



# ALDRSGATE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

Today the facilities team was working on the long term plan for adequate space for the ministries of the church. It seems that we do not have enough room for all the ministries that God is blessing us with. We are looking for some creative ways to use our space. A good plan is coming together but I was reminded of Jesus words to the disciples – love one another. This is how people will know that you are my disciples – how we treat each other. Whether it's sharing space in the church or sharing resources to serve the community, Jesus says that our witness as disciples is all about how we love one other.

That's important to remember in the midst of this critical time in the life of Aldersgate. At Administrative Council in September, it appeared as if the church had an available balance for current expenses of minus \$22,000. That was scary. Immediately we began studying our finances very carefully. Because of the building our checking account has seen a lot of action over the past several months. Do you know what we discovered when we took a closer look? We discovered that a \$30,000 entry was made twice. Thanks to our persistent treasurer, the error was found and corrected. And so we are not in fact at a minus \$22,000 for current expenses. Praise God, we have +\$3,712.45. In fact we have over \$39,000 in our checking account, but almost \$36,000 is designated for specific things, like the building fund, food pantry and mission trips. Our finance team works diligently to insure that all designated funds are used for the purpose that they are given.

This is mostly good news. However, because of all this digging, we did discover that our finances need some attention. First of all, giving is up. Already in 2011 this congregation has given more (\$272,016) than the entire year in 2010 (\$266,316). Our giving is up. Thank God for God's blessings and provisions.

But as we looked closer, we realized that even though giving to current expenses is up 6% over the same period from last year, we are actually giving more to designated funds (\$140,727) such as the building fund, food pantry and mission trips, than to current expenses (\$131,288). The result is that our actual expenses have outpaced giving to current expenses by \$15,613. And this trend has been going on for some time. Actual expenses have outpaced giving to current expenses by \$10,666 in 2010 and \$10,740 in 2009. This shortfall is catching up with us and we no longer have enough extra money in current expenses to cover the shortfall.

What does this mean for you and me? First of all, it means that we are a very generous congregation. In fact, the generosity of this congregation is inspiring. What are you and I to do? We can't stop giving to the building fund, because the church has obligations based on our commitments. Currently we pay about \$2,000 to cover the interest of our construction loan. In February that loan will amortize into a mortgage loan with a monthly payment over \$4,000.

As a congregation, as individuals and as families, I am asking all of us to consider how much we give to the current expenses of the church.

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**“ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” Malachi 3:10.**

I am asking all of us to pray and listen for God’s heart about bringing our tithe into the storehouse of God. As I mentioned on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, this is the only area in which God invites us to test God. I am confident of God’s promises, that God will throw open the floodgates of heaven. When that happens, we will not have enough room to store all of God’s blessings. And so the facilities team asks you to pray for more space and for God’s vision of how we can best use the space God has already given to us.

Pastors Brad and Stephanie

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT – AUGUST 2011**

<b>Tithes and Gifts</b>		\$ 13,522.00
<b>Designated Gifts:</b>		
Building Fund (MMC)		\$ 22,560.11
Pledges and Gifts	\$ 3,327.00	
Garden	\$ 49.00	
Gospel Sing Offering	\$ 140.50	
Memorial Bricks	\$ 125.00	
Naming Rights	\$ 13,000.00	
Pig Roast	\$ 1,639.00	
Purse Auction	\$ 1,044.25	
Refund	\$ 303.20	
Rummage Sale	\$ 1,946.05	
Scrap Metal Sale	\$ 149.11	
Services Auction	\$ 100.00	
Spaghetti Dinner	\$ 729.00	
Wheelbarrow	\$ 8.00	
Backpack of Love		\$ 120.00
Food Pantry		\$ 908.68
Pastors' Contingency Fund		\$ 100.00
UMCOR - School Kits		\$ 50.00
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED</b>		\$ 23,738.79
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		\$ 37,260.79



The United Methodist Women hosted the Chocolate Jazz Concert with David Wells on September 10<sup>th</sup> by providing chocolate desserts of every kind imaginable including a chocolate fountain. There may have been a few of us who lost some sleep that night between the chocolate and coffee but it was well worth it. Proceeds will go to the MCC Building Fund.

Did you know that the Aldersgate UMW has a reading program? Janie Bailey, who holds the office of Program Resources, spoke to us about our reading program during our meeting in September. We have some wonderful books that can be checked out. Talk to Janie if you have any questions. Now I understand why the kids love for Mrs. Bailey to read- she is wonderful!

Remember to collect your Campbell's Soup labels. There is a soup can in the hallway where you can leave them. We send them to our local CDOM (Community Development Outreach Ministries). They help purchase much needed items for the programs.

### **Upcoming**

Annual Meeting October 21-22 at Canaan Valley Resort- if anyone is interested in attending please contact Susie Povick

Mark your calendars-Annual Italian Feast with Bazaar on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Any crafts or baked goods would be greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting will be October 4<sup>th</sup> and Judy Stanley will have the program. Hope to see everyone there!

Submitted by: Susie Povick, President

## **Food Pantry**

***Helpers are needed for all of the following functions:***

Picking up bread on Tuesdays – Working on Thursday evening

Delivering leftover bread to shelters on Friday mornings

Helping with monthly food deliveries from Mountaineer and Huntington Food Banks

Preparing boxes of food prior to Thursday

Aldersgate is to furnish green beans, peas and mixed vegetables. PLEASE NO CORN

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*



## Silver Ring Thing

Silver Ring Thing Presents "IMAGE IS EVERYTHING" This event is about guys, girls, dating, waiting, love, second chances and the best choices. This is a free event at Sissonville High School on Saturday, October 29 from 6:30pm – 9:00pm. This live event for high school and middle school includes comedy, drama, music, videos and testimonies. Doors open at 5:45pm and there is parents session in addition to the youth event that begins at 6:30pm. Bring \$20 for the ring. Check out this event on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. [Register@silverringthing.com](mailto:Register@silverringthing.com)

Volunteers for the event are also needed for set up in the morning of the event and registration and assistance during the event. To volunteer, please contact the church office.



# Trunk or Treat Saturday October 22, 2011

## The Food Ministry – Sharing God's Love by Providing Meals

The purpose of our Food Ministry is to provide a meal to persons in our community. Referrals for meals come through many sources. Sometimes meals are requested by persons in the church, by pastors, by neighbors who see that someone has a need. The Food Ministry is made up of teams that have up to seven members. There is flexibility in how we offer meals. With teams of this size however, it allows us to have meals, if requested, delivered as much as each day during the work week. This could change and as of now we provide one meal each weekend to a family that are members of our church.

We need 8 new members for our teams and we welcome you into this ministry. When needed your team leader will call you with a meal request and all of the information of dietary needs and location for delivery will be shared with you at that time. We ask that you either prepare or purchase a meal and do a visit with them when you deliver the meal if they are able to receive visitors. With several teams, our experience is that each team is called on to help only once every six months. This is a twice a year commitment that means so much to those who give and receive.

## Baby Shower



You are invited to a Baby Shower for Candice Slate  
October 23, 2011 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm  
at Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
Candice is registered at babiesRus and Target  
Please RSVP to Mia Beckett at 984-2467

**From the MCC Fund Raising Team.....**Thanks to everyone's help, just over \$149,000 has been raised. Chocolate Jazz was the latest event and was a huge success....thank you.

**Upcoming events**

October 2, barbecue sandwiches and containers of barbecue meat will be sold. Also this day, an anonymous donor will match all contributions toward score boards for the MCC, (up to \$2,500). This will be an opportunity for all of us to give and have our gift doubled.

October 9, 10/10 will kick off

Thank you for your continued support. Together we can complete the MCC, making it functional for the many purposes it was planned for.

**FREE ! FREE! FREE !**



Everyone likes to get something for FREE! You can donate to the AUMC – MCC for FREE by participating in the Shopping Card Program (Script Cards). All you need to do is purchase a shopping card from the fundraising team for those businesses where you shop, whether it is Sam’s, Lowes, Home Depot, Sears, Ace Hardware, Wendy’s, Subway, Amazon , etc. It is money that you would normally spend anyway and the MCC receives a predetermined percentage from each Company through the Great Lakes Script Center . The businesses actually help pay for the MCC. Without using the cards, the Companies get all of the purchase price. On top of the FREE giving, at the end of the year, you can deduct the donated percentage on your taxes if you itemize deductions. The software program can generate a report by individual of how much was donated to the MCC.

Some cards are available for instant download and some are able to be reloaded. A new feature from the Script Center is the ability to email Gift certificates.

I personally have used the convenient Shopping Cards for over a year now on a regular basis without any issues. Most stores readily recognize them and gladly accept them. I try to keep a SHARPIE on hand and write the remaining amount on the front of the cards. (Home Depot usually does that for you). They are also great to have on hand for impromptu thank you’s and for gift giving. I strongly suggest that you only purchase cards for businesses that you visit regularly and that you estimate low on card purchase. For example, if you would use \$50 at Lowes only purchase \$40 and make up the difference.

Paper order forms are available outside the Church offices or I can email you one. Orders are taken on Sundays and the cards delivered the next Sunday (or sooner if needed). Normally, payment is required when placing the order, but if needed can be paid for on delivery. If you have any questions or need any help on ordering, please contact me on [skyslate@frontier.com](mailto:skyslate@frontier.com) or on my cell 304-546-2661.

Larry Slate

**Once a Month Meeting Night – Monday, October 17**

5:30	Trustees (Parlor)	Worship (Music Room)	Prayer Team (Sanctuary)	Lay Leadership (Pastor’s Office)
6:15	SPRC (Parlor)	Finance Team (FaithWeaver)		
7:00	Administrative Council (Music Room)			

## **Multipurpose Community Center**

The basketball goals have been ordered and are scheduled for installation on October 3. Soon after that is completed, the floor will be sanded and refinished. Included in this work is the installation of floor sleeves for a volleyball net, floor markings for a volleyball court and floor markings for a regulation size Middle School basketball court. This work was made possible by a generous donation from an anonymous benefactor.



Once refinished, the wood will appear much lighter in color, due to removal of the old oil based finish and use of a more durable finish available today. A new AUMC – MCC logo will be used at Center Court.

The basketball floor layout will allow for the eventual construction of a 12 ft deep room at the parking lot end. It is planned for use as a storage room for chairs and tables and also as a backstage for a planned portable stage.

Some restroom fixtures and ceramic tile for the restroom floors have been purchased from a WV State Storehouse Surplus Store at a very good price. As funding becomes available, we hope to complete the restroom and kitchen areas as soon as possible.

## **Pocatalico Parish Cooperative Ministry**

Wonderful ministries continue to grow and touch the lives of many as we join together with other United Methodist Churches in our parish.

Coming up in October, the parish will again have a three day revival/renewal service surrounding our annual accountability meeting with the district superintendent, Dr. Rev. Ed Grant. The services will be held at Aldersgate UMC on October 18, 19 and 20. The evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> will also be our charge conference meeting held in conjunction with all the churches of the parish. Each evening we will begin at 7pm.

### ***Charge Conference for Aldersgate UMC will be October 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00pm***

The ministry of the Backpacks of Love is beginning for another year. This ministry provides a bag of food that does not need to be prepared for children who qualify for free or reduced lunches in our local schools. This is food for the weekend and is distributed to children discreetly and helps children have nourishing food and snacks throughout the weekend. We meet at Humphrey UMC every other Thursday to prepare two weeks of food bags. October packing dates are, October 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. You can help this ministry by volunteering to shop for food, packing food, or distributing food to schools. Commitment cards to sponsor a child for a school year will soon be made available so that you can help a child in our community receive the food they need.

The Pocatalico parish consists of the following United Methodist Churches: Aldersgate UMC, Baber-Agee UMC, Humphrey's UMC, Fisher's Chapel UMC and Point Pleasant UMC.



It's time again to gather items to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child. These boxes are then distributed throughout the world to show God's love in a tangible way.

Did you know that 8 MILLION CHILDREN received shoe boxes last year and that OVER 130 COUNTRIES have received shoe boxes since 1993? Last year, the boxes packed here at Aldersgate United Methodist church were delivered to the following countries: Angola, Burkina Faso, Georgia and Zambia.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In addition to the gift items, we need containers. Instead of packing traditional shoe boxes, we have been packing plastic containers shoe box size. Using plastic containers aid in transportation and the container can be used after the gift is given for any family needs. These containers are also clear and help in the customs process as they are shipped to other countries. These can be purchased at Target, Wal-Mart and Dollar Stores. Money donations to Operation Christmas Child will be used first to purchase these containers and then will be used to supplement in gift areas.

We will update you regularly through bulletin announcements and announcements on the screen about what we have collected so that you can plan your donations.

## **GIFT IDEAS for Operation Christmas Child**

### **TOYS**

small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

### **HYGIENE ITEMS**

toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

### **OTHER**

Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

### **A PERSONAL NOTE**

In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

### **DO NOT INCLUDE:**

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

## Aldersgate United Methodist Church Survey

The administrative council would like your input. You may complete this survey in two different ways. You can go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TB5HCL5> and complete the survey online. You can also, complete this written survey and return to the church office before Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

1. What do you like most about our worship services?

2. What changes would most improve our worship service?

3. How would you rate these aspects of worship?

dissatisfied                      could be improved                      satisfied                      extremely satisfied

Music

Preaching

Visuals

Friendliness

Other (please specify)

4. What do you like most about the music in our worship services?

5. What changes would most improve the music in our worship services?

6. What changes would most improve our Sunday School?
- a. Do you attend Sunday School \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Topics? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Time/Location? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Other \_\_\_\_\_

7. Where do you see our church in three to five years?

8. How do you PRIMARILY get information about church events? (check ONE)

- a. Newsletter
- b. Bulletin
- c. On-Screen Slides before Worship Service
- d. Email/Facebook

9. To your knowledge, what information can you access about our church on the internet(check all that apply)

- a. Address, phone number, directions
- b. Worship service times
- c. Calendar
- d. Fundraising Events
- e. Newsletter
- f. Outreach Opportunities

10. Our mission is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, equipping people for ministry and meeting the spiritual and community needs of our area. How are we doing?

a. What suggestions do you have to increase our outreach to the community

b. How are you being equipped for Ministry?

c. Describe how Aldersgate UMC is effectively ministering to the community

d. Other