

# ALDRERSGATE ADVOCATE

September and October, 2009

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place...  
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord!*

In my first official Advocate Cover Letter, I want to begin by thanking you all for your warm welcome as I began this July as your new pastor. You have lived up to your mission statement of being a church of warm hearts....

Thanks to the trustees who helped facilitate the move and the work done on the parsonage. Thanks to the wonderful and talented staff who have helped me get acclimated, and the strong lay leadership of this congregation which continues to amaze me with their talents and passion for ministry.

Even in the summer, this is a busy and exciting church! In my first three weeks I had the opportunity to work along side you as my children and I helped serve at the St. Paul's feeding ministry. I have met with the Church Council, Board of Trustees, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Chair and Education committee. I have been welcomed into some of your homes for pastoral visits, and have experienced a taste of this community through the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, band concert on the common, and summer cookouts. And just this last week I experienced Vacation Bible School and am looking forward to connecting with more committees to do visioning for the fall this week.

I am excited about the Spirit in this place, and for the willingness I see to work together where God leads us. I look forward to Rally Day, September 13<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of our Fall programs. And I look forward to getting to know you by name as we move into this new chapter of God's story at Aldersgate.

See you in church!  
*Pastor Lisa*





Grace and peace to all who gather at Aldersgate UMC.

We, Richard and I, sincerely appreciate all of the many ways that you made our transition to Winthrop, Maine so easy. The move was easy in physical ways because of all of your help, but difficult in emotional ways because of all of the fond friendships that we have with you.

I know that Pastor Lisa will be providing excellent pastoral care and leadership to you in the coming years and we hope to hear of the great things that you will do in building up God's kin(g)-dom.

Our daughter Michelle, just emailed a paper that she wrote on Martin Luther King's beloved community. You are indeed a beloved community for us. Thank you for all of the kindnesses that we have received.

Sincerely,  
Sharon and Richard

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Dear Aldersgate Family,

Thank you very much for your prayers, support, and heart-felt notes during my father's brief illness and recent passing. I know that many of you never had a chance to meet my Dad. He was a true gentleman and meant a lot to his family and all who knew him.

It's a great comfort during this difficult time to have such good friends and a warm and supportive church family. My Dad's memory and legacy lives on in his wife, six children, twelve grandchildren and great-grandchild.

Yours in Christ,  
Elaine, Garth,  
Justin and Scott,  
Alison and Matthew

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Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all of your prayers and expressions of caring and concern during Ed's illness.

We especially are touched knowing that you joined us in praying that Ed's wish to attend Anne and Tom's wedding would come true.

We are finding a special comfort in knowing Ed's wish was granted. Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
The families of Edward and Eileen  
Frank and Jan

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Thank you to the following youth members who volunteered to assist in the crib room during the worship service this summer: Annalise, Rachael, Laura, Rebecca, Hannah, Lauren, Nicole, and Charlotte.

This fall, we will need youth helpers in the crib room during the 10:45 service only. We are currently putting together a new fall schedule. If you are interested in helping, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the crib room door or contact Lee through the church office at 978-256-9400. Thank you!!

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A special thank you to our musicians, preachers, and soloists who provided the Word through music, voice and instrument. Aldersgate is blessed with talent generously given and it is gratefully received! Thank you to Pastor Greg, Rev. Larry and Charles for preaching while Pastor Lisa and her family were away. Thank you to our Chancel Choir who sang through the first Sunday in July and to the Kubik family, Carol, Elaine, Chris, Dottie, Erin, Wesley, Liz, Cheryl, Charles, Sally, Norma and to Jane for sharing their special gifts of music!

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Dear Aldersgate Church,

Thank you for helping me go to Camp Wanakee this summer. It was lots of fun and I enjoyed it. I really liked the horseback riding and I made some new friends. I'm looking forward to doing it again next summer.

Love,  
Sarah

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Dear Friends,

This is my final Advocate as your Administrative Secretary! Thank you to my volunteers who have been so loyal and helpful!

I have loved the journey! I thank you for your friendship, for your patience and great humor, but most of all for your faith that shows in everything you do and has guided my days and years here. Indeed a shining example of a faith that is real – that withstands the sorrows and celebrates the joys – all in the spirit of the One who gives us life - the God we have chosen to serve.

I know you will give our new Office Administrator the same support you have given me. I look forward to the future with great optimism – thank you for a tremendous eight years! Love and gratitude to you all,  
Joanne

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**Note:** It was so good to see Bob in church on Sunday, August 16. He left this note on the Attendance Registration Pad:

“Thank you for allowing me to be a member for over 25 years and to learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

This knowledge I took with me to western PA. There I am joining my wife's relatives and helping them stretch their vision of mission.

May God bless everyone at Aldersgate.”

Bob

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### **Our People and Events**

Congratulations to Anne Elizabeth and Thomas who were married on Saturday, May 23 at Marsh Chapel, Boston University. Reverend Gary Shaw, a former pastor of Aldersgate was the officiating pastor. An evening of dinner and dancing followed at the Omni Parker House, Rooftop Ballroom, Boston.

Musicians included bagpiper, Joe, vice president and pipe major of the Boston Polic Gaelic Column of Pipes and Drums, the Gilded Harps of Boston who provided the chamber music, trumpeter, Zachery and Kurt, formerly of Aldersgate, as the organist.

Special thanks to Aldersgate members Ann Merrill who attended the guest book and Holly and Peter who took care of the wedding programs.

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Congratulations to Laura who danced in the production “Swing” with The Actorsingers, Nashua, NH, in August. Laura will be a student at Emerson College in September majoring in Journalism.

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Congratulations to Erin who joined the MIT Summer Philharmonic Orchestra at Kresge Auditorium and again at the Hatch Shell, playing violin in *Damsels in Distress*. Erin will be attending Gordon College in September, majoring in voice.

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Congratulations to Marcia and Greg for completing the Pan-Mass Challenge Bike-Ride on August 1 and 2 for the important cause of cancer research. We are proud of you both!

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Congratulations to Nicole, whose poem, “August”, was published in a recent edition of “Birds & Blooms.” With Nicole’s permission, we are pleased to share her poem with you.



**August is**

*when goldenrod blooms alongside  
Queen Anne’s lace,  
coating fields in yellow and white.*

**August is**

*when the marigolds grow tall and thick,  
filling the garden with yellow and orange blossoms.*

**August is**

*when the crops grow high and get ready  
for the harvest*

**August is**

*when the sumac turns red and the Chinese lanterns light up in their fiery colors.*

**August is**

*when the barn swallows leave their nest  
and the lawn is covered with young frogs  
and toads.*

**August is**

*when grasshoppers hitch rides on the four-wheeler and the cricket’s song mingles with the  
mews  
of kittens.*

**August is**

*when white round bales make the fields look like  
a giant’s campground.*

**August is**

*summer’s grand farewell.*

Congratulations to all our students – returning and new. We hope your year is filled with joy and positive experiences!

**WHAT’S HAPPENING AT AUMC**

## **From Finance**

Aldersgate is a faith community growing in missions and giving. We give thanks for all your generosity and faithful support throughout the year!

### **Motivated?**

How motivated are we to grow in our stewardship? Are we willing to wash and reuse our ziploc plastic bags? Are we willing to hang our laundry outside to dry? Got other ideas for reducing, recycling, reusing? Share your ideas and we will share them with others. Together, we make a world of difference!

\*Do yer givin', while yer livin', so you'll be knowin' where its goin'. ([www.kluth.org](http://www.kluth.org))\*



## **Report from the Trustees**

Most of the activity over the summer has been directed at renovating the Parsonage for Pastor Lisa and her family. This was considered an ideal time since they took a three week vacation shortly after the move and left most of their belongings packed to make access easier for the workmen. We got several bids and hired a contractor to repaint the living room, dining room, kitchen and the 2 smaller bedrooms. Unfortunately before the 2 upstairs bedrooms could be painted we had to hire a plasterer because the wallpaper couldn't be removed. The floor in the basement room was redone because the tiles were all coming loose.

My thanks to Victor, David and Stephen for assisting in the painting of Pastor Lisa's office.

Thanks to Jim and his crew for trimming all the bushes out front, and grading and fixing the drainage of the area by the new stairwell.

Jim also started the removal of stones for installing pavers under the canopy. That will be done as a "self-help" project this fall under the supervision of Dave and Jim.

We also have negotiated with a contractor for the exterior painting of the stairwell which will also be done this September.

As usual at this time of year, our custodians Henry and Stephen have been hard at work in the last two weeks, striping, washing, waxing and buffing the floors. (You really didn't think that shine came back by magic, did you?)

Finally, while we have been working to eradicate it, there is still a lot of poison ivy scattered around the perimeter of the parking lot and in some areas like the outdoor chapel.

Please watch your children in those areas - 3 leaves, let it be!

Dan, Chairperson

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry to Quilt & Knit!**

Would any quilters (novice to experienced) be interested in forming a group on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to make tied quilted prayer shawls? Also, quilting prayer shawls could be added to the existing Prayer Shawl Ministry that meet on Monday afternoons from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

If you prefer an evening – perhaps Thursday evening would work well for you. If afternoons are better, the Monday afternoon group would work well, too.

Please let Joanne, Gigi or Jane know of your interest, through the church office. There is a national outreach ministry called Prayers and Squares that combine the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. Similarly, our Prayer Shawls are given with a prayer that the shawl will provide comfort and blessing to the recipient. Let us know if you are interested!



## **TIME FOR A NEW COOKBOOK?**

It's been ages since Aldersgate has published a cookbook. The time has come for something special and I would be honored to spearhead this adventure! I would love help! If you

would like to be in on the brainstorming and coordination of what our cookbook will be, come join me. It is ambitious, but it will be so rewarding - a keepsake, a treasure, a part of you and our church.

What I would like to attempt to do (and remember dreams **DO** come true!):

1. Have this cookbook be your "**go-to**" **cookbook**. In the last cookbook, I put ALL my favorite recipes in. I was able to refer this cookbook as the place to keep my family culinary treasures! Even if you have published your recipe before in our last cookbook, it could still be a timeless treasure, so include it! Include Mum's, Dad's, Grandma's and Aunties recipes! If you enjoy and treasure them, so will we! Just check how many "Sargent" recipes are in the last cookbook! The whole family was represented....because those were the recipes that I always went to. **All in one book.**
2. I would love to incorporate the **talent of the church** into this book. Artwork from members, adults and children. Poems, favorite quotes, photos etc.
3. Make this cookbook **a reflection of who we are as a church!** Ethnic foods, Vegetarian and Vegan dishes. Those once a year butter filled recipes you indulge in at Christmas or make just for the Faire Bake Table. Truffles, jams, jellies, bread, scones. Fabulous recipes, fabulous food.

I am not sure at this point what publishing method we will use (we may self publish) but this is sure to be something we all will use and be very proud of. There will be future discussions of pricing and quantity discounts. The focus of this cookbook will not be as a fund raiser, but primarily as fellowship sharing and story telling.

Would you like to help? Please contact Ginny through the church office at 978-256-9400 or email me at [chrisgins@verizon.net](mailto:chrisgins@verizon.net) or [cookingin@verizon.net](mailto:cookingin@verizon.net)



### **Fair Happenings!**

Look for craft kits and idea samples for projects for our Holiday Faire coming soon. Interested in getting together to share ideas and materials for projects? Contact or Melinda through the church office at 978-256-9400.

We will schedule fall gatherings to share ideas and work on projects this fall. Share your talents and ideas as we begin our preparations for Christmas and our wonderful Holiday Faire scheduled for December 4 and 5, 2009.

### **Outreach Committee**

Congratulations to our Aldersgate Congregation! Through the generosity of your giving, the Change for Change Program received \$734.53 to help someone in the congregation with a special need. The Change for Change Program will now go to The Paul Center in Chelmsford to help exceptional children. So ---- keep that change clinking in the offering plate and as always we thank you for all of your help.

Deb

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### **News In Chelmsford & Lowell**



The Chelmsford Board of Health will sponsor two flu clinics for Chelmsford residents only. The first clinic will be held Thursday, October 8 from 2 – 4:30 p.m. and the second clinic will be held Thursday, October 15 from 3 – 4:30 p.m. Both clinics will be held at the Chelmsford Senior Center, 75 Groton Road, No. Chelmsford.

**Note: The first clinic** is for those ages 65 and over and for those younger than age 65 only if the individual has a chronic illness. **The second clinic** is for anyone else in Chelmsford ages 6 months + while supplies last. **For anyone age 65 and over, please bring all insurance cards with you. Under 65, a donation of \$3 to \$5 would be appreciated.**

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### **The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell, Inc.**

Communication from the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell revealed that there is a 9% increase in the number of clients seen this year compared to the first six months of 2008. The need is expected to rise! The Open Pantry appreciates all the donations of food received from so many including donations of money as that enables the Pantry to purchase meat, fresh fruits and vegetables when available as well as non-perishables from the Greater Boston Food Bank and the Merrimack Valley Food Bank at good and reduced prices.

If you would like to volunteer at the Open Pantry, their email address is [greaterlowellopenpantry@verizon.net](mailto:greaterlowellopenpantry@verizon.net).

### **Massachusetts Bible Society Presents**

### **The 2009 Harrell F. Beck Lectureship 'One Book Many Voices' with Liz Walker**

Liz Walker, presently Host and Executive Producer of 'Better Living with Liz Walker' a half hour inspirational magazine airing on WCVB, TV, will present identical lectures and documentary screenings on the following dates, places and times. Liz is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and has chosen to combine her communication skills with her spiritual passion to serve the world. Walker, an Emmy ward winning television journalist, anchored WBZ Television's evening newscasts for almost 20 years before stepping down to enter seminary and begin the ordination process.

**Sunday, October 18**, Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, Newton Centre, Wilson Chapel, 7-9 p.m., \*reception to follow

**Wednesday, October 21**, First Baptist Church  
Worcester, MA, 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. \*Buffet Lunch

**Thursday, October 22**, Endicott College, Beverly, MA, 7-9:30 pm, room to be determined.

\*indicates reservations required by Monday, October 12 for luncheon events. Call Nathan at 617-969-9404 or email [admin@massbible.org](mailto:admin@massbible.org).

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please keep Nancy, Gigi and Dirk, Judy, Ray, Chuck, our college students, returning and new, and all our young people in your prayers.

Please keep our church and Pastor Lisa and her family in your prayers as we begin an exciting year together!

Aldersgate has an active Prayer Partner Ministry through e-mail! If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please let us know. And, if you have a prayer request you would like this group to pray for, please let us know that as well. This is an important way for us to connect with each other on behalf of another person in need of a special prayer.

“A day hemmed in prayer rarely unravels.”  
author unknown

If you have moved, changed your email address and/or telephone number, please let the Church Office know!  
Thank you!

Last minute reminder: The time for our worship services will change effective September 13. The times are 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. with church school for all ages in between.  
Have you signed up to help with our coffee hour on Sunday? Thank you for your service!

## **CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**

### **Vacation Bible School**

What a wonderful time we had building friendships through Bible study, art projects, games, music and drama skits as we learned about Habitat for Humanity. Thank you to all that helped by leading a class, doing prep work for our bird houses and hat racks, Nate and Jim, for donating supplies towards this community outreach experience. The children created a beautiful quilt under the guidance and gifted quilter, Pat. This special quilt will be presented to a new Habitat family that will begin working on their new home in Bedford, MA. We all celebrated together during our picnic lunch on the lawn of our church. The spirit was definitely present as we learned the importance of what a home is all about!



### **Summer Book & Craft Time**

This summer we offered the opportunity for children to listen to a special book and make a craft after the children's message. Thank you to the following for helping: Jim, Christine, Sharmis, Jill, Laura, David, Betsey, Stephen, Peter, Sheri and Kathy. We highly recommend the following books that we read this summer and they are all available in our children's library:

**“Chrysanthemum” by Kevin Henkes**                      **“The Rainbow Fish” by Marcus Pfister**  
**“Ox-Cart Man” by Donald Hall**                      **“The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein**  
**“The Napping House” by Audrey Wood**                      **“Two by Two” by Barbara Reid**  
**“Stellaluna” by Janell Cannon**                      **“Pascual and the Kitchen Angels” by Tomie dePaola**

**“Good Night, God Bless” by Susan Heyboer O’Keefe**



## **RALLY DAY**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th**

**WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:30 & 10:45 A.M**

**BIBLE PRESENTATION TO 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADERS**

during 10:45 a.m. Service

**CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION: 9:20 A.M.**

**CHURCH SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH: 9:30 A.M.**

**POTLUCK/BARBECUE FOR ALL: 12:00 NOON**

Please bring a side dish to share, we will supply the hot dogs,  
hamburgers, veggie burgers and beverages.



### **Worship Arts Program**

**Tuesdays, 4 – 5:30 p.m. Beginning on September 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Ages 4 years old – 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

Come join us as we create art and have fun with music this fall. The children will gather for snack when they arrive. Children in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade will participate in a wonderful music program led by Carol Prasad from 4:10 – 4:50 while the younger children will participate in the art program, then we will rotate the groups. Please see Cheryl if you would like her to pick up your child from South Row School.



### **Confirmation Class**

Pastor Lisa and the children's ministry team have decided to wait a year before offering a confirmation class to youth in grade 7 or higher. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Pastor Lisa or Cheryl.

### **Acolyte Program**



All youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to sign up to serve as an acolyte this year. We held a training session at the end of August, but will be happy to provide the information to anyone who is interested in acolyting this fall. We are looking for youth to help during the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Please see Pastor Lisa or Cheryl for information and signing up.

## **JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

*This fellowship group is 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.*



**Our kick off event will be a pizza party for all junior youth and their families on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

Cheryl and David are very excited about all the fun and spiritual things we will be doing this year! We are also looking for parents to help with chaperoning, phone calls, providing snacks, and any other way you would like to help support this program. We will break into 2 groups from 7 – 8 p.m. after we eat. The youth will get to know one

another playing some fun and crazy games, and the adults will learn about the youth program and how they can support it. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Cheryl.

*A Junior youth newsletter will be mailed out at the end of September with more details about this program.*

## **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.*

### **PIZZA PARTY ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> FROM NOON – 2 P.M.**

All youth in grades 7 – 12 are welcome to join us and we ALWAYS welcome friends! We will share our summer stories, play games, and make decisions about our winter and summer trips for next year. Please bring money for pizza.



*A Senior youth newsletter will be mailed out at the end of September with more details about this program.*

### ***Growing in our Faith Opportunities...***

*All over this world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.*

*Colossians 1: 6b*

Aldersgate U.M.C. has definitely been growing and bearing fruit! We continue to offer a variety of adult study classes and small group opportunities to help you grow closer in your relationship with God, and with one another. Our goal this year is to reach out to even more adults, and offer more choices for you to fan your flame of faith, tempt you with a feast to feed your soul. Please review some of the choices you have below and also throughout this newsletter.



#### **EARLY BIRD CLASS**

**Tuesdays: 7 – 7:45 a.m. Concord Room**

**Leader: Charles**

**Beginning on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

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 CLASS**

**Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. Concord Room**

**Leader: Pastor Lisa**

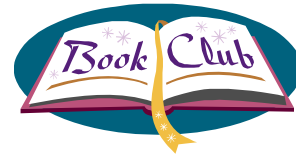
**Beginning on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

All our welcome to join us on Thursday mornings! This class is a community study that acts as much as a support group as it does a Bible study.

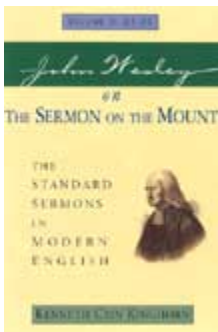
#### **THE BOOK GROUP**

Books have been chosen for the year ahead. The Book Group meets the last Tuesday of the month in the Concord Room at 6 PM. Please join in if you enjoy reading, discussion, and fellowship!

The Color of Water, by James McBride, Sept.  
The Zookeepers Wife, by Diane Ackerman , Oct.  
The Winding Ways Quilt, by Jennifer Chiaverini, Nov.  
Back When We Were Grown-ups, by Anne Tyler Dec.  
The God Game, by Andrew Greeley, Jan.  
Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen, Feb.  
Just Take My Heart, by Mary Higgins Clark, March  
While I Was Gone, by Sue Miller, April



### **JOHN WESLEY IS COMING TO ALDERSGATE!**



We are so excited to announce to all that “John Wesley”, aka Bob, is going to preach his sermons beginning Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> for 4 weeks. We will gather in the Concord Room from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. to listen to John Wesley’s words and then join in discussion on what we experience.

John Wesley was the principal founder of the Methodist movement. At a small religious meeting on Aldersgate Street, London, on May 24, 1738, John Wesley had an experience in which his "heart was strangely warmed." After this spiritual conversion, which centered on the realization of salvation by faith in Christ alone, he devoted his life to evangelism.



### **Disciple I is coming back to Aldersgate!**

#### **DISCIPLE 1: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study**

During the course of 34 weeks, DISCIPLE study groups move through the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem. The titles of the sessions along with theme words, theme verses and key characters, events and topics, will fix the sequence of the biblical story in the minds of participants. The principal Scripture for each session follow the chronological movement of the biblical story. DISCIPLE gives equal time to both Old and New Testaments, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as the revelation to God.

#### **Course Contents**

**Old Testament**

**New Testament**

The Biblical Word  
The Creating God  
The Rebel People  
The Called People  
God Hears My Cry  
God Sends the Law  
When God Draws Near  
The People Without a King  
The People With a King  
God Warns the People  
God Punishes the People  
God Restores the People  
Songs of the Heart  
The Righteous Are Like a Tree  
When Trouble Comes  
People Hope for a Saviour  
The Time of Transition

Radical Discipleship  
Mounting Controversy  
The Hidden Messiah  
God Seeks the Least, the Last, the Lost  
Lifegiver  
Advocate  
The Explosive Power of the Spirit  
The Gospel Penetrates the World  
Put Right with God through Faith  
A Congregation in Ferment  
The Son Shall Set Us Free  
A Pastor Gives Guidance  
Our Great High Priest  
A People Set Apart  
We Never Lose Hope  
Gifts of Each Disciple  
A Last Supper Together

Classes will be starting the Fall of 2009.  
Please contact Roger Whitehead for more information.

### **"Sisters" Is Back!**

Beginning Tuesday September 15 we will be doing the second session of "Sisters Bible Study for Women"

This session we are studying "Unfailing Love – Growing Closer to Jesus Christ" By Rebecca Laird.

..explore the life of Jesus and the ways in which Jesus Christ reaches out to us, offering deep spiritual friendship and unfailing love...

***Join us for six weeks from 4:00 – 5:30. All are welcomed, so invite a friend.***

This course will feature a video, workbook and discussion time.

Any ? call Ginny through the church office at 978-256-9400.