



# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

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Aldersgate UMC Web Site  
<http://www.aumcgreece.org/>

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## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

We are entering the seasons of Advent and Christmas. It's the time we focus on the coming of Christ—as an infant in Bethlehem, into our hearts and lives today, and at the fulfillment of time. It's a time for receiving anew or the first time the most important gift of life in Christ. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) It's a time for giving—giving love to God and to our neighbor.

How are we to give love to God? "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind." (Luke 10:27a) As I think about what that means, it means giving my whole life, everything I am and everything I have to the Lord in response to his great gift of salvation. It involves giving Jesus my total devotion—spending time in worship and prayer both personally and corporately. It involves giving my mind over to study God's word, to think about

its meaning and apply it in my life. It involves giving Jesus my strength in the form of service.

How are we to love our neighbors? "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27b) We are to give love to others as we give love to ourselves and our loved ones. Each Christmas I think about Mike Slaughter, pastor of a large United Methodist Church in Ohio. He and his family decided years ago to give away as much at Christmas as they spent on themselves. He is now encouraging the church to do the same. The last several Christmases they have taken a "miracle offering." They've used the money to make very real differences in Darfur.

As I think about giving this year, I'm thinking about giving time and resources to our mission trip to New Orleans, Feb. 14-22. We'll be driving to New Orleans on Feb. 14-15. We'll work for 5 days then drive back on the weekend. The trip should cost about \$350 each. There will be things for all levels of skill

including office help as well as home rehab. Youth 14 and older can go when accompanied by an adult. I am hoping several of you will join me in this as part of your gift to Jesus this Christmas. Let me know if you need more information or want to go. We'd like to have the team in place by the end of the year.

We are always giving ourselves to/for something. The question is it the right/best thing? Giving love to God and neighbor in concrete ways is the best and most fulfilling. Choose this Christmas to live beyond yourself.

Have a blessed and joy filled Advent and Christmas.

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Anne

Anne



## OUR MINISTRY OF CONCERN

People are added to our on-going prayer list on request. If you know of someone whose name and/or concern should be added, please verify that the person desires to be on a published list before requesting the addition. Names are added and can be removed from the prayer list by request. If you have a prayer request, please call Barbara Robinson at 227-7845. Reports regarding prayer results are made also.

Please call the church office if you have other names that need to be added or reinstated to the list or removed from the list.

Due to privacy restrictions at our hospitals They will no longer release patient information over the phone. In the event that you are hospitalized, please let us know. If you are unable to notify us, please have a family member or close friend call the church office, Pastor Anne or Pastor Jerry.

**Hospitalized:** Olivia Marsh and Alma Harmer at Strong Memorial Hospital, Lynn Hoyt—Highland Hospital

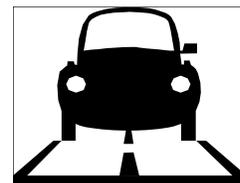
**Transferred to:** Shore Winds Nursing Home – Jack Lynch, Transitional Care Unity Hospital – John Sobus

**Recovering at home:** Vonnie Ackerman, sister of Gloria Montgomery, Lois LaFlair, Joan Michlin, Fran Okita, Deborah Wolfe

**Those with ongoing health concerns:** Joyce Anderson (sister of Wanda Strauss), Al Antczak, Albina DeBell, Nancy Beers (granddaughter of Mavis and Malcolm), Phoebe Brown, Ted Coburn, Carl Dunn, Carol Finch (friend of the DeVincentis Family), Patricia Forbes, Jean Frey, Ed Geier, Shirley Geier, Jay Glowinski (friend of Denise Sayre), Dave Har- ing, Kira Harpole, Becky Hess, Gary & Cindy Hogan, Glenn Ide, Earl Kelley (Cindy Groves' father), Bonnie Kennedy (former member), Anna Kneisel (mother of Anne Palmer), Eric Linder (nephew of Tammy Ruiz), Lynn Linder (sister-in-law of Tammy Ruiz), Ruth Loomis, Steven Lynch (son of Sylvia & Jack Lynch), Cody Mastradenato (neighbor of O'Connor's), Charlotte McCabe (Betty Baybutt's daughter), Lea McQuown, Denise Montgomery (daughter of Gloria Montgomery), Marion Murray (friend of Joyce De- Bell), Kamran Pickering (autism – grandson of Donna Colangelo), Polly Roberts (friend of Bette

Edgett), Tammy Ruiz, Steven Savage, Betty Shoemaker, Gail Snyder, Nora Spindler, John Sobus, Jr., Sebastian Sofia (friend of Don Heinz), David Stanley, Heather Tidwell (granddaughter of Ross & Nancy Wayne), Alene Van- Putte, Hal Wagner, Mark Williams (son-in-law of Bob Wiederhold), Clair Yeamans (step-father of David Kaszubowski).

**Our home-bound:** Jeanne Barr, Malcolm Beers, John Haldane, Myrtle Koch, Orville Loomis, Ethel Martin, Leota Matthews, Maxine Pollock, Robert Royer, Juanita Scrivens (mother of Larry Scrivens), John Sobus, Betty Shoemaker, Martha Thomson, Marion Voglesong.



### ALDERSGATE EMERGENCY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The church provides emergency services such as transportation and babysitting. If you can provide services, or need help, call the church office.

### PARISH VISITATIONS

Please advise the church office when someone enters the hospital (or is discharged). This will help in providing better pastoral care and help avoid unnecessary trips. If you, or someone of whom you are aware, desire a pastoral call, please advise the church office. Arrangements for the Sacrament of Holy Communion are encouraged. Both pastors visit regularly and would be happy to include others in the visitation schedule.



There are two prayer chains at Aldersgate. Each is coordinated by Barbara Robinson. One is for daytime calling. The other is for calling in the evening. Each member of the prayer chain has only one person to call and every- one will lift up the prayer re-

quests in his or her own way. This can be a very rewarding experience, especially when concerns turn into joy. We invite you to be part of this care team. Call me at 227-7845.

~Barbara Robinson



## DECEMBER AND JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rodger Burkhart	December 1
Angela DeVincentis	December 6
Carol Wright	December 6
Beth Doring	December 8
Mary Ann Lyons	December 8
Jerry Jones	December 9
Rebecca Doring	December 10
Zuni Garcia-Simons	December 10
Simon Boddery	December 11
Samantha Christie	December 11
Adam DeVincentis	December 12
Shannon Forbes	December 16
Nora Spindler	December 18
Katie O'Connor	December 20
Stephanie Bock	December 22
John Sobus	December 24
Cindy Roza	December 24
Noel Anderson	December 25
Carol Pearson	December 25
Kathy Savage	December 25

Andy Deutsch	December 27
Fran VanKouwenberg	December 27
Daniel Savage	December 28
Leslie Edgcomb	December 30

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Terry & Nancy Young	December 13
Harry & Roxanna Muthersbaugh	December 22
Ed & Shirley Geier	December 26
Nancy & Ken Rex	December 28
Cary & Jennifer Hughes	December 29



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Christine Rice	January 3
Barb Draft	January 4
Jane Guitsen	January 5
Irv Robinson	January 6
Kelley Groves	January 7
Carole Jermyn	January 8
John Grizzanti	January 9
Wilma Shaughnessy	January 11
Shirley Simmons	January 13
Joseph Michaloski	January 19

Jan Rothfuss	January 19
Len Mack	January 20
Holly Deutsch	January 20
Gregory Norris	January 22
Muriel McKenna	January 22
Sara VanKouwenberg	January 23
Nancy Jones	January 31
Kim Latragna	January 31

## FROM THE PASTOR OF VISITATION AND MEMBERSHIP CARE

Dear Aldersgate Family:

As we approach Christmas 2008, most of us have some kind of insecurity...economic concerns, physical problems, family needs, etc.

A little story that I found recently spoke to me and I hope it speaks to you as we begin our Christmas preparation in these uncertain times. It is called:

### *A Crushed Spirit*

*A man's spirit sustains him in sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?*

*Proverbs 18:14*

*During World War II a woman took her two little children to visit her parents in Texas because her husband was stationed in Europe. As they got ready for Christmas—setting the tree up, putting the presents out, and preparing dinner—they were experiencing the joy of Christmas, almost forgetting the*

*worry of war. But no sooner had the fun begun, than the family heard a dreaded knock on the door and received a terrible telegram greeting.*

*The young mother had to tell her children that Daddy wouldn't be coming home for Christmas...ever. And then she went up to her room to weep alone. Her parents debated and finally decided to take down the Christmas decorations and put the presents away. When the young lady came downstairs, she immediately saw the empty spot. She exclaimed, "Mother, what have you done?" Her mother replied, "You're so broken-hearted, so your father and I decided this is not the time for Christmas." The new widow said, "Oh no, mother, bring it all back, Christmas was made for times such as these."*

*Many people have overwhelming problems which make it hard to get excited about the holidays whether they be financial difficulties, physical ailments, loneliness, or emotional*

*pain from the loss of a loved one. Christmas is certainly not about the presents, lights, and decorations, but it is surely a time when we can lean on the goodness of God and rejoice in Christ's birth.*

*Try serving someone else this season and God will bless you (see Acts 20:35). Jesus came to this earth to serve others and to give His life for you (see Mark 10:45). Among all of the other difficulties this time of year, that is reason to celebrate!*

So amidst difficulties this Christmas season, praise God and thank Him for His many blessings, especially the gift of salvation through His son, Jesus Christ.

Jerry Wolter  
Visitation Pastor



## THANK YOU

To My Aldersgate church Family:

I want to thank you so much for all of your prayers before, during, and after my recent shoulder surgery. The prayers of God's people have power.

Your cards and gifts of delicious meals were greatly appreciated too. I feel so lucky to be a part of such a thoughtful and caring group of people.

Grace and Peace,  
Gege Dunn

Dear Aldersgate Friends,

It is with heavy heart that we say "goodbye" to all of you after so many years of our association with the Church, but we have reached a time when we feel for our sakes, and to make it easier for our family, we settle nearer to them. Aldersgate has been our second home since 1959 when we became a part of the Aldersgate Family and we will miss you. We are glad we were able to see the new building, which was a long time dream for many of us, become a reality. The future for the Church looks promising as the congregation grows larger and young people are attending.

We also want to thank you for the many cards and prayers for each of us when we were recently hospitalized. We are both improved and hope to continue to feel better. God bless you all.

For anyone interested here is our new address and phone number. 5102 Parrish St. Ext. 259 Canandaigua, NY 14424 Phone: 585-394-6391.

Mavis & Malcolm Beers

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Winter Chills

### The Mitten Tree

This holiday season the Sunday school wants to give Jesus a special gift for Christmas. **Jesus said that when we show mercy to a person in need, it is as if we are doing it for Him.**



And so beginning November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 28<sup>th</sup> we ask one and all to help us full our tree with mittens, scarves and hats for needy children in the area.

### Sunday School

The Sunday school will again be using **Power x Press**. We will **“Journey to Bethlehem”** with the shepherds as the people waited with anticipation for the coming of the Savior. Jesus was born **“In the Manger”** in Bethlehem, where Mary laid him in a manger. His humble birth reminds us that the Messiah began as a helpless baby, just as we do. Wise men from the east **“Followed the Star”** that led them to the promised king, Jesus so that they could worship him and signs that lead us to Jesus and worship him today.

### The Little Shepherd Boy

By Patricia Camp & Jane Connor

*Our Savior, Jesus, He was named,  
Born this night of nights.  
For faith in God’s love was proclaimed,  
With this radiant light!*

*The angels sang of peace on earth  
Shepherds stood in awe.  
The kings from far bore gifts of worth,  
Wondrous sights they saw!  
A little boy without a crown  
To the stable came  
Eyes wide with wonder, he knelt down,  
Honoring His name.*

*We, too can see this radiant light  
Shepherds did behold,  
Though not with angel choirs this night  
From the shepherd’s fold.*

*So like the little shepherd boy,  
Faith in Him is strong.  
To us it brings hope, love, and joy,  
As we sing his song.*

*With child like faith and openness,  
Come to Him this night.  
Share the priceless gift of Christmas,  
See the wondrous! Light!*



A Happy Christmas  
God Bless Us...  
Everyone!  
Jane



### Ink Jet and Laser Printer Cartridges

Bring in your empty ink jet and laser printer cartridges to church. This is ecologically good for the environment and will help to raise funds for special projects. A container for you to deposit your cartridges is in the Gathering Space. We look forward to your help.



## FAITH FACTOR YOUTH MINISTRY

### SPECIAL EVENTS

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Middle School youth group will be attending the 2008 Christmas Theatre as a youth group and will enjoy pizza together. Meet at 5:45 so that we can sit together. The cost is \$10. Come see our members in the show!

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, the Senior High and the Middle School youth groups will be combining for a Christmas Lock In. We will have a Christmas party, watch movies, play games, and have plenty of free time. The cost is \$5.00 to cover pizza and breakfast. Attention parents: Chaperones are needed.



On December 30<sup>th</sup>, the Senior High and the Middle School youth groups will be combining to volunteer at Grace Urban Ministries where we will be serving dinner to their guests. We have been asked to provide dinner, and any donations will be gladly received. Drivers are needed.

**\*\*\*Permission slips will be available at youth group or from Kim on Sundays. I can also send them to you if you would prefer. \*\*\***

Have a blessed Christmas and New Year!

See you in Youth Group,

Kim

### Our Calendar...

#### Senior High...

**December 2** – Youth Group

**December 9** – Youth Group

**December 16** – Youth Group

**December 23** – NO YOUTH GROUP

**December 30** – Grace Urban Ministries

**January 6** – Youth Group resumes

#### Middle School...

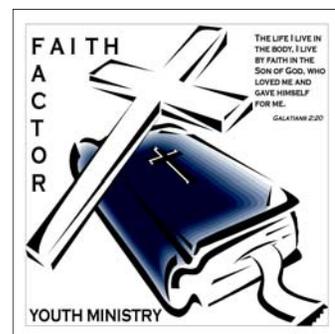
**December 5** – Christmas Theatre

**December 19** – Lock In

**December 30** – Grace Urban Ministries

**January 2** – NO YOUTH GROUP

**January 16** – Youth Group resumes



# CHURCH EVENTS, MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## SAVE THE DATE: EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT IS BACK!

Plan now to participate in the next Evening of Entertainment to be held on **Friday, February 6, 2009, at 7:00 PM.** The success and array of special talents at our last two efforts provide strong encouragement to make this an annual event. For that to happen we need lots of help. In addition to performers and artists, we will need donations of refreshments, publicity, people to sell and take tickets, ushers, etc.

For those new to our church, the “Evening of Entertainment” is a talent show. We’ve had singers, instrumentalists, dancers, comedy skits, recitations, a juggler, and displays of memorization skills in the program. On display in the Ide Center will be the work of artists from our church. The skill and variety is always a surprise and a pleasure.

**Kathy Savage** has agreed to organize the event and is already looking for participants. Share your talent with the rest of us. See Kathy to offer your help and participation. Don’t make her find you. The experience is rewarding for both the performers and the audience.

### Game Night Second Saturday of the Month

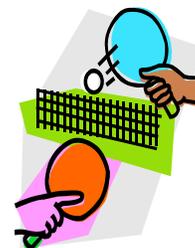
**When:** Saturdays December and January

**Time:** 6:00—8:00 PM

**Where:** Ide Center

Calling all Euchre players, this activity is open to any Aldersgate member or friend. If you want to learn the game or are just a little rusty, this is the place for you. We also have a good number of experienced players to keep it challenging. It is not necessary to come with a partner. If you don't have one, we will provide a partner. Show up and bring a snack, if you want..

Table Tennis players, we will also have the tables set up so you can ping and pong to your hearts content. Paddles and balls provided So you can plan accordingly for the future, Game Night is scheduled to be held the 2nd Saturday of every month. If you have any questions, contact Rich Keller.



Items for the FEBRUARY Hinge are due **January 12th.**

**DINE WITH US AT  
APPLEBEE'S**  
Monday, December 1, and  
January 5  
from 4:00-9:00 PM  
**10% of Food Receipts Benefits our  
BUILDING FUND**

## CHURCH EVENTS, MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Save the Date!

We are making plans for another mission trip to New Orleans, **February 14 – 22**. We will be partnering with several other churches in the Rochester area. We hope to have several from Aldersgate go. Youth, age 14 and up are welcome to join their parents. Many of us will be working on rehabilitating homes, but there is something for everyone to do including meal preparation and office help. Prayerfully consider joining our team. More information will be coming soon.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Aldersgate Chili Cook-Off

Come join us again for a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship, and of course... Chili! The Friday Night Parents Group will be hosting the event and will be seeking Chili Cooks right after the holidays! Why not ask for a new and larger crockpot for Christmas?! We're looking for the Spiciest and the Best Overall! Will we have the same winners or new contenders this year? More details will be coming soon, as well as sign up sheets. Be sure to **SAVE the DATE!** January 24<sup>th</sup> from 5 -7 PM.



### Trade As One

**H.O.P.E. Program**  
(Holiday Orders Provide Employment)

Everything Trade As One sells is handmade by 3 groups of people: Those rescued from or vulnerable to human trafficking, those living with or directly affected by HIV/AIDS, and people living on just \$1 a day!



Help bring justice and peace into some of the darkest corners of our world! Here is how you can participate.

- ◆ Go to [www.tradeasone.com](http://www.tradeasone.com)
- ◆ At the on-line check out, enter our church's code: "AUMCGreece2008"
- ◆ Trade As One will ship your order to the church for FREE!



- ◆ Join Aldersgate for a pickup party on December 14, 2008 from 3:00—4:00 PM

**Orders need to be in by the end of November for free shipping.**

You can order after November but you will pay the shipping and your order will need to be shipped directly to you.

### First Serve

If you haven't turned in your First Serve form, it's not too late. There are more First Serve brochures available on the Welcome Table in the gathering space. Try out a ministry. Live beyond yourself by serving in the church and the world. You will find great fulfillment in living according to God's plan for your life!

### THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The carol people love to sing—and argue about. Interpretations differ, but here are some Christian meanings attributed to the lyrics.

*My true love:* God

*The partridge:* Jesus

*Two turtle doves:* Old and New Testaments.

*Three French hens:* Faith, hope and charity.

*Four calling birds:* the gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

*Five golden rings:* The Torah (the first five books of the Bible.)

*Six geese a-laying:* The six days of creation, according to the Book of Genesis.

*Seven swans a-swimming:* The seven sacraments.

*Eight maids-a-milking:* The Eight Beatitudes, found in the Sermon on the Mount.

*Nine ladies dancing:* The fruits of the Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

*Ten lords a-leaping:* the Ten Commandments.

*Eleven pipers piping:* the Apostles, minus Judas.

*Twelve drummers drumming:* The articles of faith in the Apostle's Creed.

# NEWS FROM ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

## START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT: WOMEN'S RETREAT RE-SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 10

Resolve that you will set aside time in the New Year for your own spiritual development. A first step in getting started will be signing up for a day at the church devoted to worship, meditation and journaling that will focus on your own spiritual growth.

**On Saturday, January 10, from 8:45 AM to 2:30 PM**, the Mini-Retreat originally scheduled for October will be held in our Sanctuary and Ide Center. Carefully planned by leaders Barb Draft, Chitie Edgett, Laurie Ruell, and Colleen Tyler, the program will guide you through your thoughtful reflections and help you to develop your own plan for spiritual growth. Whether you are a "baby" Christian or a mature Christian (to use the Apostle Paul's description), you will benefit from this day set apart from your usual weekend routine.

You need only **bring your Bible, a writing utensil, and a sack lunch.** Notebooks, snacks and beverages will be provided. Please sign up on the Opportunities Board in advance so that the leaders can plan for your presence. The sign-up sheet will be available in mid-December. There is no charge for this event.

This retreat is sponsored by the Aldersgate United Methodist Women.

## READING CIRCLE

A clever church fundraiser in Harmony, Indiana, is the setting for the plot of *Christmas in Harmony* by Philip Gulley, the book chosen for the

**December 4** meeting in the **Church Library.** The **January 8** selection is Brock and Bodie Thoene's *Vienna Prelude*, the first in a series. If you haven't yet been introduced to this fine team of Christian historical novelists, this is your chance to get started.



Reading Circle meets at 1:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month (please note the exception for January). The books from the Public Library are available in advance in the church library each month. Please be sure to sign your name when you take one out and to cross it off when you return the book so that others can read it.

Members take turns serving refreshments each month. New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information, contact Helen Wolter (621-1904) or Frances Crabtree (392-0772).

## UPCOMING DATES:

**December 8 & January 12** – Sew 'n Sew's meet at 1:00 PM in Room 1.

**December 15 & January 19** – Morning Circle meets in the Parlor at 11:00 AM.

**January 29** – Winter General Meeting at 6:15 PM in the Ide Center

## UMW END OF YEAR GIVING

At the November 17 General Meeting members of the Aldersgate UMW determined their year-end giving for local ministries. The Greece Food Shelf will receive \$200 and Cameron Community Ministries \$100. To support our own church ministries, the members voted to contribute \$300 to the White Gifts program and \$100 to the Good Samaritan Fund. At the end of each year the UMW "empties" its treasury for mission projects, maintaining only enough to meet expenses that may occur before the next major fundraiser, which will be the Treasures Sale in June.



## Thank You

Many thanks for the beautiful cards and prayers during my stay in Latta Road Nursing Home. They helped me get through the day.

Thank you all, again.

Muriel McKenna

## MISSIONS NEWS

### CHRISTMAS OFFERING HELPS HABITAT & GATEWAY-LONGVIEW

This year's Christmas Offering will be used to support **Greece Churches Habitat for Humanity** and Gateway-Longview. Even though plans for a new project are on temporary hold due to the illness of the wife of the Chair of the project, Bill Mason of Greece United Methodist Church, fundraising for the next house continues and the funds needed are growing. Recent news articles have highlighted housing needs in the city and Habitat is currently building in the most needy Jay-Orchard Street area. (We don't know that's where we would be assigned; however, there are plans for on-going development there.) The more money raised up front the more quickly building can proceed.

The annual sale of pies from Kelly's Farms brought orders for 24 pies from Aldersgate. The profit

from those pies is credited to us in the Greece Habitat treasury toward whatever future amount we may choose to pledge to the project. Aldersgate member Doug Hess continues to serve as treasurer of the organization.

As we have for many years, we will send the other half of the offering to **Gateway/Longview**, a United Methodist-related service agency that provides a full range of services for children and their families in the Western New York area. The children in their care range in age from pre-school to young adult. Gateway-Longview is the largest single non-governmental agency serving children and families in Western New York. Those who visit the facilities near Buffalo are impressed with the variety of services offered and the loving care with which they are given. We can be thankful that our United Methodist Church is able to respond to the needs of children and families in Western New York with skilled staff, well-equipped facilities

and Christian love.

The Missions Committee is charged each year with the responsibility of selecting the beneficiaries of the Christmas Offering.

Your check to Aldersgate marked "*Christmas Offering*" or placed in the Christmas Offering envelope of your weekly envelope set will go to support these two ministries of outreach. Your gift does make a difference in the lives of others.

#### **BROWN BAG SUNDAY**

brought in 763 lbs. of grocery items for the Greece Food Shelf! Good job! Thank you, everyone!

### BAKE SALE RESULTS

This year Election Day Sale of Baked Goods and Crafts was indeed the biggest ever. Thanks to an unusually large supply of baked goods and a larger than usual turnout for voting, proceeds totaled \$473.51. The money adds to the General Benevolence Fund from which the Missions Committee works to meet requests for mission funding from our own and other United Methodist churches and from agencies we support such as Cameron Community Ministries and Mission Central.

We thank everyone who supported this annual sale with baked goods, staffing, and purchases. Without such strong support, we clearly couldn't be this successful each year.

### ANOTHER "UNDIE SUNDAY" PLANNED

Imagine not even having clean, dry socks or clean underwear? Among the significant needs at Cameron Community Ministries are men's and women's new underwear and socks. Each week 25-30 families shop at the Cameron Clothing House. When available, they supply one set of socks and underwear for each family member, often giving out as many as 75 new pairs of socks and underwear. There is a continuous need to refill the supply.

**"Undie Sunday" will be held on January 18.** If you would like

to help with this project, bring **new packages** of men's and women's **socks, women's underpants sizes 6-10, and men's underwear sizes 30-38.** Totes will be placed in the Entryway for your donations.

Clean underwear and socks are things most of us take for granted. Let's share from our abundance so that others may have this simple pleasure.



## MISSIONS NEWS (Cont.)

### WHITE GIFTS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Helping Needy Families for 38 Years

The Aldersgate tradition of providing Christmas dinner and gifts for needy families will continue this year. We intend to provide help to at least 16 families. Listed below are some of the ways that you can help make this a special Christmas for those families.

How can you help?

#### MONETARY DONATIONS

**ADOPT-A-FAMILY** - Money will be provided from the White Gifts general funds. You have the rewarding assignment of personally shopping and delivering to your "family." Suggested guidelines will be provided for you.

**SPONSOR-A-FAMILY** - (Full responsibility for a needy family).

Just like the "Adopt-A-Family" option except that you fully sponsor the cost of the food and gifts. Expect to spend between \$175-\$225 for food and gifts for an average size recipient family. *You may want to share this project with other Aldersgate families, co-workers, neighbors, or friends and split the expense.*

**PURCHASE GROCERIES FOR A FAMILY** – Money can be provided from the White Gifts general funds

**PURCHASE CLOTHING OR TOYS** – Money can be provided from the White Gifts general funds

**DELIVER GROCERIES AND GIFTS** – The groceries and gifts will be provided for you to deliver to a needy family.

#### Plan Now!

Speak to Jan or Tracy Winter at church or contact them by phone at 225-4927 for more information and to volunteer in this very rewarding venture as soon as possible. You may also e-mail Jan at [jwinter@frontiernet.net](mailto:jwinter@frontiernet.net).

## JANUARY 18 HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Human Relations Day is an opportunity to celebrate our United Methodist connections. The special offering this Sunday supports Community Developers, UM Voluntary Service, and the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

Community Developers provide services that include education, substance abuse programs, employment training, affordable housing, at-risk youth programs, HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, and much more.

The Voluntary Service supports community organizations that work through volunteers to improve the lives and fulfill the potential of those whom Jesus called the "least of these."

The Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program responds to the growing population of youth offenders and their need for creative redirection.

Individually our impact may be limited, but through our United Methodist connections we can change lives! Please be generous.

## MISSIONS NEWS (Cont.)

### RESULTS OF 2008 AUCTION PLEASES EVERYONE

The first surprise was the number of people who came to this annual November event. In setting up, we thought that 128 places allowed ample flexibility for families to sit together and a possible “walk-in” or so. As nearly as we can tell, at least 134 showed up for dinner and we had to set up an extra table. Some saw it in the newspaper and others heard about it on television. Some arrived even after the auction started—and made successful bids! For the first time ever, we had to start the auction late!

With all late receipts and expenses accounted for, the auction and dinner netted \$2,721.00 for Aldersgate and \$264.50 for Lake United Methodist Church, an outstanding response, especially considering that we continue to be told that people aren’t buying anything! We know—it’s for a good cause!

The Aldersgate money will be divided three ways: one-third for the Trustees to use for the purchase of equipment they need for the maintenance of the church facilities, one-third for the building planned at Cookson Hills to replace a number of decrepit facilities currently used, and one-third for the February Katrina Relief Mission Trip.

Our thanks go to all those who helped. Most of all we are grateful to Marilyn Sobus, Al & Myrt Holmes, Shirley Grierson, and Walt Dunn for their work in the kitchen, which became somewhat more complicated by the additional influx of diners (not that anyone is complaining)!

## SALLY STEWARDSHIP

Dear Sally Stewardship,

Is it possible to get a tax break by donating directly from my IRA to the church like I did last year? I want to help, but I need all the tax breaks I can get!

Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead,

Good news! When you asked a month ago, the answer was, “No.” That tax benefit was just for 2006 and 2007. However, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (the much-publicized “bail-out” bill) put that benefit back in place for tax years 2008 and 2009. You can again make a tax-free contribution from your IRA to the church—or another qualified charity.

The same qualifications apply:

- You must be 70 1/2 years of age or older.
- The transfer cannot go through you. You must wire it or have your IRA administrator cut a check directly to Aldersgate United Methodist Church.
- It must be an outright gift and it will count toward your minimum annual distribution.
- The gift is tax-free, but it does not qualify for an additional tax deduction.
- The maximum amount you may give under this provision each year is \$100,000.

The transfer must be completed before December 31 each year.

It is important that you consult your own financial planner and/or tax accountant to be sure of your qualifications and benefits. Don’t wait until the last minute. Everything takes more time than you think it should.

Thanks for asking. Timely question!

Believing That the Lord Provides,  
Sally Stewardship

## SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

### SCRIPTURE READERS

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
12/7	Sandi Norris	Nancy Young
12/14	George Shukitis	Nancy Bader
12/21	Debbie Lenau	Gege Dunn
12/28	Mark DeVincentis	Mary Sims
1/4	Nancy Bader	Nancy Young
1/11	Carol DeCann	Nancy Bader
1/18	Rich Keller	Tom Simons
1/25	Debbie Lenau	Dick Stacy

### USHER SCHEDULE

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
12/7	Al & Myrt Holmes, Dan & Jan Rothfuss,	Nancy Bader, Walt Dunn, Terry & Nancy Young
12/14	Al & Myrt Holmes, Susan DeVincentis, Evelyn Welker	Nancy Bader, Walt Dunn, Vince & Laura Acciaio
12/21	Al & Myrt Holmes, Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Dean & Jackie Hogestyn, Gary Hogestyn, Denise Furey
12/24	<b>5:00 PM</b> Eric Bock, Joan Michlin, Larry VanAllen, John & Karen Best	
	<b>7:30 PM</b> Walt Dunn, Terry & Nancy Young, Nancy Bader	
	<b>11:00 PM</b> Tom & Zuni Simons	

### ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
12/7	Sammy Hanko	Amanda Farrell, Chase Tyler
12/14	Edward Carstens	Rebecca Lindeman, Ryan Lindeman
12/21	Brianna Kephart	Nick Spicer, Mike Spicer
12/28	Allison McHugh	Renee Tibbles, Caleb Thompson
1/4	Sammy Hanko	Amanda Farrell, Chase Tyler
1/11	Edward Carstens	Rebecca Lindeman, Ryan Lindeman
1/18	Brianna Kephart	Nick Spicer, Mike Spicer
1/25	Allison McHugh	Renee Tibbles, Caleb Thompson

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
12/28	Al & Myrt Holmes, Joan Michlin Larry VanAllen	Scott Wiley, John Cochran, Eric Bock, Colleen Tyler
1/4	Al & Myrt Holmes, Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Tom & Zuni Simons, Terry & Nancy Young
1/11	Al & Myrt Holmes, Susan DeVincentis, Evelyn Welker	Nancy Bader, Walt Dunn, Vince & Laura Acciaio
1/18	Al & Myrt Holmes, Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Scott Wiley, John Cochran, Eric Bock, Colleen Tyler
1/25	Al & Myrt Holmes, Evelyn Welker	Dean & Jackie Hogestyn, Gary Hogestyn, Denise Furey

### OUR CHURCH STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE

Anne O'Connor, Pastor	621-4799 aoconnor@aumcgreece.org
Gerald A. Wolter, Pastor of Visitation & Membership Care	621-1904 hgwolter@frontiernet.net
Kim Hines, Youth Minister	352-4321 khines@aumcgreece.org
Jane Guitson, Christian Education Coordinator	544-7787 jguitson@rochester.rr.com
Candy Metzger, Administrative Assistant	663-3665 cmetzger@aumcgreece.org
Tamara Ruiz, Organist	truiz@aumcgreece.org
David Rogenmoser, Choir Director	drogenmoser@aumcgreece.org
Kevin Brown, ACWT Worship Leader	kbrown@aumcgreece.org
Debbie Simm, ACWT Administrative Leader	dsimm@aumcgreece.org
Lea McQuown, Custodian	
Evelyn Welker, Housekeeper	
Robin Fox, Nursery Attendant	

Aldersgate Web Site: [www.aumcgreece.org](http://www.aumcgreece.org)

Aldersgate  
United Methodist Church

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Rochester, NY 14616

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**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 5:00 PM, 7:30 PM, 11:00 PM**



*Jesus is the reason for the Season!*