



Aldersgate United Methodist Church

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

Volume 8, Issue 78

May 2009

FROM YOUR PASTOR...

Over the weekend I was wondering what to write in my May *Hinge* article and praying that God would give me an idea. God is good. God gave me what I needed. In fact, God is always giving to me. Most importantly, "God gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) There is no better gift than Jesus, but God gives us even more. God gives us food and work and play—abundant life. God gives us abilities and talents to bless our lives and the lives of others. Today, I'm especially aware of God's gift of beauty as I see the world around me bursting with spring flowers and new life. As I think about the month of May and the celebration of Mother's day, I'm reminded of the gift of relationships with others and the God given gifts of family and friends. God gives the church as a community to grow and nurture faith and to offer support when times get tough. On May 31, we'll celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. In truth, our generous God gives us all we have. Why is God so generous? That's simply God's nature. God loves us and wants the best for us. And I like to think giving to us gives God joy.

Having received so very much, I count it a joy and privilege to love God and to give back to God from the time, talents, and treasures God has entrusted to me. I pray you know or will discover the incredible joy of giving.

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9:15)



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Blessings,

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.

Recovering at home: Jane Guitson, Alma Harmer, Elizabeth Jones

Those with ongoing health concerns: Vonnie Ackerman (sister of Gloria Montgomery), Joyce Anderson (sister of Wanda Strauss), Al Antczak, Mavis & Malcolm Beers, Nancy Beers

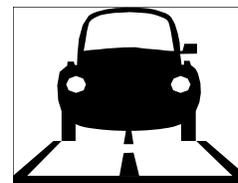
(granddaughter of Mavis and Malcolm), Mike Blair (son of Kathy Peck), Phoebe Brown, Ted Coburn, Diane Czebatol (daughter of Janet Pelcher), Albina DeBell, Logan Desmone (child of friend of Lisa Deutsch), Carl Dunn, Carol Finch (friend of the DeVincentis Family), Patricia Forbes, Ed Geier, Shirley Geier, David Grierson (son of Shirley Grierson), Jay Glowinski (friend of Denise Sayre), Alma Harmer, Dave Haring, Becky Hess, Gary & Cindy Hogan, Frank Ireland (brother of Jackie Hogenstyn), Earl Kelley (Cindy Groves' father), Bonnie Kennedy (former member), Anna Kneisel (mother of Anne Palmer), 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 (grandson of Donna Colangelo), Polly Roberts (friend of Bette Edgett), Tammy Ruiz, Steven Savage, Mary Sims, 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), Ashley

VanKouwenberg, 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, Olive Chapman (mother of Barbara Marsh), Stella Elich, 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 – Shore Winds; Carolyn Fisher – St. Ann's; Ethel Martin, Robert Royer – St. John's; Leota Matthews – Monroe Community Hospital; Jeanne Barr – Hilton East



ALDRSGATE 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 Friends and Family:

As we come to the month of May, we celebrate many good things such as: lovely weather, spring flowers, Mother's Day, graduation etc. Then we end the month with Memorial Day—which too often is just another holiday. I do hope that you will pause with me and think about the real meaning of May 30th. This is well demonstrated by a true story entitled:

SIX BOYS AND THIRTEEN HANDS

Each year I am hired to go to Washington, DC, with the eighth grade class from Clinton, WI where I grew up, to videotape their trip. I greatly enjoy visiting our nation's capitol, and each year I take some special memories back with me. This fall's trip was especially memorable.

On the last night of our trip, we stopped at the Iwo Jima memorial. This memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world and depicts one of the most famous photographs in history—that of the six brave soldiers raising the American flag at the top of a rocky hill on the island of Iwo Jima, during WW II. Over 100 students and chaperones piled off the buses and headed towards the memorial. I noticed a solitary figure at the base of the statue, and as I got closer he asked, "Where are you guys from?" I told him that we were from Wisconsin, "Hey, I'm a cheese head, too! Come gather around, Cheese heads, and I will tell you a story."

(James Bradley just happened to be in Washington, DC to speak at the memorial the following day. He was there that night to say good night to his Dad, who had passed away. He was just about to leave when he saw the buses pull up. I videotaped him as he

spoke to us, and received his permission to share what he said from my videotape. It is one thing to tour the incredible monuments filled with history in Washington, DC, but it is quite another to get the kind of insight we received that night.)

When all had gathered around he reverently began to speak. Here are his words that night. "My name is James Bradley and I'm from Antigo, Wisconsin. My Dad is on that statue, and I just wrote a book called "Flags of Our Fathers", which is #5 on the New York Times Best Seller list right now. It is the story of the six boys you see behind me. "Six boys raised the flag. The first guy putting the pole in the ground is Harlon Block. Harlon was an all-state football player. He enlisted in the Marine Corps with all the senior members of his football team. They were off to play another type of game: A game called "war". But it didn't turn out to be a game. Harlon, at the age of 21 died with his intestines in his hands. I don't say that to gross you out, I say that because there are people who stand in front of this statue and talk about the glory of war. You guys need to know that most of the boys on Iwo Jima were 17, 18, and 19 years old—and it was so hard that the ones who did make it home never even would talk to their families about it.

He pointed to the statue. "You see this next guy? That's Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire. If you took Rene's helmet off at the moment this photo was taken and looked in the webbing of that helmet, you would find a photograph...a photograph of his girlfriend. Rene put that in there for protection because he was scared. He was 18 years old. It was just boys who won the battle of Iwo Jima. Boys. Not old men. The next guy here, the third guy in this tableau, was Sergeant Mike Strank. Mike is my hero. He was the hero of all these guys. They called him the "old man" because he was so old. He was already 24. When

Mike would motivate his boys in training camp, he didn't say, "Lets go kill some Japanese" or "Let's die for our country." He knew he was talking to little boys,. Instead he would say, "You do what I say, and I'll get you home to your mothers."

"The last guy on this side of the statue is a Pima Indian from Arizona. Ira Hayes Ira Hayes was one who walked off Iwo Jima. He went into the White House with my Dad. President Truman told him, "you're a hero." He told reporters, "How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies hit the island with me and only 27 of us walked off alive?" So you take your class at school, 250 of you spending a year together having fun, doing everything together. Then all 250 of you hit the beach, but only 27 of your classmates walk off alive. That was Ira Hayes. He had images of horror in his mind. Ira Hayes carried the pain home with him and eventually died dead drunk, face down at the age of 32. (Ten years after this picture was taken.)

"The next guy, going around the statue, is Franklin Sousley from Hilltop, Kentucky; a fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. His best friend, who is now 70 told me, "Yeah, you know, we took two cows up on the porch of the Hilltop General Store. Then we strung wire across the stairs so the cows couldn't get down. Then we fed them Epsom salts. Those cows crapped all night. "Yes, he was a fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. Franklin died on Iwo Jima at the age of 19. When the telegram came to tell his mother that he was dead, it went to the Hilltop General Store. A barefoot boy ran that telegram up to his mother's farm. The neighbors could hear her scream all night and into the morning. Those neighbors lived a quarter of a mile away.

"The next guy, as we continue to go around the statue, is my Dad, John Bradley from Antigo, Wisconsin,

(Continued on page 11)

FAITH FACTOR YOUTH MINISTRY

Much has been happening in Faith Factor Youth ministries! The Middle School youth group has been using a study based on 1st and 2nd Timothy that we will be continuing into the month of May. We have learned about faithfulness leadership, and will continue to learn about relationships, being an example for others, and our confidence in God. The Senior High youth group has been using a study from Nooma by Rob Bell, where we have been learning about aspects of our faith and applying them to our daily lives. Please come join us!

Please note!

The Middle School youth group will begin meeting on **SUNDAYS from 2:30-4:00**. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Our first Sunday meeting will be **MAY 17TH**. We hope that this will allow more youth to attend. Please mark your calendars! Thank you!

Summer Camp: Do you need summer plans? Why not consider camp. There are a variety of camps that will appeal to everyone's interests. More information can be found at www.wnyumc.org. Click on the campfire on the left hand side of the screen. See Kim for more information or questions.



Our Calendar...

Senior High

- May 5 – Nooma Video - “She”
- May 12 – Bible Study
- May 19 – Current Events Discussion
- May 26 – Fun night TBA

Junior High

- May 1 – Our Relationships
- May 17 – Our Confidence
- May 24 – Following Jesus

May 9, 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

Our Middle School youth group has the opportunity to volunteer at the Mother Daughter Banquet. We will be serving a family style dinner to the guests. You will eat a fabulous dinner before everyone else is served. Please let Kim know if you are able to come. Thanks!

May 15, 6:30 PM: Aldersgate's Evening of Entertainment: The youth have been asked to usher and participate if they would like. Our youth are very talented and this would be a wonderful time to showcase them to the congregation! Youth can memorize scripture, poems, play instruments, juggle, or share any other talents that they have. Please let Kim know if you can help usher or would like to participate.

See you in Youth Group,
Kim

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Dear Congregation and Friends,

I know of a woman who once took a Spiritual Gifts survey. The test was completed at home and mailed into a processing center, which would in turn evaluate her test and send the results back to her at home. Weeks went by with no word. Deeply discouraged, this woman thought to herself, “Well, I guess I don’t have any gifts.” Sadly, due to an office mailing mix-up, this extremely gifted lady spent years believing that she had nothing to offer to the church.

Without volunteers, the programs of our church would simply not exist. No matter what you’re good at, you can utilize these gifts in the Christian Education Department and elsewhere in our church. It is easy to think, “I’m not a teacher, so I can’t be of any help…” Well, YOU CAN BE!!! Perhaps you enjoy organizing or making phone calls, shopping, baking, photography, taking care of babies, writing letters, or reading. All of these hobbies and talents can be put to good use in the church.

While we are extremely grateful for our regular volunteers, I encourage new folks to come on board. We are also very blessed to have the funds set aside to employ a Christian Education Coordinator to serve at our church. As we search for a new permanent CE Director, please consider participating in our Children’s programs to make this an appealing and beneficial ministry for our families and our community.

It is a joy to serve with you,

~Rachelle Vitullo

What a wonderful Easter season we shared together! Once again, many thanks to all who participated in the Christian Education events to make this a special time of learning and celebrating for our children. In March and April the children learned about symbols we recognize and utilize during this holy time, including Palms, Bread, Dove, and the Cross. We also continued our tradition of celebrating Pretzel Sunday with baking, games, and activities.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - AN INTRODUCTION



Under Construction is a Christian Education resource which uses a construction metaphor to help children learn about community. Our CONTRACTOR, ENGINEERS, and CREW LEADERS will guide your children through the JOB SITE (church) areas including SCALES AND MEASURES (Music), HARD HAT AREA (crafts), and BLUEPRINTS (Classroom).

Mark your calendars now for EVENING Vacation Bible School scheduled for the week of August 10-14!

MAY CELEBRATIONS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Philip Vitullo	May 3	Brian DeCann	May 12
Jerry Sisson	May 4	Cori Shukitis	May 13
Robert Royer	May 5	Zander Cloete	May 15
Steven Savage	May 6	Debbie Lenau	May 15
Carline Wiley	May 7	Brenda Ruell	May 18
Tyler Hanko	May 8	Andrew Rice	May 20
Emily VanKouwenberg	May 8	Nancy Wayne	May 24
Nancy Bader	May 10	Barb Condon	May 24
Suzanne Unell	May 10	Myra Needler	May 27
Nicole Carpenter	May 12	Chase Tyler	May 27
		Don Wright	May 31



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Debra & John Simm	May 2
Eric & Stephanie Bock	May 5
Mark & Susan DeVincentis	May 12
Floyd & Gretchen Hughes	May 29
Richard & Marisue Caupp	May 31



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jim DeBell, son of C. Joyce and (the late) Jim DeBell. Jim has achieved a life-long dream to be an NFL referee. Jim, a seasoned Conference USA college and Arena 1 football referee, has been invited to join the NFL referee team. When asked during an interview who Jim would call 1st if offered a coveted referee position, Jim answered, "I would close my eyes and say a prayer to my father who is my Hero and life inspiration."



Items for the June *Hinge*
are due
May 15

CHURCH EVENTS, MINISTRIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

THANK YOU

My family and I wish to thank everyone for their kind expression of sympathy to us on my mother's passing. The memorial service was beautiful, thanks to Pastor Anne, Rev. Wolter and everyone who attended. My church family means so much to me.

Larry Scrivens and family

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ Thank you for all of ★
 ★ your support at our ★
 ★ Spaghetti Dinner. ★
 ★ Watch upcoming bul- ★
 ★ letins to know how much ★
 ★ we raised. If you would ★
 ★ like to donate towards ★
 ★ the youth mission trip, ★
 ★ please see Kim or mark ★
 ★ on your donation, "Youth ★
 ★ Mission Trip". ★
 ★ Thank you! ★
 ★ Kim ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

DATE CHANGE FOR GAME NIGHT IN MAY

Mark your calendars!

The next Game Night will be on Saturday, May 16, at 6:00 PM.

Come join the fun at either Table Tennis, Euchre, or Golf (card game). If you don't know how to play Euchre or Golf we will be glad to show you.

All are welcome.

DINE WITH US AT APPLE-BEE'S
 Monday, **May 4th**,
 from 4:00-9:00 PM
10% of Food Receipts Benefits our
BUILDING FUND
 Make this your night out
 with your friends!

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.



2009 March Madness Event Recap

Eleven people participated in this year's contest which concluded April 6. Finishing in first place was Doug Hess, tied for 2nd-3rd were Anne O'Connor and Corrine Keller - very strong showing by the women! We gathered together on Saturday April 4 for our "Food Fest" to watch the semi-finals and enjoy some fellowship. There were 13 people who attended which was one of our best turnouts. As always, a great selection of food and snacks were brought to enjoy, and no one left hungry. During half time, we played a trivia contest which was assembled by Ken Sisson and even had a mini basketball hoop and ball to toss around. Also, thanks to Al Holmes for being our broadcast engineer. This is always a low key and fun event for all who participate. Hope to see you involved next year.

COURTYARD CROSS

Have you noticed the addition of the beautiful large cross to our Courtyard?

We appreciate the generosity and craftsmanship of this garden statuary from Milt and Pauline Ashley. Milt designed and built the cross and their son-in-law inscribed the passage, "The Lord is my Shepherd" and the logo, with an laser tool.

Many thanks for your ingenuity and talent Milt!



ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

MOTHERS, DAUGHTERS, & FRIENDS CELEBRATE ON MAY 9

Women at the Well, a local theater group of Christian women, will bring one of their programs to our annual Mothers, Daughters, and Friends Banquet in the Ide Family Life Center. Their theme is "The time is fulfilled; believe in the Good News." They will present excerpts from their upcoming production: "Women of Mark's Gospel: Proclaim the Good News." The presentation connects stories from the Bible with the lives of women today.

All women of the church are invited to join this celebration of womanhood, not just those who are able to attend with their mothers or daughters. We also encourage you to invite your women friends in the community to attend with you.

We will gather at 5:30 PM for punch and crackers, followed at 6:00 by a ham dinner served family style. The program will follow dinner.

Please get your tickets in advance from the office or after services on Sunday so that we will be prepared with a place for you. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults, \$4 for children aged 6 to 11, and free for children 5 and under. (We will still need a count for the youngest children, even though there is no charge for their meal.)

Come to share a great time of Christian fellowship with your church family.

WOMEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE HELD AGAIN IN ROCHESTER

The Blue Cross Arena will be site of the area annual Women of Faith Conference on Friday and Sat-

urday, June 5 & 6. We have a sizeable group planning to attend from Aldersgate; so carpooling will be possible. If you are interested in attending, see **Candy Metzger**, who is serving as coordinator.

MORNING CIRCLE PLANS MAY LUNCHEON

Morning Circle traditionally goes out to lunch together for its May meeting. Details of this year's plans for Tuesday, May 19, are not yet available, but will be published in the Sunday bulletin when available. Because many women who can't usually attend the Morning Circle enjoy making arrangements to attend this particular event, there will also be a sign-up sheet on the Opportunities Board in addition to the e-mails & phone calls to regular members of the group. Please feel free to join the group. We will carpool from the church parking lot.

RUMMAGE SALE COMING IN JUNE!

This year more than ever it's time to go through our attics, closets, and basements to clear away the clutter and simplify our lives. Most of us have both clothes and household items of good quality that we no longer use. Recycle them by donating to the annual Rummage Sale. They may be just the items someone else is looking for.

The rummage sale is the biggest fundraiser planned each year by our United Methodist Women. However, we could not carry it off without the help of the entire church. While it does raise money for missions and for our own church projects, it also helps

us individually to break that habit of hanging on to everything we own and serves as an outreach to the community around us by making many necessities available at a low cost.

We need **clean clothes in good condition** for men, women, and children in all sizes. It is especially helpful if the clothes are labeled for size. We sort by small, medium, large, and extra-large for men's, women's, boys' and girls' clothes. Other items that sell well include **toys, games, puzzles, books, dishes, glassware, pots and pans, knickknacks, pictures, lamps, seasonal decorations, jewelry, clothing accessories, tools, sports equipment (no bowling balls!), household furnishings and small appliances**. We do ask that you bring only items that are **reasonably clean** and appliances that are **in working order**.

The sale is scheduled for Thursday-Saturday, June 11, 12, & 13.

For the first two days the items will be sold individually, but there will be a bag sale on Saturday. We will sell baked goods all three days as we have in the past. **You may start bringing your donations to the church on Monday, June 1.** We really have no place to store them if you bring them earlier.

We will try to arrange help for you to get furniture or other large items to the church if help is needed. As useful as they are, we have found that hide-a-beds are usually heavier than we can manage. If you have questions, please feel free to call Gretchen Hughes (865-2822).



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The sign-up sheets for helping with the preparations and the sale itself will be posted on the bulletin board in the entryway by mid-May. This is an excellent “first serve” opportunity because you are performing a useful service, you will have a chance to get better acquainted with others in the church, and you will find that the job is fun. We need many willing workers for a successful sale.

READING CIRCLE



Since the Book Review Luncheon on April 30 replaces the May meeting, the next meeting of Reading Circle will be on Thursday, June 4, at 1:00 PM in the Church Library. The June book selection, *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver, will be available in the library later this month.

New members and visitors are always welcome at Reading Circle. For more information, contact Helen Wolter (621-1904) or Frances Crabtree (392-0772).

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION

Interested in national and world affairs? Ever wonder just what the United Methodist Church is doing in mission around the world? Just like “going to school?” Every summer the WNY Conference United Methodist Women and the Conference Board of Global Ministries co-sponsor a School of Mission event. This year the school will be held on **Thursday-Saturday, July 23-25** at Daemen College in Amherst, NY.

The one-day sampler will be held on Saturday, July 25.

Everyone takes the Spiritual Growth study, which this year is “Food and Faith” taught by the Rev. David Lubba. Participants then choose between the area study and the social issue study. “The Beauty and Courage of Sudan” will be taught by Dr. David J. Snyder; and “Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival” by Genie Banks, former WNY Conference UMW President and former President of the Women’s Division.

The cost of the full session is \$185, which includes room and board. The one-day session will cost \$35.00, which includes lunch. Participants are expected to buy the appropriate study books available from the Service Center or at the School. Some scholarship money is available from the Aldersgate UMW if needed. Registration and fees are due by Tuesday, June 30. You will find registration forms on the Mission Counter in the Gathering Space.

OTHER UPCOMING DATES:

May 11 – Sew ‘n Sew’s at 1:00 PM in Room 1.

October 16-17 – Crafts & Collectibles Show

DEAR SALLY STEWARDSHIP

Dear Sally Stewardship,

How can we continue to have so many mission commitments when we have a mortgage to pay and our expenses are so much higher with our new building? These are tough times economically.

I’m Worried

Dear Worried,

I’ll admit it—that thought crosses my mind occasionally. But then I go back to one of my favorite passages of Scripture, II Corinthians 9:6-8: “Remember that the person who plants few seeds will have a small crop; the one who plants many seeds will have a large crop. Each one should give, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that **you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause.**”

Rather than being worried, we have cause for **celebration!** In his annual report each year, our Benevolence Treasurer, Dick Caupp lists the total of our Extra-Mile Giving for the previous ten years. Would you believe that **our highest Extra-Mile Giving** was last year for a total of **\$35,279!** The second highest was in 2007 for \$22,225.

The largest donation was for support of Fred Farrokh’s ministry to Muslim-Background Believers through the Elim Partner program, which a few members of our

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MISSIONS NEWS

MISSION SHARE OUTREACH CENTER

Perhaps you saw it in the D & C on Saturday, April 18. Maybe sometime back you picked up a brochure from the Mission Counter. If so, it will come as no surprise that Aldersgate is a supporting church for the new Mission Share Outreach Center at 10 Cedarfield Commons in Greece. We have already helped by contributing back-to-school supplies and taking families from their Christmas Hope list for our White Gifts program. Members of our Missions Committee have been attending the planning meetings for a couple of years in order to stay informed. In addition to continuing these activities, the Missions Committee has made a commitment to give \$100 a month toward the lease on the building, support of the part-time director, and other expenses. We plan to use our General Benevolence Fund while we seek other sources of income.

The new facility is open for business with a food pantry and clothing shelf that families in need will be able to access once a month. There is office space for a number of planned counseling and training services as well. For more information, check out the brochures on the Missions Counter.

FEED THE HUNGRY

A wise man once commented, "Justice is important, but supper is essential." If you read a lot on this page and in the upcoming weeks about food ministries, it is because the Missions Committee is responding to God's call to "feed the hungry."

The most immediate need now is to stock the Mission Share food pantry with staples. Each participating church was asked to hold a

short drive to gather three items. Aldersgate representatives agreed to collect **syrup, two-pound bags of rice, and boxes of macaroni & cheese.**

For the **first two Sundays in May**, totes with a Mission Share sign will be placed under the coat rack in the entry for you to put in your donations. We hope you will add these three items to your grocery list right away and bring them in to share with our neighbors. Let's get the Mission Share food pantry off to a good start.

FEED THE HUNGRY, PART TWO

Our participation in Mission Share does not mean that we are dropping our support of the Greece Food Shelf. Unfortunately there are more than enough people in our community who need this kind of help to keep both outreach centers busy.

On the last Sunday of the month, **May 31**, we will hold a **Brown Bag Sunday** as part of a community-wide food drive in which all the churches and the schools in Greece will be participating. This food drive is intended to benefit both the Mission Share food pantry and the Greece Food Shelf. A wider list of items needed will be publicized in the bulletin in advance. As you are able, please continue your effort to give as generously as the Lord has given to you.

FEED THE HUNGRY, PART THREE

The Missions Committee is continuing its research into the Angel Food Ministries. Members have volunteered at Hope Lutheran Church and helped with both taking orders and distributing the food boxes. Some have ordered boxes of food through the program and found it to

be good. We would like to begin taking orders here at Aldersgate within the next couple of months. **If you are interested** in becoming involved with this ministry, please see **Mary Sims**, who has agreed to take the lead in organizing this ministry for our church.

GREECE HABITAT COIN BOXES

We are off to a good start with our efforts to raise \$6500 for the new Greece Churches Habitat for Humanity project. On the very first Sunday, May 19, **\$864.30** came in from the coin boxes. Isn't it amazing how those coins add up! It's not too late to bring in your coin box if you forgot it or were unable to attend last Sunday. The table will still be in the back of the sanctuary to receive them.

Anytime you wish to make an additional contribution to this project, you may do so by marking your check made payable to *Aldersgate* or your gift in a pew envelope for "*Greece Habitat*."

EASTER OFFERING THANK YOU

Your generosity has once again resulted in an outstanding special Easter offering to help to support our covenant missionary Meri Whitaker. Thanks to you we have **\$1078** more ready to send toward her support in addition to our monthly budgeted support. Each year we budget for \$1800 of the \$3500 needed to meet our commitment as Global Mission Partners to Meri and to a doctor at Ganta Hospital in Liberia. The rest comes from special offerings like this and fundraisers like the Election Day Bake Sale.

(Continued from page 3)

where I was raised. My Dad lived until 1994, but would never give interviews. When Walter Cronkite's producers or the New York Times would call, we were trained as little kids to say, "no, I'm sorry, sir, my Dad's not here. He is in Canada fishing. No, there is no phone there, sir. No, we don't know when he is coming back." My Dad never fished or even went to Canada. Usually, he was sitting there right at the table eating his Campbell's soup. But we had to tell the press that he was out fishing. He didn't want to talk to the press. You see, like Ira Hayes, my Dad didn't see himself as a hero. Everyone thinks these guys are heroes, 'cause they are in a photo and on a monument. My Dad knew better. He was a medic. John Bradley from Wisconsin was a caregiver. In Iwo Jima he probably held over 200 boys as they died. And when boys died in Iwo



Jima, they writhed and screamed, without any medication or help with the pain.

"When I was a little boy, my third grade teacher told me that my Dad was a hero. When I went home and told my Dad that, he looked at me and said, "I want you always to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not come back. Did NOT come back." "So that's the story about six nice young boys. Three died on Iwo Jima and three came back as national heroes. Overall, 7,000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in the history of the Marine Corps. My voice is giving out, so I will end here. Thank you for your time."

Suddenly, the monument wasn't just a big old piece of metal with a flag sticking out of the top. It came to life before our eyes with the heartfelt works of a son who did indeed have a father who was a hero. Maybe not a hero for the reasons most people would believe, but a hero nonetheless.

We need to remember that God

created this vast and glorious world for us to live in, freely, but also at great sacrifice.

PS One thing I learned while on tour with my 8th grade students in DC that is not mentioned here is that if you look at the statue very closely and count the number of "hands" raising the flag, there are 13. When the man who made the statue was asked why there were 13 he simply said the 13th hand was the hand of God.

May God bless all who have and are serving our country in the preservation of the great freedoms we enjoy..

Sincerely,

Jerry Wolter
Visitation Pastor

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

Aldersgate Church Council met on Thursday, March 19, 2009. The meeting started with the Leadership Strategic Planning Gathering (LSPG). Plans were made for a renewed emphasis of 'Discover Your Spiritual Path' in the fall. A taskforce will pilot a program for small group use. Future plans will include outreaches beyond our local church. The next LSPG will be at 7:00 PM, prior to the May 14 meeting.

Church Charge Conference business included the election of trustees, election of other church officers, and continued certification of Tom Simons as a lay speaker.

Council Meeting: The 2008 Annual Reports were distributed as well as the listing of the Officers and Leaders for the year beginning 4/1/2009. The officer listing will be posted on the Bulletin Board. If you would like a copy of either of the above reports, please contact the church office. The financial update indicated that our offerings this year are down somewhat. The Stewardship and Development Committee will review the situation and prepare improvement suggestions.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

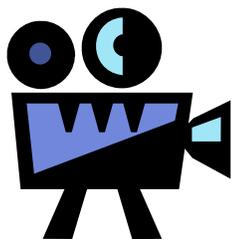
Annual reports from all the work areas of the church are available from the church office. Reading this report is a good way to get the “big picture” about all the good things happening at Aldersgate. Let Candy Metzger, the office administrator, know that you want one by stopping in or calling 663-3665.

GOOD SENSE BUDGET COURSE

The Stewardship Committee is once again looking into offering the Good Sense Budget Course. If you are interested, watch for announcements in the bulletin.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

The “Talent Box” is out on the Missions Counter ready to receive your submission forms



that describe the talent you are willing to share with us at the **Evening of Entertainment on Friday,**

May 15, at 7:00 PM. We are looking for a varied program of music, dance, skits, recitations, and other performance skills as well as art for display in the Ide Center. We also need lots of other help to make the evening successful, including donations of refreshments, help with publicity and ticket sales, ushering, etc.

Tickets are on sale after each service and available in the church office during the week. They will be \$8.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children and youth ages

6-17. Preschoolers accompanied by an adult are free. Childcare will also be available. Proceeds will go toward improving the sound system in the sanctuary.

Our thanks go to **Kathy Savage** who has agreed each year to take on the task of organizing this great event. She is the one to see, also, if you have any questions.

Don't miss this evening of fun and fellowship!

GOLDEN CROSS OFFERING HELD ON MOTHERS' DAY, MAY 10

Each year on Mothers' Day, we take a special offering to support the chaplaincy and spiritual services for the residents of Wesley Community in Rochester and Beechwood and Blocher Homes in the Buffalo area. This “Golden Cross” offering is the source of funding for the chaplains who give support and comfort to residents of these facilities as well as provide worship and memorial services, study groups, visitation, and communion. These services are very important for the residents and their families. Your check payable to **Aldersgate UMC**, marked for “**Golden Cross**” or a gift in the pew envelopes marked for that purpose will help to sustain this important work for another year. Come prepared to give generously. What a wonderful way to honor or remember our mothers!

SALLY STEWARDSHIP (CONT.)

church contribute through our church rather than giving it privately. The Christmas White Gifts program at \$5043.70 was the second largest amount, and that figure does not take into account those

families who provided full support out of their own pockets rather than through the church.

Our support of Doug Hess through our Ministerial Education Support program totaled \$4655. Funds used for the Katrina Mission Trip were \$281414 and \$2115.95 was spent for the Youth Mission Trip. We met our \$2500 commitment to the support of Meri Whitaker and gave \$907 toward the capital campaign at Cookson Hills Center for a new reception building. We sent \$1000 to the support of a doctor at Ganta Hospital.

That brief list gives you some picture of the generosity and the range of missions supported by our church. To see the whole list, ask for a copy of the 2008 Annual Report.

That's not all—we again paid our Conference and District **apportionments of \$39,401** in full. That is the support asked of us by the Annual Conference to support the ministries of the Genesee Valley District, the WNY Conference, and the denomination.

Just a thought about the rest of your question: notice that we call all that support of various forms of outreach “Extra-Mile Giving.” That's a reminder that our “First-Mile Giving” is for the support of the on-going ministries at our church. Always in the Old Testament the first tithe (10%) was for the support of the priests and the temple. “Offerings” were given in addition to the tithe. We need to apply that same principle. At church we find the primary ministries that nourish our spiritual growth—worship, Bible study, prayer, Christian fellowship. Even when our “first fruits” go there, God promises that we'll still have enough for ourselves and for every good cause.

Amazing!

Depending on God's Provisions,
Sally Stewardship

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES IN MAY

SCRIPTURE READERS

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
5/3	Jan Rothfuss	Nancy Young
5/10	George Shukitis	Wilma Shaughnessy
5/17	Scott Wagner	Dick Caupp
5/24	Marissa Peck	Gege Dunn
5/31	Joyce Farrokh	Melissa Powell

USHER SCHEDULE

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
5/3	Al & Myrt Holmes, Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Tom & Zuni Simons Terry & Nancy Young
5/10	Al & Myrt Holmes, Susan DeVincentis, Evelyn Welker	John Cochran, Tom Simons,
5/17	Al & Myrt Holmes, Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Vince & Laura Acciaio Walt Dunn, Nancy Bader
5/24	Al and Myrt Holmes, Hal & Scott Wagner	Dean & Jackie Hogestyn, Gary Hogestyn, Denise Furey
5/31	Al and Myrt Holmes, Joan Michlin, Larry VanAllen	Eric Bock, Colleen Tyler, John & Karen Best

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
5/3	Sammy Hanko	Amanda Farrell, Chase Tyler
5/10	Edward Carstens	Rebecca Lindeman, Ryan Lindeman
5/17	Brianna Kephart	Nick Spicer, Mike Spicer
5/24	Allison McHugh	Renee Tibbles, Caleb Thompson
5/31	Usher	Usher

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

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DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL PATH

If at some point in this last year, you carefully filled out the chart that comes with the "Discover Your Spiritual Path" brochure, you may be wondering, "Now what do I do?"

Spiritual growth is not optional. Peter's Second Letter to the early Christians starts right off with this admonition: *"God's divine power has given us everything we need to live a truly religious life through our knowledge of the one who called us to share in his own glory and goodness. In this way he has given us the very great and precious gifts he promised . . . For this very reason do your best to add goodness to your faith; to your goodness add knowledge; to your knowledge add self-control; to your self-control add endurance; to your endurance add godliness; to your godliness add brotherly affection; and to your brotherly affection add love. These are the qualities you need, and if you have them in abundance, they will make you active and effective in your knowledge of Jesus Christ."* (2 Peter 1:3-9)

What are some of the opportunities offered at Aldersgate that can help move you along in your spiritual journey?

- * Sign up and attend the membership class. This is not just for those new to the church. Many of us who are long-time members would no doubt benefit from a review of what it means to be a member. Pastor Anne has a new class starting on May 6.
- * Attend Sunday School. An adult class meets during

each worship service. You can attend the worship service of your choice and still be part of a class that gives you the opportunity to dig into the Scriptures, ask questions, and share your journey with others.

- * Join a small group to study the Bible and books by Christian authors. Check the bulletin for one that meets at the time best for you. All of the groups welcome new members.
- * Become part of our prayer ministry by letting Barbara Robinson know you would like to be on the prayer chain (call 227-7845), or come to the Wednesday afternoon prayer group at 3:00 in the parlor.
- * Set a time for daily devotions and follow through. Pick up *The Upper Room* from the rack behind the Welcome Table. Browse through the devotional books in the church library. When you find one you like, you can probably find it on Amazon or at a local bookstore. The good ones stay in print for years.
- * Check the bulletin and Hinge for upcoming mission projects and social events. Sign up and attend. These offer the opportunity for both service and fellowship and most can be "first serve" opportunities. You will become better acquainted with others in the church; yet, if you find you don't have an aptitude for that particular project, move on to another one. Learning what we aren't good at can be as important as learning what we can do. Sometimes God surprises us. After all, he does promise to equip us for the tasks to which he calls us.

This is just a start on a life-long journey. The joy of being part of a church is that we can move along the path together.