



# THE Aldersgate Experience

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# THE Aldersgate Experience

The Aldersgate Experience is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The submission date for the 2010 Second Quarter issue is May 14.

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## The Seven Last Words: Lenten Sermon Series

While Good Friday is a holy day that figures prominently on the liturgical calendar and is crucial to the Christian story, it remains a day that few Christians observe. The sad result is that many believers today miss out on the riches - musical, artistic and theological - that the Christian tradition has produced as a response to Jesus' last day. Our Lenten sermon series has followed the Seven Last Words of Jesus, Christ's final utterances before he breathes his last. The seven last words are not single words but seven statements which are pregnant with meaning and rife scriptural resonance.

The late Father Richard John Neuhaus referred to Good Friday as 'the spiritual architecture of Christian existence' and St. Augustine called it the 'axis mundi,' the core around which all of creation depends. For both Neuhaus and Augustine, Jesus' Cross is the place at which Christians encounter meaning to words like justice, suffering, sin, hope and redemption.

The Cross is where we confront the specter of death in all our lives, the fissures in our own souls and the persistence of God's love for us. As such the Cross is a mystery we must avoid setting aside for only one day a year. It is a mystery we should explore every day as we seek to locate within it the mystery and meaning of our own lives. This Lent we will spend seven weeks with Jesus at his end, but we hope that by doing so it will mark a new beginning for you.

## Holy Week at Aldersgate

**Holy Week Meditation Room and Labyrinth in Founders Hall,**  
March 27 - April 4, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

The Youth are responsible this year for setting up this self-guided journey of meditation with readings, scents, and other interactive elements. Instructions will be provided at each station.

**Palm Sunday Services,** March 28, at 8:30, 9:45, & 11:15 a.m.

**Holy Thursday Service,** April 1 at 7 p.m.

**Good Friday Service,** April 2 at 7 p.m. including  
*A Service Of Darkness* by Dale Wood, seven choral meditations on the last words of Christ.

Guards will stand at the tomb in the front yard on the Friday afternoon and Saturday before Easter.

**Easter Vigil Saturday Service,** April 3 at 5:30 p.m.

## EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

**Sunrise Service** at 7 a.m. on the Aldersgate Lawn with Communion

**Easter Sunday Services** in the Sanctuary at 8:30, 9:45, & 11:15 a.m. with Communion

No Sunday School, but the nursery and nursing room, rooms 123 & 122, will be available.

# Serving Christ While Serving Others

## Hypothermia Center

Again this winter, Aldersgate participated in running the Hypothermia Center at Rising Hope. The center runs from December 1 to March 31 with the support of several local churches. The center holds 25 guests that would otherwise be sleeping on the street.

Aldersgate took the first session of 2 months with 23 people providing dinners on Tuesday nights. We also provided dinner on Sunday nights in January to help a smaller church. Nine families provided sack breakfasts. Thirty-six individuals spent the night with some volunteers actually spending 2 nights.

Clothing and toiletry contributions gathered in the fall in the "green bags" were stored at the church for this winter program. On at least five occasions, new socks filled with toiletries (all donated by the Aldersgate congregation) were given to the guests. Other clothing given out included coats, hats, gloves and scarves.



## Haiti Disaster Relief

The Aldersgate congregation also answered the call when disaster struck in Haiti. Implementing our "green bag" collection system that was already in place from the fall, Aldersgate was able to move quickly. Within just one week, Aldersgate assembled and delivered well over 600 Health Kits to Annandale UMC in support of UMCOR's Haiti Relief effort.

This originally was a project within Aldersgate's United Methodist Women that started on January 25. Then, UMW members Jane Gandee, Laurie Wood, Karen Miller, Carolyn Little, Marylee Seesholtz, and Julie Pfister quickly organized a church-wide effort that manifested in the rapid, robust response. They were assisted by Ed Little, Mark and Elizabeth Gunggoll, and Greg Gandee. Our 600+ Health Kits were successfully delivered to Annandale despite the snowy winter weather conditions.

Annandale UMC collected over 9100 kits from our District that they then took to Fredericksburg for further shipment to Richmond. From Richmond, the Health Kits from the Virginia Conference were shipped to an UMCOR warehouse in Louisiana for shipment to Haiti. By Saturday, January 30, UMCOR had already shipped over 100,000 Health Kits to Haiti.

The Aldersgate family also gave generously when UMCOR requested financial contributions for the Haiti relief effort giving a total of \$17,145.



# Volunteer Spotlight

Steve Jackson and Sarah Lynn Mertins

By Christy O'Farrell

Leading sixth through eighth graders through Confirmation class is an important part of preparing youth to reaffirm their commitment to Christ, and Aldersgate is fortunate to have the right volunteer team for the job - Sarah Lynn Mertins and Steve Jackson.

As volunteers, Mertins and Jackson spend untold hours preparing to teach, teaching, and talking or traveling with the 40 or so kids during the year's confirmation class. For five years now, they have agreed to teach confirmation because they love seeing the transformation that occurs in the kids.

"I love it," said Jackson, who is an Air Force lieutenant colonel and pilot. "It's something their parents start, and they finish." By the end of class, the kids realize they are old enough now to profess their Christian faith and respond to God's grace. They become more mature and are not as shy to talk about God, Jackson said.

Jackson and Mertins have been putting in even more time than usual because Aldersgate currently does not have a youth director. Mertins started helping with the confirmation class when her youngest daughter, Laura Paige, now a sophomore in high school, was going through it. Jackson's son, Sam, went through the class the same year.



Mertins, who also teaches 3-year-olds at Aldersgate Day School, has attended Aldersgate just about all her life, since 1964. Her mother is an active member and she and husband, JT, were married here. Mertins' three children, now high school and college age, were baptized at Aldersgate.

"I want kids to feel God's presence like I feel it," Mertins said. "If I can give them a little taste of that, it gives me satisfaction." At the same time, Mertins learns from the kids in confirmation class, she said, and is impressed by how much they know. "Our hope when they walk away from this is that they have a nice foundation," she said. "It's a nice little community that we're fostering and building on."



Jackson, his wife Tracy and their three children, commute to Aldersgate from Waldorf, Md. Jackson's family began attending Aldersgate with his mother and brother's family when they moved to the area in 1999 and saw no reason to change to a church closer to home because they love Aldersgate. Jackson wanted to give back to the church, but his flying schedule and distance from the church limit his ability to commit. Jackson flies the vice president, First Lady and members of Congress. That's why a Sunday morning class works well for him because he's there anyway as often as possible.

"We begin each year telling the kids that they are here to start their personal relationship with God," Jackson said. "It's a blessing to watch these kids develop and learn throughout the year. I get to help them discover their faith."

"One of my main goals for confirmation is for the youth to interact with adult Christians who are accessible and open to them and whose faith is genuine," Rev. Jason Micheli said. "On those counts, I can think of no better people than Steve and Sarah Lynn."

***This year's Confirmation class will be received into the church on the weekend of May 15 & 16, 2010.***

# From Hero Headquarters to Egypt, VBS Provides Fun for All!

By Heather Evans



Calling all children age 3 through 6th grade: Aldersgate is proud to be the host of two fun-filled Christian Summer Vacation Bible School programs!

## June Evening VBS

We will kick off the fun with Hero Headquarters, where kids join forces with God! This evening VBS program will be June 27 - July 1 from 6-8 p.m. The week-long event will celebrate Jesus being the greatest super hero of all. So get ready to put on your capes and fly with us as we learn about amazing bible heroes, make power projects, and recharge on super snacks. Ali Theriot has volunteered to be the Director for our evening program!

## August Daytime VBS

Our daytime VBS program takes us to Egypt, on Joseph's journey from prison to palace. We begin on August 9 and travel through August 13, everyday from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Children will be immersed in bible-times culture, as we step back in time to experience new traditions, taste new food, play new games, and learn from Joseph that God never leaves us alone through life's trials and triumphs! Each day will be a new and exciting lesson.

Day 1 - God gives us hope

Day 2 - God gives us special abilities

Day 3 - God gives us wisdom

Day 4 - God gives us forgiveness

Day 5 - God gives us a family

## Great Volunteer Opportunities Available

It takes a lot of volunteers to make a great VBS, so we prayerfully ask you to consider giving of your time and talents to Aldersgate's precious children. Please remember all volunteers are assured a spot for their child(ren) in Vacation Bible School. Volunteers will also have the services of the church nursery available to them during this time for any of their children who are too young to participate in the program.



Opportunities available within both VBS programs unless noted otherwise:

## Vacation Bible School Director (Daytime Program) -

This person will work in conjunction with the Director of Children's Ministries and direct the Daytime VBS Program.

**Decorating Team Leader** - Lead a team of volunteers to transform Aldersgate. The program provides tons of great ideas for creating a new and exciting environment here.

**Lead and Assistant Teachers** - Be one of our Teachers or Assistants and lead a class of children through fun-filled rotation of activities (i.e. crafts, snack, recreation, storytelling and music assembly). Teachers and Assistants will also conduct a reflection time with the children to reinforce the day's message. Teachers and assistants are needed for ages 3 years old through 6th grade.

**Recreation Leader** - Lead the kids in recreation. All the games and activities reinforce the day's message. The program has multiple activity ideas to choose from each day.

**Snack Leader** - You will be in charge of preparing a daily snack and organizing a small team to help assist in handing it out. The program has lots of great snack ideas that relate to the day's message.

**Bible Storyteller** - Direct a group of actors to present the day's Bible story in a fun drama for the children. The program contains terrific scripts for each day that are all very interactive with the audience.

To find out more about any of our volunteer opportunities please contact Heather Evans, Director of Children's Ministries, at 703-765-6555 ext. 616 or h.evans@aldersgate.net.

Please look for online registration starting in April to sign your kids up for these exciting programs.

# Working to Make Alders

At its meeting on February 23, 2010, the Church Council voted to hire the firm, James D. Klote & Associates, Inc., to conduct a feasibility study this spring on whether Aldersgate can become debt free within 5 years. The \$4.3 million Shepherd Hall debt includes the building mortgage (\$3.3 million), bonds (\$686,000), and the HVAC system for the sanctuary (\$315,000).

## *Some Background on the Financial Situation*

The most immediate concern of the Finance Committee is the redemption of bonds sold to congregation members in 2002 - 2004 to fund initial building costs for Shepherd Hall. Between 2012 and 2014, \$686,000 is needed for bond redemption. This is over and beyond monthly payments on the Shepherd Hall debt.

## **Commitment Campaign Results**

Our commitment campaign for 2010 did extremely well despite the economy. In terms of dollars, we have exceeded last year's total by \$39,000, even given the tough economic times. The church received:

- 532 Commitment Cards for Service
- 389 Financial Pledges
- 54 new families or individuals turned in commitment cards
- 152 families increased their financial commitment from what they gave in 2009

The total in financial pledges is **\$1,506,118** (vs. \$1,466,627 in total for 2009). If you have not yet pledged, we still want to hear from you - so please **"Be Part of It!"** If you need a pledge card you can get one at [www.aldersgate.net](http://www.aldersgate.net) or at the church office.

In 2008, in an effort to create an equitable lottery system for redeeming the bonds, all of the outstanding bonds were reissued into \$1,000 increments. The church was able to redeem some of the bonds and, to date \$183,000 of the original \$884,000 debt has been redeemed. In addition, some bond holders chose to donate their bonds to the church (\$15,000).

The commitment campaign in the fall was very successful in raising pledges to cover the church's operating costs for 2010. And, while the pledges toward the Shepherd Hall mortgage were good, they fell short of what is needed to fulfill the looming bond redemption obligation. The Finance Committee continually has considered options for raising the required funds to redeem the bonds, since contributions over the past few years have not been at a level needed to build up this fund.

One of the goals in the church's 2006 Joel Committee Report is to work toward making the church debt free. Leadership does not want to leave this burden for the next generation of members in the church. Aldersgate spends \$440,000 a year on servicing our debt. If we could pay off that debt, we could use that \$440,000 a year on other more important ministry priorities.

Therefore, renegotiating the loan and including the bond obligation with current debt was something the Finance Committee did not want to do. Refinancing the mortgage to include the bond debt (if we can get an interest rate better than the current 6.75%) would still leave the church with the Shepherd Hall principal and interest to pay for many, many more years. These options would only enlarge or extend the church's indebtedness.

The Finance Committee met in late 2009 and faced a difficult realization. Even with the relative success of the commitment campaigns over the past few years, the church still has not raised enough money to cover upcoming bond redemption costs, much less to even begin to retire the debt. While things are improving, fifty percent of Aldersgate congregation members did not make any financial commitments to the church for 2010. (In 2009, sixty-five percent made no financial contribution to the church.)

A major financial commitment campaign for debt retirement is inevitable. However, in the wake of the most successful commitment campaigns ever run at the church, the committee was at a loss as to how the church could better tackle this yet-to-be-met building debt. They realized that running another campaign using the same techniques was not likely to yield new money. This would result in more campaigns being needed in succeeding years.

## *An Outside Consultant is Considered*

The Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church has hired a faith-based fund raising firm to assist them in raising capital to build new churches in the state. Rev. Dennis Perry contacted the firm, James D. Klote & Associates, and invited them to meet with the Finance Committee and present ways in which they might be able to help Aldersgate. Mr. Klote was confident that his firm can work with leaders within our church to create a campaign that could result in the church being debt-free within 5 years.

# Aldersgate a Debt-Free Church

Other churches that have worked with the firm were contacted. They reported positive results and highly recommended Klote & Associates.

The Finance Committee voted to propose to the Church Council that this firm be contracted to work with Aldersgate this year. At the February 23rd meeting, the Church Council and several concerned congregation members asked questions and discussed the proposal. The cost associated with bringing in outside assistance was a primary concern.

Years ago, Aldersgate did hire another consultant. However, as Steve Larkin, chair of the Finance Committee notes, "while Klote seems like a lot of money compared to consultants that we have used in the past, Klote actually is offering significantly more support than any consultant has given us in the past."

The breakdown for costs of hiring this firm are as follows:

- Initial retainer: \$5,000
- Feasibility study/meetings with congregation members (includes coordination by an onsite Klote & Associates representative): \$5,000/week for 4 weeks
- Campaign management - if after the feasibility study, the council decides to continue (includes a Klote & Associates representative onsite who will train and manage volunteers) \$7,000/week for 20 weeks

The Finance Committee calculated that if this campaign is successful, the savings in interest we would have paid over the course of the loan would save Aldersgate approximately \$3 million.



## ***How This Would Work***

During the feasibility study, the firm will assess whether or not Aldersgate is ready for a campaign at the level needed to retire the \$4.3 million debt. Everyone in the church will be invited to participate in one of many meetings that will be conducted over that month. No one will be asked for money at that time. These are informational meetings in which the consultant learns more about our congregation and the church. It is with this information that a unique commitment campaign is designed for Aldersgate.

Volunteers from the congregation are then trained to effectively talk with other congregation members about making multi-year commitments toward retiring the church debt. The Klote & Associates consultant will work onsite in an office at Aldersgate during this entire period.

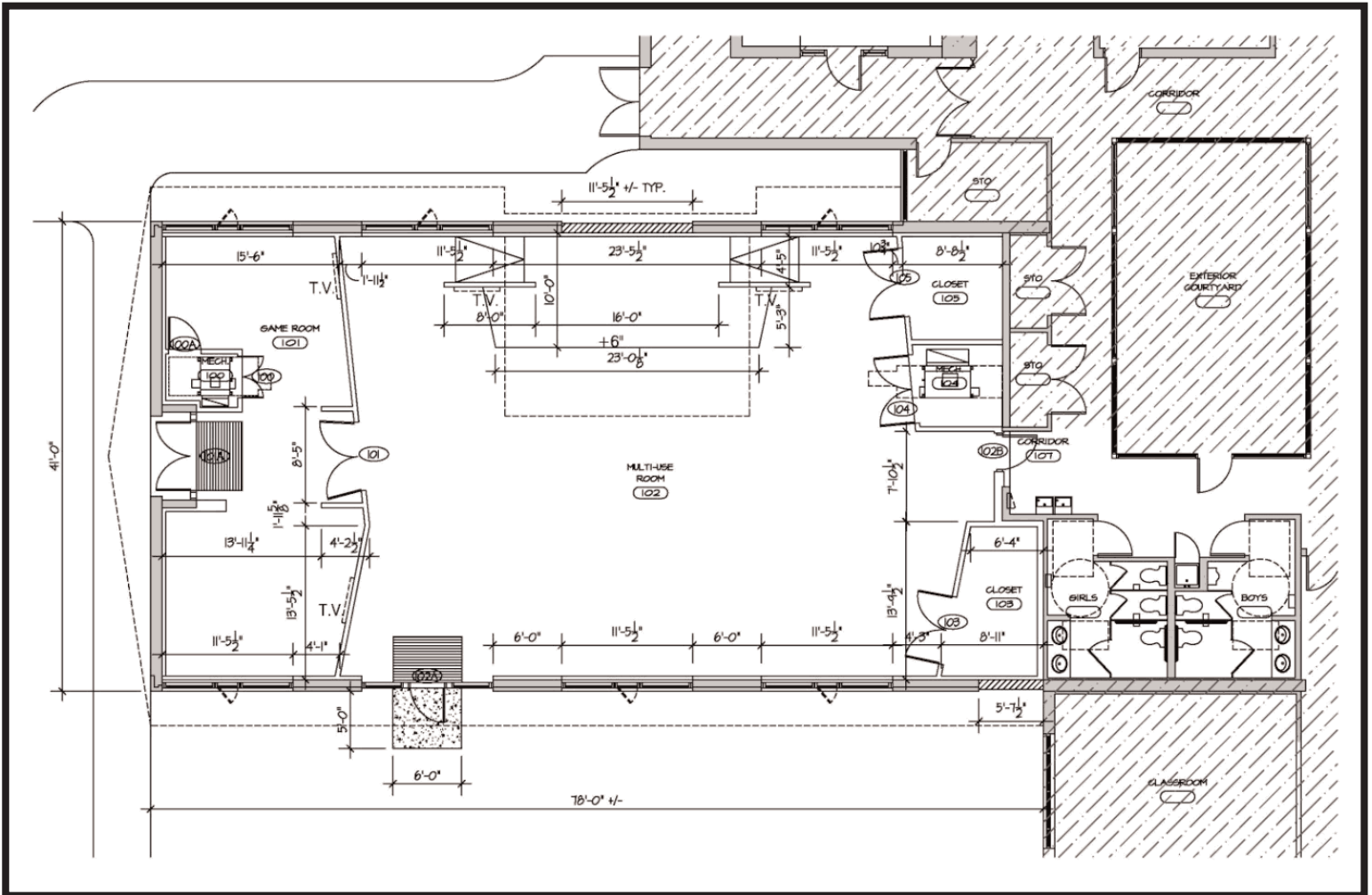
The Church Council voted to proceed, with the caveat that the council would meet at the end of the feasibility period to assess whether or not to continue having the firm manage the fall commitment campaign. The church can discontinue working with Klote & Associates at any point in the process, paying only those fees already incurred.

"What we are doing is reaching out past the fifty percent of the congregation that is already supporting the church to a sizeable number of potential contributors that we have not been able to reach either on our own or through other consultants," said Steve Larkin. "The point of the campaign is not to 'manage' our debt but to eliminate it."

As long as we have this debt, the church will struggle with finances. By eliminating our debt, we are free to expand the programs we have to better spread the good news of Christ and serve our community. This is what Christ calls us to do.

# Youth Wing To Become Guback Center

By Terry Williams



This summer, the old west wing of the church that supports the youth program will be renovated to better accommodate our growing junior and senior high youth program. The renovation is made possible entirely through the generous financial gift from Steve and Renie Guback, and will transform the small rooms and narrow corridor into one large multipurpose room (that includes a low-rise stage) of 1,962 square feet, and a separate game area of 530 square feet.

The new Steve and Renie Guback Center will provide updated space large enough for the youth group to assemble and worship together, as well as support many of the other large programs held at the church.

The room will hold up to 100 people, twice the size of the largest classroom in Shepherd Hall.

It will feature a raised roofline and windows high over the stage for optimizing natural daylight into the large open room. Existing single-pane metal frame windows will be replaced with double pane thermal windows for energy conservation, and new air handling units connected into the church's central system will provide efficient heating and cooling.

Room finishes will be sustainable, and paints will have low VOC content for improved air quality. The room will be equipped with multi-media capability, and a new exit into the adjacent playground space.

Weather and county approvals will have an impact; however, renovations are scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

## Many Hands to Answer Call to Mission

By Jason Micheli

This past fall, as a part of our study of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, we learned how hands-on mission work is crucial to a church's vitality and growth.

Clearly this was a message that Aldersgate has received and responded to, for this coming summer Aldersgate will send out over 100 people on mission teams. The roster keeps growing and the total number is already a new high for the church.

This winter, we sent a small team to Cambodia. Their letters back to the congregation are posted on the church website.

In June and July three Aldersgate teams, totaling approximately 45 Junior High Youth and Adults, will serve in impoverished regions of the Shenandoah Valley with Jeremiah Project.

In late July, 45 Senior High youth will be sent to the Highlands of Guatemala to construct wood-burning stoves for rural Mayan women. The stoves significantly reduce respiratory disease caused by cooking over open-pit fires in these village homes.

In addition to these large teams, a college-aged team and adult teams are being formed to serve in Guatemala in July and August. These teams will be eating and sleeping in the village homes where they serve. In late August, Aldersgate member Bob Oelschlager, will lead a multi-church team to Guatemala. His team will focus on teaching textile skills to Mayan women's cooperatives.

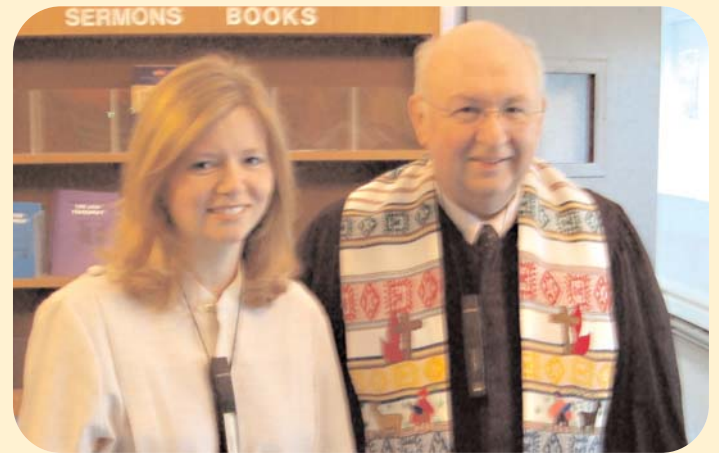
Plans are also being made to develop a first-aid and midwife training program and mission team to serve in Guatemala, possibly in August as well.

This spring Bob Oelschlager will teach a series of Spanish lessons designed to prepare individuals to serve on mission teams in Guatemala. For more information on this class or any of the mission offerings of the church, contact Jason Micheli at [j.micheli@aldersgate.net](mailto:j.micheli@aldersgate.net)

## A Unique Opportunity For Daughter and Dad

At the end of December, Leah Frye was given the opportunity to again preach during worship at Aldersgate. Leah works closely with our pastors as Aldersgate's congregational care coordinator and Saturday worship assistant. Her father is Myron Simmons, pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church in Norfolk, VA.

**Leah:** My Dad has always been supportive of my call to ministry. He is a member of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and pastors at Epworth UMC in Norfolk, VA. He decided to take the weekend after Christmas off to be here to support my preaching. Little did he know that Aldersgate would put him to work and his support would be by my side instead of from the pews!



**Rev. Simmons:** Serving as my daughter Leah's liturgist was a real privilege on the last Sunday of 2009. Thank you for the opportunity of working with her on that special day. I knew she was going to be speaking that day and made arrangements to come to Aldersgate to hear her. It came as a great surprise when she called asking me to serve in that role.

**Leah:** It was a wonderful feeling to share the altar area with my Dad, to get the "thumbs up" after the sermon, and to wear the preaching robe that he and my Mom gave me for Christmas. It was a joy to have them both here to see me preach in it and it was a tremendous comfort and pleasure to have my Dad as the liturgist that day.

**Rev. Simmons:** Little did I dream of such a day when she was born on Easter Sunday a few short years ago. Those of you who know and or heard her know I was proud of her as an accomplished individual, mother, and witness to the Word of God.

# Children's Theater Succeeds Beyond Sold Out Performances

By Corey Latta

This January, ACCT presented *Mulan Jr.* with a cast of nearly 50 children between the ages of 8 and 18.

The show was produced by Aldersgate members Kacie Greenwood and Kim Galvan, stage managed by Corey Latta, and directed and choreographed by Kristina Friedgen. Several Aldersgate members made up the rest of the crew for this show, including Caroline Austin, Rachel Lau, Hannah Lau, Pam O'Meara, Jon Poole, Lori Rulapaugh, Sandra Edens, and Stuart Travis.

The production was a whopping Disney-sized success, drawing audiences from all over the area, and selling out for the majority of the performances. However, *Mulan* cast, parents, and crew were not satisfied to just put on a good production.

Shortly before the show opened, devastating earthquakes hit Haiti, and everyone involved with the production decided to step up to the plate and do what they could to give back. Over the show's 8 performance run, they asked the audience to look deep into their hearts and donate just a couple dollars to be sent through UMCOR and Aldersgate to help those suffering in Haiti.

Cast members took turns standing by doors to collect the money, and the audience members dug deeper than we ever imagined. Through their generosity, and the added generosity of some others involved in the production, a total of \$2,500 was raised.

This was truly a beautiful contribution on behalf of the cast and crew, and all of those who came to see the production. In the words of this fantastic production, the cast, crew, and audiences of *Mulan* truly "brought honor to us all."



# Garden Party - Past and Present

*UMW Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Fashion Show*

By Jane Smith

The United Methodist Women cordially invite you, your friends, and your neighbors to join us for a very special Garden Party in a transformed Wesley Hall on Saturday, April 10. For the 25th anniversary of our spring fashion show and luncheon, we will present a program which will take you "back in time" in the world of fashion.

Our program this year will be presented by Lauri Ploch, an independent CAbi consultant who will show us vintage clothing in addition to the latest fashions. Have you ever thought of blending the old with the new? Lauri will guide us in doing just that so don't be too quick to get rid of those "outdated" clothes!

Fashion, food, and fun (with some shopping added) will be the order of the day. The event will begin at 10 a.m. with selected vendors selling items such as jewelry, scarves, stuffed toys, handbags, and other quality merchandise. At this time, you may also peruse and make your bids on the offerings at the silent auction.

The delicious salad luncheon will be served at 11:15 a.m. accompanied by special music and followed by the unique fashion show. Awarding of door prizes will complete your fun-filled day.

The proceeds from our Garden Party will benefit United Community Ministries and Rising Hope UMC here in our own community.

The tickets are \$20 per person. They will be available after the Sunday services each weekend in March. You may also purchase tickets from Stefanie Owens at the church reception desk (by check payable to Aldersgate UMW) at any time after March 14. We regret that no childcare will be available for this event.

We look forward to spending the day with each of you on April 10. Y'all come!

# Announcements



## ALDRSGATE DAY SCHOOL SPRING CONSIGNMENT SALE!

Merchandise Drop Off Dates:

**Monday, April 12th,**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Tuesday, April 13th,**

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Shopping Dates:

• **Wednesday, April 14th,**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm,

and 5:00 - 7:00 pm

• **Thursday, April 15th,**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

• **Friday, April 16th,**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Contacts:

To consign, please contact Ali Theriot at [ali.theriot@cox.net](mailto:ali.theriot@cox.net) or call the Day School at 703-768-8351.

\* Clothing \* Bikes \* Cribs \* Toys \* Shoes \*  
Furniture \* Strollers  
**All donations welcome.**

## SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE SAVE THE DATES!

This summer, Aldersgate continues its successful Scholar-in-Residence program by inviting popular author and speaker Brian McLaren to join us June 19-21.

Brian McLaren is a frequent guest on television, radio, and news media programs. He has appeared on many broadcasts including Larry King Live, Religion and Ethics Newsweekly, and Nightline. His work has also been covered in Time (where he was listed as one of Americas 25 most influential evangelicals), Christianity Today, Christian Century, the Washington Post, and many other print media.

Brian is the founding pastor of Cedar Ridge Community Church in Maryland, and is recognized around the world as a leader of the 'Emergent Movement.'

Brian has authored nearly twenty books and his latest work, A New Kind of Christianity, was just published in February.

## SIGN UP NOW FOR THE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!

Everyone is invited to attend Aldersgate's Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 28, at 3 p.m. Please let us know you are coming by writing the number of children who will attend and their ages on the pew pad or you may leave the information with the church office at 703-765-6555. Friends are welcome. Please be on time because once the hunt begins things happen very fast.

There will be two Easter Egg Hunt areas - eggs for preschoolers will be hidden in the playground and eggs for elementary age children will be on the front and side lawn of the church. In case of inclement weather we will hold the Easter egg hunt indoors and will meet in the front lobby.

All you need to bring is a basket and maybe your camera to capture all the fun. Volunteers are needed before and during the Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to help out please contact Heather Evans at 703-765-6555 ext 616 or [h.evans@aldersgate.net](mailto:h.evans@aldersgate.net). We look forward to seeing you!

## GREAT DECISIONS: 2010

• **March 7** - Global Crime: The Dark Side of Globalization

**Study Guide:** Transnational Crime: Globalization's Shadowy Stepchild by David C. Morrison

• **March 14** - Russia and its Neighbors: Moscow's Long Reach

**Study Guide:** Europe's 'Far East': the Uncertain Frontier by William Sweet

• **March 21** - The Role of Special Envoys; **Study Guide:** The Special Envoy in American Foreign Policy by Charles F. Dunbar

• **March 28 & April 4** - **No meeting (Palm Sunday & Easter)**

• **April 11** - Peace Building and Conflict Resolution  
**Study Guide:** Enhancing Security Through Peacebuilding by Matthew Levinger

• **April 11** - Wall Street and the World: The Global Financial Crisis  
**Study Guide:** The Global Financial Crisis and Its Effects by Daniel W. Drezner

• **April 25** - Preventing Genocide in the 21st Century  
**Study Guide:** Halting Atrocities in Kenya by Thomas G. Weiss

**Time:** 7:30 - 9 pm

**Place:** Room 132 Shepherd Hall at Aldersgate

## BLUEGRASS AT SUNRISE SERVICE

Again this Easter, "Bob Perilla's Big Hillbilly Bluegrass" will provide music at Aldersgate's Sunrise Worship service.



Big Hillbilly Bluegrass has been entertaining music fans for over 12 years on three continents. The ensemble boasts over 100 years of combined musical experience. An exciting blend of hard-driving bluegrass along with country, folk and original material will please even the most discriminating listeners and make easy converts of those unfamiliar with bluegrass music, one of America's unique art forms. The April 4 service begins at 7 a.m. on Aldersgate's front lawn. Coffee and donuts will be available.

## INFORMATION ABOUT TRIP TO HOLY LAND

Aldersgate plans to partner with Beth El Hebrew Congregation for a joint journey to the Holy Land in October. All those interested in learning more about this trip are invited to a meeting on April 27 at 7:30 in Wesley Hall.

# ALDRSGATE CHURCH

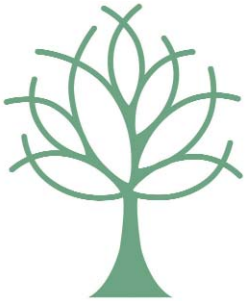
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