



ALDRERGATE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2011

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." Matthew 13:44

This verse from Matthew's gospel is one of those verses for me that I keep coming back to time and time again. Seeing our faith journey as a great treasure is an image for me that helps to keep me focused in my life of faith and service. Recently, this verse has drifted into my thoughts because of a new hobby that Brad, Rachel and I share. That hobby is geocaching.

If you would invite me to go outside in the midst of the heat and humidity of this summer and walk around a field six times, up and down hills in tall grass and thorns and bees and snakes and at the end of our walk to sign my name on piece of paper, I would decline. But for some reason, if you tell me it's a treasure hunt called geocaching then I will do just what I described with great enthusiasm.

According to wikipedia, "geocaching is an outdoor sporting activity in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", anywhere in the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook where the geocacher enters the date they found it and signs it with their established code name. Larger containers such as plastic storage containers (tupperware or similar) or ammo boxes can also contain items for trading, usually toys or trinkets of little value. Geocaching is often described as a "game of high-tech hide and seek," sharing many aspects with benchmarking, trigpointing, orienteering, treasure-hunting, letterboxing, and way marking.

Geocaches are currently placed in over 100 countries around the world and on all seven continents, including Antarctica. After 10 years of activity there are over 1.3 million active geocaches published on various websites. There are over 5 million geocachers worldwide."

Through geocaching, I've seen some amazing views in Sissonville standing on the top of a hill by an old cemetery that I didn't even know was there. I've learn about our state through the ExploreWV geocaching challenges. I've learned about people as they share their story in the caches they hide.

Would I sell everything I have to find a geocache? No. I'm not that crazy. My life of faith still has that place in my heart and life. My relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important part of who I am and what I do. But I understand more about the quest for a treasure and how Jesus wants my heart rate to accelerate and my enthusiasm to soar and my determination to find the treasure of God's kingdom because of my new hobby.

I also share this with you because one day you may be driving by the church and see folks you don't know wandering around the bottom of the driveway with gps units in their hands. They will look like they are talking to themselves and you may wonder what they are doing. They will have instructions that they will not need to go past the gate. When they find what they are looking for, know that they will also find out information about Aldersgate UMC with an invitation to join us for worship. They will have our web address and be encouraged to share any prayer requests. For some folks it may be just another cache to log. I keep thinking, what if for one person, that cache becomes for them a treasure in a field that shares with their heart that God loves them. I hope I get to hear that story.

Still Searching,
Pastor Stephanie and Brad

MUSIC NEWS SUMMER SINGERS

Here's the list of special singers for the rest of the summer. Check out the upcoming and be ready to enjoy and worship.

July 31—Nicholas Naylor
Saturday, August 6—"Pig Roast"—Variety of singers
August 28—The Believers Quartet

I am still looking for someone to fill the open Sundays, if you have suggestions or someone you would like to hear, let me know.

Thanks to those that have already shared their talents with us this summer.

SELECTING MUSIC FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

One of the things that I find interesting and fun to do is selecting music for our worship services. As I begin to work and plan for the upcoming months, I start by looking at topics that have been selected by our pastors, any special Sundays that are on the United Methodist calendar, upcoming holidays or traditional Sundays here at Aldersgate. Although the hymns are normally selected by Stephanie and/or Brad, I am usually contacted about the congregations' knowledge of the particular hymn and the ability of the choir to lead. Choir anthems may be used by topic or scripture.

So what do we consider when making musical selections for the services? This is always a balancing act and there are lots of factors to keep in mind.

- 1) **Faithful:** The songs that we select contain lyrics that match God's works, give him praise and thanks, and encourage.
- 2) **Emotive:** Songs should touch us deeply and should speak to us. Does the song lift the roof off the church when you sing?
- 3) **Fresh:** New songs engage people more readily than old songs that have gone stale from over-use. New songs-and old songs with new melodies-are a great gift as we continue to connect the word of God with people's hearts and minds.
- 4) **Relevant:** Keep the rest of the service in mind. Enhance the message of the sermon with a well-chosen song. It's possible to completely wreck an excellent sermon by using inappropriate music. Members of the congregation will often remember and sing the songs after the service, which allows the meaning of the sermon to come alive.
- 5) **Playable:** Songs need to be chosen with people in mind. Make sure songs are singable and playable.

During the month of August we will be conducting a survey of popular songs that you would like to sing during the worship service and will use your choices for an upcoming "Sing Sunday". Please keep in mind not only your personal preferences, but the service as a whole when making your choices.

CHANCEL CHOIR

We will begin meeting at 6:30 on August 24, 2011. If you would like to become a member and have not been a regular attendee, please let me know so I can prepare material for you. If you play an instrument of any kind and would like to become a part of our music this would be a great time to start.

Sue Humphrey, Music Director

Worship Team

Flowers for the Altar-You are invited to purchase flowers to place on the altar table each Sunday.

The cost is \$25.00. If you are interested in ordering flowers, please contact Charlotte Myers or the church office.

Acolytes – If your child would like to be an acolyte for the morning worship service, please call Lynn Bostic at 304-988-2272 in the evenings.

MCC FUND RAISING

It's vacation time, however, the Fund Raising Team is continuing through the summer in its efforts to raise money for the MCC. Grant requests have been written, prospective businesses contacted seeking contributions and events planned for the remainder of the year. Upcoming events will be opportunities for the congregation. We encourage you to get involved and will appreciate your assistance. It will be a lot of fun for all of us. The team's goal for 2011 was \$100,000. Through everyone's efforts, with six months left in the year, we are already very close to having reached that mark. In addition to the ongoing selling of bricks, naming right opportunities, community garden, shopping cards, service auction and change from Heaven, following are planned activities for the next five months.

August 6 pig roast/sing/purse auction.

August 12 and 13 rummage sale

Sept - Oct 10/10 challenge (begin thinking what you can do this year to grow your \$10)

Sept - Dec monthly luncheons/dinners

Sept 10 jazz concert

November make and sell pumpkin rolls

December make and sell rock candy

Through your support the MCC can be completed and used for the many activities the Sissonville Community so badly needs.

Rummage Sale – August 12th & 13th

The United Methodist Women and the Multipurpose Center Fund Raising Team are joining to have the LARGEST rummage sale ever. In order to make this sale the BEST one- we need your help.

1. Sunday August 7th tables will be set up in the new multipurpose center
2. Everyone bring your good used items up to the church multipurpose center Monday August 8th through Wednesday August 10. Please bring when the church is open preferably in the evenings. Do not leave items outside church. **Please note we will NOT ACCEPT any items after Wednesday the 10th.** We will need Thursday to finish pricing and organizing. Items brought in after Wednesday will not be accepted!!
3. Monday –start bringing items from storage- need volunteers and trucks
To help load and unload
4. Need volunteers to help set up and price Monday-Thursday beginning at 6pm or if you want to come up in the mornings when the office is open that would be great too.
5. Collect plastic shopping bags and newspaper to be used for purchased items.
6. Need volunteers to work during the sale- assist customers, keep items organized, assist in checking out, help carry out large items etc. Also volunteers during the first hours of both days to help direct traffic
7. Help with boxing up and cleanup after sale on Saturday.
We'll see you there!
8. **If you have a great need to bring your donated items before the specified time please contact Rod Canterbury, Bruce McClung, Larry Slate or Dave Humphrey to arrange a time to drop off. You will be responsible for bringing to church and helping to unload. We know that for months many of you have been collecting wonderful things for our sale and we greatly appreciate your work and sacrifice of your space.**

Oh, and I almost forget don't forget to bring your friends, your wallet and a truck if you have one- there will be lots of good deals and food for you too!



The United Methodist Women met at the home of Sue McClung on July 12 for their annual picnic. Due to the extremely hot weather the picnic was held inside. If you ever want to eat some delicious summertime food you have to come to the women's picnic! Thank- you Sue for offering your home and hosting the picnic.

The UMW are sewing bags for the UMCOR School Kits. Please see Susie if you did not receive a pattern and wish to help.

Would you like a night of listening to Jazz singer David Wells and all the delicious chocolate you can imagine? The UMW will be sponsoring a night with David Wells on September 10th. Mark your calendar- More information to follow.

There will not be a meeting in August due to the Rummage Sale. See information in newsletter about the rummage and hotdog sale on August 12th & 13th. Volunteer to help –it will be time well spent.

Our next scheduled meeting will be September 6th at 7:00. The program will be lead by Janie Bailey. If you love to read you won't want to miss the meeting. Janie is our Program Resource leader and will be discussing our reading program. Refreshments served by Sue Humphrey.

Every day is a gift from God.

Susie Povick
UMW President

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The men have finished and paid for the storage building thanks to Wayne McKnight, Glen Warner and Dave Humphrey diligent work. There will be a spaghetti dinner after church on July 31st to support the building fund.

SERVICE AUCTION

The service auction is a way that you can help your fellow church member, your neighbor, the building fund, and yourself. Posted on the left side of the bulletin board in the main hall way is a listing of jobs that need to be done. Either they do not have the time or the expertise for the job. This is where you come in. You take one of the postings and contact the individual that posted it, and work out the logistics of the job and a method of payment. This is strictly between you and the person that posted the job. The amount donated is up to you as well.

How does this help Aldersgate? The money that is collected will go to the Aldersgate United Methodist Men (UMM) and they will use it for projects that include the building fund, the Saw Dust Gang, and projects that need to be done around the church that are not necessarily related to the building fund. The Aldersgate UMM have contribute over \$2,000.00 + each year for the building fund, and we will continue to do this.

Your neighbor is welcome to post jobs that need to be done on our board. They must fill out the form and agree by the terms of the service auction.

The nice thing about this is the satisfaction that you get from helping a fellow church member or an individual and in return earning money that will enable the church to grow and be able to offer more services to our members and our community.

If you are a contractor, you can also bid on these project and we recognize that you operate a business. We feel that you should be able to make a profit that is just for you and the individual that posted the job. We would hope that you would contribute a portion of your profit to the Aldersgate UMM.

How can you get involve? You can use the talent and expertise that you have. These talents are far ranging - woodwork, dry wall, framing up a deck /porch/ room, wallpapering, painting, baby sitting, senior care, and yard work. The list goes on and on. The reward will be yours as you see a job completed and the satisfaction that you helped.

On the board you will see postings in white, yellow, and red. White means that it has been posted in the last two weeks, yellow means that it is over two weeks old, and red is over 4 weeks old and needs attention. After the red posting is up two weeks, it will be removed and the individual posting it will be notified that we were unable to complete their request. I will try to contact individuals or our local contractors and see if they can do the job if requested.

The following is taken from the Upper Room, Author John R. Jackson: "Like me, many of us when confronted with a task or asked to be in charge of a project lament that we do not have enough - - enough help, enough money, enough time, or enough talent." GOD says that we do.

Curtis R. Caldwell
Service Auction Coordinator
Aldersgate UMM

Food Pantry

Helpers are needed for all of the following functions:

- Picking up bread on Tuesdays
- Delivering leftover bread to shelters on Friday mornings
- Working on Thursday evening
- Helping with monthly food deliveries from Mountaineer and Huntington Food Banks
- Preparing boxes of food prior to Thursday

Call Judy Stanley at 304-984-1572, Kay Canterbury at 304-984-9301, or Tammy Payne at 304-984-1511.

May God have the Glory!

"There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhearted toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land." Deuteronomy 15:11

Clothing Corner

The clothing corner stills need good used clothing (especially children's clothing). Also, we are still in need of hangers.

Youth Opportunities

It's been a hot summer so we'll cool down with a Swim Party/Back to school bash on Saturday, August 20th at Greg and Betty Jo Payne's, 5PM to 8PM. Please bring a guest and a snack to share. We'll splash the afternoon away and talk about what the youth will be doing this fall. Please let me know by August 14th if you plan to attend. We will need a count to ensure we have enough snacks and drinks.

6PM Sunday night youth group

8/14 – Disc Golf at Cedar Lakes: Meet at the church at 6:00PM. Bring your friends along too. I have some extra discs. Adults – please let Pastor Brad know if you can drive. Youth will need a permission slip.

8/21 – 6PM at church: Caution – you might get wet

8/28 – 6PM at church: End times and eating. Caution – you might find hope.

Family Ministries

Family Ministries assisted with the Dedication Ceremony of the New Family Life Center building and what a beautiful event it turned out to be! We have so much to be thankful for. We are planning to assist with the Pig Roast in August and will be praying for a great turnout-Please tell all your neighbors that this is for the ENTIRE community!!! We are also working on plans for a lock-in to occur sometime right before school starts for our youth. Please remember that Family Ministries is a "TEAM" based committee and we could use more help. Let Dana & Tracy Ferrell know or Pastors Brad & Stephanie if you can assist in any manner.

Love & prayer, Family Ministries

Trustees

Church Security

We have had a couple of incidents of vandalism and at least two break-ins over the last few months.

The Trustees have decided to deploy high-resolution video cameras indoors and outside all over the church campus. These systems will record 24hrs a day. We will install them a few at a time so as to spread out the expense. In the mean time it is important that everyone take extra care to lock up and make sure the existing system is always armed when you leave. If you are the last person to leave the building, make sure all the doors are locked. With all the doors shut, press the 3 key (away). You will not hear any exit beeps. Please note: It is no longer necessary to press the 5 key. We also ask that you continue to lock the gate until we can get these new systems fully deployed.

Also, we are updating our list of who has keys to the buildings. Please stop by the office to fill out a new form. If you have a key but no longer need after hours access, please return the key to the office. If you have a key, please stop by the office and fill out a new form for our records.

It is important that we don't let these problems deter us from our mission and we continue to welcome the community to our facilities. We can only do this with everyone's help and vigilance in keeping everything secure.

Trustees

Crafting Night

On Friday, August 12 beginning at 6:00pm, Aldersgate UMC will host a Crafting night. Bring a snack and drink to share. Because of the rummage sale we will gather in faith village and you can stay an hour or two or you can stay until midnight. Hope you can be there to join us.

New Contact Information

Opa Jones will be moving in early August to Kingsport in North East Tennessee, near his son Glen and Martha Jones.

Opa will be living at an Asbury Group Assisted Living facility named Steadman Hill, owned by the United Methodist Church. Asbury has earned the highest awards for care in Tennessee.

After August 1, please send Opa's mail to this address until he is settled into his new home. His Asbury address and new phone number will be published when it is available.

Opa Jones
c/o Glen Jones
200 Trace Court
Kingsport, TN 37664
Phone (423) 323-4014

Thanks for the friendships Dad has in this faith community and the numerous kindnesses he has received in recent years. Thanks for honoring him this way. He loves all of you.

Glen & Martha plan on bringing Opa back for visits with his church.

Marquee Sign

A new person is needed to take over changing information on the sign at the bottom of the hill. Please contact Pastor Brad 304-282-7658 if you would be willing to do this.

Wednesday, August 17, Meeting Night Schedule

| | | | | |
|------|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5:30 | Trustees (Parlor) | Worship (Music Room) | Prayer Team (Sanctuary) | Lay Leadership (Fellowship Hall) |
| 6:15 | SPRC (Parlor) | Finance (FaithWeaver) | | |
| 7:00 | Administrative Council (Fellowship Hall) | | | |

STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR JUNE

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|--|-------------|---------------------|
| Tithes and Gifts | | \$ 15,828.80 |
| Designated Gifts: | | |
| Building Fund (MMC) | | \$ 8,076.00 |
| Pledges and Gifts | \$ 4,945.00 | |
| Memorial Bricks | \$ 625.00 | |
| Naming Rights | \$ 2,500.00 | |
| Wheelbarrow | \$ 6.00 | |
| Altar Flowers | | \$ 25.00 |
| Food Pantry | | \$ 1,171.00 |
| Hope for Japan 150 | | \$ 110.00 |
| Memorials | | \$ 50.00 |
| Mission Trip - Duncan McClung | | \$ 150.00 |
| Mission Trip - Grace Montgomery | | \$ 75.00 |
| Pastors' Contingency Fund | | \$ 100.00 |
| Refund of Unused Annual Conf. Exp. Allowance | | \$ 84.00 |
| UMCOR | | \$ 100.00 |
| Vacation Bible School Offerings & Gifts | | \$ 165.00 |
| TOTAL DESIGNATED | | \$ 10,106.00 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | | \$ 25,934.80 |

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



BIRTHDAYS

1 Ellie McClung
 3 Jill Anderson
 3 Joanna Brill
 3 Jill Tarter
 4 Angie Gandee
 5 Ardena Taylor
 8 Andrew Holmes
 8 Phyllis Hamilton
 10 Lindsey Holmes
 11 Frances Loftis
 12 Joe Chlidress
 12 Rick Theis

14 Les Hypes
 15 Jessica Childress
 15 Brenda Taylor
 15 Devin Young
 17 Emily DeMarco
 17 Michele Froehner
 18 Brooks Ferrell
 19 Jordan Ashby
 19 Emma Coberly
 19 Harry Lowers, Jr.
 22 Beverly McElroy
 22 Alethea Kister
 22 Jerald Guy
 24 Lana Hay
 27 Diane White
 27 Anthony Skeen
 27 Cody Jones
 28 Gary Payne
 29 Keith Phillips

29 Molly Simonton
 31 Susan Weekley
 31 Eric Coberly

ANNIVERSARIES



1 Steve & Frances Loftis
 2 Gary & Cindy Matheny
 3 Rob & Emily Montgomery
 12 Fred & Jeannine Boothe
 17 Joe & Lynn Long
 20 Jimmy & Donna Beasley
 20 Jim & Gail Waldeck
 22 Jerald & Cathy Guy
 31 Pat & Ardena Taylor

**Aldersgate United
Methodist Church**

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Charleston, WV
25360-0673

PHONE:
(304) 984-1164

E-MAIL:
office@AldersgateWV.org

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

AUGUST 2011

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 11:15 AM

www.AldersgateWV.org

ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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