



*Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices...*

My heart is still singing after this past Sunday's worship. Rev. Martin McLee was our guest preacher for Consecration Sunday as we gathered for one service to dedicate our pledges and giving for the coming year. There was a wonderful spirit in this place... beginning with the music from the Choristers and Angels, to the thank you cards the children made, and the rousing "Spirit" song from the choir.

As Rev. McLee took the pulpit, he invited us to sing together inviting the Lord to "come by here." You could truly feel God's presence throughout the service as he reminded us that, even in difficult economic times, we are blessed. And we can never out-give God!

We were invited to bring our pledges forward as we sang, "Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary" and many knelt in prayer as they brought their pledge cards forward.

God has indeed blessed our giving... We were pleased to announce at the Consecration luncheon that we had 18 pledges that were maintained at their current level, 26 increased pledges, and 27 new pledges for the coming year! We are ahead of where we were in this process a year ago, and our numbers are up by 17%. Praise God! If you were not with us on Sunday, you can still mail your pledge card to the office or bring it to worship on Sunday.

Special thank you's to all who worked so hard... To our amazing staff and music department who were ready for anything! To Bonnie, who invited Rev. McLee as our preacher. To the finance committee: Rick, Dan, Bob, Bonnie, Kelly, and Greg for working all the numbers and continuing to keep us moving forward. To Peter and the Church Council for making phone calls. To Nancy and volunteers who set up tables for the lunch, and Mr. Jack's Catering Service in Billerica for the wonderful meal. And a very special thanks to Greg for his countless hours of work as Stewardship chairperson. He began the process, was diligent throughout, and was there to the very end on Sunday!

As we enter into this season of Thanksgiving, I give thanks to God for many blessings, past, present, and future. We know we can never out-give God, but we have seen that when we work together, great things are possible! Please continue to pray for our church as we move into God's future together ~

To God be the glory!

Pastor Lisa

## *Thank You!*

*My Retirement Party is now a treasured memory. Thank you for your part in the generous gift from the Aldersgate Church family – but most importantly, your presence! I was touched to see so many friendly faces, and all your names on my beautiful quilt – and I thought of how many times we have shared together through the good, the sad, and the challenges of our lives – always with faith! I am so grateful for your presence in my life and I look forward to all God has in store for Aldersgate. I can hardly wait to see what God has in store for all of us! My gratitude and my love, Joanne*

\* \* \*

*To all my friends at Aldersgate:*

*Thank you for your prayers for my nephew, Adam, who spent 4 months in Afghanistan. He is now home safe and sound and none the worse for wear. Also, thank you for your many prayers for Scott. He is now in his last year at UMASS and doing well, so far. Thanks to all of you and help from the VA, he is now excited to return to school. Please continue to pray for him as he completes his degree in Mechanical Engineering. The prayers from our family at Aldersgate Church are amazing. Thanks for your faithfulness. Fondly,  
Betsey*

\* \* \*

### **Rummage Sale**

*Again, I am truly amazed and blessed for what Aldersgate gives each and every one of us. A big **thank you** to the Outreach Committee, to all of you who brought things in, to the Boy Scouts for setting up tables, the workers and cleaning crew! We certainly had a church wide effort from what I hear!! The rummage sale was a big success thanks to each and every one of YOU!!! Imagine all we can do to help because of all of your efforts. We would love ideas! Again, just so you know, we are blessed and thank all of you. Deb*

\* \* \*

*May I take this opportunity to say a great big thank you to all of you for the wonderful, warm welcome I have received upon assuming the position in the office. Aldersgate people are surely the nicest and friendliest people anywhere! I have never been so warmly received before and it has been a blessing to have been given such a nice reception. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!  
Janet*

\* \* \*

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT AUMC**

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



Prayer Shawl/ Quilt Ministry

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 through the church office.

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?



## **THANKSGIVING**

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

## **Outreach**

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Here is how you can help Aldersgate Outreach to Habitat for Humanity:

1. Volunteer to join others to make and/or take lunch to the Bedford Habitat site. Contact Pat through the church office at 978-256-9400 for details.
2. Volunteer on-line to work at the Bedford site or make lunch for the volunteers at [www.lowellhabitat.org](http://www.lowellhabitat.org). Complete a short registration form, click on the volunteer icon and choose the date you would like to volunteer to bring lunch or to work at the site.
3. Sign up to sit at the Habitat table at our Christmas Fair where Habitat house pins and cookbooks will be sold.
4. Shop at the Habitat table at the Christmas Fair.
5. Visit the Gingerbread House display at All Saints Church, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on December 6<sup>th</sup> from noon to 6:00 p.m.

All volunteers will be invited to the Annual Thank You Luncheon so please be sure that Pat has your name on the volunteer list.

### **HEART SAVER CPR**

The date for the Heart course has been set for 9:00



### **COURSE**

Saver adult and pediatric CPR - 12:00 p.m. on Saturday,

November 7 in the Aldersgate Fellowship Hall. Certified instructors from Emerson Hospital have volunteered to conduct the class, which is limited to 25 attendees. There is a sign up sheet in the church office . The cost for the course is \$15.00; checks should be made out to AUMC; cash payments will also be accepted. Please call Bob through the church office at 978-256-9400 with any questions.

### **STORM CLOSING POLICY**

In the event that church on Sunday is delayed or canceled, we will send out an email to our church database. If you would like to be included in the notification, please email the office at [aumc@comcast.net](mailto:aumc@comcast.net) with your email address. For those without email, you may call the church office 978-256-9400 on stormy days to hear an updated message letting you know the plan for the morning. In the event of weekday school closings, the church office may also be closed or delayed in opening. As always, we encourage you to use your own best judgment before venturing out if the weather is questionable.

### **SOUND TECH VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

We need a volunteer at each Sunday morning service who would be willing to turn on and test the Sound System for Worship and start the CD to record the service. No prior experience is needed, just a willingness to be consistent and learn the system we have. Please speak to Pastor Lisa if you are interested in serving in this way.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please keep Gigi, Judy, Chuck and Ruby in your prayers. Also keep our wonderful church family in your prayers as well as the many ministries of our church.

Aldersgate has an active Prayer Partner Ministry through e-mail! Joanne Snook 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 know that as well, through the church office. This is an important way for us to connect with each other on behalf of another person in need of a special prayer.

\*\*\*\*

## BEREAVEMENT

*It is with much sadness that we announce the passing of Cyndy, sister of Rick, on October 16<sup>th</sup> and of Jim Witt on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Our deepest sympathies to both families*



### **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.

### **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

### **ADVOCATE**

The next Advocate deadline is November 26, 2009. Volunteers are welcome to help on Monday, Nov. 30 at 10 a.m. Thank you!



### **DIRECTORY UPDATE:**

Olan Mills has told me that the Aldersgate directories will be delivered by Monday, December 7! Thank you all for your patience. I know it's been several months since you had your photos taken, but I think everyone will be pleased with the final result. We ordered extra copies of the directory for our new families and for our extended church family, so we can all stay in touch. You'll have all the latest addresses, phone numbers and e-mails so you can send Christmas greetings! Thank you all for the support and enthusiasm, especially to Joanne, who updated and proofread again and again (and again!) It's been a fun process and it will be a really valuable tool for Pastor Lisa, Janet and for our whole church. Betsey

### **LOCAL SUPERMARKETS**

Some of our local supermarkets are participating in a new program called A+BONUS BUCKS. Each time a shopper registers their market card and shops in that store, cash rewards are accumulated for local schools. Stop & Shop has been designated as the store where cash rewards are earned for the South Row School.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

#### **WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS...**

**November 1** -- All Saints Sunday

**November 8** -- Children's Sabbath

**November 15** - The Ghanian Choir from Wesley UMC, Worcester

**November 24** - Thanksgiving Sunday

**November 29** - First Sunday of Advent

**Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.**

The children's education ministry team will be hosting a workshop on, "Recognizing the Signs of Abuse and Neglect". A guest speaker from the Department of Children and Families Health and Services will be leading the workshop in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who interacts with children and youth is encouraged to come. Please watch for more information in the future.

**Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. - Trustees Meeting**

### **CHARGE CONFERENCE**

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.

## ***CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS***



### **Children's Sabbath and Neglect & Abuse Workshop Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

Our church cares very deeply for the children and youth of our church, and children and youth all across the nation. On Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating the Children's Sabbath; a time when many faiths across the nation call attention to the kind of change children and youth in our nation need. It is also a time to reflect on what our faith is calling us to do, and to decide how we might respond on behalf of children in need and their families.

During Worship and in our church school classes, we will all learn about how we can help children and youth in need. We will also review how our church has a Safe Sanctuary Policy to keep children and youth safe.

God is calling us to make a difference in the lives of children and youth. We know that for children, we can't say, "Wait till tomorrow." For children, we need to act today!



## Neglect & Abuse Workshop Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>



The Children's Education Ministry team is also hosting a workshop on recognizing neglect and abuse on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A trained person from DCF will be leading this workshop.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is the Massachusetts state agency charged with the responsibility of protecting children from child abuse and neglect. DCF is committed to protecting children and strengthening families. When children are abused or neglected by the people responsible for caring for them, DCF will intervene to ensure the safety of the children.

All adults who work with children or youth are encouraged to come.

### 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



## ALL AGE ADVENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall



Everyone is invited to join us in celebrating the first Sunday of Advent! Our focus for this Sunday will be: **Family Christmas Time**. We will be creating a gingerbread global display with the world and gingerbread people. Every person will decorate a gingerbread person. This will be taken to the Habitat for

Humanity silent auction fundraiser community event. We will also have other craft activities based on family Christmas traditions.

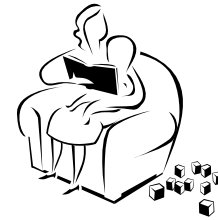


We are also asking families to bring their favorite holiday goodie to share – each family will have a special card to write their name on, and the item of food they brought. Everyone is encouraged to enjoy this special day together as a family!  
**THERE WILL BE NO CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES**

**DOWNSTAIRS.**

### Crib Room Corner

The month of October just flew by and the snow has already fallen! The children and I are having lots of fun with our new curriculum for the crib room, all activities are age appropriate.



We are happy to have volunteers helping during second service. Some of the activities that are planned for the month of November are: making musical instruments, sensory bottles, and of course turkeys. We will also be collecting canned goods for our Thanksgiving baskets. If you have any questions or concerns fell free to stop by.

– Sheri



### Worship Arts Program - Tuesdays, 4 - 5:30 p.m.

**Ages 3 years old - 6<sup>th</sup> grade Leaders: Carol, Jane, Cheryl, Sheri**

Soccer is coming to an end, the leaves are falling, and all our welcome to join us on Tuesday afternoons to create art and have fun with music!

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.

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

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. Friends are always welcome!

### **Game Night**

**Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Bring your favorite game to play (not video games), and a topping for ice cream sundaes.



### **St. Paul's Feeding Program**

**Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 - 6:00 p.m.**

The junior youth will be providing dessert for this feeding program at Eliot Church. Please bring 2 pies with you or drop them off at church by noon on Wednesday. We will also be looking for youth to help serve.



### **Cosmic Bowling**

**Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

We will travel to *Acton Bowladrome* for an evening of bowling and arcade games. Please bring \$15.00 to cover the cost of bowling, shoes and playing arcade games. ***We will need some chaperones for this event.*** Please let us know if you would like to help.

## **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. Friends are always welcome!**

### **College Care packages**



**Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from noon - 2:00 p.m.**

Please see Cheryl for an item needed for the college care packages. We will also talk about leaving home after we graduate from high school.

### **Movie Day**

**Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from noon - 2:30 p.m.**

We will watch a movie, eat pizza, popcorn & candy – bring your favorite popcorn or candy to share.



### **St. Paul's Feeding Program**

**Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 6:00 p.m.**

The senior youth will be providing shepherd's pie for this feeding program at Eliot Church. Please see Cheryl for the recipe. Please drop them off at church by noon on Wednesday. We will also be looking for youth to help serve.

### **Christmas Faire Prep**



**Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from noon – 2:00 p.m.**

We will all have fun with various Christmas crafts and decide which ones we will offer during the Christmas faire! We will also need you to sign up to work at the Christmas faire – Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.



### **Mystery Event**

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from noon – 2:00 p.m.**

Who knows what we will be doing ☺

### ***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**

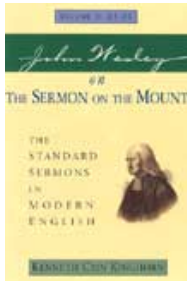
**Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. Concord Room      Leader: Pastor Lisa**

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**

**Leaders: Bob, Walt**



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

**From 9:35 – 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**

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 Winding Ways Quilt, by Jennifer Chiaverini, Nov.

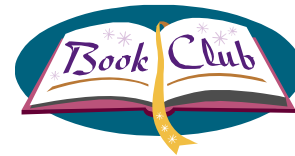
Back When We Were Grown-ups, by Anne Tyler

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



Dec.

## **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.