



Aldersgate United Methodist Church

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

December 2011 & January 2012

From Your Pastor

I'm writing this on November 11, 2011. The leaves are still on many of the trees (although I saw my first snowflakes of the season this morning). The hype for Christmas is already in full swing. The decorations are up in the stores. The bell ringers are out. Lots of holiday plans are being made or already underway. With all the expectations and activities to help us get ready for Christmas, it's easy to get carried away and exhausted by our preparations. Here's a thought I came across that is a word we all need to keep in mind during this season.

"Getting ready for Christmas is a whole lot different than getting ready for Christ. One may leave you depleted...the other fulfilled. How can you do both?"

For me, it comes down to balance—making sure amid all the "things" I do to get ready for Christmas I take time to open myself to and "be" in God's presence. Prayer and Bible study alone and with others and corporate worship help me get ready for and make room for Christ. (If you haven't done so yet, be sure to pick up an advent devotional at Church and join us for our Advent series on the True Gifts of Christmas.) In the things I do, I try to keep others in mind. I try to put a few dollars in those red kettles when I go by them. When I'm buying gifts, try to include some "fair trade" products and support local businesses when I can. (For fair trade gifts, check out the TradeAsOne.com web site. We will be handing out cards with this web site on it. If you use the code on the card when you make your purchase, not will you help provide a living wage to someone living in poverty but to help Aldersgate as well. Watch for more information on that in our Sunday bulletins. Another place to buy gifts that help those in poverty is through Red Bird Mission at crafts.rbmission.org.) When buying gifts for my family I try not to overdo it, which leaves me more than enough to be generous toward others through programs like White Gifts and other worthy programs.

I don't do this perfectly. I can get as overwhelmed with all the doing as much as anyone else. Yet, I find that the more I am able to focus on getting ready for Christ, the more I'm ready for Christmas without being exhausted. It's my prayer that you will find your own balance and ultimately experience joy in your preparations for both Christmas and Christ.

In Christ's love,

Anne

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December & January

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: Milt Ashley – St Ann's

Recovering at home: Al Antczak, Pauline Ashley, Mavis Beers, Barb Condon, Valerie Eckels, Jerry Jones, Tom Marsh, Nora (Spindler) Miller, George Shukitis, Nancy Wayne, Jazmin Ortiz .

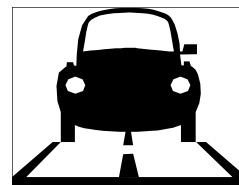
Those with ongoing health concerns: : Vonnie Ackerman, Hayden Armendinger (father of Debbie Kennedy), Denise Bayer, Nancy Beers

(granddaughter of Mavis and Malcolm), Kathy Brandt (sister-in-law of Robin Fox), Ted Coburn, Ursalee Crepinsek (cousin of Myrle/Beverly Johnson), Sarah Crough (niece of Doug & Nancy Jones), Diane Czebatol (daughter of Janet Pelcher), Logan Desmone (child of friend of Lisa Deutsch), Carol Finch (friend of the DeVincentis Family), Roger Forbes, Patty Geier (daughter-in-law of Ed & Shirley Geier), Jay Glowinski (friend of Denise Sayre), Greg Heizyk, Becky Hess, Vi Hutchins (friend of Chris Palmer), Vince Jowett (friend of Hal Wagner family), Bonnie Kennedy (former member), Madeline Larabee (great granddaughter of Nancy Wayne), Lynn Linder (sister-in-law of Tammy Ruiz), Ruth Loomis, Steven Lynch (son of Sylvia Lynch), Natalie & Jamie Manfredi, Gary Martin (brother of Carole Jermyn), Tom Marsh, Charlotte & Patrick McCabe (daughter & son-in-law of Betty

Baybutt), Lea McQuown, Craig Michaloski, Bill Miller, Denise Montgomery, Charles Peyser (father of Bobbi Mohrmann), Mark Payton, Kathy Peck, Kamran Pickering (grandson of Donna Colangelo), Barbara Robinson, John Sobus, Jr., Michele Stamp (friend of Susan DeVincentis), David Stanley, Bill Teasdale, Hal Wagner, Mark Williams (son-in-law of Bob Wiederhold), Alan Wiley, Debbie Wolfe, Pat Wolfrom (friend of Candy Metzger).

Our home-bound: Jean Frey, John Sobus, Leonora Tyler

Nursing Homes/Living Centers: Jeanne Barr – Hilton East; Mavis Beers – Villages; Malcolm Beers, Phoebe Brown - Edna Tina Wilson Living Center; Rosetta Knapp, Jean Smith, Marion Voglesong – Crimson Ridge; Maxine Pollock – Blossom View Nursing Home in Sodus, NY; John Hayashi, Len Mack, Martha Thomson – Woodlands



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 the church office. Arrangements for the Sacrament of Holy Communion are encouraged. Both pastors and the lay visitation ministers 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 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.

~Barbara Robinson



ALL items for the February Hinge are due January 15

From the Pastor of Visitation and Membership Care

Dear Aldersgate Friends and Family:

Advent is here again—the time for preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Elsewhere in the *Hinge*, you will find the Christmas greeting from your pastors and a listing of the events leading up to Christmas.

Personally, Helen and I would sum up our Christmas wish for you in the poem that appeared in the *Joyful Noiseletter* (used by permission) entitled:

Christmas Wish

What do I wish for you this Christmas?

Not something you'll find in a store;

but gifts that will live in your heart.

When the holly's gone from your door,

I wish you the gift of true friendship,

as warm as holiday cheer,

The kind that will bring your heart joy

each day of the coming year.

I wish you the gift of good health,

good fortune in all that you do.

I wish you a prayer time each day,

Your spirit to ever renew.

What do I wish for you this Christmas?

More precious than this set apart—

I wish you the gift of the Christ Child,

Living each day in your heart.

~ Kay Hoffman

May God grant you and yours a Blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year!

Jerry Wolter
Visitation Pastor

Advent Devotions: Be sure to pick up a copy of the “*The True Gifts of Christmas*” Advent devotions if you haven’t yet. They are located on a table in the Gathering space. The children received an Advent book with devotions, rhymes and seek-and-find puzzles during Sunday school. The Youth received an Advent calendar.

The new Spark Family magazine titled, “God with Us” has arrived. Please pick up a copy for your family today.

The Advent Banner displayed in the Sanctuary was made by the children during Sunday school. It shows the gifts of Christmas: Faith, Peace, New Life and Love.

We hope you’ll come to Sunday school on Christmas day at 11:00! We are going to have a Happy Birthday Jesus celebration with cake and ice cream. .. Yum, Yum. We will be watching the new Veggie Tales movie, “The Little Drummer Boy.”

SAVE THE DATE: Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!

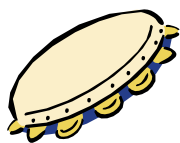
Saturday, January 14, 2012 from 2-4 PM

An Indoor Family Winter Carnival in the Ide Center

A Bounce House, Games, Popcorn , Face painting and more!

Please see Rhonda or Colleen if you would like to help.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in January.



Let the Earthly Angels Sing!

We would like the children to sing a simple Christmas song, perhaps even hold a tambourine or bell, during the Family Christmas Eve service at 5:00 PM. We will practice between or after worship services for just a few minutes. If your child wants to sing, and you plan on being here at the Family Christmas Eve service, then we hope to put this together in the coming month. Please see Rhonda or Colleen if you have any questions. We will be trying to talk to the parents/grandparents as well about this.

Sunday School News:

The High School class (grades 9-12) meets at 10:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings. John Simm is the teacher. Currently, they are watching and studying a video series titled, “Re:Form.” It explores the ancestors of our faith by exposing the real, and perhaps, unexpected personalities of the Old and New Testament. This class is full of thought-provoking questions, discussions and personal reflection.

The Children’s Sunday school classes will be turning their focus to the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas. Each week, new and engaging lessons will be taught and hopefully reinforced and shared at home. Currently, they are using “Live B.I.G.” curriculum ...”Believe in God, believe also in me. “ (John 14:1) The 6th-8th grade class will also be finishing their video study series on “Soul Surfer” and focusing on Advent and Christmas.

The 9:30 Adult Sunday school class just started ... **JAMES, JAMES, JAMES, JAMES.....** We meet in the Church Parlor and there IS a seat for YOU! Won’t you pray about whether you should be engaged in a real old-fashioned Bible Study again? There will be minimal preparation-such as merely reading your Bible. But there will be plenty of challenging and enthralling discussion! Let’s this opportunity be on your heart.

Aldersgate Youth Fellowship News

[NOT] Aldersgate

...

not about us.**AYF in December and January**

We will continue our regular schedule through December and January when there aren't other conflicts. Middle School Youth Fellowship meets Sundays 5-7pm. High School Youth Fellowship meets Sundays 6-8pm. And AYF LIVE! meets Fridays 7-9pm.

Our Christmas party lock-in will be December 16-17 (see below).

Our January outing will be on Friday the 27th. More details to come.

Students and parents: check your e-mail for AYF News, which includes up-to-date information. Anyone else can check the bulletin, posted youth calendar, or church calendar for youth fellowship happenings.

Christmas Party and Lock-In

Our annual Christmas party and lock-in will be Friday December 16 from 9:00pm to 8:00am on Saturday.

All students, 6-12 grades, are invited to attend and asked to bring \$5 to contribute to the cost of food and a wrapped exchange gift valued at about \$5.

We will celebrate Christmas together with gifts and some reflection on the meaning of Christ's coming, play video games, watch movies, play games in the gym, and much more. Bring your friends!

Flower City Work Camp 2012

Aldersgate is going back to Flower City Work Camp this year. FCWC is a ministry of Rochester-area churches that reaches the city with God's love in practical ways: home repairs, backyard Bible clubs and basketball camps. FCWC provides our young people with an opportunity to serve God and our neighbors while growing in their faith.

FCWC is a church-wide effort. We need middle and high school youth to participate, we need your prayers, we need your financial contributions, and we need volunteers.

Our goals to meet before January 1:

We want 12 students (7-12 graders) to participate. If you've ever been to FCWC and understand the significance of that experience on your faith journey, you can share your experiences with the young people in our congregation and encourage them to participate. We would love to have someone come and speak to us about his or her experience at FCWC at an upcoming Youth Fellowship meeting.

If we're taking 12 students, we need our first three adult volunteers: a Site Leader, Sidewalk Club Leader or Basketball Camp Coach.

Please be in prayer for our involvement in this ministry and your role in it. Talk to Derek Hansen or Paul Brown if you would like to serve.

Aldersgate Youth Fellowship activities and events are open to all youth, grades 6-12, in the church and community. Please contact Derek Hansen, if you know of any students who would benefit from a ride to and from youth group or church.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in December & January

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rodger Burkhart December 1
 Carol Wright December 6
 Jerry Jones December 9
 Zuni Garcia-Simons
 December 10
 Maria Stanley December 10
 Samantha Christie December 11
 Linda Uebelacker December 13
 Shannon Forbes December 16
 Nora Spindler-Miller
 December 18
 Katie O'Connor December 20
 Stephanie Bock December 22
 John Sobus December 24
 Cindy Roza December 24
 Noel Anderson December 25

Carol Pearson December 25
 Kathy Savage December 25
 Andy Deutsch December 27
 Fran VanKouwenberg
 December 27
 Daniel Savage December 28
 Leslie Edgcomb December 30
 Bobbie Eckert December 31

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Donovan January 1
 Brian Jones January 1
 Christine Rice January 3
 Barb Draft January 4
 Jane Guitsen January 5
 Kelley Groves January 7
 Carole Jermyn January 8

John Grizzanti January 9
 Wilma Shaughnessy
 January 11
 Shirley Simmons January 13
 Sarah West January 13
 Joseph Michaloski January 19
 Jan Rothfuss January 19
 Rich Keller January 19
 Len Mack January 20
 Holly Deutsch January 20
 Ethan West January 20
 Gregory Norris January 22
 Sara VanKouwenberg
 January 23
 Roger Forbes January 27
 Nancy Jones January 31
 Kim Latragna January 31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Brenda & Rick Donovan December 3
 Chris & Cori Loudon December 8
 Terry & Nancy Young December 13
 Harry & Roxanna Muthersbaugh December 22
 Ed & Shirley Geier December 26
 Nancy & Ken Rex December 28
 Eric & Clair Rex December 28
 Cary & Jennifer Hughes December 29

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Wendy Peeck January 3
 Don & Nichole Ruggles January 30



WHAT IS A DEACON/DEACONESS?

Most of us are familiar with the role of pastors and missionaries, but there are other career possibilities for those who may feel called to full-time Christian service. At our next General Meeting on Thursday, January 26, Dee Finch, who is on staff at Greece United Methodist Church, will tell us about the role of deacons and deaconesses in the United Methodist Church. She will answer questions like these: Who are they? Where are they serving? Do we know any? How can we support them in their ministries? This program will offer a good opportunity for young people as well as adults to learn more about the variety of opportunities in this important job.

We will start the evening at 6:15 PM with our soup, salad, and dessert supper for only \$3.00, payable at the door. The program will begin around 7:00 PM. The UMW will hold a brief business meeting after the program. Please sign up on the Opportunities Board so that we can have a place prepared for you.

READING CIRCLE

For December the Reading Circle usually chooses a book with a Christmas theme. This year Joyce Farrokh will lead the discussion of *The Christmas List*, a love story by Richard Paul Evans, at its meeting on Thursday, December 1.

The selection for January 5 is Lynn Austin's *Until We Reach Home*, the story of three abandoned young Swedish girls who leave home to find a new life in America. Ms. Austin is a skilled writer of Christian historical fiction.

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.

Reading Circle meets at 1:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month. Members take turns leading devotions and serving refreshments each month. New members and visitors are always welcome. For more information, contact Helen Wolter (621-1904) or Frances Crabtree (392-0772).



SEW 'N SEW'S CONSIDER NEW PROJECT

The group started with baby quilts and have added school bags, baby gowns, and sweaters for school and layette kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Some members knit baby caps for premies born in local hospitals. They are now considering making pillowcase dresses for young girls in developing countries, prayer shawls and Warm-Up America afghans. They can't take on all these projects on their own.

Not everyone who has participated in the projects is able to meet with us on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 PM in Room 1. Nor does all the work get done in that couple of hours each month. Even if you can't get together with us, you can help. If there's sufficient interest, an evening or Saturday group could be established. (We started as an evening group until we realized that everyone attending was free during the day.) Let us know how you want to be involved. For more information see or call Gege Dunn (663-9235), Joyce Farrokh (865-5135) or Betty Hild (663-5032).

We will meet next on December 12 and January 9. No sign up is necessary. Visitors and newcomers are always welcome.

MORNING CIRCLE

Join with Morning Circle in the Chapel on **December 13** to sing our favorite Christmas Carols. Barbara Draft and Shirley Grierson are planning a program of songs and devotional thoughts to prepare our hearts for the season, after which we will move to the parlor for refreshments and time to socialize.



At the January 17 meeting Gretchen Hughes will present a program on the current UMW Mission Study, *Haiti: Challenges and Hopes*. Learn more about our surprisingly long involvement with Haiti. Why does it continue to be the poorest nation in our hemisphere?

Morning Circle meets at 11:00 AM each month generally in the Church Parlor. Bring a light lunch. Hostesses each month bring light refreshments. For more information see Bobbie Eckert (225-9582) or

CHRISTMAS OFFERING DESIGNATED

The Missions Committee each year is charged with the responsibility to select the beneficiaries of the special offering taken at Christmas. This year half of the offering will be used to complete our commitment to our Global Mission Partner, **a doctor at Ganta Hospital in Liberia, West Africa**. In the last six months we haven't been able to put as much from our regular offerings toward this commitment as we usually do. As a result, we need to look to this special offering to do so. Any additional amount raised will be used toward next year's mission commitments.

The Christmas Offering has for many years been the one time we give financial support to **Gateway-Longview**, a United Methodist-related service agency that provides a full range of services for children and their families in the Western New York area. The children in their care range in age from pre-school to young adult. Gateway-Longview is the largest single non-governmental agency serving children and families in Western New York. Those who visit the facilities near Buffalo are impressed with the variety of services offered and the loving care with which they are given. We can be thankful that our United Methodist Church is able to respond to these needs in Western New York with skilled staff, well-equipped facilities and Christian love.

Your gift will be a reminder that "Christmas is not about you," as Michael Slaughter says. Let's open our hearts to include both the people of Liberia who need medical help and the children of Western New York who need special services.

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

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE RESULTS

For the second time in a row, we sold out of baked goods & packed up before the advertised close of the sale, having sold **\$353.25** in baked goods and crafts. Hosting four Election Districts really boosts the number of people passing through, even in a low-turnout election. Also, our own members were good about stopping by after voting elsewhere. The funds will be used to help complete our commitments to support of Mission Share and to our Global Missions Partners. 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.

YOUR GENEROSITY TO MISSION SHARE IS APPRECIATED

The last time we delivered our donations of personal hygiene items to Mission Share during their open hours, the arrival of toilet paper was greeted with cheers and immediately snatched out of our hands to be distributed to waiting clients. The demand for all items is high, but the two we focus on—**toilet tissue and feminine products**—are never sufficient to meet needs. The shortage is the consequence of high demand for these essential products that can't be purchased with food stamps—not the result of any lack of generosity on our part. Our faithfulness in providing these items is much appreciated, but it would certainly help if we could "step it up" further. Other personal items are needed as well; so don't hesitate to purchase extra shampoo, lotion, deodorant, etc. when you see it on sale. As Pastor Anne noted in a recent sermon, there is far more poverty in Greece among both children and seniors than most of us recognize. Please put your donations in the Mission Share box behind the Welcome Table in the Gathering Space.

The **Crossroads Pregnancy Care Center** opened at Mission Share at 10 Cedarfield Commons in November. One of our members, Kathy Peck, has completed the training needed to be a volunteer at this service agency. Please keep this new service in your prayers.

If you are looking for a volunteer "home," consider Mission Share. Regular volunteers need to be from one of the sponsoring churches. (We are a sponsoring church.) In addition to the need for help in clothing and food distribution each week, training has begun for a new adult literacy program. If you are interested, call the director Tom Hakes at 368-0744.

TWO DOORS LOOKING FOR SPONSORS

A number of students served by Two Doors last year could not come back because their families could not afford the \$50 a month tuition fee. This after-school program, located next to Bethany Presbyterian Church, includes exercise time, story time, homework help and arts and crafts for younger children. The volunteer tutors are retired teachers and college students. Two Doors is reaching out to the community to find sponsors for students who are unable to come for financial reasons. If this is a program that touches your heart and you can help, call Mary Gardner at 663-8936.

Dear Aldersgate Family:

Instead of sending a letter at Christmas, as we have done in the past and seeking to be good stewards, we are sending our Christmas greetings as part of The Hinge.

In his Advent letter to all of us in the Upper New York Conference, Bishop Matthew reminds us that ~

"Its that time of the year again, Advent arrives on the calendar demanding response from us. With great anticipation, excitement and joy we await the Coming of Jesus Christ. Even in the midst of tough economic times and disasters, Advent offers us hope—the hope that God still cares and loves us all.

Advent, as you know, is the spiritual four-week pre-Christmas season. It's a time of quiet reflection, a time of repentance. It's the time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and to ensure that there is 'room at the inn' of our souls to receive the King of kings."

Here at Aldersgate we hope you will be a part of the various activities of this holy season. The Advent Worship services (focusing on the gifts of Christmas: Faith, Peace, New Life and Love) will be held each Sunday at 9:30 AM (Contemporary) and 11:00 AM (Traditional). We hope you'll be a part of the many other Advent events listed in the Hinge.

Here are a few highlights:

December 2 and 3 at 6:00 PM—Christmas Theater Productions

December 10 at 3:00 PM—Multicultural Intergenerational Advent Celebration

December 17, at 11:00 AM—Blue Christmas Service (for those who have experienced a significant loss)

December 18 at 9:30 & 11:00 AM—Christmas Cantata

December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Services (5:00 PM Family, 7:30 PM Traditional, 11:00 PM Communion)

December 25 at 11:00 AM—Christmas Day Service (one service only)

January 1 at 11:00 AM—New Year's Service (one service only)

May God bless you and yours with joy and peace this holy season.

In Christ's Love,

Anne O'Connor, Pastor

Jerry Wolter, Pastor of Visitation & Membership Care



**Come to Aldersgate Night at
APPLEBEE'S on Ridge Rd.**

Monday, December 5 &

January 2

4:00-9:00 pm

Applebee's donates 10% of the food receipts we collect to our Building Fund.

Sleigh Bells are ringing! Are you listening?

A Multicultural Intergenerational Advent Celebration
...say that one a couple of times.

Please join us on Saturday, December 10, 2011 for an
afternoon of festive fun!

You can stay the entire time or join us for an
event/activity that interests you.

There is a sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board.
We hope you can come!!! See Rhonda or Colleen, if
you have any questions or would like to help out.

*3:00-4:00 Puppet Ministry and Worship Dancing
Performance in the Sanctuary

*4:00-5:00 Family crafts, games and activities located
in various rooms

*5:00-6:00 Pot-Luck Supper in the Ide Center

TRAINING FOR USING THE AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)

Aldersgate has an AED, located in the Gathering
Space near the stairs to the Library. There will be a
training class on Saturday January 14th, from 9 AM
to 1 PM at the Greece Volunteer Ambulance facilities
on Long Pond Road for anyone interested in being
trained and certified in CPR and the use of the AED.

The cost will be \$20 per person for the class and
certification. If you have any questions, please call
Rich Mohrmann, at 225-1526. There will also be a sign
up sheet for this class on the bulletin board in De-
cember.

GAME NIGHT

Saturday, December 17 &

January 21

at 6:00 PM.

Come join us in the Ide Family Life Cen-
ter for Euchre, board games or other
card games.



WHITE GIFTS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Helping Needy Families for 41 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 as-
signment 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 pro-
vided 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.

"Blue Christmas" Service

Christmas can be one of the most difficult times of the year for those of us who have the blues. The truth is, not everyone is up and cheery for the holidays. Maybe you or someone you know is dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease, which clouds the future, or any other situation which makes Christmas festivities less-than-jolly and maybe even painful this year.

If you are feeling "blue" this Christmas join us for our "Blue Christmas" service on **December 17 at 11:00 am in the Chapel**. The service will be reflective, accepting where we really are, and will hold out hope and healing. If you are hurting this Christmas season or know of others who would find this kind of service helpful, we hope you'll invite someone and join us for this service - all are welcome.

JANUARY 15 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. Individually our impact may be limited, but through our United Methodist connections we can change lives! Please be generous.

CALLING ALL "SAINTS ALIVE!"

God is faithful. As of November 6, we had received 87 pledges for a total of \$193,444 toward financial support of Aldersgate ministries in 2012. The other main income each year includes money from rent of church facilities and gifts in addition to pledges. Our fund-raising events generally support ministries beyond our church, projects not in the main budget, and the Building Fund

If you have not yet turned in a pledge, it is never too late do so. Additional cards & envelopes are available on the ushers' table just inside the sanctuary.

A number of you also turned in forms to begin making your contributions by **Electronic Funds Transfer**. This will be an ongoing program to help you with your regular giving. You may start (or stop) anytime with sufficient notice by completing the EFT form available from Jan Winter, our Financial Secretary.

**Just A Reminder!
On December 2 & 3
Aldersgate Actor's Guild
Presents**

ALDERSGATE CABLE TV CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Get your tickets after Sunday services or from the office.

WHERE ARE WE ON OUR JOURNEY TO BECOMING A MISSIONAL CHURCH?

You should have received a letter from Pastor Anne in early November inviting you to participate in an all-church survey called the "360" to get a picture of where we are as a congregation. This effort is part of a process we started over two years with Dr. Alan Roxburgh at an annual conference-sponsored seminar on evangelism that was held here at Aldersgate. Many of us attended at that time, and Pastor Anne has continued the study with other Genesee Valley District pastors.

You are encouraged to take the survey online, following the instructions in the letter to access the website at <http://msurvey.org/2011/06/au>. For those of you who are not able to access the Internet, we do have print copies of the survey available from committee members listed on the letter and from the church office. You are not to identify yourself other than being from Aldersgate; so your responses are confidential. To the extent possible, we would like to have everyone in our congregation age 14 and over complete the survey. Please respond by December 11. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with Pastor Anne or any member of the 360 committee: Derek Hansen, Carol DeCann, Gretchen Hughes, Mary Sims.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**for the Chili Cookoff on
February 4, 2012 from 4:00—6:30 PM
\$2.00 at the door. Sign up sheets for
cooks begin in January.**

Dear Sally Stewardship

Dear Sally Stewardship,

Every once in a while I hear people in church mention something about “paying our apportionments.” What are they talking about?

Wondering

Dear Wondering,

And well you might wonder! My dictionary defines it as dividing up members of Congress among the population to determine legislative districts or dividing up direct taxes on the population. However, in Methodist-ese we use the term to talk about the share each church is asked to contribute to support shared ministries—the missions programs, the work of our district, annual conference, and denomination at large. It supports our leadership—bishops, conference executives, and district superintendents—and their offices. The amount of apportionments is determined by the annual conference.

I don't know how the process works now, but in the former Western New York Conference, apportionments were based on the financial strength of churches as shown by the amount of money actually spent each year (not on budgets or attendance) and the effort was to keep apportionments below 15% of each church's income and tried to take special circumstances into account. (We received a break for several years because of our building program.)

Frankly, every church thinks it is paying too much and a great deal of denominational effort goes into keeping expenses down. That's why in recent years so many items have been funded by

Special Sundays and why conferences like ours in New York State are being merged. Yes, the number of missionaries we have been sending is down as well—balanced by the effort to encourage and support mission churches to blossom and grow on their own.

Yes, being a connectional church (another bit of Methodist-ese) has its costs, but it also has its benefits. Aldersgate has access to many resources and services at little or no cost provided by being part of a connectional relationship; we have taken advantage of the opportunity for grants and loans to further our ministry on many occasions; and our resources combined with those of others can make a greater impact in spreading the gospel and doing justice and showing mercy throughout the world than we could on our own.

Aldersgate has paid its apportionments in full every year since 1972. Generally when the offering comes in each week, we set aside the amount needed for that ministry. Sometimes, if income is tight, as in recent months, priority is given to paying current expenses; but every effort is made to pay our fair share by the end of each year. If we don't, the burden falls to someone else, or some ministry doesn't get funded.

It's a challenge, but we can be proud to be part of a church that values working in community with others in the Body of Christ to share the Good News and supports the workers in the fields bringing in the harvest. I'm glad God gave us The United Methodist Church.

*Praising God for this good work,
Sally Stewardship*

AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

Our volunteer auctioneers—Derek Hansen, Dave Roza, and Jan Winter—presided over a very successful 24th Annual Aldersgate Auction with Lake UMC. We took in a total of **\$2961.27**. Of that \$193.00 goes to Lake, and we have some expenses yet to pay. We should have about \$2500 or more to divide between Greece Churches Habitat for Humanity and our own Building Fund.

Thank you to Ken Rex, who reminded us of the importance of Veterans' Day; to the Vannas—Tammy Ruiz, Kim Lindenau, Holly Deutsch, and Gail Schipper (Lake); to runners Jared and Lucas Jones; to Marilyn Sobus and the crew in the kitchen, who prepared an acclaimed spaghetti dinner (no kidding—that's why we get a number of regular visitors); and the members of the Stewardship Development Team and others who helped set up, welcome those attending, and record purchases. It's a big job, but again well done!

SCRIPTURE READERS

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
12/4	Jan Rothfuss	Nancy Young
12/11	Rodger Burkhardt	Nancy Bader
12/18	Debbie Simm	Shirley Geier
12/25	No Service	Shirley Grierson
1/1	No Service	Nancy Young
1/8	Kevin Brown	Nancy Brehm
1/15	Karen Rice	Tom Simons
1/22	Bobbi Mohrmann	Wilma Shaughnessy
1/29	Ann Gilzow	Holly Deutsch

USHER SCHEDULE

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
12/4	Al & Myrt Holmes Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Tom & Zuni Simons Terry & Nancy Young
12/11	Al & Myrt Holmes Susan DeVincentis Evelyn Welker	John & Karen Best Walt Dunn Nancy Bader
12/18	Al & Myrt Holmes Hal & Scott Wagner	Dean & Jackie Hogestyn Gary & Denise Hogestyn
12/24	5:00 PM Vince Acciaio, Eric McHugh, Larry VanAllen Tom & Zuni Simons	
	7:30 PM Nancy Bader, Evelyn Welker, Hal & Scott Wagner	
	11:00 PM John Cochran, Eric McHugh, Naomi Moss	
12/25	No Service	John Cochran Eric McHugh Naomi Moss Linda Uebelacker Warren Barwald
1/1	No Service	Tom & Zuni Simons Terry & Nancy Young
1/8	Al & Myrt Holmes Susan DeVincentis Evelyn Welker	John & Karen Best Walt Dunn Nancy Bader
1/15	Al & Myrt Holmes Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Dean & Jackie Hogestyn Gary & Denise Hogestyn
1/22	Al & Myrt Holmes Hal & Scott Wagner	John Cochran Ray LaFlair Scott Wiley Vince Acciaio
1/29	Al & Myrt Holmes Naomi Moss Linda Uebelacker	John Cochran Ray LaFlair Scott Wiley Bill Teasdale

ACOLYTES

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
12/4	Briana Kephart	Emma Byrnes Zachary Farrell Chase Tyler
12/11	Allison McHugh	Michelle Maggio Ryan Lindeman
12/18	Briana Kephart	Emma Bock Elijah Tyler Max Tyler
12/25	No Service	Marie Sims Renee Tibbles
1/1	No Service	Emma Byrnes Zachary Farrell Chase Tyler
1/8	Allison McHugh	Michelle Maggio Ryan Lindeman
1/15	Briana Kephart	Emma Bock Elijah Tyler Max Tyler
1/22	Allison McHugh	Marie Sims Renee Tibbles
1/29	Usher	Caleb Thompson Matthew Thompson

Aldersgate
United Methodist Church
4115 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, NY 14616

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 PM

Children & Family Candlelight Service

7:30 PM

Traditional Candlelight Service with the Choir

11:00 PM

Candlelight Communion Service

Other Worship Services

11:00 AM

Christmas Day, December 25, 2011
One Service Only

11:00 AM

New Year's Day, January 1, 2012
One Service Only

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALANON Monday 7:00 PM (8) GAM-ANON Friday 7:00 PM (2) 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 (3/4) Monday 7:00 PM Wednesday 5:30 PM Thursday (Women) 7:30 PM			1 1:00 PM Reading Circle (L) 6:00 PM AAG Rehearsal (S) 7:00 PM Church Conference (S) 7:30 PM Stewardship (L) 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P) 8:00 PM Trustees (4)	2 6:00 PM Pizza Night & Play (Ide, K, S) 6:30 PM Sm. Group (Parents) (P) 7:00 PM Bi Lingual Bible Study (8)	3 11:00 AM Bell Choir (S) 11:00 AM Grief Share (P) 6:00 PM Buffet Dinner & Play (Ide, K, S)
4 8-8:30AM Prayer Meeting (P) 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School (2, 3, 4) 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Children's Sunday School (2, 3, 4, 7,8) 5:00-7:00 PM MSYF (Ide, YR) 6:00-8:00PM HSYF (Ide, YR) 6:30 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P)	5 4:00 - 9:00 PM Applebee's 7:00 PM ACWT (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P)	6 9:00 AM—12:30 PM Library Work Time (L) 12:00 PM Men's Lunch at Ezzy's 1:00 PM Sm. Group (Coburn) (P)	7 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 Emmanuel Dance & Puppet Practice (FH)	8 7:30 AM Dewey Ave. Round Table (3/4) 7:30 PM Finance (4) 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	9 6:30 PM Sm. Group (Parents) (P) 7:00 PM AYF Live (Ide) 7:00 PM Bi Lingual Bible Study (8)	10 11:00 AM Bell Choir (S) 11:00 AM Grief Share (P) 3:00 PM Puppet Ministry & Worship (S) 4:00 PM Christmas Crafts (3/4) 5:00 PM Potluck Dinner (Ide)
11 8-8:30AM Prayer Meeting (P) 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School (2, 3, 4) 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Children's Sunday School (2, 3, 4, 7,8) 5:00-7:00 PM MSYF (Ide, YR) 6:00-8:00PM HSYF (Ide, YR)	12 1:00 PM Sew N Sew's (1) 6:30 PM Girl Scouts (3/4) 7:00 PM ACWT (S)	13 9:00 AM—12:30 PM Library Work Time (L) 9:45 AM Sm. Group (Caupp) (P) 11:00 AM Morning Circle (P) 1:00 PM Sm. Group (Coburn) (P) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P) 7:30 PM Investment Club (O)	14 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 Emmanuel Dance & Puppet Practice (FH) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (3/4) 7:00 PM Northgate Neighbors (Ide)	15 7:00 PM Church Council (3/4) 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	16 6:30 PM Sm. Group (Parents) (P) 7:00 PM AYF Live (Ide) 7:00 PM Bi Lingual Bible Study (8)	17 11:00 AM Blue Christmas Service (C) 6:00 PM Game Night (Ide)
18 -8:30AM Prayer Meeting (P) 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School (2, 3, 4) 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Children's Sunday School (2, 3, 4, 7,8) 5:00-7:00 PM MSYF (Ide, YR) 6:00-8:00PM HSYF (Ide, YR) 6:30 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P)	19 7:00 PM ACWT (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P)	20 9:00 AM—12:30 PM Library Work Time (L) 1:00 PM Sm. Group (Coburn) (P)	21 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 12:00 PM Men's Lunch at Ezzy's 4:30 PM Northgate Neighbors Bd. (4) 5:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (3/4) 7:00 PM Choir (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Emmanuel Dance & Puppet Practice (FH)	22 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	23 6:30 PM Sm. Group (Parents) (P) 7:00 PM AYF Live (Ide) 7:00 PM Bi Lingual Bible Study (8)	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Worship Service 7:30 PM Worship Service 11:00 PM Worship Service
25 - 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Children's Sunday School (2, 3, 4, 7,8)	26 6:30 PM Girl Scouts (3/4) 7:00 PM ACWT (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P)	27 9:00 AM—12:30 PM Library Work Time (L) 9:45 AM Sm. Group (Caupp) (P) 1:00 PM Sm. Group (Coburn) (P) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P)	28 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 Emmanuel Dance & Puppet Practice (FH)	29 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	30 6:30 PM Sm. Group (Parents) (P) 7:00 PM AYF Live (Ide) 7:00 PM Bi Lingual Bible Study (8)	31

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Children's Sunday School (2, 3, 4, 7,8)	2 4:00 – 9:00 PM Applebee's 7:00 PM ACWT (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P)	3 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 12:00 PM Men's Lunch at Ezzzy's 1:00 PM Sm. Group (Coburn) (P)	4 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 Emmanuel Dance & Puppet Practice (FH)	5 1:00 PM Reading Circle (L) 7:00 PM Trustees (4) 7:30 PM Stewardship (L) 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	6 6:30 PM Sm. Group (Parents) (P) 7:00 PM AYF Live (Ide) 7:00 PM Bi Lingual Bible Study (8)	7 11:00 AM Bell Choir (S)
8 8-8:30AM Prayer Meeting (P) 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School (2, 3, 4) 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Children's Sunday School (2, 3, 4, 7,8) 5:00–7:00 PM MSYF (Ide, YR) 6:00–8:00PM HSYF (Ide, YR)	9 1:00 PM Sew N Sew's (1) 6:30 PM Girl Scouts (3/4) 7:00 PM ACWT (S)	10 9:00 AM—2:00 PM Library Work Time (L) 9:45 AM Sm. Group (Caupp) (P) 1:00 PM Sm. Group (Coburn) (P) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P)	11 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 Emmanuel Dance & Puppet Practice (FH) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (3/4)	12 7:30 PM Finance (4) 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	13 6:30 PM Sm. Group (Parents) (P) 7:00 PM AYF Live (Ide) 7:00 PM Bi Lingual Bible Study (8)	14 9:30 AM Altar Meeting (S) 11:00 AM Bell Choir (S) 1—5PM Winter Carnival (Ide, K)
15 8-8:30AM Prayer Meeting (P) 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School (2, 3, 4) 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Children's Sunday School (2, 3, 4, 7,8) 5:00–7:00 PM MSYF (Ide, YR) 6:00–8:00PM HSYF (Ide, YR) 6:30 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P)	16 7:00 PM ACWT (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P)	17	18 10:30 AM Exercise (Ide) 12:00 PM Men's Lunch at Ezzzy's 5:00 PM Exercise (Ide) 7:00 PM Choir (S) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (Brown) (P) 7:00 PM Emmanuel Dance & Puppet Practice (FH) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (3/4)	19 7:00 PM Church Council (3/4) 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	20 6:30 PM Sm. Group (Parents) (P) 7:00 PM AYF Live (Ide) 7:00 PM Bi Lingual Bible Study (8)	21 11:00 AM Bell Choir (S) 6:00 PM Game Night (Ide)
22 8-8:30AM Prayer Meeting (P) 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School (2, 3, 4) 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Children's Sunday School (2, 3, 4, 7,8) 5:00–7:00 PM MSYF (Ide, YR) 6:00–8:00PM HSYF (Ide, YR)	23 6:30 PM Girl Scouts (3/4) 7:00 PM ACWT (S) 7:00 PM EMC (2)	24 9:00 AM—12:30 PM Library Work Time (L) 9:45 AM Sm. Group (Caupp) (P) 1:00 PM Sm. Group (Coburn) (P) 7:00 PM Sm. Group (O'Connor) (P) 7:30 PM Investment Club (O)	25 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 Emmanuel Dance & Puppet Practice (FH) 7:00 PM Boy Scouts (3/4)	26 6:15 PM UMW Gen. Meeting (Ide, K) 7:30 PM Sm. Group (Sisson) (P)	27 6:30 PM Sm. Group (Parents) (P) 7:00 PM AYF Live (Ide) 7:00 PM Bi Lingual Bible Study (8)	28 11:00 AM Bell Choir (S)
29 8-8:30AM Prayer Meeting (P) 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School (P) 9:45 AM Sunday School (2, 3, 4) 10:45 AM High School Sunday School (2) 11:00 AM Traditional Worship 11:15 AM Children's Sunday School (2, 3, 4, 7,8) 5:00–7:00 PM MSYF (Ide, YR) 6:00–8:00PM HSYF (Ide, YR)	30 7:00 PM ACWT (S)	31			ALANON Monday 7:00 PM (8) GAM-ANON Friday 7:00 PM (2) 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 (3/4) Monday 7:00 PM Wednesday 5:30 PM Thursday (Women) 7:30 PM