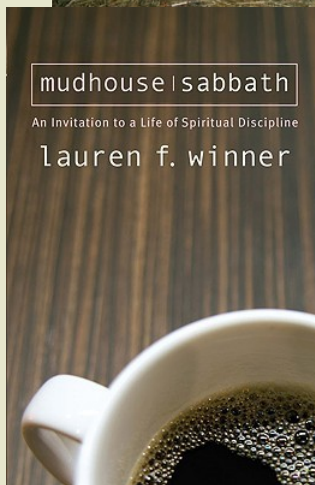
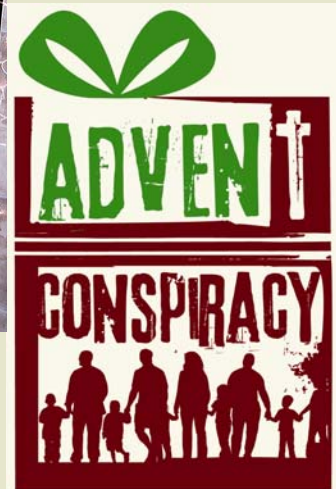


THE ALDRSGATE EXPERIENCE

4th Quarter 2010
Volume 34, No. 4

December 2010
USPS 357-230



INSIDE

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| 2 | Journey to Bethlehem Experience | 7 | Financial Campaign Update |
| 3 | Advent Conspiracy Sermon Series | 8 | Mudhouse Sabbath Churchwide Study |
| 5 | Alternative Giving for Christmas | 9 | Hypothermia Volunteer Reflection |
| 6 | Not Too Far From Here | 10 | Photo Gallery, News & Announcements |

THE ALDERSGATE EXPERIENCE

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

The submission date is February 15 for the 2011 First Quarter/March issue.

Please send information to:
aldersgateneews@aldersgate.net

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

1301 Collingwood Road
Alexandria, VA 22308

Phone: 703-765-6555

Fax: 703-765-5841

Day School: 703-768-8351

Office email: office@aldersgate.net

Church Office Hours

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Website: www.aldersgate.net

Twitter: @AldersgateNews

Behind the scenes this issue:

Amy J. Hurd, APR
Managing Editor

Contributors:

Lew Ashley

Tom & Judy Cook

Leah Gunter

Susie Jackson

Dab Kern

Jim Lau

Meghan Lau

Jason Micheli

Tom Miller

Patty Millett

JoAnn Ruffin

Lori Rulapaugh

Patty Spitnale

Photographs courtesy of:

Andrew DiAntonio

Heather Evans

Jane Gandee

Mark Gungoll

Libby Hillenbrand

David Werner

A FAMILY'S JOURNEY VOLUNTEER REFLECTION

BY PATTY MILLETT

Ironically, standing outside for two hours on a cold December evening has become the warmest part of our family's annual Christmas celebration. That is certainly not because the weather always cooperates for Journey to Bethlehem. There have been some very cold nights! No, participating in Journey to Bethlehem fills our holiday season with warmth because, in the midst of commercialism and secular carols, being a part of the Journey to Bethlehem vividly reminds each member of our family what the season really is all about: journeying to Bethlehem.



Elizabeth and Patty among the angels in Bethlehem one year.

It is all about witnessing a miracle baby intrude “silently, how silently” into the routine of everyday lives, whether the lives of shepherds and Wise Men, or modern-day workers and students. In stepping into the ancient story, we are able to do what those shepherds did more than two thousand years ago – put our work and busyness on hold and go see God's miraculous gift of love face to face.

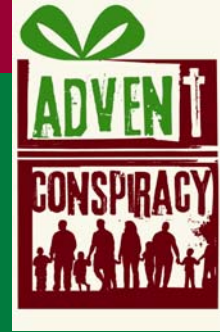
That is why participating in Journey to Bethlehem has been such a blessing for our family. Whether it was David playing Baby Jesus with the hiccups, or Elizabeth cooing at the Wise Men, or our more recent roles as Angels, Shepherds, Roman Guards, and townspeople, the opportunity unfailingly brings the true meaning of Christmas into our family's hearts and lives. And we know it does the same for all those people who visit Aldersgate to witness the event.

We bring people face to face with Emanuel. There is nothing warmer than that!

Journey to Bethlehem
Sunday, Monday & Tuesday
December 12, 13, 14 @ 6 - 8 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CAN [STILL] CHANGE THE WORLD

BY JASON MICHELI



No one wants a Christmas worth forgetting, yet how many times do we look back at the Christmas holiday as a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists? How often, when Christmas is all over, are we left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and a vague, empty feeling of missed purpose?

Rick McKinley, the pastor of Imago Dei Church in Portland, Oregon, writes how:

'...several years ago a few of my friends and I were lamenting how much we hate pastoring at Christmas. We shared our dread of preparing to proclaim, celebrate, and worship Jesus at his Incarnation while - along with our congregations - are consumed by a consumer religion that insists money equals love.'

Rather than simply give lip service to the cliché about putting 'Christ back into Christmas,' Pastor McKinley and his friends decided to reclaim the story of Christmas. Together they hatched an experiment they call the *Advent Conspiracy*, a grassroots program which challenges Christians to restore the 'scandal' of Jesus Incarnation by substituting consumption with compassion.

This year McKinley's *Advent Conspiracy* will be the theme of Aldersgate's Advent and Christmas celebrations. Its message will be reinforced through Aldersgate's 8th Annual Alternative Giving Bazaar and its 2nd Annual Christmas Mission to the Highlands of Guatemala.

According to Rick McKinley, Christians have lost appreciation for the scandal of the Christmas story and, without such appreciation, Christians - along with everyone else - become victims of our culture's consumer religion, spending an average of \$450 billion every Christmas on *stuff*.

What's the scandal of Jesus' Incarnation? Easy: that the Creator of the Cosmos enters the human story, takes flesh, lives among us as one of us and NOT as

we might expect. In Jesus, God doesn't come among us in power or majesty. On the first Christmas Eve, God doesn't arrive with fanfare or fame. In Mary and Joseph God doesn't choose a life of wealth or comfort. Instead God is born to an unwed, teenage girl. He will be the son of a simple tradesman, born in a little, backwater town to which even the wise men have to ask directions. News of his birth will be given not to the press or the elite but to the bottom rung of ancient society: shepherds. His purpose in coming? As his mother Mary sings, it's to lift up to the lowly.

Through the *Advent Conspiracy*, McKinley challenges Christians to subvert our culture's idols by practicing four simple but countercultural concepts:

Worship Fully:

because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus.

Spend Less:

and free your resources for things that honor the reason for Jesus' coming.

Give More:

of your hands, words, time and heart.

Love All:

the poor, the forgotten, and the marginalized (the ones Jesus came to lift up) in ways that make a difference.

When Christians are committed to practicing these four concepts, McKinley believes that Christmas can still change the world. Today, the *Advent Conspiracy* is a grassroots movement with more than 1,000 churches in 17 countries participating as co-conspirators who choose to observe the scandal of Christmas with projects as varied as drilling a water well for those who lack access to clean water or simply encouraging congregations to think of meaningful acts of kindness as meaningful gift options to replace traditional gifts.

Continued next page...

... continued from page 3

This Advent and Christmas Season Aldersgate will join the conspiracy.

The sermon series during the weekends of Advent will emphasize the scandal of the Incarnation and will revisit the Christmas stories in light of Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, and Love All. Christmas Eve at Aldersgate will also emphasize the countercultural scandal at the heart of our story.

In addition, Aldersgate will also celebrate the scandal of Christmas by encouraging people to give presents that honor the reason for Christ's coming through the Alternative Giving Bazaar. Through it, Aldersgate challenges people to give gifts in honor of loved ones that go to support Aldersgate's mission partners in Cambodia, Guatemala and the Route One Corridor. Participants in the Alternative Giving Bazaar can purchase a cow or a ton of rice for an impoverished family in Cambodia, a lifesaving wood-stove for a poor Mayan family in Guatemala or a sack of groceries for the working poor in our own community. Not only is this Aldersgate's biggest mission fundraiser every year, it is the perfect way to worship Christ and 'put him back' in Christmas. The Alternative Giving Bazaar will be held after every worship service during Advent and will also be available online at www.aldersgate.net.

Our hope this season is that through sermons, worship, Journey to Bethlehem, mission projects, and Alternative Gift Giving you will experience a Christmas worth remembering.

For more information about the *Advent Conspiracy* go to www.adventconspiracy.org.

MONDLOCH HOUSE SHELTER

Mondloch House is a shelter for families that is located near Huntley Meadows Park. Commonly, half of its population is children. Aldersgate has committed to providing those children and families with fresh fruit and produce each week.

We urgently need volunteers for 2011 to purchase and deliver the produce. The 2011 sign-up calendar is on the Mondloch podium in the church foyer. Please prayerfully consider donating a small amount of your time and \$35 on a week or weeks of your choosing to help take care of our hungry neighbors.

It is a flexible and easy way to volunteer and to involve your children in serving their community. For more information, please contact Patricia Millett at 703-799-5814 or kingmillett@verizon.net.

GIVE MORE — LOVE ALL

PHOENIX RISING SANDWICH MINISTRY

Phoenix Rising is a wonderful program where 150 bagged meals are prepared by loving hands on a Thursday evening and delivered on Friday to the homeless on Route 1. We need volunteers every month to help with both meal preparation and delivery - no training required.

We will make bagged meals on Thursday, December 9 in the Guback Center starting at 5:30 p.m. We will meet Friday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the church parking lot (near door 3) to start deliveries. There will always be an experienced person with you to make deliveries - it takes about 2 hours. The Thursday and Friday dates for the next 3 months are January 13/14, February 10/11 and March 10/11.

If you can help, please contact Leah Gunter at blazn3@verizon.net or 703-799-1631. It's always nice to know about volunteers in advance, but if you want to help with the bagged meals you can just show up. If you want to help with deliveries you must contact Leah. Thank you.

ANGEL TREE PRISON MINISTRY

This year Aldersgate will be again supporting the Angel Tree Prison Ministry. There are 152 children whose parents are incarcerated. Fifty live in the Alexandria area and we will be purchasing a toy and clothing item for each child. We will have a small December 18 party where the gifts are picked up.

There are another 100 children who live in Danville, VA. No church was assigned to them. For these children we will be buying \$30 gift cards and will mail them with a Christmas Card and a message from their parent. If the child is young, the caregiver will buy a gift to put under the tree. Or the child may pick something out of their own. While the gift card may not be that exciting or personal to purchase, these are extremely needed.

On our list this year we have a grandmother who is the caregiver for 5 children, with both parents in jail. Last year we had one woman call to thank us for the gift cards as that was the only way she had any gifts under the tree for her children. If you can help, please stop by the Angel Tree between the services. You can sign out an angel, you can drop off a \$30 Walmart gift card, or you can make a cash or check donation and we will purchase the cards for you. Any questions please contact Susie Jackson 703-799-7575 or sjacksonathome@aol.com.

SPEND LESS - GIVE MORE WITH ALTERNATIVE GIVING

BY TOM MILLER

Aldersgate began its 8th Annual Alternative Giving Bazaar on November 27/28, 2010. The Bazaar will run through Sunday, December 19. As an alternative to buying material goods for your family and friends, you can give gifts in their honor and/or memory that will contribute to Aldersgate's mission projects in Cambodia and Guatemala as well as in our local community.

Through Aldersgate's strategic focus on Cambodia, we empower Christian youth in Cambodia through leadership training and Bible study; and our programs combat hunger, train young people for jobs, send children to school, and aid in healthcare.

In Guatemala, Aldersgate partners with the Highland Support Project to empower indigenous Mayan women who live in poverty and build stoves for families whose children suffer from respiratory diseases caused by open-pit fires used for cooking in their homes.

Alternative Giving also has opportunities to support Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, located in our local community. Our contributions to Rising Hope bring the support of the church to those in need on the Route One Corridor.

Just as Jesus was born into poverty, we hope your generosity this season will help us honor his birth by serving the poor among us and around the world. Alternative Giving opportunities for your intentional support of these missions are described in the 2010 edition of the Alternative Giving Catalog that can be obtained in hard copy at the church or on the church website. By using the Alternative Giving Order Form you can identify and designate your level of support for specific components within these programs. Then, you may purchase these gifts at Aldersgate events in December or online at www.aldersgate.net.

Volunteers are always welcomed. Please talk to any member of the Missions Committee, which is chaired by Mark Gungoll, to learn how you can become a part of these missions.



ALDERSGATE ADULT CHOIRS

PRESENT:

SING NOEL

A Carol Celebration
with strings and handbells

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17

Sanctuary at 7:30 pm

CHRISTMAS MISSION UPDATE

Aldersgate will have a Mission Team in Guatemala between December 14 - 23. Please keep the team members in your prayers: Andrew DiAntonio, Heather Evans, Elizabeth Gungoll, Mark Gungoll, Joel Machen, Jason Micheli, Tom Miller, Bob Oelschlager, John Pfister, Carol Ricciardello, Cat Royka, and Laina Schneider.

Upcoming Youth Mission Fundraisers:

Parents Night Out, December 11 & February 12

Fat Tuesday dinner and variety show, March 8.
(Auditions may be submitted by video to Andrew DiAntonio in early February.)

HELPING THOSE “NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE”

BY LEW ASHLEY

In 2009 a generous member of Aldersgate donated \$250,000 to the church to establish the “Not Too Far From Here” Fund (NTFFH Fund). The donor indicated that income from the fund would be used to help people described in the words and lyrics of the song “Not Too Far From Here” accompanying his donation. The song speaks of people who have lost hope and have no where else to turn.

***“Somebody's troubled and confused, Somebody's got nothin' left to lose,
Not too far from here.”***

The fund is aimed to reach those who have somehow fallen through the cracks of society and can't help themselves. In short, the primary purpose is to provide assistance for those who live within a 25 mile radius of Aldersgate, and who need but can't afford clothing, food, housing and medical care. The donor asked that the funds be administered by the Aldersgate Endowment Committee with assistance from the pastors and the church staff.

In December 2009, the Endowment Committee announced to the congregation the creation of the NTFFH Fund, and since that time has informed other committees of the church and put a box in the church foyer inviting persons to identify those in potential need of help from the NTFFH Fund. The committee also created an email address (ntffhf@gmail.com) that can be used to send a request for funds.

Subsequently, the Endowment Committee has received and considered several requests. Each request has been carefully reviewed and essential information gathered and considered to determine the actual need before a decision was made. Examples of requests that were approved by the committee:

- ◆ Assistance for rent for one year for a 24-year-old single mother of three with a fourth child on the way, to allow her to be reunited with her children who were living in court-ordered foster care. The father was not providing for the children financially and was under a court protective order to stay away because of his assault on the mother. The mother had a fulltime job at a fast food restaurant, was living in a local community shelter, and only able to visit the children. The NTFFH Fund assistance provided the means for the mother and her children to qualify for and move into an apartment and be reunited as a family. The case was brought to the Endowment Committee by an Aldersgate member serving as a court-appointed attorney, who had performed a significant amount of work with the mother and who provided extensive information essential to the Committee's consideration and decision.
- ◆ Financial assistance for the equivalent of a security deposit and the first month's rent to allow a family to move into an apartment. The father and mother were both employed and had sufficient funds for the monthly rent, but did not have the amount of advanced funds to qualify for the apartment.
- ◆ Payment of several parking tickets (most were many years old), so that a gentleman could apply for a commercial driver's license. Once he received his license, he was able to start a new job.

Aldersgate Church is grateful for the donor's generosity in establishing the NTFFH Fund and invites submission of information to members of the Endowment Committee, the Church Office or to put notes in the box in the Church foyer to identify those in potential need of assistance.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 3, 5, 7, 9, & 11 p.m.

December 25 - Merry Christmas (No Saturday worship service)

December 26 & January 2 - Sunday Worship Services 8:30, 9:45, & 11:15 a.m.

No Sunday School or Evening Activities

EMBRACING THE DREAM CAMPAIGN WELCOMES END-OF-YEAR PLEDGES

BY TOM & JUDY COOK, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS



The “Embracing the Dream of a Fruitful Congregation,” capital campaign concluded its outreach efforts for the five-year campaign on Commitment Weekend, November 20-21.

At church that weekend, Dennis Perry spoke of the transformative effect on people’s lives the Not So Far From Here fund has had. Aldersgate has a history of transforming people’s lives here in our community and across the world. It is through our members’ generous donations that we are able to maintain our facilities as well as provide outstanding worship and music,

religious education for all ages, fellowship opportunities, and local and international service and mission.

The “Embracing the Dream of a Fruitful Congregation” capital campaign was about reaching out to all members of the congregation, and those non-members who are actively involved in the life of the church, and asking them to consider a sacrificial gift to allow us to reduce our debt, lessen our debt burden and increase our ability to reach out to those in need. We did this through hundreds of visits by a team of hard working volunteers.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to meet with one of our volunteers and everyone who has turned in a pledge card. Every gift is important.

We are happy to report that we have made significant headway towards our goal of \$3.5 million but we still need more people to Embrace the Dream. As of the date this newsletter went to print, commitments for Embracing the Dream had reached \$2,824,002. Pledges to the annual Mission & Ministry operating budget were \$1,055,036. Commitment cards are still coming in and we have high hopes of reaching our goals by the end of the year.

Didn’t turn in your commitment card yet? It is never too late! We need every member to participate in both campaigns. There are commitment cards on the church website (www.aldersgate.net) or you can contact one of us at 703-768-4316 or cookwise@aol.com or the church office if you would like a commitment card sent to you – or if you would like a personal visit by a member of our team to discuss the campaign. Your support is always appreciated.

Going forward, new members of the congregation will be encouraged to take an active role in the church and be supportive of its programs and financial goals.

“Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
- II Corinthians 9:7

BAPTISMAL GARDEN ESTABLISHED

In early November, Campbell and Ferrara completed installation of the base plantings for the Baptismal garden at the front of the church. Four dwarf Alberta spruces, four Autumn Carnation azaleas, and one Star Magnolia were planted to ensure peak beauty for Easter worship services and year round interest.

“I want to thank the congregation for their support and contributions. The garden looks great and planting flowers, bushes and trees will be a beautiful way to celebrate a baptism,” said Shea Ruffin. Shea completed this project as part of her Girl Scout Silver award, the highest award a girl can earn as a Cadette. Additional information on ways to contribute to the garden will be provided to families as baptisms occur.



Shea Ruffin in front of the new baptismal garden.

MUDHOUSE SABBATH IS FOCUS OF CHURCHWIDE STUDY

SERMON SERIES & DVD-BASED DISCUSSION GROUPS KICK-OFF JANUARY 30 & 31

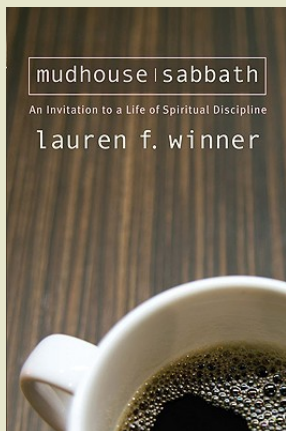
Sign Ups and Book Sales will begin in December in Wesley Hall and online at www.aldersgate.net. Books available at www.amazon.com or at Aldersgate for \$10. For more information about Lauren Winner, including articles by her and other book titles: www.laurenwinner.net

A REVIEW OF MUDHOUSE SABBATH

By JIM LAU

I just finished reading a very enjoyable book, **Mudhouse Sabbath**, which Aldersgate will be using in our church-wide study this January. The author, Lauren Winner, will be Aldersgate's Scholar in Residence this summer.

Winner comes from a unique background, her father was a reformed Jew and her mother was a Baptist. She was raised in the traditions of Judaism in Charlottesville, VA but converted to Christianity during college. Even as a devout follower of Jesus she became increasingly aware of a sense of incompleteness in her spiritual life. She started reflecting on how her Jewish past could help her Christian walk seven years after converting to Christianity. Those reflections resulted in writing this book. She admits that she misses parts of her Jewish past. "This book is about those things that I miss," she writes. "It is about Sabbaths and burials and prayers, rituals Jews and Christians both observe.... Jews do these things with more attention and wisdom not because they are more righteous nor because God likes them better, but rather because doing, because action sits at the center of Judaism."



The title of the book comes from heartfelt awareness of her failure in observing the most familiar Jewish tradition, the Sabbath and Mudhouse is the name of a coffee shop in Charlottesville where she frequently spent Sunday afternoons reading and reflecting. In her book, Winner also addresses many spiritual disciplines applicable to both Christianity and Judaism: prayer, mourning for losses, hospitality, and fasting. Winner stresses that many of the so-called Jewish practices are also Christian practices and spiritual disciplines that followers of Jesus have been practicing for over 2,000 years.

Winner salutes the most important legacy of Judaism in her book : "Practice is to Judaism what belief is to Christianity. For Jews, the essence of the thing is a doing, an action. Your faith might come and go, but your practice should not waver."

Winner's book shows how Christians can learn from their Jewish brothers and sisters. Winner does an excellent job in her book of showing how Christianity and

Judaism actually complement each other and can add dimension to our Christian faith.

Mudhouse Sabbath was the perfect book for me, even though I had not intended initially to read it. I have the habit of picking up a book, reading a few pages and losing interest. Not with this book. I was intrigued from the beginning by Winner's words in the introduction: "It is, to be blunt, about Christian practices that would be enriched ...if we took a few lessons from Judaism...". Mudhouse is a great book; the chapters are short and to the point but give opportunity for reflection. I started with the intention of reading one chapter a day as a daily devotional, but found myself reading ahead and finishing the book in less than a week. This book helped me because it gave me examples and practical ways to apply these disciplines to my spiritual walk. One example is in the chapter on hospitality. "We are not meant simply to invite people into our homes, but also to invite them into our lives. Our Three-In-One God has welcomed us into Himself and invited us to participate in divine life". I never thought of it that way, we need to invite others into our lives because God invited believers to share Himself with us. This book did that to me in every chapter, new ways of thinking about how we live as Christians.

Winner is the author of numerous books, including the popular, **Girl Meets God**. Her study, **A Cheerful & Comfortable Faith: Anglican Religious Practice in the Elite Households of Eighteenth-Century Virginia** was published in the fall. Winner has degrees from Duke, Columbia, and Cambridge universities, and holds a Ph.D. in history and currently teaches at Duke Divinity School and lives in Durham, NC.

IN A POSITION TO HELP

VOLUNTEER REFLECTION

BY DAB KERN

After going through a difficult time in my life many years ago, I saw first-hand the struggles and challenges the homeless face every day, let alone when the temperatures plunge. I made a commitment then to help those in need if I was ever in a position to do so.

The Hypothermia Program is a combined effort among several churches in the area to provide dinner, breakfast and overnight accommodations in the winter months for up to 25 of our community's homeless. Aldersgate parishioners support this effort by volunteering to prepare and serve meals and/or serve as overnight chaperones at the Rising Hope Methodist Mission Church on Russell Road, a few miles south of Aldersgate on Route 1.

A typical night looks something like this: Doors open at 7 p.m., participants register with Rising Hope staff, and the "meal rush" begins. For those who have ever worked in the restaurant business, you will have flashbacks. Salads and entrees are placed out on a doorway-shelf separating the kitchen from the dining room, and a couple of servers wind through the "customers" delivering the goods. On many occasions, local restaurant owners have donated both their services and their concoctions, and they've turned that small kitchen into Route 1's version of "Emeril Live" and produced some amazing dishes.

After dinner, volunteers help distribute sleeping bags and floor mats, and guests find a place to stay on the floor in the adjoining sleeping room. A movie is normally shown in the dining room and/or a brief meeting is held among the guests. At 10:30 p.m. it's lights out, and the overnight volunteers break into

"shifts." The first shift stays up and addresses any needs of the guests, while the "off duty" shift grabs some sleep on cots or the sofa back in separate office spaces. The first shift is my favorite, as guests normally pull volunteers into a card game or two, and there's always a need for someone to help folks settle down for the night.

At approximately 2:30 a.m., the shifts swap. Ideally there is a man and woman on each shift, but the project can continue with less...it just means less sleep for the chaperones. At 6:00 a.m., it's "rise and shine." A continental breakfast and much sought-after coffee are served. Guests roll up their bags and mats, and are out the door by 7:00 a.m. I've often thought it harsh to move the guests on out into the world so early, but many of them are employed, and Rising Hope has other services they need to prepare for.

I consider myself fortunate to have been a part of the Hypothermia Program for the past few years. I have joined up with friends and prepared and served meals with our two teenage sons, I have helped clean the facility, I have helped the R.O.C.K group purchase foods... but, I normally prefer to chaperone. I won't sugar coat it: chaperoning takes time and energy; you won't get the best night's sleep; you may see, smell, and hear things that are unsettling; you may need to address difficult issues with the guests; you may be challenged a bit... taken out of your comfort zone... working in "God's Trenches" as Dennis and Jason have referenced; BUT: when you walk out those doors to start the next day... you will be anything but tired.

*Twenty-five men and women are sheltered by the **Ventures In Community Hypothermia Outreach Program (VIC/HOP)** each night from December 1 to March 31. Area churches provide the work forces, New Hope Housing provides the support services and Rising Hope provides the location.*

Aldersgate is responsible for covering needs on every Tuesday night in December and January. We provide dinners for 30 people, breakfast bags for 25 and overnight male and female adult chaperones. This program runs on donations only. If you would like to help, please contact Karen Latta at klatta@fourthwave.com or at 703-780-0366.

**THE STEVE & RENIE GUBACK CENTER
OPENED ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2010
AND HAS BEEN BUSY EVER SINCE!**



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPDATE YOUR ONLINE GIVING!

Please remember to update your online recurring donations for 2011 with new end dates, credit card expiration dates and donation amounts. Also, if you made a pledge to the 5-year Embracing the Dream Capital Campaign, you may add that to your online giving. Go online to www.aldersgate.net/onlinegiving.

Everyone who made a pledge or who gives regularly will receive offering envelopes quarterly by mail. If you give online recurring donations, you can request a smaller set of offering envelopes that will include only special collections such as Communion, Lent/Easter, and Advent/Christmas.

As the end of the year approaches, please remember that all gifts must be received or postmarked no later than December 31 to be claimed on your 2010 taxes. The church office is closed the week between Christmas and New Year's, so please bring in, mail, or give online contributions with that in mind. Thank you.

Please contact Meghan B. Lau, Financial Administrator, if you have any financial questions (m.lau@aldersgate.net or x 607).



DAY SCHOOL NEWS

2011/2012 Newcomer Registration

The Day School will open Newcomer Registration for the 2011/2012 school year on Monday, January 3, 2011. Waiting List applications will be available online for download beginning December 5 at www.aldersgate.net/dayschool and will also be available in Room 128 of Shepherd Hall beginning at 8 a.m. on January 3.

This initial registration will be for interested families **not currently enrolled** in the Day School or members of Aldersgate Church - registration for returning Day School families and Aldersgate Church members will open in late January.

For questions regarding registration, please contact the Day School Office at 703-768-8351, or p.spitnale@aldersgate.net.



ACCT's next youth production is a tongue-in-cheek tribute to the 1920s gangster flick. Bugsy Malone, Jr. promises big musical numbers, flapper fashions, fedoras, speakeasies, and loads of laughs! It seems Fat Sam, who runs one of the most popular clubs in town, is in danger of being closed down by his "business rival" Dandy Dan. Enter baby-faced Bugsy Malone, a killer with the ladies and a definite asset to Fat Sam. Unfortunately, Bugsy has also caught the eye of Sam's girlfriend Tallulah - though he's set his designs on showgirl Blousey Brown...

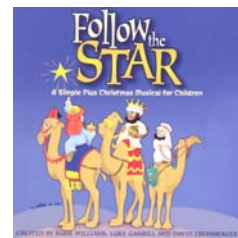
Aldersgate names you will recognize among the cast include: Sarah Atkinson, Caroline Austin, Hannah Berkon, Aubrey Blount, Anna Bozard, Ashley Hildreth, Emma Kelly, Sam Poole, Tyler Rulapaugh, Victoria Rulapaugh, and Kate Vaughan and in the production team: Kacie Greenwood, Rachel Lau, Hannah Lau, and Jon Poole.

This youth production will open on January 14, 2011 with 3:00 p.m. matinees on January 16, 17, and 23. Evening performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on January 14, 15, 21, and 22.

Tickets may be purchased beginning December 14 at www.acctonline.org. The price for all seats is \$9 online and \$10 if purchased at the door.

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL BY ALDERSGATE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19
DURING 9:45 & 11:15
WORSHIP SERVICES



Please join the Children's Choirs for this year's Christmas musical, Follow the Star. You're sure to have a blast as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child through song. Come on out and bring your friends to this very special presentation - we'll hope to see you there!

Aldersgate Church

1301 Collingwood Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22308-1699
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Aldersgate Experience USPS 357-230 is published quarterly at
Aldersgate UMC, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, VA 22308-1699

Postmaster: Send address changes to Aldersgate UMC, 1301 Collingwood
Road, Alexandria, VA 22308-1699.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT ALEXANDRIA, VA

TIME CRITICAL MATERIAL

