

# ALDERSGATE ADVOCATE

OCTOBER,



2009

Dear Friends,

I love the fall season and all of the beautiful changes and colors it brings. For me, the transformation of color is a reminder of the ways God continues to bring transformation in our own lives. It is also a melancholy time when we reflect on the temporal nature of life. One of my favorite devotional authors is Joyce Rupp. As you look out the window or walk in the leaves I offer her words for your reflection and prayer time.

*“A Prayer for Autumn Days” from her book: *May I Have This Dance?**

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns. As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grateful.

May you know the presence of Christ as we journey through these autumn days.

*In faith,  
Pastor Lisa*



Dear Aldersgate family,  
Thank you for your prayers, get well cards, caring and concern when Ray had triple bypass surgery on August 20. Ray's recovery at home has progressed well, so well that he is now able to walk 20-25 minutes every day at a steady pace and is looking forward to driving soon. To God be the glory!

With love and peace to all,  
SooKim

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT AUMC

It is with joy we announce a new staff member to our wonderful Aldersgate staff: we welcome Janet to our family. Janet is a six-year resident of Chelmsford, has been a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church since 2005 and comes with many years of office administration experience.

Janet is a widow with two children, Eric, living in Ipswich and Leigh Ann and her husband, Eric and two daughters, Ashley, age 7 and Lindsey, age 5, both students at South Row School. In 1995, when her husband Joe decided to take early retirement, they purchased a motor home and traveled for six years to every state but Hawaii (almost made it there, but not quite).

Her hobbies include working on the computer, knitting, reading, volunteering and, of course, babysitting for the grandchildren. Janet is most pleased to assume the position of Office Administrator and is looking forward with great anticipation, to a closer relationship with church members.

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

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is now known as the Prayer Shawl/Quilt Ministry and we have enjoyed this wonderful addition to our Monday afternoon group. We meet from 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

We will add a Thursday evening group for knitting and quilting beginning on October 7 at 7 p.m., so please join us! Cheryl will be our leader/teacher! If you have any questions, please contact Joanne at [snook71@verizon.net](mailto:snook71@verizon.net).



Prayer Shawl/ Quilt Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is a time of fun, fellowship, sharing, and provides a helpful reminder of God's healing, comforting touch in the lives of those who receive our shawls and blankets. We are looking forward to the addition of quilting a prayer shawl or blanket – won't you join us?

### **Outreach**

**Rummage Sale**\_We will again have a fall rummage sale! Dates are **Friday, October 16 from 4-8 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. until Noon**. Table set-up will be Wednesday, October 14 and the set-up for the sale will be Thursday, October 15 during the day and evening and also Friday morning on the 16th. Deb Benson will be away for the rummage sale. She is hoping that there will be enough coverage for the setting-up and openings on those days. The monies raised go to missions enabling Outreach to do their job. Many hands make light work. Please offer your help. Thanks in advance. Deb

We are looking ahead to Thanksgiving and we hope to be able to give approximately thirty turkey dinner meals on Sunday, November 22. We believe each boxed meal costs about \$40 so if you are able to help financially with this project, we will again be able to fulfill this valuable service. Deb

### **Finance Blessings**

We extend our deepest gratitude to all for your gifts that have brought us through the summer months with faithful giving. With minor budget savings and faithful contributions from pledging member and from other supporters, we are on track for covering our financial commitments for 2009. We couldn't do it without you! If

you have any questions about your year-to-date giving statement, please contact Kelly, Financial Secretary. If you are interested in serving as a Counter, please contact Rick.

As we prepare for November 1, All Saints Sunday, we invite you to consider a special Memorial gift to honor a loved family member or friend. Memorial gifts have helped AUMC complete special projects like the sanctuary rugs and organ enhancements. Whenever you wish to express your thanks and honor a special person, just write Memorial Gift on your contribution.

“It is possible to give without loving, but it is impossible to love without giving.”

Bonnie, Chair, Finance Committee

### **Trustees**

A big thank you to the crew that helped lay the brickwork by the back stairs: Jim, Jim, Peter, Peter, and Joe. Also special thanks to David from Pavers by Ideal who gave the church a significant discount for the cost of the bricks. If you have not seen the brickwork, take a look. What a blessing of talent we have. David

Thank you to Jim and his team for keeping our church lawn in pristine condition. We can be proud of our church property thanks to the help of Dan and our Trustees! Dan – thank you for the many hours of time generously given painting doors, overseeing the parsonage work and all the details that keep the church in good repair!

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Debbie, Cheryl, Lil and Pat have been brainstorming to come up with some exciting ideas for Habitat for Humanity. Here are a few ideas we are tossing around:

1. be on a call list to make lunch for on-site workers.
2. Work at Habitat home site.
3. Sell balloon hats and animals at Chelmsford Fourth of July Festivities.

??? What interests you??? Please talk to any of us any time about your interest in Habitat. The Habitat Committee meets at Aldersgate the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Concord Room. Join us!

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please keep Gigi, Judy, and Chuck in your prayers. Also keep our wonderful church family in your prayers as well as the many ministries of our church. Pray for a successful stewardship program; thank you to Greg for his leadership in this important program.

Aldersgate has an active Prayer Partner Ministry through e-mail! Joanne will continue to maintain this ministry so if you would like to join us, please let us know. And, if you have a prayer request you would like this group to pray for, please let Joanne [snook71@verizon.net](mailto:snook71@verizon.net) 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.

\*\*\*\*

**All Saints Sunday is November 1.** This is a special time to remember a loved one who has passed away during this past year. We invite you to be present for worship as the name of your loved one is read, and a bell will toll in remembrance. It would be helpful if you would contact the Office with the appropriate information.

**JUST ANNOUNCED:** The Charge Conference will be held on Monday, December 7 at Aldersgate. Rev. Wilson will meet with SPRC at 6:30 p.m. and the Conference will begin at 7:30. Please mark your calendars

**The next Advocate deadline is October 26.** Volunteers are welcome to help on Friday, Oct. 30 at 10 a.m. Thank you!

## **It's Coming...Consecration Sunday!**

Each year at this time in the life of the church we turn our thoughts toward Stewardship.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the New Consecrations Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship emphasis this year.

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. This stewardship model is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Here are but a few examples found in the Bible: Mark 12:41-44 - Widow's small offering; Luke 6:38 – Abundance repays those who give; Luke 3:11 – Sharing with others; and 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 – We are blessed when we give.

Over the next three Sundays, we will hear from some of our own members who will share their perspective and offer tools for our discernment as we each reflect upon our discipleship and wrestle with the questions: "How do I express my gratitude for God's faithfulness?" and "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

**Consecration Sunday** (or Commitment Sunday as it is sometimes called) will be **Sunday, October 25**. It promises to be an exciting day, complete with a powerful guest preacher in Rev. Martin McLee, District Superintendent of the Boston Metro Hope District of our Annual Conference. We will be holding **one service** that morning at 10:45 a.m. so that we might all offer our promises together in community. The worship will be followed by a **celebration lunch** sponsored by the stewardship committee. It will be a catered lunch, so we will have reservation cards to solicit your reply the next two weeks in worship.

We are excited about where God is leading Aldersgate Church, and our thoughtful responses about the part we can each play. Please begin to pray for this Stewardship season, and please plan to attend the events on Consecration Sunday.

In faith,

Greg , Stewardship Chair  
Bonnie, Finance Chair

# Holiday Faire and Festival



**Celebrating the Reason for the Season!**

**December 4 3-8pm**

**and December 5 9am-1pm**

Plans for Aldersgate's Holiday Faire and Festival on December 4-5, 2009 are coasting along and you are invited to join in!

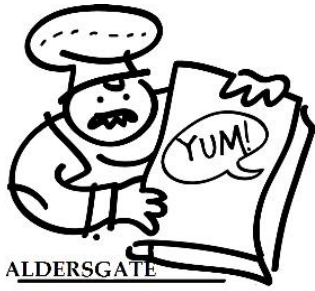
We celebrate all the talents and contributors that make our Christmas Faire a fellowship of music, crafts and outstanding dining! Sign up Sheets will be available in November with options for donations or service on the Elf Team (set up, sales, hospitality, cleanup). We invite you to create a theme basket for the Silent Auction!

Offerings this year will include Christmas Crafts, Kringle's Kitchen, Jinglyng Jewelry, Glad Tidings Greens, Children's Shoppe, Country Store & Bakery, Gracious Re-Gifting and Silent Auction.

For general information, please contact Bonnie or Melinda through the church office at (978) 256-9400. Good cheer!

## **Greens Gathering**

On Friday and Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Faire Elves will trim your branches! Seeking Evergreens, Holly or Decorative Tree cuttings for Christmas Faire swags and centerpieces. Contact Bob or David through the church office at (978) 256-9400 if you would like to help the Elves and have some greens to share!!



Attention! Attention!!!!

The cookbook committee has worked hard to finalize the plans on what the Aldersgate Cookbook will be! The design is going to be a three-ring binder, with cookbook stand.

## COOKBOOK

This three-ring binder will be augmented by our own Aldersgate member's additions! Truly unique, we will incorporate some innovated chapters, hints and helps, artwork and creative inclusions. We are taking the BEST ideas and working them into our cookbook. There will be pages for you to include recipes later, an ingredient cross reference, and much more!

During the next six months you will see several items regarding the cookbook and its publication. For now.....

## RECIPES.... WE NEED RECIPES!!!!

This is the time for you to send via email (if you are able) all those favorite family recipes. Make this your "go to cookbook". Have all your favorites in one spot.

**Kids!** We are going to have a section for Kids Kreations. We encourage you to draw (black and white please) something on a page with your favorite recipes. Your page will be reduced to put in the new cookbook. Want someone to help you create a recipe page? Just let Ginny know and we will help.

## **Authors and Artist**

We will gladly include your creations as part of the book (art will be reproduced in black and white).

Got a great cooking hint or several? We will have a chapter for that, too!

**Need some suggestions?** Family favorites, Holiday favorites, Church favorites (scones!), breads, dough to create ornaments, Aldersgate Fair favorites (chowder, desserts, scones?), vegan, vegetarian, gluten free. How about including Aunt Mildred's famous cookies, Grandma's gingerbread men, Henry's corn chowder (a hint to include friends and family too- all are welcome!)

This will simply be the best of the best we have to offer. This Cookbook will be a keeper for years to come. With the ability to add on, it will be timeless.

Ginny [cookingin@verizon.net](mailto:cookingin@verizon.net) through the church office at (978) 256-9400.

# CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



## Rally Day

On Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the beginning of church school and our fall program. There were 95 children, youth, teachers and helpers that came together to remember how we are all connected together in God's love. We also welcomed some new families! There was a potluck barbecue for all after the second service. Thank you to everyone that helped!

## Bible Presentation

On Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, the following 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children received their gift Bible: Isabelle, Sean, Ryan, Adam and Joshua.



## Safe Sanctuary

Each family was given a copy of our safe sanctuary policy. Please review this important safety information with your family so we can continue to offer the safest experience for your child when they come to church. We are also planning a workshop on recognizing neglect and abuse in November. A trained person from DSS will be leading this workshop. Please see Cheryl if you are interested.

## 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 November 1<sup>st</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup> or November 15<sup>th</sup> and place in the box in the hall:

- Preschool Class – Canned Fruit
- Kindergarten 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> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class – Rice/Minute Rice
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Class – Rice/Minute Rice



## Worship Arts Program

Tuesdays, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Ages 4 years old – 6<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> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade will participate in a wonderful music program led by Carol from 4:10 – 4:50 while the younger children will participate in the art program, then we will rotate the groups.

If your child would like to participate but has no way of getting to church, please let us know so we can make arrangements to have them picked up at school. Also, please see Cheryl if you would like her to pick up your child up from South Row School.

## Acolyte Program

The following youth have signed up to be acolytes this year: Alex, Landon, Rebecca, Stephen, Jared, Kira, Jack, Matthew and Sarah. If you are in grades 5-8 and would like to participate, please speak to Joni.





### Youth Music Ensemble

Thursdays: 6:45 – 7:30 p.m for Youth Grades 6-12: **Directed by Carol with Jane**

If you can sing or play an instrument, you are welcome to join us on Thursday nights. They are also looking for youth interested in Sound Technology. Music will be arranged to fit the skills of the members – mostly in the “Contemporary Gospel – Praise Band” style.

### Miller Bells

Thursdays: 6-6:45 p.m. **Directed by Carol with Laurie assisting**

Hand Bell Choir for Youth Grades 5-12 and adults interested in developing hand bell



skills.

## 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.*

### We're Number 1!

Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

It seems like everyone is obsessed with winning today! Join us for an evening of and discussion as we learn that there doesn't have to be only one winner and a whole losers. **Bring a snack to share.**



games bunch of

### Pumpkin Night!



Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

We will all have fun carving Jack-o-lanterns, play Halloween games and eat Halloween food!

**Wear a costume, and bring a pumpkin to carve.**

## 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.*

### Apple Pie Sunday

Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from noon – 1:30 p.m.

Bring your apple peelers or apple corers as we assemble apple pies to sell at the rummage sale! We will not cook them until Friday so the aroma of apple pies fills the church and we sell every pie we make! There will be a sign up sheet for you to help at the rummage sale on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a fundraiser to help with our winter trip and summer trip. Please bring \$5.00 for pizza.



### Bowling Fun



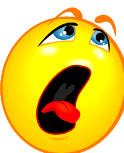
Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from noon – 2:00 p.m.

Come join us for some duckpin fun! We will eat at Chelmsford House of pizza (bring money for food) and then play duckpin bowling at North Chelmsford Lanes (cost for bowling and shoes is \$7.00). *We will need chaperones and drivers for this event.*

### I'm So Bored!

Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from noon – 1:30 p.m.

Have you ever said the words, “I’m so bored!” We will all discover ways to beat boredom in exciting and unusual ways! We will eat a variety of desserts for lunch.



***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. offers 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**

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**

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. We are using the study book: Contagious Community: living beyond yourself.

### **SUNDAY MORNING CLASS**

**Sundays: 9:30 – 10:30 Concord Room**

#### **Simplicity, Generosity and Joy**

**Leaders: Peter, Charles**

**“Cultivating Contentment and Simplicity” – October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**“Defined by Generosity” – October 11<sup>th</sup>**

We've all struggled with these issues at one time or another. In this series we are going to explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management.

#### **Biblical Wisdom for Challenging Economic Times**

**Leader: Peter**

**“The Wisdom of Solomon: Reset!” – October 18<sup>th</sup>**

**“Now I Remember Why I'm Here” – October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**“Overcoming Fear” – November 1<sup>st</sup>**

What lessons are to be learned from the economic crisis of 2008? What changes must Americans make going forward? And how do we find financial peace in the midst of a challenging economy? Join us as we invite you to Reset!

### **DISCIPLE 1 CLASS *Beginning in October***

Roger Whitehead will lead this study – please see him to sign up!

DISCIPLE 1 is a 34-week overview of the Bible. Beginning with Genesis and continuing through Revelation, participants will read approximately 80% of the Bible during this life-changing study. Students have daily assignments in the Bible and study manual and they discuss these assignments in their weekly group meeting. Come prepared to dialogue and interact with a group of people who are just like you who are seeking to go “higher up and further in” on their journey of faith!

### **SISTERS**

**Tuesdays: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Concord Room**

**Leader: Ginny**

**October 6, 13, 20**

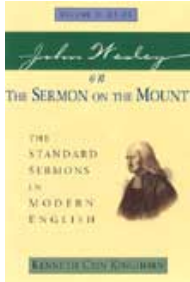
This session we are studying “Unfailing Love – Growing Closer to Jesus Christ” By Rebecca Laird.

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

## **ADULT MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES**

**Chancel Choir** (Voice Choir for Adults and older youth): Directed by Carol; meeting Tuesday evening 7:30 – 9 pm and Sunday 10-10:30 am.

**Shepherd Bells** (Hand Bell Choir for Adults and older youth who are experienced players and/or instrumental musicians): Directed by Carol; meeting Thursday evening 7:30-8:45 pm.



### **JOHN WESLEY IS COMING TO ALDERSGATE! From 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the Concord Room**

We are so excited to announce to all that “John Wesley”, aka Bob, is going to preach John Wesley’s sermons beginning Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> for 4 weeks:

John Wesley’s Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount – November 8

John Wesley on the Beatitudes; Blessed are the Poor in Spirit – November 15

John Wesley on the Beatitudes; Blessed are Those Who Mourn – November 22

John Wesley on the Beatitudes; Blessed are the Meek – November 29

## **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 Zookeepers Wife, by Diane Ackerman , Oct.

The Winding Ways Quilt, by Jennifer Chiaverini, Nov.

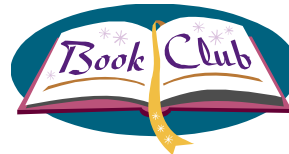
Back When We Were Grown-ups, by Anne Tyler Dec.

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



## **PRAYER SHAWL/QUILT MINISTRY**

**Mondays from 2:00 – 3:30 and Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

The quilters have joined the knitters! All quilters and knitters are invited to come together on Monday afternoons or Thursday evenings as work together to create prayer shawls, lap shawls and prayer quilts!



we



We invite you to share your time and talent either by knitting, crocheting, quilting or just coming by to chat with a fun group of ladies.

There is a national outreach ministry called Prayers and Squares that combine the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. Prayers & Squares is an interfaith outreach ministry that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. Unlike many other organizations that make quilts for charitable causes, the purpose of Prayers & Squares is not to make and distribute quilts, but to promote prayer through the use of quilts. Our motto is: *"It's not about the quilt; it's all about the prayers."*

Also, if you would like to give a prayer shawl, lap shawl or quilt to someone special, please let us know! These hand made gifts bring comfort to someone who may need that extra touch as a reminder that God is present at a difficult or a joyous time. We can depend on that promise!

Please let Joanne, Gigi or Jane know of your interest. Joanne can be reached at [snook71@verizon.net](mailto:snook71@verizon.net) and Jane can be reached at [djvoos@peoplepc.com](mailto:djvoos@peoplepc.com)