



ALDRERGATE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

A bouquet of freshly sharpened pencils: I think about that every autumn. The movie “You’ve Got Mail” has Kathleen reflecting on an e-mail she received from “NY152” where they discussed the virtues of the season of fall. She tells her co-workers that her e-mail pal wanted to send her a bouquet of freshly sharpened pencils to celebrate the Back-to-School season. There is something about school supplies that I adore. When I go to any office supply store with Rachel to get her school supplies I get caught up in the new folders, papers, pens, cool gadgets, new calendars. I love it all. I get some for Rachel and some for me. I also like how a new school year seems to jump start everyone’s schedule. There is something about a new start that attracts me.

As the summer season winds down a regular schedule seems to emerge. Between class schedules, homework, sports, scouts and church, we rework our schedule and it becomes a time of new beginnings. For a six month trial period the church will be looking at a new committee meeting schedule called once-a-month-meeting night. Our goal is to give everyone more of an opportunity to be in missions and not in meetings. Brad and I will offer more Bible Study opportunities and have been praying over several options to consider in the coming future. We hope a study can become part of your Fall and Winter schedule.

I want to remind you, as your schedule fills up this Fall, to mark some important dates on your calendar. Not a church meeting time, but as you’re writing in the football schedule, make sure to schedule in time for prayer and Bible Study as a part of your day. If you wait to let it happen as time makes itself available, it won’t. I seldom have extra time appear in my schedule and I have a feeling I’m not alone in the time crunch. Consider making dinner dates with your family and friends and put it on your calendar. Make it a priority and make it fun. Maybe a fall picnic would be fun and help to bring everyone together. Our church family has a picnic date on September 26th, but schedule another time with those close to you to touch base with each other.

Like all things in our life, our relationships take work. Our family and friend networks need attention. Beyond the Facebook touch, we need face-to-face time as well. We all run the risk of becoming so busy that we miss making our relationships the priority that they should be. Throughout September Brad and I will focus on “Growing Great Families” during our worship celebrations in order that God’s word can speak hope into the life of families.

Finally, take a look at your calendar and figure out opportunities for worship and service. Make a plan of how God will be an intentional part of your life this fall season and how your service can be a reflection of what is really important in your life.

May this fall season be a time to jumpstart your schedule so that life just doesn’t happen, but that you have an intentional plan that reflects your values.

Pastor Stephanie and Pastor Brad

Once a Month Meeting Night

Administrative Council agreed to begin in September 2010 to hold a once a month meeting night at the church. The purpose is to limit the time that leaders at the church are in meetings in order to maximize our time in the community getting to know new people and participating in ministry in the community. Pastors Brad and Stephanie will meet with team leaders and committee chairs prior to the meeting night to review the meeting agenda. During these meeting nights a light meal will be available in the kitchen area and child care will be provided. The administrative council agreed to a six month trial period of the new schedule and will review in February 2011.

Schedule for September 2010 Meeting Night

5:00	Prayer Team (Sanctuary)	Staff (Pastor's Office)	Communications (Faith Village)
6:00	FLC Building Committee (Fellowship Hall)	Worship (Music Room)	Lay Leadership (Parlor)
7:00	Finance (Faith Weaver Classroom)	SPRC (Parlor)	Youth Ministry Team (Youth Room)
8:00	Administrative Council (Fellowship Hall)		



Family Ministries

We first would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make our "Aldersgate Family Fun Day" such a success. We know so many of you put in a really long day but the results were wonderful. We look forward to making the 2nd annual Family Fun Day even bigger and better!

Our next event will be the picnic at Camp Virgil Tate on Sunday, Sept. 26. Please plan to bring a covered dish, everything else will be provided including the blow up slides and all the games. Next will be our annual "Trunk or Treat" and we are currently looking for volunteers to help coordinate and oversee this event.

Also, Dana and Tracy would like to thank everyone for making our first run at being the Family Ministries Team leaders such a great experience for us and our family-God Bless Aldersgate!

Aldersgate Youth Group

The Aldersgate Youth Group has some exciting things in the works for the coming year including a work team, ice skating, serving communion, a youth retreat in Gatlinburg, TN called Resurrection, helping with Children's time, King's Island and Christian music festival, caroling at the nursing home, snow tubing, cookout and bonfire, Valentine's dance, 30 hour famine, and more.

We formed into three teams: Activities Team, Service Team and Worship Team

These teams help us live out the purposes of our youth group: to build relationships, to draw young people to learn about Christ, living our faith in hands-on activities, doing things with peers, doing things with other age groups, youth worship and having fun!

Help us name our group! The youth group meets on Sunday evenings from 6PM to 7PM. Join us to find out more. Our next planning meeting will be on our new once a month meeting night, Wednesday, September 22 at 7PM.



Prayer Bears

There is a shelf of stuffed animals in the sanctuary which can be used as a tangible reminder of our prayers. If you know of a need or situation, especially with a child, where a physical reminder of our prayers for them would be special, you are invited to send them one. All you have to do is select the animal that you would like to send and take it to them or mail it to them as a reminder that we are praying. Send an email to the church office or call us and let us know that you have sent a prayer animal so that we can make sure we always have enough stuffed animals available for needs as they arise. So far, two animals have been given.

Family Life Center/Multi-Purpose Building

Our new building project is moving along. Architects are preparing drawings, contractors are making proposals and contracts and being prepared. Look for a ground breaking VERY SOON as our experienced and enthusiastic small group has us on track to begin construction, possibly by the end of September. It's now time for the rest of us to lean into this project with our support. In the coming weeks you will be hearing about lots of different teams – prayer teams, fund raising teams, communications teams and finance teams. Your participation will ensure that we all have lots of fun during this process and all the resources we need to fulfill God's vision.

Lay Leadership Committee

As our students and teachers get back into the swing of things with the start of a new school year, United Methodist's begin the work of preparing for the next calendar year. Every autumn a charge conference is held to make decisions about leadership for the upcoming year. In order to prepare for this time, the Lay Leadership Team will begin their busy season of discernment and discovery for the lay leadership of Aldersgate. The team has already begun meeting and has been reviewing the current slate of officers and team leaders that guide the ministry of Aldersgate throughout the year. After consultation with persons serving and seeking input from others who are interested in serving, the committee will enter a time of prayer and discernment to prepare the nominations for the charge conference. If you desire to serve in a leadership capacity at Aldersgate, please see a member of the Lay Leadership Team to discover many areas where you can serve. Members of the lay leadership team are Dana Burns, Opa Jones, Kay Canterbury, Jean Wilson, Becky Funk, Candy Kister, Kay McClanahan, Curt Caldwell and Debbie Messer.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

The prayer team would like to invite everyone to join September 15th. We are praying for more of God, wisdom and guidance for lay leadership, the new prayer team. We want to encourage everyone to might bless you during these prayer times. Our prayer times will last about an hour, but feel free to drop in and participate for a few minutes or the full hour. We are expecting God's presence and power to answer prayer and do amazing things.



us for prayer on Wednesday evenings, 6PM through of God's power in our life and church and God's building, reaching out into the community and our attend to participate in prayer and see how God

Growing Great Families – Worship Series this September

During September, our worship series will focus on Growing Great Families: Blended, single-parent, long-distance or traditional – families come in all shapes and sizes. And the One who thought up the idea of families has a lot to say on the subject: how to make us stronger, closer, able to weather any storm. Join us at Aldersgate UMC this September for some down-to-earth messages on building your family. And parents, during Sunday School, your kids will experience a Solid Rock foundation that will help them discover what God says about being great kids!

Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Our goal this year is to fill 50 boxes. The bulletin board outside the sanctuary will show our progress and you will be able to tell what items we need in order to reach our goal. Children's Ministry is taking responsibility for updating the bulletin board as they sort items. In the sanctuary there are two baskets available for your donations each week. The boxes will then be delivered to a distribution site in November.

Items we are collecting are Pencil Packs, Pencil Sharpener, Crayons, Coloring Book, Solar Calculator, Toothpaste, Bar Soap (mild), Comb, Washcloth, Lollipops and Gum, Socks, Hair Clips, Ball Caps, Socks and Toy (small cars, balls, small dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®)



Aldersgate United Methodist Women

The Methodist Women would like to thank all the people who Donated and worked to make our Rummage Sale a huge success. We made a little over \$1,300.00. It was hard work, but worth it.

All women of the church are invited to join this group. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month. We support several different missions with our income. We invite each of you to join us in fellowship.



Scrapbooking and Craft Night

This summer has left us busy and we have not been able to meet regularly. Now that our Fall schedule is underway, it is time to get back to our crafting nights. Whether you knit, or scrapbook, make cards, do latch hook, sew or paint, you are invited to bring your projects and supplies. Plan now to join us for an evening of crafting, food, fellowship and laughter on Friday, September 10th beginning at 6:00pm. You can stay a few hours or hang out until midnight. During our time together we will have a devotion and will discuss future gatherings and opportunities for fun and crafting.



Food Pantry

He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: *Proverbs 28:27*

August was the second month we have received food from the Mountaineer Food Bank. We received 500 pounds of frozen meat, a wide variety of bakery items, fresh peaches, and other items. It is a wonderful blessing to be able to purchase and/or be given all of these items. The children were very excited to receive cookies, donuts, and cakes. Items many of us take for granted.

Five hundred pounds of meat is not enough to provide one package of meat to each family served for an entire month. However, we need another freezer to order any more. Pray that God will provide the means for the additional freezer.

We are scheduled to receive some food from the Huntington Food Bank next week.

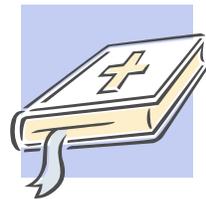
Students needing community service hours should schedule to work on Thursday evenings.

We also continue to need help in picking up bread on Tuesday afternoon. The list is on the Food Pantry door.

ALDERSGATE MEMBERS PLEASE BRING CANNED MEATS AND CANNED FRUITS.

Thank you for giving to this ministry.

May God have the Glory!



Disciple Bible Study: BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Are you interested in growing in your knowledge of the Bible? Are you aware of the stories in the Bible but struggle to understand how it all fits together? Have you studied the Bible for years and would love to continue to know more? Consider being a part Disciple Bible Study: BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY. Over a period of 34 weeks, this course will lead participants through an exploration of the scriptures and will draw upon the work of scholars to aid in understanding the Bible.

This study requires reading 30 minutes of Bible reading each day. Class time will be a two and a half hour session per week. During the course of the study, groups will move through the biblical stories of Creation to the New Jerusalem. The titles of the sessions along with theme words; theme verses; and major persons, events, and topics will set the sequence of the biblical story in the minds of the participants. The principal Scripture for each session follows the chronological movement of the biblical story.

There will be an interest meeting for the Disciple Study on Wednesday, September 8 at 7:00pm. During that meeting the course will be explained in more detail and a meeting time will be agreed upon by the group.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT – JULY 2010

Tithes and Gifts -----	\$ 13,569.50
Designated Gifts:	
Food Pantry -----	\$ 1,587.17
FLC-----	1,155.00
Youth Account-----	130.00
Spirit Song Tickets--	1,261.00
Altar Flowers-----	25.00
TOTAL DESIGNATED-----	\$ 4,158.17
TOTAL RECEIPTS -----	-\$ 17,727.67
FLC Balance -----	\$ 310,117.46
(As of 07/31/10)	

STEWARDSHIP REPORT – June 2010

Tithes and Gifts -----	\$ 11,799.50
Designated Gifts:	
Food Pantry -----	1,262.60
FLC -----	1,150.00
Memorials -----	100.00
UMCOR -----	134.00
Gideons Love Offering -	620.00
Boy Scouts -----	52.50
TOTAL DESIGNATED -----	\$ 3,319.10
TOTAL RECEIPTS -----	\$ 15,118.60
FLC BALANCE -----	\$ 309,073.93
(As of 06/30/10)	

SEPTEMBER 2010

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Post Office Box 13673
Charleston, WV
25360-0673

PHONE:
(304) - 984 - 1164

E-MAIL:
office@AldersgateWV.org

Church Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00AM to 1:00PM

Welcome to Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Our Church is located at 6823 Sissonville Drive just down the road from Sissonville High School. Look for our sign and then up the hill! You are always welcome at Aldersgate.

Worship Service 10 AM

Sunday School 11AM

We have other opportunities for you during the week as well!

ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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