over the next several months, the change you are continuing to give will support the Billerica House of Correction for their Prison Ministry in memory of Jim. Jim spent some years giving his time and encouragement of this important ministry.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry News

Our Aldersgate Prayer Shawl Ministry met on Monday afternoons from 2:30 – 4 PM; and Tuesday, June 24 was our last gathering for the summer. For the fall, we are thinking of changing it back to Thursday evenings, or an evening that would work best for those of you who love to knit or would like to learn. So, let the office or Gigi Van know if you agree or would rather keep it on Monday afternoons.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has continued to make shawls, lap robes, baptismal shawls for babies, hats as needed. We love to gather, chat and knit for a purpose. Share your ideas, please. This is a positive example of a Small Group Ministry. Thank you to those who made our Monday afternoons fun and productive.

Joanne and Gigi

**Missing** - Long white tablecloths are missing from the kitchen. If you have them at home, please return them to the Church Kitchen.

## Aldersgate Book Group

Here is a summer date and book for you to read! July 22<sup>nd</sup> will be "Blessings" by Anna Quindlen. We will meet at 6 PM for Pizza in the Concord Room. Get reading and please join us we would love to have you all.....Deb

## Have You Seen Our Garden?

"One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides." W. E. Johns

The Garden Group has transformed a piece of the lawn on the south side of the church into a vegetable garden. We hope to harvest tomatoes, beans, beets, lettuce, peppers, butternut squash and herbs for the benefit of our Food Pantry, the St. Paul's dinners, and to offer to church members. Many thanks to Jones Farm which generously contributed compost and discounted plants and seeds. Come, see, and join the anticipation.

## Root Beer Tasting

Last year everyone enjoyed our first ever root beer tasting party so much that we decided to have another. Richard and Dave are hosting this event on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Please mark your calendar now for this event as you do not want to miss it. We will sample different brands of root beer, cleansing our palettes with vanilla ice cream. Each person will then vote for their favorite flavor and winners are announced at the end of the evening.

Dave and Richard are looking for six other families who would sponsor their favorite root beer and several others who would provide hors d'oeuvres.

That way we do not have to eat dinner before the event. Last year, the Driscoll root beer from "Louis, Louis" in Nashua came in first with Captain Eli's from Portland Maine a close second. Captain Eli's is the favorite of Chris and Ginny.



### **Thank you Church School Classes!**

Our church school classes helped in leading worship on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> during the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. The theme of the morning was Creation. All of the classes illustrated their interpretation of each of the days of creation and were projected during the service. The preschool and Kindergarten classes sang "This Little Light of Mine" and "Deep and Wide" for the Introit. The High School class led us in the Call to Worship and Opening Prayer and the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade class led us in the Call to Confession. Our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade class were greeters and acolytes. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes were ushers. Our 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class led us in the Lord's Prayer. The following youth participated in a dramatic reading of the Scripture lesson of the morning: Alex, Gabe, Brandan, Lauren, Rebecca, Annalise, and Nicole. After the service we all gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a barbecue and potluck luncheon.

### **June Rotation Church School for Preschool - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Children**

Thank you to the following adults and youth that helped with the rotation model curriculum called, "The Four Friends" during the month of June: co-coordinators: Lee & Holly, Teachers: Aimee, Sharmis, Alex, Wendy, Mary Jean, Christine, Kathy, Nate & Joni, Betsey, Peter & Debbie and Eric. This unit enabled the children to understand that Jesus can touch our lives through the lives of others.

### **July and August Book & Craft Time**

During the summer months, we will offer a special class for 3 year olds – 4<sup>th</sup> grade that will meet downstairs in room 7 & 8 after the theme conversation. We will listen to a special story, and do a craft related to the message of the book.

**If you are interested in helping, please see Cheryl or sign up on the sign up sheet located on the bulletin board.**

### **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 Camp Scholarship Fund. Please see Cheryl for any questions.

### **VBS - August 11 – 15 from 9 – noon – God's Big Back Yard**

Get ready for an outdoor adventure that starts in our own backyard and will get bigger each day as we take the love of Jesus into our neighborhoods and communities! In God's Big Backyard, children and youth will...

- Explore Bible servants and be challenged to serve each day
- Listen to people who serve their neighbors and participate with friends in service projects
- Work together to create cool Bible crafts and play fun games that will remind us to serve others
- Celebrate the joy of showing God's love through service to their families, friends, neighbors, community, and Jesus

This year children, ages 4 - 12 will be in same age-level crews, and youth can help again. There are registration forms available downstairs. If you have any questions, or would like to help, please see Cheryl.

### **Worship Arts**

Thank you to all the children that participated during the year and presented beautiful cards and a signed photo picture for me during our last class! I have just as much fun exploring lessons using art as they do. We will be evaluating the program and offering new surprises for the fall. Please watch for a special mailing this summer describing our new program for the fall.

### **Junior Youth Choir & Bells and Children's Choir**

A new and exciting music program is being planned for the fall! Please watch for the special mailing this summer! Carol will be sharing her talents, energy and music expertise to this musical experience for children and youth.

### **CLEAN UP SATURDAY & BARBECUE**

**Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 6 p.m.**

All are welcome to join us during the day as we clean and wash the downstairs rooms, clean closets and paint the hall. No experience is necessary, just a helping hand and joyful spirit! We will celebrate our work by partaking in a barbecue together when we are finished with our work. Friends are welcome to join us, please let Cheryl know if you can help out.

### **RALLY DAY - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Church School Registration: 9:15 a.m.**

**Church School and Adult Reception: 9:30 a.m.**

All adults are encouraged to join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 for refreshments and information about the church school program and adult spiritual growth opportunities.

**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 and SENIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

### **July 4<sup>th</sup> - Chelmsford Country Fair**

**Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>: 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. & Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>: 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 Cheryl or David to sign up for a time slot by Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.** The Junior and Senior Youth will be helping to sell boards for Habitat for Humanity and also offering a bird house craft for the children. Our location this year is on Academy Street.

### **Canobie Lake Fun**

**Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**The Senior & Junior Youth groups will go on a joint adventure to Canobie Lake for the day. Please let Cheryl know if you are interested in going by Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> so I can get enough discount coupons. Friends and family are invited to join us.**

### **Junior Youth Kick-Off Celebration!**

**Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> – 6 – 8:30 p.m.**

All new 4<sup>th</sup> graders will join our 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders for a pizza party, games and fun as we kick-off the new season. Parents and other family members are also invited to join us. After our meal together, we will split up into two groups: the youth will get to know one another by playing fun games, and the adults will learn about our program for the year, and ask any questions they may have.

### **Senior Youth Mission Trip**

**Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**

Our Mission Trip this summer will be working at Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. We will be working at Mission Central for three days, visiting Gettysburg, having fun at Hershey Park, learn about our ancestors at Ellis Island, and visit ground zero in N.Y.C. Please pray for the youth and adults as they serve, learn about being in community, understand how we are all connected together and hopefully grow deeper in their personal relationship with God.

### **Senior Youth Lock-In Retreat**

**Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Friday, 7:00 p.m. – Saturday, 5:00 p.m.**

***What is youth group?  
ministry all about?***

***How does it work?***

***What is youth***

Each one of you has different needs, interests and gifts. A strong youth group will not happen by itself. All are welcome as we take a serious look at our youth group and plan for the fall. We will review past activities, dream about what the future may be, and of course have some fun. Please bring your ideas, friends, and a snack to share. We will cook a pancake breakfast, and go out for lunch.

## **SHORT - TERM ADULT CLASSES FOR THE SUMMER**

### **Isaiah, The Magnificent Prophet**

**Beginning Sunday Morning, July 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Concord Room, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Leader: Walt Ciesluk**

Isaiah is hailed as the greatest of the Hebrew prophets. He was also the single most influential prophet for early Christians. Jesus' ministry was shaped by his reading of Isaiah, and the early Church understood Jesus to be fulfillment of Isaiah's messianic prophecies. This study will lead us, through a study of this great prophet's writings, helping us understand the historical context of Isaiah, the major themes of the prophet and the life and work of Jesus through the lens of Isaiah. Each of the 5 weeks, we seek to hear God's word for our lives, as we see how Isaiah's timeless message relates to us today.

July 6: Isaiah's Difficult Message

July 13: On Eagle's Wings

July 20: Worship and the Life We Live

July 27: The Suffering Servant

August 3: The Triumph of God

Resources: DVD presentations, study guide and notes, with daily Bible readings.

### **Spirituality and Vegetarianism**

**Beginning Sunday Morning, August 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Concord Room & Kitchen, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Leader: Cheryl**

*"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed." – Mahatma Gandhi*

Many of you have learned that I have decided to choose a vegan life style. Come explore how our inner life of spiritual growth connects with our outer life of practical compassion. You will have the opportunity to learn why people choose to become a vegetarian (to promote health, care for other animals, and express concern for the environment) and how it deeply connects to our spiritual life. This four week experience will include discussion, learning new ways of cooking delicious and nutritious meals, and an assortment of books to read. There will be a monetary donation towards the cost of food.

### **Evening Bible Study and Meal**

***Inspiration from the Psalms***

**Wednesdays: July 9<sup>th</sup>, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Leader: Charles**

The summer Wednesday evening Bible reflections will be taken from the book of Psalm. We will look to that wonderful book for inspiration to help and guide us as we fellowship with God and abide in His tabernacle. We will delve into the question of how shall we show forth His salvation or serve the Lord with gladness. As members of the faith community we are to praise

the Lord. We will discuss some of the many reasons the psalmist found it easy to love God and to give Him praise. And yes, we will look to the hills from whence comes our help.

Plan to be in the number as we seek inspiration from the Psalms and share our own faith stories.