



Aldersgate United Methodist Church

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Aldersgate UMC Web Site

<http://www.aumcgreece.org/>

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September 2009

FROM YOUR PASTOR...

In June we held a church wide *Call to Prayer*. Prayer is so important to who we are as the people of God that I intend to keep calling us to prayer. "Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." (Ephesians 6:18, TNIV)

In his commentary on *Ephesians*, Klyne Snodgrass writes, "Praying in the Spirit is different from just praying. Most people pray, if religious surveys can be trusted, but most of our prayers tend to be 'wish lists' and prayers for protection. Praying in the Spirit involves engagement with God and assistance from the Spirit that takes us beyond our immediate concerns. True prayer is a comprehensive activity, involving a variety of modes from praise to lament, from confession to obedience, and from contemplation to intercession. ...

What we must do is keep the channel open, aware of God and our relation to God. Too easily, we greet God in the morning or over a meal, but do not interact with God the rest of the day. Specific times of prayer are crucial, but all of life is to be prayed."

I know it's easier said than done, but our life with Christ will be so much richer if we develop a lifestyle of continuous prayer. As you pray regularly, please keep the Aldersgate UMC in your prayers.

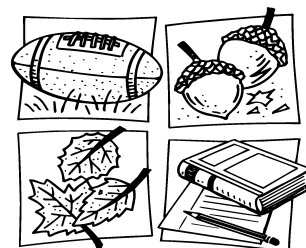
"I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe." (Ephesians 1:16-19a)

Blessings and prayers,

Anne

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September

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: Carline Wiley – Rochester General, Donna Colangelo - Unity

In rehab: Muriel McKenna – Atria of Greece

In hospice care: Orville Loomis – Unity

Recovering at home: Betty Baybutt, John Cook, Pat

Holmes, Pat Jermyn, Bill Tschorke

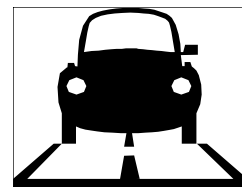
Those with ongoing health concerns: Vonnie Ackerman (sister of Gloria Montgomery), Joyce Anderson (sister of Wanda Strauss), Al Antczak, Hayden Armendinger (father of Debbie Kennedy), Denise Bayer, Mavis & Malcolm Beers, Nancy Beers (granddaughter of Mavis and Malcolm), Phoebe Brown, Jessica Christie, Ted Coburn, Sarah Crough (niece of Doug & Nancy Jones), 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, Gerry Giehler (friend of Candy Metzger), Jay Glowinski (friend of Denise Sayre), Lois Hall (mother of Becky Hess), Dave Haring, Becky Hess, Gary & Cindy Hogan, Linda Johnson (daughter of Bev & Myrle Johnson), Earl Kelley (father of Cindy Groves), Bonnie Kennedy (former member), Anna Kneisel (mother of Anne Palmer), Warren Lenau (father of Debbie Lenau), Lynn Linder (sister-in-law of Tammy Ruiz), Ruth Loomis, Steven Lynch (son of Sylvia & Jack Lynch), Charlotte McCabe (Betty Baybutt's daughter), Lea McQuown, Denise Montgomery (daughter of Gloria Montgomery), Marion Murray (friend of Joyce DeBell), Mark Nobb

(friend of the Geiers), Margaret Patterson (sister of Joyce DeBell), Kamran Pickering (grandson of Donna Colangelo), Norman Poisson (friend of Annette Thompson), Polly Roberts (friend of Bette Edgett), Tammy Ruiz, Steven Savage, Mary Sims, Gail Snyder, John Sobus, Jr., David Stanley, 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, Don Bliss, Olive Chapman (mother of Barbara Marsh), Jean Frey, John Haldane, Glenn Ide, Myrtle Koch, Maxine Pollock, John Sobus, Martha Thomson, Marion Voglesong.

Nursing Homes/Living Centers: Jack Lynch, Betty Shoemaker – Shore Winds; Robert Royer – St. John's; Leota Matthews – Monroe Community Hospital; Jeanne Barr – Hilton East

Christian sympathy to Jim, Lorraine and Ann Christie on the death of Jim and Ann's mother, Betty Christie, to Juan and Tammy Ruiz on the death of Juan's uncle, Agustin Flore, and to Steve and Sue Schneider on the death of Steve's brother.



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,

It doesn't seem possible that September is here already! With the fall months ahead there are many possibilities for fellowship and spiritual growth. We need to be sensitive in reaching out to new people and to those who are facing real challenges in their lives. This is illustrated in a true story I'd like to share with you this month entitled:

The Piano Student

At the prodding of my friends I am writing this story. My name is Mildred Honor and I am a former elementary school music teacher from Des Moines, Iowa. I have always supplemented my income by teaching piano lessons—something I have done for over 30 years.

During those years I found that children have many levels of musical ability and even though I have never had the pleasure of having a prodigy, I have taught some very talented students. However, I have also had my share of what I call 'musically challenged' pupils—one such pupil being Robby.

Robby was 11 years old when his mother (a single mom) dropped him off for his first piano lesson. I prefer that students (especially boys) begin at an earlier age, which I explained to Robby. But Robby said that it had always been his mother's dream to hear him play the piano, so I took him as a student.

Well, Robby began his piano lessons and from the beginning I thought it was a hopeless endeavor. As much as Robby tried, he lacked the sense of tone and basic rhythm needed to excel. But he dutifully reviewed his scales and some elementary piano pieces that I require all my students to learn. Over the months he tried and tried while I listened and cringed and tried to encourage him. At the end of each

weekly lesson he would always say, "My mom's going to hear me play someday." But to me it seemed hopeless, he just did not have any inborn ability. I only knew his mother from a distance as she dropped Robby off or waited in her aged car to pick him up. She always waved and smiled, but never dropped in. Then one day Robby stopped coming for his lessons. I thought about calling him, but assumed that because of his lack of ability he had decided to pursue something else. I was also glad that he had stopped coming—he was a bad advertisement for my teaching!

Several weeks later I mailed a recital flyer to the students' homes. To my surprise, Robby (who had received a flyer) asked me if he could be in the recital. I told him that the recital was for current pupils and that because he had dropped out, he really did not qualify. He told me that his mother had been sick and unable to take him to his piano lessons, but that he had been practicing. "Please Miss Honor, I've mist got to play" he insisted. I don't know what led me to allow him to play in the recital—perhaps it was his insistence or maybe something inside of me saying that it would be all right.

The night of the recital came and the high school gymnasium was packed with parents, relatives and friends. I put Robby last in the program, just before I was to come up and thank all the students and play a finishing piece. I thought that any damage he might do would come at the end of the program and I could always salvage his poor performance through my "curtain closer."

Well, the recital went off without a hitch, the students had been practicing and it showed. Then Robby came up on the stage. His clothes were wrinkled and his hair looked as though he had run an egg beater through it. "Why wasn't he dressed up like the other students?" I thought. "Why didn't his mother at least make him comb his hair for this special night?" Robby pulled out the piano bench, and I was surprised when he announced that he had chosen to play Mo-

zart's Concerto No. 21 in C Major. I was not prepared for what I heard next. His fingers were light on the keys, they even danced nimbly on the ivories. He went from pianissimo to fortissimo, from allegro to virtuoso; his suspended chords that Mozart demands were magnificent! Never had I heard Mozart played so well by anyone his age.

After six and a half minutes he ended in a grand crescendo, and everyone was on their feet in wild applause! Overcome and in tears, I ran up on stage and put my arms around Robby in joy. "I have never heard you play like that Robby, how did you do it?" Through the microphone Robby explained, "Well, Miss Honor...remember I told you that my mom was sick? Well, she actually had cancer and passed away this morning. And well...she was born deaf, so tonight was the first time she had ever heard me play, and I wanted to make it special."

There wasn't a dry eye in the house that evening. As the people from Social Services led Robby from the stage to be placed into foster care, I noticed that even their eyes were red and puffy. I thought to myself then how much richer my life had been for taking Robby as my pupil. No, I have never had a prodigy, but that night I became a prodigy of Robby. He was the teacher and I was the pupil, for he had taught me the meaning of perseverance and love and believing in yourself, and maybe even taking a chance on someone and you didn't know why.

(Robby was killed years later in the senseless bombing of the Alfred P. Murray Federal Building in Oklahoma City in April, 1995.)

Perhaps you and I will encounter another "Robby" in Sunday School or in the halls of our church this year. May we all do our part to encourage and help those we meet!

In Christ's Name,

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A big THANK YOU to Rachelle Vitullo for her excitement, energy and leadership of our 2009 Vacation Bible School program. And THANK YOU to all the engineers who assisted her in preparing meals and snacks, story-telling, games, crafts, bible stories, music, PowerPoint, props and activities. The children and youth made quilt squares, tool boxes, key tags, and assembled a chair, as well as saved coins for local Habitat for Humanity homes. We are proud of their work and dedication to this wonderful project.



As part of our recent Vacation Bible School activity on Celebration, the children and youth were asked to create a prayer of thanksgiving. Each child wrote a list of items for which he or she was thankful. We pieced all of them together into the following prayer of thanksgiving.

There are many passages of scripture which urge us to give thanks to the Lord. It is a good spiritual discipline to thank the Lord every day. As we begin a new school year routine consider setting aside a few moments of family time at the beginning or the end of each day to share what we are especially thankful for that day. This activity will help you focus on the good things, and the blessings in your life.

For me and you, we thank you, O Lord.

For Matthew my buddy, we thank you, O Lord.

For Christmas, because Jesus was born, we thank you, O Lord.

For my heart and for my life, we thank you, O Lord.

For life, shelter, food, belongings, land, transportation, water, emotion, museums, pets, family and friends, we thank you, O Lord.

For dogs, cats, video games, TV, shelter and color we thank you, O Lord.

For cats, parents, TV, blueberries, grandparents, aunts and uncles, dogs, shelter, life, democracy and freedom, we thank you, O Lord.

For my life, my family and friends, we thank you, O Lord.

For the Holy Bible and music, we thank you, O Lord.

For family and friends, homes, pets, books, food, music and eyes, we thank you, O Lord.

For all of the gifts you have given us, we thank you, O Lord.

2009 Vacation Bible School children and youth

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Is God calling you to assist with the Christian Education Program at Aldersgate? As this goes to press, Nancy is just beginning to settle in. She will be contacting people to assist with both Sunday School and Junior Church. If you are interested in taking part in this valuable ministry, please contact Nancy nwoodworth@aumegreece.org or the church office or her home 436-6848. There are various lengths of commitment, and materials are provided. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of

A GATHER EVENT IS APPROACHING!

Mark September 27 on your calendar and plan to attend. Between services (from 10:30 to 11:00) we will meet teachers and students of all ages, have some intergenerational activity centers and share an Ice Cream Social to complete the start of the program year. Please sign up on the sheet on the Bulletin Board.

**Sunday School classes will start on
September 13.**

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

John Grizzanti	September 1
Melissa Eckles	September 3
Paul Wagner	September 3
Vincent Acciaio	September 5
David Roza	September 8
Lorraine Christie	September 9
Al Holmes	September 11
Shirley Geier	September 11
Michael Streb	September 11
Jim Carpenter	September 12

Wendy Dunn	September 14
Pauline Ashley	September 18
Carey Hughes	September 18
Glenn VanPutte	September 19
Nan Keller	September 20
Debbie Williams	September 21
Benjamin Norris	September 24
Becky Hess	September 27
Kevin Brown	September 28
Renee Jerva	September 28
Jenna VanKouwenburg	September 29



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Tom and Anne O'Connor	September 3
Daniel & Kathy Savage	September 6
Scott & Carline Wiley	September 7
John & Candy Metzger	September 14
Mike & Wendy Dunn	September 15

THANK YOU

Barry and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards following my Mom's passing. It was a really difficult time for me, especially so close to saying goodbye to my Dad at Thanksgiving. My Mom told us on June 27 that her cancer could not be treated, and she was very much at peace to leave this world and join her Savior and my Dad. As I talked with her daily, I knew that her time here was rapidly drawing to a close and she died with dignity and peacefully early July 9 surrounded by family in her home.

Your cards and prayers have comforted me. Barry and I miss our AUMC family and think of you often.

Nancy and Barry Massing

To my many friends at Aldersgate,

Thank you very much for the flood of cards after my recent operation. The altar flowers Ed and Shirley Geier brought to me on my first Sunday home brought comments from my visiting therapist and blood techs all week.

I am doing very well and hope to see you all in church soon.

In God's love,
Gretchen Hughes

Dear Church Friends,

I am now at home finishing my recuperation from a hip replacement. The many cards, phone calls, and prayers have been much appreciated. Your love and concerns have been very helpful.

My thanks to you and to Pastors Anne and Jerry for their visits.

Fondly,
Betty Baybutt

Dear Friends,

Thank you, my friends of Aldersgate, for your many visits while I was in Unity Hospital. Thank you also for the many prayers, cards and phone calls. As I begin on my road to controlling my cancer, your prayers, are especially important. I could feel them encouraging me and supporting me as I begin to face and go for chemotherapy. I will continue to keep you informed of my progress.

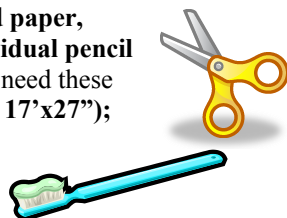
Thank you,
Pat Jermyn

ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

HELP ASSEMBLE UMCOR KITS AT SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Come to the **Thursday, September 24**, General Meeting of the Aldersgate UMW prepared to do a little work. Supplies for School and Health Kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief are coming in nicely. At the current rate, we may be able to exceed last year's donations of 152 School Kits and 100 Health Kits.

For School Kits we still need **paper, blunt-tipped scissors, and individual pencil sharpeners**. For Health Kits we need these items: **hand towels (15"x25" to 17"x27")**; **washcloths**; **large, sturdy combs**; **nail files or fingernail clippers**; **bath-sized bars of soap**; **single toothbrushes in original wrappers**; and **adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages**.



The evening will begin with a light soup, salad, and dessert supper at **6:15 PM**, although work will start as soon as people arrive. After completing the tasks, there will be a brief business meeting primarily to approve our Pledge to Mission for 2010.

Additional supplies for the kits may still be brought that evening. This meeting is **open to anyone who is interested** in the project. Visitors and newcomers are always welcome. Many hands make light and enjoyable work.

The **cost of the supper** continues to be just **\$3.00 per person** payable at the door. Please do **sign up** on the bulletin board in advance, however, so that we know how many places to set at the table.

EVER WONDER WHO GETS THESE KITS?

From a recent e-mail from Mission Central, we learned that, in addition to a **\$10,000 emergency grant**, UMCOR in partnership with Mission Central, has sent **1800 buckets of cleaning supplies** to the Western New York area of **Silver Creek, Gowanda and Springville** which was seriously damaged by the floods from the August 8-11 storms. In addition, they also sent **672 health kits and 336 school kits** so that families and children have immediately some basic supplies for personal hygiene and school.

TANYA WHITAKER TO SPEAK AT WOMEN'S RETREAT ON MENTORING

Set aside Saturday morning, **September 12**, to come to hear **Tanya Youngling Whitaker**, the wife of Kent Whitaker, who will be bringing his message on forgiveness that weekend here at Aldersgate. For over 30 years, she has been involved in ministries through Young Life and Cam-

pus Crusade for Christ, served as a lecturer for Precept Ministries, and as a retreat speaker for churches in Texas, Louisiana, Colorado, and Las Vegas. Her own project, Bigger Picture Ministries, is directly involved in mission work in Haiti; and she has been there four times in support of an orphanage there.

The workshop is designed to equip and encourage those attending to use their own natural and spiritual gifts to develop mentoring relationships, following principles set down in the Bible.

Registration will begin at 8:45 AM with the program in the Ide Family Life Center starting at 9:15 AM. Coffee and light refreshments will be available throughout the morning. The program should conclude around 12:30 PM.

There is no charge for this retreat sponsored by the UMW, but there will be a freewill offering to benefit Bigger Picture Ministries. Please do sign up in advance so that we can set up enough places. The sign-up sheet is on the Opportunities Board.

READING CIRCLE MEETS SEPTEMBER 3

"Cold Sassy Tree" by Olive Ann Burns will lead off the book selections for the 2009-2010 program year for the Reading Circle. According to the Washington Post Book World, this story of a small Southern town is "rich with emotion, humor and tenderness."

The book was made into a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie that starred Faye Dunaway. The October selection will be "The Chosen" by Chaim Potok.



The Reading Circle meets in the church library the first Thursday of each month throughout the year, starting at 1:00 PM. A hostess each month prepares light refreshments. Visitors and new members are always welcome. See or call Helen Wolter (621-1904) for more informa-

SEPTEMBER MORNING CIRCLE

The first meeting of Morning Circle after the summer will be a potluck luncheon on Tuesday, September 15, at the home of Joyce Farrokh at 177 Carrington Drive. We will gather at our usual time—11:00 AM--and eat shortly thereafter. This will be a good time to become better acquainted with each other, and we will talk about some of the plans for the UMW in the year ahead. To help us prepare for this meeting, there will be a sign-up sheet on the Opportunities Board in addition to the usual call list.

Morning Circle meets the third Tuesday of each month from September through May at 11:00 AM. Members bring a light lunch, and volunteer hostesses

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ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

(Continued from page 6)

prepare beverages and dessert. The programs generally include speakers on topics such as health and wellness, local missions and ministries, and social issues. Most meetings are held in the Church Parlor.

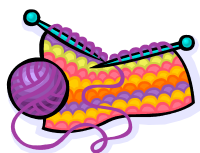
Newcomers and visitors are always welcome. For more information talk to Gege Dunn (663-9235) or Bobbie Eckert (225-9582).

UPDATE ON EMBRACING OPTIONS

At its May luncheon baby bottles were distributed to Morning Circle members in which to put spare change to be used as a contribution to the work of Embracing Options, a city ministry to young, single pregnant women. The bottles were returned on Fathers' Day or shortly after, and the offering totaled **\$245.00**. Our contact person for Embracing Options is Jennifer Poole, a former member of our church. The organization is very appreciative of our support these last two years.

SEW 'N SEW'S

Do you enjoy needlework? Would you like to improve your skills or learn a new one? Would you like to use your skills to start or support a ministry? Sew 'n Sew's is the group for you. This group meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 PM in Room 1 (lower level). We have sewing machines available for those who want to work on school bags or baby quilts. Other members knit, crochet, or work on crossed stitch projects. Feel free to join the group at any time. If you have any questions, call Betty Hild at **663-5032**.



DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING AT RUSH

The Genesee Valley District United Methodist Women will hold their Annual Meeting this year at **Rush United Methodist Church** on **Saturday, September 26**,

from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

The **keynote speaker** will be **Salva Dut**, who will be talking about **Water for Sudan**. One of the "lost boys" who escaped from Sudan when he was eleven years old, he came to the United States and Rochester in 1996. He has since completed his education and has become an American citizen. He founded Water for Sudan, Inc. in order to raise money to drill wells that provide clean, fresh water for the people in his homeland. The continued success of his efforts has led to transformed lives and renewed hope for the people of the Sudan.

The cost for the day is **just \$7.00**, which includes lunch. Reservations are transferable but not refundable. Please sign up on the Opportunities Board and give your money to our **Treasurer, Betty Hild**. Please indicate, also, whether or not you want to carpool.

CRAFTS & COLLECTIBLES SHOW SET FOR OCTOBER 9 & 10

Looking for an outlet for your handcrafts? Do you sell a line of fine quality gift items? Do you perhaps sell antiques or collectibles? Don't overlook the chance to be part of our Crafts & Collectibles Show & Sale set for Friday & Saturday, October 9 & 10 in the Ide Family Life Center. The area will be open for vendors to set up on Thursday evening and the sale will be open to the public from 9 AM-4 PM each day. If you are interested, pick up a flyer from the Missions Counter in the Gathering Space or talk to Joyce Farrokh (865-5135) or Candy Metzger (227-3138).



Even if you are not "crafty," be sure to mark these dates on your calendar and plan to come. This is a great opportunity to pick up unique early Christmas gifts and to support local vendors at the same time. The money raised by this event helps to fund projects of both the Missions Committee of the church and the United Methodist Women.

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday School teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms."



MISSION NEWS

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BBQ EVENT!

The July 11 Chicken and Rib Barbeque held with Emmanuel United Methodist Church proved once again to be a popular event, both in terms of the fellowship shared and the money raised. Net proceeds of **\$1326** were divided between the Greece Churches Habitat for Humanity project and the WNY Annual Conference Offering to support four mission projects in the North Katanga Conference in the Congo.

Another Chicken and Rib Barbeque is scheduled for **Saturday, October 3**, from 3 –6 PM. This time the money will go toward support of the children's ministries at Emmanuel, for which a number of our church members have volunteered.

These events give us a chance to strengthen our connections with other United Methodists and to support their ministries as well as our own.

Tickets will go on sale in mid-September. The members from Emmanuel will do the cooking, but we need to supply volunteers for the dining area and for ticket sales. Consider becoming active in building this special connection.

MISSION COMMITTEE DECIDES TO SPONSORS TWO STUDENTS

At its meeting on August 18, the Missions Committee learned that many students in the Ganta community in Liberia, Africa, cannot afford to attend school. However, through Operation Classroom, a hands-on ministry to Liberia and Sierra Leone, a work/study grant that would allow a young person to attend Ganta School would cost just \$75. The members of the committee decided to support two students this year, feeling that it was an appropriate way to add to our already-established connection with Ganta Hospital through the Global Mission Partners program. More information about Operation Classroom is available at www.operationclassroom.org.

Money is available for small projects like this through the General Benevolence Fund, which gets its main funding from half the proceeds of the Crafts & Collectibles Show, from the proceeds of

the Election Day Bake Sale, and from occasional gifts.

WORK ON GREECE CHURCHES HABITAT HOUSE TO START SOON

An opportunity has arisen to take over a Habitat house already begun by Rochester Lumber. They will continue to donate the supplies they had planned to give, but find they can't continue the project. Taking over this house could save six to ten thousand dollars of the \$65,000 the group had expected to have to raise. It also means that we will need volunteers as early as September and that the project could possibly be complete before winter sets in. The work site is at 356 Campbell Street.

Flower City Habitat has been concentrating much of its work in this distressed area and one can already see a visible difference. New houses are going up and older homes and yards are being spruced up. This kind of work has the potential for totally turning neighborhoods around.

Watch for an announcement of a Wall-Raising Ceremony soon (tentatively September 19) and calls for working volunteers.

MISSION SHARE UPDATE

You responded to our request for supplies for school backpacks for Mission Share. Joyce Farrokh was able to deliver 152 two-pocket folders, 332 pens, and 94 bottles of school glue. A number of Aldersgate volunteers also helped with packing and distributing the book bags in August.

SAVE THIS DATE

- **Carol Ritter Wright** will be our auctioneer again this year for our **Annual Aldersgate Auction on Friday, November 13**.
- It's not too early to think about possible donations and to plan to attend.

CHURCH EVENTS, MINISTRIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

KENT WHITAKER IS COMING TO ALDERSGATE

Bad things happen. When they do, it is sometimes hard to trust God – especially when it appears from our human perspective that what the Bible teaches just doesn't apply.

Our **Saturday, September 12th** evening speaker, Kent Whitaker, has some experience in that department. Come early; we expect a large attendance! Mr. Whitaker will begin at 7:00 P.M. Invite your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. Kent's message is for all of us. And, oh yes, the evening will conclude with a book-signing.

A former construction executive from Houston, Texas, Kent's story is one of horrible loss and betrayal. He and his older son survived, but his wife and younger son died when all four were gunned down in their home in December, 2003. But the real horror hit two days later when his surviving son fell under suspicion for having arranged the murders. His son was eventually convicted and sentenced to death.

BUT THE CRIME ISN'T THE REAL STORY. The real story is one of encouragement and hope. It is the importance of faith in the midst of trials, and the power of forgiveness to heal deep wounds.

Come, be inspired as Mr. Whitaker shows how God took this horrible loss and turned it into great good. Hear his story of healing and forgiveness - and how you too can forgive those who have wounded you. His practical Biblical suggestions - and real life example - for facing trials can help you turn tragedy into victory the next time you are standing face to face with the impossible. His message of God's power, grace, and faithfulness through hardship will change you forever.

Here, in Kent's own words is the reason why we all should be present to meet him: *"I had dozens of friends tell me that I should be the one to tell this amazing story. But all I wanted was for the public attention to go away; the last thing in the world I needed was to draw more attention to myself. But the media just wouldn't stop. First the shootings, then my son's disappearance, followed by his arrest, leading to his trial, and culminating in a national television program: these kept forcing our family's tragedy into the spotlight. Eventually I opened my eyes and became*

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FALL IN LOVE ALL OVER AGAIN ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 6:30 – 8:30 PM:

United Marriage Encounter will be hosting a Free "Date Night Dinner" for married couples at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Free nursery and child care will be provided by our youth group. (A freewill offering for childcare will be donated to the Aldersgate youth program.) A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board or you can RSVP to Jim and Lorrain Christie at 865-2109.

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.



**Yes, we'll be there even on
Labor Day!**

**Come to Aldersgate Night at
APPLEBEE'S
Monday, September 7
4:00-9:00 pm**

CHURCH EVENTS, MINISTRIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES (CONT.)

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

PRAISE The Lord!

Worship services often have lessons from both the Old Testament lesson and the New Testament. Let's begin like that.

Exodus 35: 20-29 describes the building of the temple.

"Both men and women came, all those whose hearts were willing."

Our recently completed Vacation Bible School's theme was Building for Habitat. Day one's theme was SHARING. The Israelites had to share their time, talents and resources to build the temple. No one could have done it alone. AND the generous giving occurred because EVERYONE possessed a WILLING HEART.

And so it is with us at Aldersgate. On June 28th, 54 sealed pledge envelopes were willingly offered to the Lord to help meet our current capital campaign \$70,000 shortfall. Those pledges are between the giver and the Lord. Faith has been described as "living beyond our sight." We shall have faith that enough has been pledged to cover the shortfall. The pledge envelopes will not be opened. We will know as we approach the conclusion of this campaign next May.

Some beautiful stories we feel lead to share:

- * Anonymous envelope with, "given with love" written on it was received containing a large sum in \$20 dollar bills.
- * Anonymous envelope received from overseas containing \$800, also in \$20 bills.

Anyone who has not yet taken part in this special pledge campaign is encouraged to participate. Special pink "Shortfall Pledge" envelopes are available on the counter behind the **Welcome!** table in the Gathering Space. Place your PINK envelope containing your written pledge in the offering plate on any Sunday morning. PINK envelopes will not be opened. PLEASE DO NOT PLACE MONEY IN THE PINK ENVELOPE, only put in your pledge to God. Simply pay this pledge as you do your Current Expense and Capital Campaign pledges.

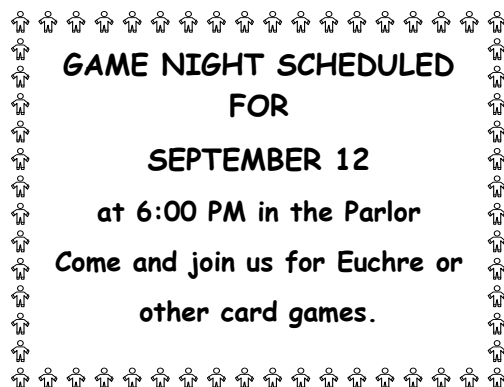
2nd Corinthians 8: 1-12 is St. Paul's call for generous giving. ***"I suggest that you finish what you started a year (two years) ago, for you were the first to propose this idea, and you were the first to begin doing something about it. Now you should carry this project through to completion just as enthusiastically as you began it. Give whatever you can according to what you have. If you are really eager to give, it isn't***

important how much you are able to give. God wants you to give what you have, not what you don't have." We continue to successfully meet our monthly mortgage obligation of \$17,461.00. With 75% of the campaign completed, we have already given over 85% of our pledges! We are carrying on this project *"just as enthusiastically as you (we) began it."* We urge that we all continue to complete our three year pledges faithfully! Additional "Extra Mile" giving from current pledgers stands at \$6,700.00 and Mothers'/Fathers' Day gifts totaled \$4,300.00. Let us praise God for what the Aldersgate congregation is doing and let us continue to accept the challenge to KEEP IT UP!

This article concludes as it began:

PRAISE The Lord!

Colleen & Steve Tyler, Jan Winter,
Pastor Anne O'Connor, Carline Wiley,
Gege Dunn, Chitie & Dick Edgett


**GAME NIGHT SCHEDULED
FOR
SEPTEMBER 12
at 6:00 PM in the Parlor
Come and join us for Euchre or
other card games.**

(Continued from page 9 - Kent Whitaker)

convinced that God wanted this story told (and that He wanted me to tell it) so that many would have their faith strengthened and learn to forgive."

" - - - Ultimately this is less a story about a terrible tragedy, and more about how God can take all things (even murder!) and work them for good, and about how the hard decisions we make will pay off in the long run. Only then can people be encouraged to look for God's help within their own troubles, whatever they might be. And only then would they realize just how important forgiveness is for their own healing."

Mr. Whitaker will also bring the morning message at both worship services on Sunday, September 13. Another of Aldersgate's famous pot-luck luncheons begins at noon! You will want to stay to meet Tanya and Kent Whitaker and show them our special Aldersgate hospitality. Bring a dish to pass!

DEAR SALLY STEWARDSHIP

Dear Sally Stewardship,

Why does the church spend so much time talking about money?

Somewhat Irritated

Dear Irritated,

It's a little hard to answer a general question like this one. I'm not entirely sure what aspects of "talking about money" Ms. Irritated means or how much is too much, but I'll take a stab at answering. One of the reasons this column was started was that a high number of people who responded to a survey taken by our consultants before our first capital campaign indicated that they felt they did not get enough information about church finances; so I guess I'd better try. Knowing about church finances should include a discussion of our beliefs, not just the specific dollars involved.

Michael Slaughter, pastor of the Ginghamburg Church, in his book *Money Matters*, pointed out: "Sixteen of Jesus' thirty-eight recorded parables deal with our attitudes and responsibilities toward money and possessions. Since Jesus intentionally talked so much about money, the Church ought to be having the same conversations."

The current economic uncertainty has us all concerned with some of us perhaps seriously wondering if we can pay the rent or mortgage next month. Calls for additional giving may only add to the stress.

The reality is that we probably should be talking about money even more rather than less. We should be praying about, looking for help with, and seeking answers for these concerns. The church can help by providing a safe forum in which to talk about them. The Stewardship Team is planning to make available once again this fall the "Good Sense Budgeting Course." It will follow up on a series of sermons Pastor Anne is planning in October about our response to this current economy.

While we do not, as a church, make it a practice to focus congregational time on the details of our budget, even when we are making plans for the next year, we do think that it is important to let you know how we are doing and what needs we see ahead. That's why there was "A Call for Prayer" in June. Praying is the appropriate focus. We wanted to bring people together, but also to let God speak to us individually about what was possible. This is God's work.

We will be talking more about holding a third capital campaign next spring. We

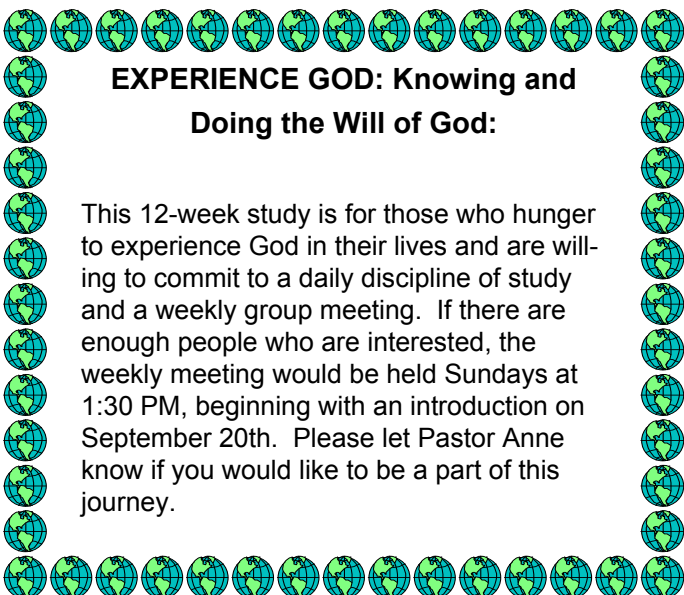
don't want to take anyone by surprise. We will need to continue paying off those bonds for the facilities we are enjoying that so many of us invested in (wisely, I must add).

I will grant you that we do hold a lot of fundraisers—but we also try to make them fun! While some of them are for additional equipment we need here in the church—like the new tables ordered with Rummage Sale money and the sound equipment made possible by the Evening of Entertainment—most of them support mission and outreach projects—the kind of "business" we believe the church should be about.

Our responsibility as a steward of the resources God has given us is a spiritual matter. We limit our spiritual growth when we don't let God's wisdom guide our giving and our use of money and possessions for ourselves and our families. This is a topic we ignore then at the risk of our spiritual health.

I do hope somewhere in my effort to provide multiple answers that I have hit on the one you had in mind when you asked the question. If not, feel free to try again!

Also looking for God's wisdom,
Sally Stewardship

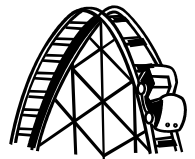


EXPERIENCE GOD: Knowing and Doing the Will of God:

This 12-week study is for those who hunger to experience God in their lives and are willing to commit to a daily discipline of study and a weekly group meeting. If there are enough people who are interested, the weekly meeting would be held Sundays at 1:30 PM, beginning with an introduction on September 20th. Please let Pastor Anne know if you would like to be a part of this journey.

KINGDOM BOUND

Five youth from our Confirmation Class and four of our most recent confirmands enjoyed a Christ centered and exciting day at Kingdom Bound. Besides the fun rides, our youth had the opportunity to be part of a large, Christian group of young people and we received a lot of positive feedback from our youth. A special thank you to the adults (Rich Keller, Cori Loudon, and Natalie Forney) who volunteered their time and talents and helped supervise the trip.



Jim and Lorraine Christie

NEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

We have a new Christian Education Director, Nancy Woodworth-Hill. Nancy joined the staff August 1st.

Nancy comes to Aldersgate with over 30 years experience working in congregational education and worship planning. Prior to coming to Aldersgate, Nancy was Director of Music and Liturgist for Trinity Episcopal church on Ridge Road. In addition she has a Master in Theology from Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora and a recently completed Master of Arts in Liturgical Studies from Notre Dame University.

According to Nancy "I am looking forward to working with the congregation at Aldersgate as we work to become better disciples of Jesus and to form ourselves more closely to the humanity that Jesus modeled for us in his life and teachings." She hopes she will provide insightful leadership as the people of Aldersgate participate in the educational offerings and grow in faith as Christians and deepen their relationship with God.

She is married to a pastor and has two adult sons – one teaching English in a high school in Kyoto, Japan and the other just starting graduate school in Buffalo. Nancy enjoys working with fiber whether it is spinning, weaving, quilting or knitting. And she is "helped" in all these pursuits by two cats who constantly want her attention.



CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES for July 2009 meeting

Finance Report: Jan Winter reported that the campaign for "prayerful" giving has increased funds available for expenses. Also, the memorials and honor gifts received for Mother's and Father's Day resulted in \$4,300 in extra giving. We now have money for our August mortgage payment. Praise God and thank you to all who have stepped forward! Our house next to the church is rented as of August 1. Thanks to the trustees, Kathy Peck, Juan and Tammy Ruiz, Dick Caupp, Tom O'Connor and others for preparing the house for the new tenants.

Benevolence Report: Dick Caupp reported that our apportionments are almost up to date and pledge payments for May and June have been made to Mission Share.

Worship: David Roza reported that microphones are being installed for the choir area. Jim and Lorraine Christie are working with the youth to get them involved with serving during worship time. David Rogenmoser is developing a new attendance sheet for Sunday mornings that will give a better feedback for those attending. These are some of the developments as a result of the Worship Committee Survey.

Lay Leader Report: Kathy Peck reported on the last session of the United Methodist Church WNY Annual Conference in Buffalo on June 19-21. She distributed a 3 page report but pointed out some of the highlights of the

conference. Dr. Scott Johnson stressed the importance of **connection** of lay persons, congregations and clergy. Bishop Matthews urged all to come together in love and say "yes" to God and pray faithfully. For more information on the conference, you can check the web site: uppernewyork.org.

SPRC: We are still seeking a Youth Pastor and Laura Acciaio reported that an interview was scheduled next week. Effective August 1, 2009, Nancy Woodworth-Hill will become our part time Christian Education Coordinator. David Rogenmoser will be the music director for the Contemporary Worship Team.

Missions: Joyce Farrokh reported that profits from the Chicken and Rib BBQ on July 11 will be split 50/50 with Greece Churches Habitat for Humanity project and WNY Conference offering for the projects in the North Katanga Conference.

There is a brochure available to all on the Missions table in the foyer that explains in depth the food ministries Aldersgate is involved with: Greece Food Shelf, Mission Share Outreach Center, and Angel Food Ministry.

Target date of August 24 is in place for Mission Share to distribute 500 school bags

to students in Greece schools. Joyce will deliver the collection of school bags and supplies from Aldersgate on Aug. 7.

Anyone can volunteer at Mission Share on Aug. 17 at 7 pm and Aug. 24 from 5-9pm to fill additional bags.

November 8 there will be a potluck lunch after the traditional service to highlight the various local agencies and organizations that would love to have us all as volunteers.

Calendaring Meeting: Thanks to all who brought the dates of the various events occurring at Aldersgate in the coming year. When this is finalized, it will be posted in the foyer.

New Business: The council approved the hiring of a consultant, David Bell of Covenant Quest LLC in partnership with Design Group International based in Brighton, Michigan to tailor a third capital campaign for Aldersgate. David Bell will be our guest speaker on Wednesday, August 26 from 2 to 5 pm and continuing that same evening 7-9 pm to discuss church stewardship issues. This will be in lieu of the August Council meeting.

Our next Council meeting will be on September 17, 2009.

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

SCRIPTURE READERS

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
9/6	Al Holmes	Nancy Bader
9/13	Scott Wagner	Tracy Maggio
9/20	Cori Loudon	Jim Christie
9/27	Marissa Peck	Doug Unell

ACOLYTES

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
9/6	Sammy Hanko	Amanda Farrell, Chase Tyler
9/13	Edward Carstens	Rebecca & Ryan Lindeman
9/20	Brianna Kephart	Nick & Mike Spicer
9/27	Allison McHugh	Renee Tibbles, Caleb Thompson

USHER SCHEDULE

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
9/6	Al & Myrt Holmes Joan Michlin Larry Van Allen	Tom & Zuni Simons Terry & Nancy Young
9/13	Al & Myrt Holmes Susan Devincentis, Evelyn Welker	Dean & Jackie Hogestyn Gary & Denise Hogestyn
9/20	Al & Myrt Holmes Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Nancy Bader, Walt Dunn John & Karen Best
9/27	Al & Myrt Holmes Hal & Scott Wagner	Linda Uebelacker Bill Teasdale Eric Bock Colleen Tyler

BISHOP TO LEAD GROUP TO OBERAMMERGAU 2010 PASSION PLAY

Bishop Marcus Matthew will lead a 10-day travel program to Europe which will have as its highlight an optional to see the 2010 performance of the Oberammergau Passion Play. An educational itinerary has been developed and participants in this travel program will depart on **July 27, 2010**.

During the journey, groups will worship and have mediations at appropriate places. Highlights include Innsbruck, Salzburg, the optional Oberammergau Passion Play, the Brenner Pass and Bressanone in Italy, the Abbey of Ettal, the Weis Church, and an Optional Tour of Neuschwanstein Castle, the castle that inspired Walt Disney.

The journey is open to church members, their families and friends. The travel/study program has been arranged by Educational Opportunities, a Christian organization whose objective is to provide pastors and church members with affordable, first class learning experiences. One advantage of this customized itinerary is the one week stay in family run Austrian hotels which will serve as home base, eliminating frequent re-packing and long trips via ground transportation. If you are interested in traveling to Oberammergau, please contact Rev. Chuck Excell at 716-646-1213 or by email: revcve@verizon.net



Items for the October
Hinge are due
September 13

Aldersgate
United Methodist Church
4115 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, NY 14616

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, NY
Permit No. 1208

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Nancy Woodworth-Hill, Christian Education Coordinator

436-6848
nwoodworth@aumcgreece.org

Candy Metzger, Administrative Assistant

663-3665
cmetzger@aumcgreece.org

Tamara Ruiz, Organist

truiz@aumcgreece.org

David Rogenmoser, Choir Director & Contemporary Music Director

drogenmoser@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

Aldersgate General Email: info@aumcgreece.org

Church Fax – 865-8442

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 12:00 PM Men's Lunch at Ezzy's 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P)	<i>2</i> 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 3:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study (P) 6:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 6:30 PM Northgate Neighbors (O) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P)	<i>3</i> 1:00 PM Reading Circle (L) 7:30 PM Stewardship (L)	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 10:30 AM Bell Choir (S) 11:00 AM Grief Share (P)
<i>6</i> 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6-9) (4)	<i>7</i> 1:45 PM Catch the Spirit - Exercise (Ide) 4:00 - 9:00 PM Applebee's	<i>8</i> 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 9:45 AM Small Group (Caupp) (P) 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P) 7:00 PM Small Group (O'Connor) (P)	<i>9</i> 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 3:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study (P) 6:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)	<i>10</i> 7:00 PM Trustees (8) 7:30 PM Finance (4) 7:30 PM Small Group (Sisson) (P)	<i>11</i> 6:30 PM Small Group (Parents) (P)	<i>12</i> 9:00 AM Tonya Whitaker Women's Workshop (Ide) 10:30 AM Bell Choir (S) 11:00 AM Grief Share (P) 6:00 PM Game Night (P) 7:00 PM Kent Whitaker (Ide)
<i>13</i> 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6-9) (4) 11:00 AM Adult Sunday School (P)	<i>14</i> 1:00 PM Sew N Sew's (1) 1:45 PM Catch the Spirit - Exercise (Ide) 6:30 PM Northgate Neighbors Bd. (O) 7:00 PM Volleyball (Ide) 7:00 PM ACWT (S)	<i>15</i> 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 11:00 AM Morning Circle (P) 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P) 6:30 PM SPRC (8)	<i>16</i> 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 12:00 PM Men's Lunch at Ezzy's 3:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study (P) 6:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)	<i>17</i> 7:00 PM Church Council. (3/4) 7:30 PM Small Group (Sisson) (P)	<i>18</i> 6:30 PM Small Group (Parents) (P)	<i>19</i> 10:30 AM Bell Choir (S) 11:00 AM Grief Share (P) 6:30—8:30 PM United Marriage Encounter (Ide)
<i>13</i> 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6-9) (4) 11:00 AM Adult Sunday School (P)	<i>21</i> 1:45 PM Catch the Spirit - Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Evangelism & Membership Care (3/4) 7:00 PM ACWT (S)	<i>22</i> 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 9:45 AM Small Group (Caupp) (P) 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P) 7:00 PM Small Group (O'Connor) (P)	<i>23</i> 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 3:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study (P) 6:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)	<i>24</i> 6:15 PM UMW General Meeting (Ide) 7:30 PM Small Group (Sisson) (P)	<i>25</i> 6:30 PM Small Group (Parents) (P)	<i>26</i> 9:00AM-12:00 PM Basketball Clinic (Ide) 10:30 AM Bell Choir (S) 11:00 AM Grief Share (P)
<i>13</i> 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Gather Event (Ide) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6-9) (4) 11:00 AM Adult Sunday School (P)	<i>28</i> 1:45 PM Catch the Spirit - Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Volleyball (Ide) 7:00 PM ACWT (S)	<i>29</i> 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P)	<i>30</i> 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 3:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study (P) 6:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (S)	AA MEETINGS (FH) Daily (except Sun.) 7:30 AM Sunday 7:00 AM Monday 7:30 PM Monday 7:00 PM Wednesday 5:30 PM Thursday (Women) 7:30 PM	ALANON Monday 7:00 PM (8) GAM-ANON Friday 7:00 PM (8) GAMBLER'S ANONYMOUS Friday 7:00 PM (3/4)	