



# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

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

Volume 8, Issue 75

February 2009

## FROM THE PASTOR...

*There is a time for every-thing, and a season for every activity under the heaven. Eccl 3:1*

February is a time to continue practicing the Three Simple Rules from our Methodist heritage: 1) Do no harm. 2) Do good. 3) Stay in love with God.

February is time for building. On Feb. 14, five of us from Aldersgate will be heading to New Orleans with some folks from other UM Churches to continue the rebuilding effort there. Please keep the team in prayer that we will be faithful witnesses to the love of Jesus Christ on your behalf.

February is a time for love. Be sure to let those closest to you know how much you love and appreciate them. And be sure to remind them how much more God loves them.



February is a time to prayerfully consider God's call on our lives. How is God calling you to serve in the ministry of Aldersgate? If you hear from someone from the Nominations Committee, please take time to prayerfully consider the possible position they are suggesting for you. If you are not sensing a call to that area, then let them know what area you think God may be calling you to serve in. *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.* 1 Peter 4:10

February is a time to begin our preparations for Holy Week and Easter. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is February 25. Join us at 7 PM for our Ash Wednesday worship.

Also, on Sunday March 1, we will begin a 5-week sermon series entitled "Live Like You Were Dying." You may be familiar with the Country Western song that lends its name to the series. There is a small group study piece to this

series and our small groups will all be using the material. If you are not currently a part of a small group, this would be a great time to join one. If there is interest, I will also be leading the study on Tuesday mornings and Tuesday evenings. There is a sign up sheet posted on the board by the elevator to indicate your interest.

May God bless you in all the times of your life.

*Anne*

Anne

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## OUR MINISTRY OF CONCERN

People are added to our ongoing 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:** Alma Harmer - Strong Memorial, Elizabeth Jones - Unity

**Recovering at home:** Vonnie Ackerman (sister of Gloria Montgomery), Ted Coburn, Elizabeth Jones, Jerry Jones, Kim Latragna, Olivia Marsh, Eleanor McNeil (mother of Nancy

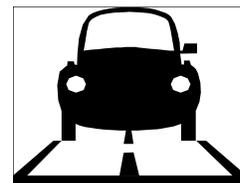
Wayne), John Sobus, Martha Thomson

**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, Ed Geier, Shirley Geier, David Grierson (son of Shirley Grierson), Jay Glowinski (friend of Denise Sayre), Dave Haring, Becky Hess, Gary & Cindy Hogan, Frank Ireland (brother of Jackie Hogestyn), 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 DeBell), Kamran Pickering (autism - grandson of Donna Colangelo), Polly Roberts (friend of Bette Edgett), Tammy Ruiz, Steven Savage, Gail Snyder,

John Sobus, Jr., Sebastian Sofia (friend of Don Heinz), David Stanley, Justin (grandson of Jean Stevens), Heather Tidwell (granddaughter of Ross & Nancy Wayne), Alene VanPutte, Hal Wagner, Ross Wayne, Mark Williams (son-in-law of Bob Wiederhold), Clair Yeamans (step-father of David Kaszubowski).

**Our home-bound:** Malcolm Beers, Jean Frey, John Haldane, Glenn Ide, Myrtle Koch, Maxine Pollock, Martha Thomson, Marion Voglesong.

**Nursing Homes/Living Centers:** Orville Loomis - Unity Living Center; Jack Lynch, Betty Shoemaker, Juanita Scrivens (mother of Larry Scrivens) - Shore Winds; Carolyn Fisher - St. Ann's; Ethel Martin, Robert Royer - St. John's; Leota Matthews - Monroe Community Hospital; Jeanne Barr - Hilton East



### 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 everyone 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

## FROM THE PASTOR OF VISITATION AND MEMBERSHIP CARE

Dear Aldersgate Family:

As I write my note for the new *Hinge*, I'm reading and hearing about the miraculous rescue of all the people on the plane that crashed in the Hudson River. The stories tell of how inter-dependent all were who were rescued.

All their stories remind me anew of how each of us is dependent on another in our church family. This is illustrated by the story:

### *Who Packs Your Parachute?*

*Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please or thank you, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason.*

*Charlie Plumb, a US Naval Academy graduate, was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures*

*on lessons learned from that experience.*

*One day when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!" "How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb. "I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."*

*Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform, a Dixie cup hat, a bib in the back, and bell bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not ever said good morning, how are you or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor." Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully*

*weaving the shrouds and folding silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.*

*Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory—he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety. His experience reminds us all to prepare ourselves to weather whatever storms lie ahead. As you go through the New Year 2009, recognize people who pack your parachute!*

In this New Year, may we all be faithful in serving one another.

Jerry Wolter  
Visitation Pastor

### Capital Campaign #2 Update

May 1, 2007 – January 22, 2009

Pledge payments received to date	\$448,466.00
Other donations	31,112.00
Applebees	3,643.00
Payments toward 1 <sup>st</sup> Campaign	<u>6,462.00</u>
Total Amount Received	<u>\$489,683.00</u>

Thanks to all for the continuing support!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### MITTEN TREE

Our Mitten Tree was decorated with 421 pairs of mittens, 14 hats, 3 carves, and 5 pairs of socks totaling 64.

Thank you for your support!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will again be using Power Express. We have *“Followed the Star”* with the Wise Men, as they journeyed to Bethlehem with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



During Lent our young people will look into the Bible for the *“Symbols of Holy Week”*, visit the *“Garden of Gethsemane”* as they *“Journey to the Cross”* and then the empty tomb.



### 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

## Attention All Adults!!!

### We need YOU!!!

Have you ever considered working with our youth?

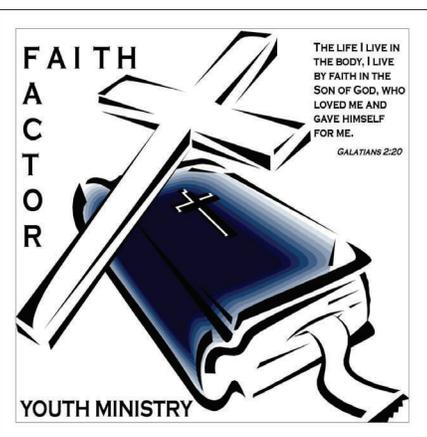
Do you think that you are too old, too young?

Come join us and minister to youth.

Please take some time to prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to youth ministry. Youth ministry is a wonderful calling. Youth are an important part of our church, and your ministry is really needed. Plus, it's a lot of fun! If you have any questions, please speak to Kim at church. The youth thank you as you consider working with us.

The Lock In was a lot of fun! If you missed it, be sure to join us next time. We'd love to have you! If you are an adult who'd love to join in on the fun, even if only for a few hours, come join us next time!

We have some exciting plans, but we won't be complete without YOU!!



### Our Calendar...

#### Senior High...

February 10 - Relationships

February 17 - You choose

February 24 - Movie Night

#### Junior High...

February 6 - NO YOUTH GROUP

February 13 - Youth Group tonight!

February 20 - Youth Group. We will be having a board game night. Bring your favorite board game and enjoy some fun together. Friends are welcome!

February 22 - 12:00-1:30 PM We will be having a Middle School youth group parent meeting. We will be discussing youth events and a Summer 2009 mission trip. Come bring questions and comments. Lunch will be provided and youth may come as well. Please RSVP to Kim so she can plan for lunch.

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

See you in Youth Group,  
Kim

# CHURCH EVENTS, MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Altar Flowers

Just a reminder to let you know that the 2009 Flower Calendar Chart has been hung on the bulletin board by the main entrance. If you are interested in having a flower arrangement from Rockcastle Florist on the Altar Table for a particular Sunday in memory or in honor of a loved one, or special event, just sign your name on that designated Sunday with your phone number/ You may fill out an order blank and enclose your check (\$30.00) made payable to "Aldersgate UMC Altar fund" or cash in an envelope marked "Altar Fund", just prior to your Sunday.

The Altar Committee will call you to confirm your order and acknowledgement information for that Sunday's bulletin. The flowers may be taken home or arranged to be taken to a shut-in after the 11:00 service.

We are most appreciative of your support of this tradition of providing the means to enable us to present an attractive and inspiring Worship Center.

In His Grace,

Your Altar Committee (Lorraine Christie; Barbara Condon, Chair; Shirley Geier; Beverly Johnson, Treasurer; Debbie Kennedy; Kathy Pearson; Sue Perkins; Colleen Tyler; Grace Watts)



## Game Night Changed to the Third Saturday of the Month for February

**Date:** February 21

**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. If you don't have a partner, one will be provided. Show up and bring a snack, if you want..

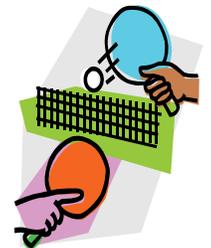


Table Tennis players, we will also have the tables set up. Paddles and balls provided

Game Night will resume the 2nd Saturday of every month, starting in March. If you have any questions, contact Rich Keller.

**APPLEBEE'S**

**Monday, February 2,** is the next date for Applebee's. Join us between 4-9 PM for good food and good fellowship. Your receipt left with your Aldersgate representatives at the front table continues to bring a donation from Applebee's to our Building Fund of 10% of the cost of the food purchased. We appreciate their continuing generosity, and they appreciate our business.

# FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jackie Hogestyn	February 1
Joan Michlin	February 1
George Shukitis	February 2
Dominic De Bell	February 2
Todd Farrell	February 5
Ed Geier	February 5
Vince Acciaio	February 9
Ryan Kennedy	February 10
Ray LaFlair	February 11
Steve Schneider	February 11
Scott Wiley	February 11
Doug Jones III	February 13

Sue Schneider	February 13
Grace Mack	February 14
Mike Dunn	February 15
Ken Sisson	February 17
Gretchen Hughes	February 17
Ethan Cary	February 18
Jean Frey	February 20
Harry Muthersbaugh	February 24
Cooper Brehm	February 25
Gretchen Brehm	February 26
Jessica Christie	February 26
Grace Watts	February 27
Elijah Tyler	February 27



## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Dean & Jackie Hogestyn	February 13
Len & Grace Mack	February 14



# Serving



# OTHERS



Items for the MARCH *Hinge*  
are due  
**February 15**

## CHURCH EVENTS, MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Retirement

After 12 years of faithful service as Christian Education Director at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Jane Guitson will be retiring in May. Jane has been instrumental in overseeing the Christian education of children and adults on a weekly basis. She has directed a Vacation Bible School each summer, oversaw a Lenten program for many years, helped the librarians, and done many more things that have made a difference at Aldersgate. We pray that she will be blessed in the next phase of her life.

We are beginning the search for a new part-time Christian Education Director. If you know anyone who might be interested or have suggestions, please call the church office. (663-3665)

### FIRST SERVE

If you are thinking God may be calling you to a deeper level of involvement in ministry, check out the "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!

### LEARN ABOUT BEST STEWARDSHIP PRACTICES

"Raising Funds in Tough Economic Times" is the topic that will be addressed by the Rev. David S. Bell, partner with Design for Ministry, at a workshop from 9-3 on February 28 at the First Baptist Church, 175 Allen's Creek Road, Brighton. David Bell is a well-known speaker and writer on stewardship and church finance. He previously worked for the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship as chair of the stewardship unit.

In addition to the keynote address, there will be sessions on estate planning programs, year round stewardship education and an introduction to grant writing. These can be selected on the day of the workshop.

Anyone in the church that is interested is encouraged to attend. The cost is \$50.00 for each church attending and \$9.00 for each participant for a box lunch. Reservations are due by Feb. 20.

If you would like to go, please sign up on the bulletin board and indicate your lunch choice: chicken salad, turkey breast or vegetarian (more information is on the bulletin board.) The Stewardship Development Team will pay the church fee, but we ask that each participant pay for the box lunch if possible. Our reservations will be called in as a group. We can also car pool from the church parking lot if there is interest in doing so.

### EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT TO BE RESCHEDULED

Due to the slow responses from potential participants, the Evening of Entertainment has been postponed until spring. Perhaps it's just been too cold and we're all moving slowly? At any rate, the last two presentations were just too much fun for us to drop the idea altogether. Look for an announcement of a new date in early spring. Now you just have more time to get your act together!

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN READING SCRIPTURE DURING WORSHIP?

Scripture readers are needed for both our 9:30am and 11:00am worship services. Perhaps you've wanted to volunteer, but didn't know who to contact... Maybe you didn't realize the coordinators are happy to receive names of interested readers...

If you would like to read scripture, please contact the church office at 663-3665 and let them know what service (9:30am or 11am) you attend. Your name will then be forwarded along to the scripture coordinators. Thanks for serving!





# MISSIONS NEWS

## FIVE GOING ON KATRINA RELIEF MISSION TRIP

As of this writing, Candy and John Metzger, Laurie Ruell, and Colleen Tyler are planning to join Pastor Anne on the February 14-22 Mission Trip to New Orleans. Recovery efforts there will be on-going for some time to come. It may still be possible for others to register. Those who are interested should check with Pastor Anne.

The Missions Committee would like to send about \$2000 with them to cover expenses above the \$350 each participant pays and to provide money to purchase building supplies while they are there. There is a little over \$1200 in the Katrina Mission Fund, primarily from the November Church Auction and from the Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Friday Night Parents Group. Additional gifts of support between now and February 8 will be greatly appreciated. If you wish to make an additional contribution, make your check payable to *Aldersgate UMC* and mark it "*Katrina Relief Fund.*"

## CHRISTMAS OFFERING REPORT

Thanks to your great generosity, a total of \$1135.00 was given for the support of Gateway-Longview in Buffalo and the Greece Churches Habitat for Humanity. Gateway-Longview is a United Methodist-related agency that serves children and families throughout

Western New York. Plans are underway for the Greece Habitat to build its fourth house this summer.

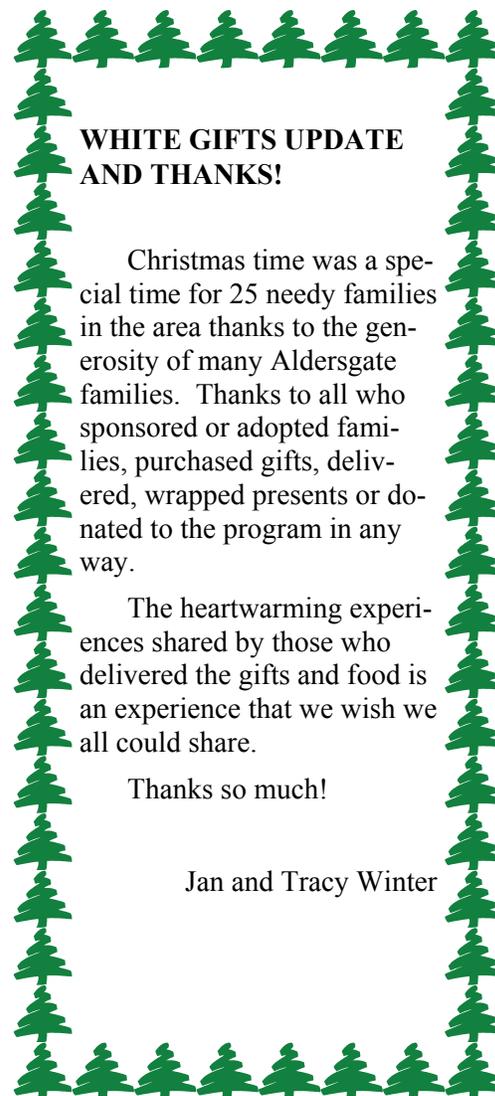
## BUILDING SITE ASSIGNED FOR GREECE HABITAT

Greece Churches Habitat for Humanity is moving forward on its fourth project. The first home was built in the year 2000 at 44 Love Street; the second in 2003 at 27 Rauber Street; and the third in 2006 at 172 Fulton Avenue. The number of churches involved in each project has varied; but Aldersgate, Bethany Presbyterian, Greece Baptist, Greece United Methodist, and Messiah Lutheran have participated in all of them. We have considered these projects part of our commitment to our neighbors in the City of Rochester. Doug Hess continues to serve as treasurer for the group.

Fundraising to support building at the assigned site, 119 Whitney Street, has begun. Close to \$29,000 of the projected \$65,000 cost has been raised already. Watch for joint fundraisers—like the Thanksgiving pie sale—as well Aldersgate fundraisers for this purpose. Individual donations for this worthy project are always welcome, of course. Your check should be made payable to *Aldersgate UMC* and marked "Greece Habitat." We encourage the members of the congregation to give through our church so that we can track our second-mile giving. Also, should we set a financial goal, as we have other times, we will know how

well we are doing in reaching that goal.

Participating now in some aspect of fundraising for Habitat or later in the actual building project are both great "First Serve" opportunities. Both are good ways to discover new talents that can be used for God's work.



## WHITE GIFTS UPDATE AND THANKS!

Christmas time was a special time for 25 needy families in the area thanks to the generosity of many Aldersgate families. Thanks to all who sponsored or adopted families, purchased gifts, delivered, wrapped presents or donated to the program in any way.

The heartwarming experiences shared by those who delivered the gifts and food is an experience that we wish we all could share.

Thanks so much!

Jan and Tracy Winter

# THANK YOU

Grace and peace in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ!

Can you believe it is 2009? What seems impossible for me to believe is that I've just completed my seventh semester at Colgate Divinity School. I only have three more semesters to go. Yahoo!! It barely seems possible that so much time has elapsed since a small group from Aldersgate challenged us to discern our spiritual strengths and to get involved in ministry in a deeper way. As a result of that challenge I heard God's still quiet voice call my name. As you know, my response was, "Here am I, Lord, choose me."

There is so much I could share with you about this journey but the reason for this note is to pause and to thank you all, my brothers and sisters in Christ, for all that you have done and continue to do to support Becky and me emotionally, spiritually and physically. Your encouraging words each time I see one of you and the interest you show in our progress is uplifting. The continued prayers for Becky's healing even after five and a half years is just so wonderful. You may never fully realize how much your prayers have meant to us. And then there is your physical support involving your hard earned money. We would have probably lost our house by now if it wasn't for the financial support we have received from you all.

If I haven't learned anything else in the last 5 years I have learned that I cannot do it all by myself. Additionally I have been blessed to discover that God never intended us to. In my case, he led Becky and me to Aldersgate back in the mid-eighties and we have been blessed immeasurably ever since by a community that reflects God's love and caring.

Thank you all for all that you do for us. Please know that we will do all that we can to "pay it forward." Your support has enabled me to go to school full time and with about 75% of my Master's requirement complete I have a GPA of 3.80 (all glory to God). I'm telling you this not to convey what I have achieved but to share with you what your return on investment looks like. I've learned a lot from the books but I've learned a great deal from the journey also and you have made my journey possible.

Thank you all from the depths of my heart. Becky and I love you all very much,.

Your brother and sister in Christ,  
Pastor Doug and Becky Hess

Dear Friends at Aldersgate UMC,

What a joy it is to serve Christ through the connectional system of the United Methodist Church and to work side by side with committed persons like yourselves. I am awestruck every day as I witness the wonders of God and how God meets the needs of this ministry to the low income people of Cherokee, Adair and Sequoyah Counties though concerned United Methodists.

I really appreciate the donation of \$907.00 to the New Ministry Center. We are so eager to begin construction on the new building and to utilize it for the good of the people of this area. We know that the accomplishments that this new facility will make possible are pleasing to God and we are privileged and blessed to be a part of it. Please accept our thanks for the very generous support you have given and know that it will be used to God's glory at this mission.

Reverend Meri Whitaker  
Missionary GBGM/CCW  
Cookson Hills Center

A bright and cheery card came with this message:

"Many thanks for your kindness and generosity to the families we serve this Christmas Season!"

Sincerely,  
Catholic Family Center

Dear Members of Aldersgate,  
I wish to thank all for there prayers and cards, and Jerry for his calls and prayers.

As ever,  
Jack Pearson

## Membership Covenant

In worship on Sunday February 25, Pastor Anne introduced a membership covenant recently adopted and signed by the Church Council members. It is included below. Church members are encouraged to prayerfully consider their willingness to live up to this covenant, sign it, and put it somewhere where they will see it often as a reminder of what it means to be a part of the Aldersgate Church family.

### Prayers

- I will pray regularly for the church and its ministries.
- I will pray regularly for the church leaders.
- I will pray regularly for others.

### Presence

- I will faithfully attend worship.
- I will participate in at least one of the church's programs.

### Gifts

- I will work on discovering my spiritual gifts and talents.
- I will give financial support to the church according to what God has given me.

### Service

- I will develop my spiritual gifts and use them to serve in the church and in the world.
- I will seek to develop a servant's heart and to serve more than be served.

### Witness

- I will show Christ's love by living a godly life.
- I will show Christ's love by acting loving toward others, by refusing to gossip or listen to gossip, and by encouraging others.
- I will invite others to attend and warmly welcome all who visit.

Membership in the Aldersgate United Methodist Church is a gift of God and a responsibility to God. Membership enables me to live according to God's plan as part of the body of Christ and to more fully become the person God has created me to be.

With God's help, I will be faithful to God's call upon my life as a member of the Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

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(Name)

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(Date)

## Church Council Notes

As 2009 begins, a new feature of the *Hinge* is a monthly summary of activities of our Church Council. Our intent is to keep the entire congregation informed about the actions of the monthly meetings of the Council. We hope you find this information helpful.

At the December 2008, Church Council meeting the following actions were taken:

- ◆ Regular Council meeting was preceded by our annual Charge Conference presided over this year by Rev. Ruthellen Hoyle, Wesley UM Church Pastor.
  - Approved Pastors' salaries, increased by 3%.
  - Approved Staff salary increases of 2%.
  - Approved the church 2009 operating budget of \$361,429.
  - Joyce Farrokh was re-certified as a Lay Speaker
- ◆ Dick Caupp, Benevolence Secretary, reported that through November, we have given over \$59,700.00 in benevolence giving. Our monthly conference apportionments are \$2,904 and we are up-to-date.
- ◆ Improvements to the Sanctuary sound system are coming as per the Trustees.
- ◆ Jan Winter, Financial Secretary, reported the yearly offering received to date: \$273,849 toward our 2008 budget of \$349,157. Good news! Our income has covered our expenses over the same period.
- ◆ Approved a 2008 Christmas Postcard mailing to the community.
- ◆ Council members signed their MEMBERSHIP COVENANT statement. The Covenant was ap-

proved at the November Council meeting. All members will eventually be given the opportunity to sign their own Membership Covenants.

- ◆ 25 community families were served by White Gifts, per Jan Winter.

**CHURCH OFFICERS' ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE BY THE END OF JANUARY.**

A reminder to all church members: ALL members of the Congregation are welcome to attend Council Meetings. The next Church Council meeting is: Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM.



In everything set them an example by doing what is good.

## SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

### SCRIPTURE READERS

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
2/1	George Shukitis	Nancy Young
2/8	Cori Loudon	Gege Dunn
2/15	Jan Rothfuss	Ellie Cook
2/22	UMW Sunday	UMW Sunday

### USHER SCHEDULE

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
2/1	Al & Myrt Holmes, Dan & Jan Rothfuss,	Tom & Zuni Simons Terry & Nancy Young
2/8	Al & Myrt Holmes, Susan DeVincentis, Evelyn Welker	Nancy Bader, Walt Dunn, Scott Wiley, John Cochran
2/15	Al & Myrt Holmes, Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Dean & Jackie Hogestyn, Gary Hogestyn, Denise Furey
2/22	UMW Sunday	UMW Sunday

### ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
2/1	Sammy Hanko	Amanda Farrell, Chase Tyler
2/8	Edward Carstens	Rebecca Lindeman, Ryan Lindeman
2/15	Brianna Kephart	Nick Spicer, Mike Spicer
2/22	Allison McHugh	Renee Tibbles, Caleb Thompson

### 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)

## Happy New Year—2009 and a Huge Thank You for your Involvement in the Christmas Theater—2008

In the Children's **ROAD TO CHRISTMAS** presentation, Tristan Wise was the child who asked "Is this the end of the Christmas Road?" and Holly Deutsch, reader, responded, "No! It's really the beginning...the birth of the baby in Bethlehem paved the way for the birth of Christian living in our hearts...the Road to Christmas continues to go right on through us!" May it be so for all of us! I know I felt it in myself and in all the people involved in the performance and audience!

The actors were again spectacular and many thanks for your diligence in learning lines and rehearsing!!

### **DON'T LET THE GROUCHES STEAL YOUR CHRISTMAS!**

Narrator: Scott Hanko, Grouches: Tammy Ruiz, Chitie & Dick Edgett, Carol DeCann, Tracy Hanko, Kathy Peck, Laurie Ruel, Cindy Groves, John Groves, Rich Keller! PS: Your costumes were great!!

### **THE ROAD TO CHRISTMAS!**

Narrator: Amanda Farrell, Reader: Holly Deutsch, Prophets: Bryan anable, Mike Streb, Jason Wise, Nick Spicer, Sign-Bearers: Samantha Hanko, Lucas Jones, Joseph: Elijah Tyler, Mary: Emma Bock, Inkeeper: Jared Jones, Child 1: Tristan Wise, Child 2: Zachary Farrell, Additional Choir Members: Natalie Bock, Matthew Thompson, Danielle Sobus, Marie

Simm—Thank you Marie, for a wonderful solo! And to Jared Jones—beautiful Clarinet solo!

#### Poem readers:

Brianna Kephart, Lucas Jones, Allison McHugh, Caleb Thompson, Chase Tyoler,! To everyone: Great Job!

### **BETHLEHEM, P.D.** (*Jim DeBell's favorite!*)

Sargent Joe: Gary Groves, Officer Frank: Tom O'Connor, Man: Jimmie Condon, shepherds: Mike Streb, Nick Spicer, Christian Davey-Rue;;, Innkeeper's Wife: Shirley Grierson, Mary: Debbie Simm, Joseph: John Simm, Three Kings: Rich Keller, George Shukitis, Juan Ruiz. (thank you again Rich for all the rehearsals; next year —no flu!)

Big thank you to Jim Christie for taking Rich's place; learning lines!

And we all felt it was an honor and a heart-felt joy in remembering Jim DeBell's participating in the Actors Guild efforts. Since the onset of the Guild, Jim had been in every major theater production, skits, Bible School, Sunday School until the last two years. And then, he helped back stage. Jim will always be in our hearts and minds. We thank, too, Jim's family for helping us and being with us this year.

And to the backstage crew! THANK YOU! What a joy and blessing it was to have you!

Pianist and Dinner Organizer:

Gretchen Hughes—fantastic job!

Children Choir Director: Chitie Edgett—great singing help!

Props & Specials: Susan Perkins—my right hand back stage! (dragnet theme, star lighting, propos/stage set-up!!)

Costumes: Pat & Roy Holmes—What a joy to have organized!

Reservations: Nancy Bader, Cindy Purzycki—Tickets! Yes!

Chef: Jerry Jones—Bless You! Not feeling well and still there to supervise and provide one terrific dinner!

Friday Night Young Parents Group: Thank you for organizing and getting the Pizza Night together so quickly!

Special Mom Helpers: Jenean Wise and Sara McHugh—it would not be possible without you telling the cherubs to "get in line, shhhh, helping with lines, mikes, etc., etc.

Set Artist: Barbara Condon's completed the set of animals! And the camel is absolutely gorgeous! Bless you talent!

Set Engineers/Star/Curtains: Jimmie Condon, Harry Muthersbaugh (help with curtain from Barb C.) Thank you for the yearly finding of set needs and getting them in place!!

Lights/Sound: Richard Caupp—another right hand with set seeing/hearing! Bless you for saying each time, "I'll try"—your try was magnificent!

And to Candy Metzger, Carline Wiley, Kathy Pearson: Thank you for being ready with "yes", when I ask, "can you?" for the program, publicity, and bale of hay!!!

It was truly a good year! The actors were magnificent and the message was, once again, brought alive from scripture—the joy of Jesus' birth! The joy and remembering of a dear friend and actor—Jim DeBell—brought peace. The many hands and talents that brought about this production was amazing and so appreciated! Thank you! And, lastly, the beautiful musical globe that you gave me—to Aldersgate Actors Guild—was, I felt, an Oscar! THANK YOU!!) We need an awards shelf!!!) And I thank God for all of you, that I know you, that we can do this together in His name!

Much love,  
Gloria



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## How to Keep Warm in Church

(From the Newsletter Newsletter)

- \* Rush to the front of the sanctuary. That will warm you up, and you'll avoid the draft in the back of the church.
- \* Invite your neighbors and friends, and sit 12 people to a pew.
- \* Wear thermal underwear (in the appropriate church colors, of course). Wait for an unfamiliar hymn to be sung—and then watch the sparks fly!