

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

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

Volume 8, Issue 84 December 2009 & January 2010

FROM YOUR PASTOR...

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. (Isaiah 9:2,6-7a)

It seems ironic that during the Christmas season when we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace there is so little peace. Not only do wars and violence continue everywhere, but lots of us have trouble finding peace in our own lives. We rush around trying to get everything done before Christmas. We try to live up to our own expectations that decorating, buying, baking, sending cards, and gathering with family and friends will make or break Christmas. There is added pressure on those who have suffered a loss, because even with all the holiday preparations things won't be the same. Only God in Christ can bring real and lasting peace to us and to the world. Yet we can open ourselves to the possibilities of peace by letting go of some of those expectations. We can refocus our priorities on the things that are most important—Jesus, worship, and family and friends. If we let go of some of our expectations about the trappings of Christmas and stop trying so hard to do everything, the world as we know it will not come to an end (in fact it could be a whole lot better.) I'm encouraging us to simplify, to buy less, and to share more. I'm giving us permission to bake fewer cookies, to leave some of the holiday decorations in their boxes, to hold off or skip sending all those cards, and whatever else we need to do to slow down and with God's help experience true peace and joy this Christmas.

This prayer by Ted Loder speaks to me about receiving peace. "How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given. I would be silent now, Lord, and expectant... that I may receive the gift I need, so I may become the gift others need."

Tom and I are praying that you will have a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

In Christ's love.

anne

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OUR MINISTRY OF CONCERN

People are added and deleted to our ongoing prayer list on request.

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

If you have a prayer request, please call Barbara Robinson at 227-7845.

In rehab: Muriel McKenna - Hamilton Manor Nursing Home, Bob Judd - Unity

In hospice care: Orville Loomis – Unity, Myrle Johnson—at home

Recovering at home: Donna Colangelo, John Cook, Pat Holmes, Kim Latragna, Nora (Spindler) Miller, Carline Wiley

Those with ongoing health concerns: Vonnie Ackerman (sister of Gloria Montgomery), Joyce Anderson (sister of Wanda Strauss), Al Antezak, Hayden Armendinger (father of Debbie Kennedy), Denise Bayer, Mavis Beers, Nancy Beers (granddaughter of Mavis and Malcolm), Kathy Brandt (sister-in-law of Robin Fox), 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), Brenda Donovan, Carl Dunn, Carol Finch (friend of the DeVincentis Family), Patricia Forbes, Gerry Giehl (friend of Candy Metzger), Jay Glowinski (friend of Denise Sayre), David Grierson, (son of Shirley Grierson), Lois Hall (mother of Becky Hess), Dave Haring, Becky Hess, Gary & Cindy Hogan, Lynn Huenemann (daughter of Charlotte and Roger Ridley), Linda Johnson (daughter of Bev & Myrle Johnson), Earl Kelley (father of Cindy Groves), Bonnie Kennedy (former member), Anna Kneisel (mother of Anne Palmer), Joyce Leblanc (sister of Nancy Bader), Warren Lenau (father of Debbie Lenau), Lynn Linder (sister-in-law of Tammy Ruiz), Luke Loomis (brother of Orville Loomis), Ruth Loomis, Steven Lynch (son of Sylvia Lynch), Stephen Lyons, Charlotte McCabe (daughter of Betty Baybutt), Lea McQuown, Don Margeson (father of Carol DeCann), 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, Michael Šimons (grandson of Tom Simons), Melody Simmons (friend of Karen Rice), Gail Snyder, John Sobus, Jr., David Stanley, Heather Tidwell (granddaughter of Ross & Nancy Wayne), Alene Van-Putte, Hal Wagner, Ross Wayne, Mark Williams (son -in-law of Bob Wiederhold), Chris Woessner (brother of Maria Satnley). Clair Yeamans (step-father of David Kaszubowski).

Our home-bound: Malcolm Beers, Don Bliss, Jean Frey, John Haldane, Glenn Ide, Muriel McKenna, Myrtle Koch, Myra Needler, Maxine Pollock, John Sobus, Martha Thomson, Marion Voglesong.

Nursing Homes/Living Centers: Jeanne Barr – Hilton East; Betty Shoemaker – Shore Winds; Leota Matthews – Monroe Community Hospital; Irv Robinson – Crimson Ridge Gardens; Robert Royer – St. John's

Christian sympathy to Barb and Tom Marsh and family on the death of Barb's mother, Olive Chapman; Carole Jermyn and family on the death of her husband, Pat; Carolyn and Tony Gilson and family on the death of Carolyn's brother,



Please call the church office, if you need a ride for a doctor's appointment at 663-3665.

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 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



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 requests 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.



Items for the February

Hinge are due

January 15

FROM THE PASTOR OF VISITATION AND MEMBERSHIP CARE

Dear Aldersgate Family,

It doesn't seem possible that Advent is here already and we'll be celebrating Christmas again very soon! Perhaps you've noticed the trend in our society to secularize Jesus' birthday and just call it a "holiday"! What should we as Christians do about it? I think that an article I read recently gives us some food for thought. It is entitled:

A Christmas Letter from Jesus Dear Children

It has come to my attention that many of you are upset that folks are taking My name out of the season. Maybe you've forgotten that I wasn't actually born during this time of the year and that it was some of your predecessors who decided to celebrate My birthday on what was actually a time of pagan festival. Although I do appreciate being remembered any time. How I personally feel about this celebration can probably be most easily understood by those of you who have been blessed with children of your own. I don't care what you call the day, if you want to celebrate My birth, just GET ALONG AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Now having said that let Me go on. If it bothers you that the town in which you live doesn't allow a scene depicting My birth, then just get rid of a couple of Santa's and snowmen and put a small Nativity scene on your own front lawn. If all My followers did that there wouldn't be any need for such a scene on the town square because there would be many of them all around town. Stop worrying about the fact that people are calling the tree a holiday tree, instead of a Christmas tree. It was I who made all trees. You can remember Me anytime you see any tree. Decorate a grape vine if you wish. I actually spoke of that one in a teaching, explaining who I am in relation to you and what each of our tasks

were. If you have forgotten that one, look up John 15:1-8. If you want to give Me a present in remembrance of My birth here is my wish list. Choose something from it:

- 1. Instead of writing protest letters objecting to the way My birthday is being celebrated, write letters of love and hope to soldiers away from home. They are terribly afraid and lonely this time of year. I know, they tell Me all the time.
- Visit someone in a nursing home.
 You don't have to know them personally. They just need to know that someone cares about them.
- 3. Instead of writing Obama complaining about the wording on the cards his staff sent out this year, why don't you write and tell him that you'll be praying for him and his family this year. Then follow up. It will be nice hearing from you again.
- 4. Instead of giving your children a lot of gifts you can't afford and they don't need, spend time with them. Tell them the story of My birth, and why I came to live with you down here. Hold them in your arms and remind them that I love them.
- 5. Pick someone that has hurt you in the past and forgive him or her.
- 6. Did you know that someone in your town will attempt to take their own life this season because they feel so alone and hopeless? Since you don't know who that person is, try giving everyone you meet a warm smile; it could make the difference.
- 7. Instead of nit picking about what the retailer in your town calls the holiday, be patient with the people who work there. Give them a warm smile and a kind word. Even it they aren't allowed to wish you a "Merry Christmas" that doesn't keep you from wishing them one. Then stop shopping there on Sunday. If the store didn't make so much money on that day they'd close and let their employees spend the day at church

- or at home with their families.
- 8. If you really want to make a difference, support a missionary—
 especially one who takes My love and Good News to those who have never heard My name.
- 9. Here's a good one. There are individuals and whole families in your town who not only do not have a "Christmas" tree, but neither will they have any presents to give or receive. If you don't know them, buy some food and a few gifts and give them to the Salvation Army or some other charity which believes in Me and they will make the delivery for you.
- 10. Finally, if you want to make a statement about your belief in and loyalty to Me, then behave like a Christian. Don't do things in secret that you wouldn't do in My presence. Let people know by your actions that you are one of mine.

Don't forget; I am God and can take care of Myself. Just love Me and do what I have told you to do. I'll take care of all the rest.

Check out the list above And get to work; time is short. I'll help you, but the ball is now in your court. And do have a most blessed Christmas with all those who you love and remember: I LOVE JESUS

~Earthly Author Unknown~

May each of you have a truly blessed Advent and Christmas as you bring honor to the ONE whose coming we celebrate.

Sincerely,

Jerry Wolter, Visitation Pastor Volume 8, Issue 77

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Teacher's Meeting December 1

Our teachers will gather on Tuesday, December 1 in room 3/4 from 7 to 9pm. We will discuss the current education program: what we value about it, what we would like to build on for the future, how to shape our program to echo our vision "Transforming Lives, Serving Christ with Joy," and recruiting and supporting individuals to staff this Aldersgate ministry.

Parents' input is also appreciated. Specifically, I am wondering about officially ending Junior Church early on the first Sunday of the month so that all of our children may receive communion. If this would affect your child, and I haven't had the opportunity to speak with you, I am interested in your thoughts on this. Please call me at the office or home (436-6848) or email me at nworth@aumcgreece.org.

Schedules and Such

Did you know that a monthly teacher schedule is posted on the Christian Education bulletin board (located outside of the Nursery)?

Parents are always welcome to visit classes, as well as offer to assist a teacher.

On the fourth Sunday of December, children in the Pre-K, Grade 1-3, Grade 4-6, and Junior Church will be having a gathering to watch videos during their class time. Their teachers will be enjoying a day off.

90 in 90

Pastor Anne has challenged the Aldersgate community to give 90 minutes of service during the next 90 days. As a lively and imaginative part of our community, our children are most definitely included in this challenge. Parents, ask your child for ideas – you may be surprised at their thoughts on using some of their time and energy to help others. Is there something you could do as a family? Then, take time to record your good works on the bulletin insert and hand it in to the office (or email me at the above address). We want you and your child to add your story to our quilt. Also, be sure to take time to watch the quilt as it grows with stories.

Advent Devotional Booklets

Our Advent devotional booklets are out. Beginning November 22, each child will be given a booklet for family use. Consider engaging these devotions every day on a regular basis. There is a scripture verse for each week, a short story, a couple of questions you could use for discussion, and a very short prayer. I know from experience how difficult it is to carve out together time. And I know from experience how important it is to model behaviors for our children, especially patterns for exploring our relationship with God through the story of God's people. This Advent, give your child the gift of your time and attention as you explore God's story as a family.



FAITH FACTOR YOUTH MINISTRY

It has been a great pleasure to be spending time with our youth here at Aldersgate. There's been so much happening in our group--- here's just a quick review:

Apple picking service project at Green Acres. The youth, scouts, and parents collected over 100 bags of gleaned apples for Mission Share. Special thanks to Colleen Tyler who coordinated the scouts to join us, to Lisa and Holly Deutsch, Bryan Anable, Natasha and Edward Carstens, and Mary and Marie Sims, for picking, and to Kathy Pearson for inviting us to participate in this service project.



Our fellowship events for October and November were a trip to Friendly's and Bowling. Thanks to Linsey Smith and Lisa Deutsch for driving.

The Haunted House outing at the Spicer's house was really cool! Thank you, Nick and Mike, for inviting us and creating such a great (creepy) Haunted House for us! We also thank Gordon and Sue for hosting us that evening.

We began our Habitat for Humanity Bible youth what their opinions are about how groups can work together to share



Study. It was interesting to hear from the church and community, and their ideas on Christ's love to others.

We have started "Faith and Film" nights and the youth continue to enjoy Rob Bell's Nooma videos and the discussions that follow viewing.

Taco Night... what a great time of food, fun, and fellowship!

We have a Facebook page... check it out!

Many of our youth have brought their friends to youth group. What a joy it is to know that our kids want their friends to join them at church!

Attention parents and volunteers, please note that due to scheduling and availability, MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS ARE COMBINED and meet together on Tuesday nights. Join us at 6:30, unless otherwise noted. Calendars are available in the kids' Sunday School rooms, in the Youth Room, and in the Youth Office.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the youth group, or would like to volunteer, contact Rachelle Vitullo at 943-9994.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER DIKTIDATS					
Rodger Burkhart	December 1				
Angela DeVincentis	December 6				
Carol Wright	December 6				
Beth Doring	December 8				
Jerry Jones	December 9				
Rebecca Doring	December 10				
Zuni Garcia-Simons	December 10				
Samantha Christie	December 11				
Adam DeVincentis	December 12				
Shannon Forbes	December 16				
Nora Spindler Miller	December 18				
Katie O'Connor	December 20				
Marjorie White	December 21				
Stephanie Bock	December 22				
John Sobus	December 24				
Cindy Roza	December 24				
Noel Anderson	December 25				
Carol Pearson	December 25				
Kathy Savage	December 25				
Andy Deutsch	December 27				
Fran VanKouwenberg	December 27				
Daniel Savage	December 28				
Leslie Edgcomb	December 30				

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Christine Rice	January 3
Barb Draft	January 4
Jane Guitsen	January 5
Irv Robinson	January 6
Kelley Groves	January 7
Carole Jermyn	January 8
John Grizzanti	January 9
Wilma Shaughnessy	January 11
Shirley Simmons	January 13
Joseph Michaloski	January 19
Jan Rothfuss	January 19
Len Mack	January 20
Holly Deutsch	January 20
Gregory Norris	January 22
Muriel McKenna	January 22
Sara VanKouwenberg	January 23
Nancy Jones	January 31
Kim Latragna	January 31



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



2009 AUCTION BENEFITS GREECE HABITAT & COOKSON HILLS CENTER

Aldersgate continues to meet the call to serve Christ joyfully, especially through our fundraisers. Thanks to all who participated in this year's auction and dinner, we will be able to send nearly a thousand dollars each to the Greece Churches Habitat for Humanity to complete the project on Campbell Street and to Cookson Hills Center in Oklahoma to move them a little bit closer to their goal of building a new Reception Center for a number of the social services they provide like the food pantry and clothing closet. To learn more about both projects, look at the tri-fold displays on the Mission Counter.

The net income from the auction and dinner after expenses was \$1965.65. We were happy to see people from Lake UMC present—and even had some donations

from there—although they were not joining us "officially" this year. There were also a few members from the community that attended, and a couple of them made it a point to express great appreciation for the quality of the spaghetti dinner and for the friendliness of our church people.

Pies continue to stir proportionately the highest bidding for the evening, with winning bids going as high as \$32. Aldersgate bakers have developed quite a reputation!

It took everyone's help to make this a success again—Marilyn Sobus and the kitchen crew; Carol Ritter Wright, who volunteers her time and skill as auctioneer each year; the Stewardship Team, who handles the planning and publicity; Lea McQuown, our custodian who conscientiously makes sure we have all the tables and chairs we need; and all of you who donate the auction items and join in the bidding. A good job well done!

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

READING CIRCLE

A children's book <u>The Christmas Miracle of Jonathon Toomey</u> was selected for the December 3 meeting of Reading Circle. The group will view a video based on the book for a change of pace from our usual discussion. On January 7, Nancy Woodworth-Hill will lead the discussion of <u>The Shack</u>, a novel that has interested many readers of Christian fiction across the country.

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

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



MISSION NEWS

BAKE SALE RESULTS

In spite of a low-election day turnout, this year's Election Day Sale of Baked Goods and Crafts was our second largest ever with the proceeds totaling \$421. Our Aldersgate bakers outdid themselves, especially supplying more pies than we have ever had before—and every one of them sold almost as soon as they arrived. The money adds to the General Benevolence Fund, which the Missions Committee uses to meet our commitment to support a doctor at Ganta Hospital in Liberia and to respond to mission project requests throughout the year.

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

HABITAT HOUSE TO BE DEDICATED

You are invited to the Dedication Ceremony of the Greece Churches Habitat for Humanity house at **356 Campbell Street** on **Saturday**, **December 5, at 11:30 AM**. Our pastor will be participating along with the pastors from the other churches. We will also be delivering to the family the quilt and the Adirondack chairs

painted by our youth. There is plenty of parking in the lot of the church next to the house. If you go, you may want to spend a few minutes driving around the area afterwards taking note of the number of other Habitat houses recently built or currently under construction. There is clearly a positive change occurring.

This fourth Greece Habitat house should be completed by the end of November. When they were there working, some of our Aldersgate volunteers met the family assigned to the house: Julian and Mikki Coleman and their eleven-year-old daughter Mahkayla. Julian is a barber and Mikki is a treatment coordinator for Continuing Developmental Services helping developmentally delayed adults. Mahkayla attends School #52 and enjoys being active.

Of the \$65,000 total needed to fund a Habitat House in our area, the contributions of Rochester Lumber to this project were valued at \$10,162. The Greece coalition has so far raised nearly

\$44,000 of the remainder with about \$11,000 to go. Our auction contribution and the coalition's share of pie sales will put a dent in that. If, however, you would like to help closeout the fundraising for this project, your further contributions are very wel-

MISSION NEWS (Cont.)

(Continued from page 7)

come. Your check should be written to *Aldersgate UMC* with "*Greece Habitat*" on the memo line, or your cash gift in a pew envelope should have a "Greece Habitat" notation.

JANUARY 17 HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

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

Community Developers provide services that include education, substance abuse programs, em-

ployment training, affordable housing, at-risk youth programs, HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, and much more. Meri Whitaker works in these areas at Cookson Hills Center. In addition, she pastors a twelve-step church.

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

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

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

WHITE GIFTS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Helping Needy Families for 39 Years *Help Make a Difference!*

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

How can you help?

MONETARY DONATIONS

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

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

Just like the "Adopt-A-Family" option except that you fully sponsor the cost of the food and gifts. Expect to spend between \$300-\$400 for food and gifts for an average size recipient family. You may want to share this project with other Aldersgate families, co-workers, neighbors, or friends and split the expense.

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

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

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

Plan Now!

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

CHURCH EVENTS, MINISTRIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School for Adults at 11:00 AM

You're invited to join our Adult Sunday School class at 11:00 AM! Beginning November 30th, we'll be starting a 4-week Advent study entitled: *The Advent Conspiracy: Can Christmas Still Change the World?* We will be using a DVD and small group discussion guide as we talk about how we can: worship more fully, spend less, give more, and love all.

On January 3rd, we'll begin a 6-week John Ortberg DVD & discussion series entitled "If you Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat". This is a 6 session journey on learning to trust God. Attend the 9:30 AM worship service and then join us in the parlor for class. This is a place for singles and couples – everyone is welcome! Mark and Susan DeVincentis will be facilitating.

DINE WITH US AT APPLEBEE'S

Monday, December 7, & Monday, January 4
4:00-9:00 PM

10% of Food Receipts Benefits our BUILDING FUND

Come to the Chili Cook-Off

When: January 31st

Time: 4:00pm - 6:00 pm

Cost: \$1 to try all the chilis

(Money is going towards Aldersgate Church Missions)

Taste-Off: from 4:00-5:00

- chili tasters will be able to try each chili and vote for their favorite

From 5:00 – 6:30

- Bowls of Chili to fill you up will be available for \$2, refills \$1.

<u>Returning this year</u>: Silent Auction of Bake Goods

Keep an eye out for sign up in January!

Sponsored by the Friday Night Parents Group

GAME NIGHT SCHEDULED

for December 12 & January 9

at 6:00 PM in Ide Family Life Center.

Come join the fun — Euchre, card games and table tennis.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

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.



DEAR SALLY STEWARDSHIP

Dear Sally Stewardship,

What if I haven't turned in my pledge? Is it too late?

Oops! I Keep Forgetting

Dear Oops,

The short answer is "no." We all have those moments when we suddenly remember something we haven't done. You may still turn in your pledge with your offering or mail it to the church office. If you've misplaced the card, ask an usher for another, or just write a short note to let us know your giving intentions for this coming year.

The pledges are important for a couple of reasons. As individuals or families, filling out a pledge form gives us the opportunity to focus on our own giving and on what God may be calling us to do to support our regu-

lar church ministries. It helps us to move from a pattern of just pulling out a dollar from our wallets on Sunday or giving God what we have left over after meeting our own desires to making a real commitment—setting aside the money for God up front.

While the tithe (10%) is a guideline that goes back at least as far as Abraham, some of us find ourselves in such financial constraints that we need to make a plan to work toward the goal of giving ten percent. Others of us may be in more settled circumstances and find that, after talking with God about it, ten percent isn't enough. Whatever our situation, it is clear that Biblically we are to plan ahead so that we give first to God.

Some of you may quite reasonably be worried about your income in 2010. You may not be accustomed to pledg-

ing. Please remember that the pledge here at Aldersgate is primarily your statement of faith, not a legal document to which you can be held.

Your pledge is important to us as a church because it does give the Church Council a more accurate handle on estimating the potential church income for the coming year. It allows us to make more certain plans for the ministries that we believe we'll need in 2010. Although, even with pledges, all our expectations and plans are based on faith and our understanding of God's will, we do use the pledges as a strong indication of where God is leading us!

Yes, by all means, get that pledge in as soon as you can! And let's all join in

Putting God first in our lives, Sally Stewardship

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES for October 15 meeting

Book Discussion: The meeting opened with a lively discussion of the book "IT" by Craig Groeschel, which was read by everyone on Council. The theme of the book, "How churches and leaders can get IT and keep IT," explored the intangible feeling or essence called "IT," which is either present or not within a church. We looked at several key points brought up in different chapters and determined that Aldersgate doesn't quite have "IT" in the sense the book brings up. However, we do have many positive attributes and would like to work on increasing the feeling of "IT" within the church. This book is a quick read and an interesting book for anyone who would like to take a look at the topic for themselves.

Finance Report: Jan Winter reported on financial figures for giving as well as account balances. The church has moved to a budget plan for RG&E bills, which should help even out our monthly payments. Karen Sladden stated that all committees were notified to have their 2010 budget figures to the finance committee by Nov. 8 so the committee could review them at their November meeting, prior to the full budget meeting on December 5.

Benevolence Report: Dick Caupp reported on the state of our missions giving and that apportionment payments to the District are on track to be paid in full by the end of the year.

Worship Report: Dave Roza reported that the current worship hours were instituted for a three-year trial, which will end in June 2010. The committee feels that the current schedule doesn't work well (especially with the overlapping people situation) and that this topic needs to be put on a future meeting agenda for discussion by the Council.

Education Report: Nancy Woodworth-Hill reported that there are still openings for several positions for Sunday School teachers and assistants. Let her know if you can help or can recommend anyone to her.

Other Business: Jan Winter reported that the church received a second check from the estate of Cheryse Tufano. She suggested a note be added to the Memorial Book to remember these donations.

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

SCRIPTURE READERS				USHER SCHEDULE			
	9:30 AM	11:00 AM		9:30 AM	11:00 AM		
12/6	Confirmation Class	Ellie Cook	12/6	Al & Myrt Holmes,	Tom & Zuni Simons,		
12/13	Sandi Norris	Nancy Bader		Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Terry & Nancy Young		
12/20	Rich Keller	Jim Christie	12/13	Al & Myrt Holmes,	Nancy Bader, Walt Dunn,		
12/27	Jan Rothfuss	Gege Dunn		Susan DeVincentis Evelyn Welker	John & Karen Best		
1/3	Confirmation Class	Nancy Young	12/20	Al & Myrt Holmes,	Vince & Laura Acciaio,		
1/10	Rodger Burkhart	Gary Hogestyn	12/20	Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Eric Bock, Colleen Tyler		
1/17	Scott Wagner	Suzanne Unell	12/24	5:00 PM	,		
1/24	Kevin Brown	Nancy Brehm			Allen, Tom & Zuni Simons		
1/31	Al Holmes	Mary Sims		7:30 PM Walt Dunn, Terry & Nancy Yo 11:00 PM John Cochran, Tom & Zuni Si			
				9:30 AM	11:00 AM		
	ACOLYTES		12/27	Al & Myrt Holmes,	Dean & Jackie Hogestyn,		
	9:30 AM	11:00 AM		Joan Michlin, Larry VanAllen	Gary & Denise Hogestyn		
12/6	Sammy Hanko	Amanda Farrell Chase Tyler	1/3	, Al & Myrt Holmes, Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Tom & Zuni Simons, Terry & Nancy Young		
12/13	Usher	Rebecca Lindeman Ryan Lindeman	1/10	Al & Myrt Holmes, Susan DeVincentis	Nancy Bader, Walt Dunn, John & Karen Best		
12/20	Brianna Kephart	Nick Spicer, Marie Sims		Evelyn Welker			
12/27	Allison McHugh	Renee Tibbles Caleb Thompson	1/17	Al & Myrt Holmes, Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Vince & Laura Acciaio Eric Bock, Colleen Tyler		
1/3	Sammy Hanko	Amanda Farrell Chase Tyler	1/24	Al & Myrt Holmes, Linda Uebelacker,	Dean & Jackie Hogestyn, Gary & Denise Hogestyn		
1/10	Usher	Rebecca Lindeman Ryan Lindeman	1/31	Candy Metzger Al & Myrt Holmes,	Eric Bock, Colleen Tyler, John Cochran, Evelyn Welker		
1/17	Brianna Kephart	Nick Spicer, Marie Sims		Eric McHugh			
1/24	Allison McHugh	Renee Tibbles Caleb Thompson		Linda Uebelacker			
1/31	Usher	Usher					

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
will be held at
5:00 PM, 7:30 PM, and 11:00 PM

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

4115 Dewey Avenue Rochester, NY 14616

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID

Rochester, NY Permit No. 1208

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

Nancy Woodworth-Hill, Christian Education Coordinator 436-6848

nwoodworth@aumcgreece.org

Rachelle Vitullo, Interim Youth Director 943-9994

Candy Metzger, Administrative Assistant 663-3665

Tamara Ruiz, Organist cmetzger@aumcgreece.org 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

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALANON Monday 7:00 PM (8) GAM-ANON Friday 7:00 PM (8) GAMBLER'S ANONYMOUS Friday 7:00 PM (3/4)	AA MEETINGS (FH) Daily (except Sun.) 7:30 AM Sunday 7:00 AM. Sunday 7:30 PM Monday 7:00 PM Wednesday 5:30 PM Thursday (Women) 7:30 PM	1 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 12:00 PM Men's Lunch at Ezzy's 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P) 6:00 PM Youth Group (YR, Ide 7:00 PM Education Meeting (4)	2 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 5:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Choir (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P)	3 1:00 PM Reading Circle (L) 7:00 PM Trustees (4) 7:30 PM Stewardship (L) 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	4 6:00 PM Dinner Theater — Pizza (Ide, S)	9:00 AM Budget Meeting (4) 10:30 AM Bell Choir (S) 11:00 AM Grief Share (P) 2:00 PM Katie Cook (FH) 6:30 PM Dinner Theater — Dinner (Ide, S)
6 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6-9 (4) 11:00 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 12:30 PM Experiencing God (P)	7 4:00 – 9:00 PM Applebee's 700 PM ACWT (S)	8 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 9:45 AM Small Group (Caupp) (P) 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P) 6:30 PM Youth Group (YR, Ide) 7:00 PM Small Group (O'Connor) (P)	9 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 5:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Choir (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (2, 8, FH)	10 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	11 6:30 PM Small Group (Parents) (P)	12 10:30 AM Bell Choir (S) 11:00 AM Grief Share (P) 6:00 PM Game Night (Ide)
13 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6- 9 (4) 11:00 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 12:30 PM Experiencing God (P)	14 1:00 PM Sew N Sew's (1) 700 PM ACWT (S) 7:00 PM Volleyball (Ide) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (2)	9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 11:00 PM Morning Circle (P) 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P) 6:00 PM Youth Group (YR, Ide) 7:30 PM Investment Club (3/4)	16 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 12:00 PM Men's Lunch at Ezzy's 5:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Choir (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (FH)	17 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P) 7:30 PM Church Council (3/4)	18 6:30 PM Small Group (Parents) (P)	19 10"00 Cantata Rehearsal (S) 10:30 AM Bell Choir
20 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6-9 (4) 11:00 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 12:30 PM Experiencing God (P)	21 700 PM ACWT (S)	9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 9:45 AM Small Group (Caupp) (P) 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P) 6:30 PM Youth Group (YR, Ide) 7:00 PM Small Group (O'Connor) (P)	23 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 5:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Choir (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (2, 8, FH)	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Worship Service 7:30 PM Worship Service 11:00 PM Worship Service	25 Christmas Day	26
27 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6-9 (4) 11:00 AM Adult Sunday School (P)	28 700 PM ACWT (S) 7:00 PM Volleyball (Ide) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (2)	9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P) 6:30 PM Youth Group (YR, Ide)	30 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 5:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Choir (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P)	31 New Year's Eve		

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 PM Small Group (Parents) (P)	2 10:30 AM Bell Choir (S)
3 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6- 9 (4) 11:00 AM Adult Sunday School (P)	4 4:00 – 9:00 PM Applebee's 700 PM ACWT (S)	5 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 12:00 PM Men's Lunch at Ezzy's 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P) 6:30 PM Youth Group (YR, Ide 7:00 PM Education Meeting (4)	6 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 5:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Choir (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P)	7 1:00 PM Reading Circle (L) 7:00 PM Trustees (4) 7:30 PM Stewardship (L) 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	8 6:30 PM Small Group (Parents) (P)	9 10:30 AM Bell Choir (S) 6:00 PM Game Night (Ide)
10 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6- 9 (4)	11 1:00 PM Sew N Sew's (1) 700 PM ACWT (S) 7:00 PM Volleyball (Ide) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (2)	9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 9:45 AM Small Group (Caupp) (P) 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P) 6:30 PM Youth Group (YR, Ide) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P)	13 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 5:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Choir (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (2, 8, FH) 8:00 PM Worship (4)	14 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P) 7:40 PM Finance (4)	15 6:30 PM Small Group (Parents) (P)	16 8:30—10:30 AM Angel Food (Ide) 10:30 AM Bell Choir (S)
17 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6- 9 (4)	18 700 PM ACWT (S)	9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 11:00 PM Morning Circle (P) 1:00 PM Small Group (Coburn) (P) 6:30 PM Youth Group (YR, Ide)	20 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 12:00 PM Men's Lunch at Ezzy's 5:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Choir (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (FH)	21 9:00 AM Hinge (Ide) 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P) 7:30 PM Church Council (3/4	22 6:30 PM Small Group (Parents) (P)	23 10:30 AM Bell Choir (S)
24 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6- 9 (4)	25 700 PM ACWT (S) 7:00 PM Volleyball (Ide) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (2)	9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 9:45 AM Sm. Group (Caupp) (P) 1:00 PM Sm. Group (Coburn) (P) 6:30 PM Youth Group (YR, Ide) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P) 7:30 PM Investment Club (3/4)	27 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 5:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Choir (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (2, 8, FH)	28 6:15 PM UMW General Meeting (Ide) 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	29 6:30 PM Small Group (Parents) (P)	30 10:30 AM Bell Choir 4:00—6:00 PM Chili Cook Off (Ide)
31 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Jr. Church (Ages 6- 9 (4)				AA MEETINGS (FH) Daily (except Sun.) 7:30 AM Sunday 7:30 AM. Sunday 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)	