

THE ALDRSGATE EXPERIENCE

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THE ALDERSGATE EXPERIENCE

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YOU ARE INVITED MISSIONS LUNCHEON ON SEPTEMBER 26

Mark your calendars now to enjoy a lunch hosted by our Youth and the United Methodist Men on Sunday, September 26 at 12:30 p.m. There you will learn about the broad range of Aldersgate Missions activities.

From local and regional projects to Guatemala and Cambodia, come to see and hear the witness of faith in action. We expect to sell-out, so make your reservations early by calling 703-765-6555 or reserving online at www.aldersgate.net (\$6 per person/\$20 per family). Proceeds support future mission trips.

FAIR TRADE SALE ON SEPTEMBER 26

Beautiful Guatemalan items will be available on Sunday, September 26 at a Fair Trade Sale. We plan to have the sale between morning worship services as well as at the Missions Luncheon. Not only will you be able to purchase wonderful hand-made bags, jewelry, clothes, etc., you also will be supporting our mission partners in Guatemala.



GREATER THINGS HAVE YET TO COME

EMBRACING THE DREAM OF A FRUITFUL CONGREGATION

BY CHERYL BRATTEN

Greater things have yet to come, greater things are still to be done in this city. These are the lyrics to the chorus of a Chris Tomlin song titled “God of the City.” My 3-year-old daughter likes to sing this song loudly and off key in the backseat of the car, which usually bring tears to my eyes. The words of this song have greater meaning for me as our church embarks on the 5-year campaign to reduce our debt.

On August 14th I traveled into DC with nine youth and seven adults from our church to serve dinner to those in need through a ministry called Sunday Suppers. Aldersgate youth have participated in this ministry several times throughout the year; however, this was the first time I was able to go into the city and serve the meal we prepared. At our last stop a man named Robert was dancing to the Motown hits playing from the stereo. He pulled me away from my station serving iced tea and water to dance. After a few minutes of dancing he pulled me in close and said, “For real, without you all I got is nothing. I mean it; you all keep me going each week.”

Ask anyone in our congregation who has participated in a ministry of our church—whether it is serving meals to the homeless, bringing altar flowers or communion to a shut-in, leading a Sunday school class, wrangling 4-year-olds during Vacation Bible School, chaperoning teenagers on mission trips, providing dinner to a bleary-eyed new mom—and they will have similar stories to share. The ministry of our church touches lives every day; the ministry of our church changes people. The compassion and love we show as an extension of our love for Christ is real.

My family is participating in the campaign because we know there are lives still to be touched in our community. By reducing Aldersgate’s debt, we open up resources to meet the needs of our community, region, country, and world in new and exciting ways. We’re giving to the campaign above our usual annual giving so that in 5 years our church can realize its dream to extend its ministry in the name of Christ.

I encourage you to say “Yes!” when asked to schedule a visit with a member of the campaign team. The visit our family had took just over 30 minutes. We reviewed the rich history of our church in the Fort Hunt community, the current amount of debt Aldersgate has and the yearly cost to service that debt. We were not asked to sign on the dotted line; we were not pressured to give. After going through the presentation booklet and viewing the chart to see the monthly contribution of gifts in various sizes, we prayerfully considered how our family could take part in helping Aldersgate embrace the dream of being a fruitful congregation. I hope you will join us!



DIANA BUTLER BASS TO PREACH

The weekend of September 11 & 12, the pastors will kickoff their sermon series and pastors’ class on the history of Christianity. Our guest preacher will be Diana Butler Bass, author of *A People’s History of Christianity: The Other Side of Our Story*. If you would like to order this book or learn more about her, go to www.dianabutlerbass.com.

NEW FAITH COMMUNITY STUDY

BY JASON MICHELI

In their sermons in July, Dennis and intern Taylor Mertins spoke about a study presently underway to explore the feasibility of establishing a new faith community in the Fort Belvoir-Lorton area. The church council approved this study at their meeting in June.

What's this all about?

Currently, establishing new faith communities is a priority of the larger United Methodist Church. The Virginia Conference has initiated a campaign called 'All Things New' aimed to plant 250 new United Methodist churches around Virginia in the coming years.

Why plant new churches?

There are several reasons why the denomination has singled this out as a priority. The majority of existing United Methodist congregations in Virginia make no new disciples in a year, which means existing churches may be effective at serving their members but they are ineffective at reaching new, unchurched people. Studies show that 3/4 of new church members had no previous church relationship; in addition, roughly 60% of the general population reports no religious affiliation whatsoever. This underscores the need to plant new faith communities if the United Methodist Church simply wants to keep pace ministering to the unchurched. Simply put, growing denominations are the ones who plant new churches and dying denominations are the ones who do not.

What is Aldersgate's role?

This past winter Aldersgate's district superintendent asked Jason Micheli to spend the summer and fall preparing a feasibility study for a new faith community in the Lorton area. Presently, this is a growing area of Fairfax County where existing United Methodist congregations are small and not equipped to minister to a large, unchurched population. A small team of laity from the congregation have volunteered to lend their gifts to this study.

What does this mean down the road?

The feasibility study, which examines such things as demographics, possible ministry sites, and effect on other existing churches, will be submitted to the District Board of Mission in the coming year. The board will then determine whether to pass this study on to the conference agencies which lead the 'All Things New' campaign. The conference may determine that a church plant near Belvoir is not as much of a priority as proposed church plants in other parts of the state, or the conference may decide to pursue it. In that event, the conference may invite Aldersgate to discern how it would like to be engaged in this ministry. With the 'Embracing the Dream' campaign in full swing, it's important to emphasize that no part of the campaign funds will be designated for any additional ministry much less a church plant and, at this juncture, Aldersgate has made no commitment to a church plant, financial or otherwise. For the time being, Aldersgate's role is limited to studying the feasibility of such a ministry.

ALDERSGATE CHURCH COUNCIL 2010-11

Thomas Cook,
Chair & Lay Leader

Cynthia Amos
Paul Amos
William Armstrong
Robert Carr
Deborah Chusmir
Thomas Devine
Kimberley Engle

Mark Gunggoll
Steve Larkin
Kenneth Latta
Ed Little
Virginia Norby
Julie Pfister
Andrew Reese
Carol Ricciardello
Douglas Spitnale

Donald Thackery
Patricia Travis
Stuart Travis
John Veatch

The pastors and staff attend
Church Council meetings, but
are not voting members.

STEVE AND RENIE GUBACK CENTER OPENS SEPTEMBER 12

BY TERRY WILLIAMS

The renovation of the youth wing (old west wing of the church) into the Steve and Renie Guback Center, is almost complete, with the grand opening scheduled for the Sunday after Labor Day, September 12, 2010, at 4 p.m. What you will see at the grand opening is an old section of the church that has been totally transformed and modernized to support our youth ministry. What you will not see is any cost coming back to the church for this work. The total modernization, along with the equipment and furniture, and even the satellite TV service, has been totally funded through a special gift from Steve and Renie Guback.

The Guback Center offers three distinct gathering spaces. The primary space is a room capable of seating 100 (theater-style) or 66 (at round tables). The room features a stage area equipped with special lighting and microphone, along with two large flat-screen televisions for multi-media presentations. There are sound speakers built into the ceiling for sound enhancement, along with LED lighting to optimize the lighting levels within the space. All of the windows are equipped with shades to control the ambient lighting. The microphone and televisions are controlled from an audio-visual (AV) cabinet built into the back wall, strategically located and equipped to support a broad range of programming needs. The televisions are also connected to satellite television service, with the

added sports programming subscription, for even more program opportunities. All tables and chairs were selected specifically for this space, and are conveniently stored in a large closet adjacent to the room. The Guback Center is fully handicap accessible, energy efficient, and designed in a sustainable manner consistent with today's best design standards.

In addition to the primary space, a small group meeting space is located just inside the main entrance. This space can seat up to 20 on sectional couches configured specifically for the space. Opposite this meeting space is a game area for foosball, etc. Both spaces have large wall-mounted flat-screen televisions, connected to the central AV system, capable of providing the same programming opportunities that are available in the primary space.

The Steve and Renie Guback Center (Room 110) was designed by Kerns Group Architects, and constructed by Chamberlain Construction. Both have done an excellent job in following the vision of our youth for a very flexible meeting environment within the church. (You can see the construction progress photos throughout the summer by going to our church web site, construction updates for the Guback Center.) Join us September 12 at 4 p.m. to celebrate this new facility within our church.



“I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME” -MATTHEW 25:35

BY ANDREW DIANTONIO

Packing at the eleventh hour, perhaps not the wisest idea, but nothing sets off the rush of travelling like scurrying around for a missing pair of socks, or in the case of a missions trip, a pair of hardy work gloves. The night before the senior high trip to Guatemala, I was running around at eleven o'clock packing (luckily I was leaving my house at 2am, so I had a good amount of time left). As I packed, thinking about what sort of additional tools I might need for stove building, I froze, slightly alarmed of what was before me. I wasn't overly concerned about the logistics of taking 34 high school students to Guatemala, I had dotted the i's and crossed the t's. But I suddenly realized that I didn't really know any of the people going on the trip. What had I gotten myself into!

Getting to the church parking lot at 3am, I read down the list of students going, making sure everyone was there, and again thought “you are in way over your head.” I fumbled over difficult last names and certainly didn't know their many nicknames. How was I supposed to lead this group of students I didn't know?

Luckily, anxiety and apprehension quickly gave way to laughter and fellowship. The senior high youth of Aldersgate were really amazing at welcoming me into their group. I was new to their church and new to the Guatemala mission experience. That newness, however, melted away with amazing ease. I began working at Aldersgate in June. The church staff readily welcomed me. The Junior high students I met at Jeremiah Project confirmed to me why I was working at Aldersgate, but the trip to Guatemala brought me into the fold. Working side by side with our youth, worshipping with them and an awesome team of chaperones, and adventuring around Mayan cities and ruins, allowed me to make strong bonds with my new church family.

In a lot of ways, my experience with our youth mirrors how the youth interacted with the families outside of Xela. Just as I was welcomed into their church lives, the Guatemalan families welcomed us into their lives. As Christians we are called into relations with others, just as Jesus enters into relationships with us. The youth in Guatemala didn't just build stoves (though that in and of itself would have been a great gift); they also made connections with the families they served. Those who spoke Spanish took the lead, translating for the rest of us. Early conversations were polite, but impersonal. “How old are you?” “Is so-and-so your cousin?” and my personal favorite “Who did you support in the World Cup?” However, as the week went on, pleasantries gave way to actual interactions. By the time we said a tearful good-bye to the families after taking Communion at the end of the week, it was apparent just how much we all had learned from and shared with the families. I was proud of our youth, and honestly, shocked that I could be so proud of young men and women who I had only met a week before.

I am so thankful to be at Aldersgate and looking forward to the start of youth group this fall.





ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT FALL 2010

The Intentional Faith Development Council welcomes you to a new year of classes, small groups and learning opportunities.

We believe it's only through purposeful learning in community that followers of Jesus mature in faith. Growing as a disciple, in other words, doesn't happen accidentally, automatically or all at once. And this is true no matter how old or young we are. We need such things as Bible studies, Sunday school classes, short-term topical studies, and support groups that apply the faith to the particular challenges in our lives.

Learning in community replicates the way Jesus deliberately taught his disciples. People cannot learn grace, forgiveness, patience, kindness, gentleness, or joy simply by reading about it in a book. These are aspects of spiritual formation that one learns in community, through intentional engagement.

The classes offered here seek to equip our congregation with the Gospel-centered worldview and skills necessary to grow in fellowship with God, in community with one another and in service to our world. Our children's classes follow a carefully structured curriculum to nurture them in the biblical story. Our confirmation and youth courses take participants through a character-based study of scripture while encouraging practical engagement of scripture in their lives. Our adult offerings this year range from classes geared towards those new in the faith to topical, in-depth studies.

We hope to equip people at Aldersgate that they might engage the world with greater effectiveness, courage and hope. It's not just about teaching and transmitting information. Together, we're seeking to be involved in God's deeper work of transforming our minds, our hearts, our community and our world.

Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth

Please register at www.aldersgate.net

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>ROOM #</u>
<u>Available All Morning</u>	
Nursery	123 and 124
Family Nursery & Nursing Room	122
<u>Classes at 9:45 a.m.</u>	
3-year-olds	131
Pre-Kindergarten	127
Kindergarten	125
1st Grade	114
2nd Grade	116
3rd Grade	205
4th Grade	207
5th Grade (Boys)	204
5th Grade (Girls)	206
Confirmation (6th grade & up)	Guback Center
Jr. High	203
Sr. High	202
<u>Classes at 11:15 a.m.</u>	
Pre-School Ages	115
Kindergarten & 1st grade	117
2nd & 3rd Grades	114
4th—6th grades	116
God's Grace	208
<i>(for children with learning differences)</i>	
<u>No Sunday School</u>	
Nov 28, 2010 (Thanksgiving)	
Dec 26, 2010 (Christmas Break)	
Jan 2, 2010 (Christmas Break)	
Apr 24, 2010 (Easter)	
May 29, 2010 (Memorial Day)	

Sunday Evening Student Groups

4th –6th graders

Handbells: 6 - 6:45 pm

Tween's Dinner 6:45 - 7 pm

All For One: 7 - 8 pm

Youth 7th & 8th / 9th - 12th graders

Junior High Youth: 5 - 6 pm

Youth Dinner: 6 - 6:30 pm

Senior High Youth: 6:30 - 8 pm



THE OTHER SIDE TO OUR STORY

BY JASON MICHELI

Do you know anyone who claims to love Jesus but who takes issue with the institutional Church, Christianity or Organized Religion? Has someone ever pointed out for you the many things done in Jesus' name that contradict Jesus' teachings? Do you know anyone who would describe themselves as spiritual but not religious?

Chances are, you can answer 'Yes' to every one of those questions. For Christians, the regrettable fact is while Jesus never fails to fascinate people, what happened after Jesus, Christian history, leaves countless others cold.

Journalist Christopher Hitchens, in his bestselling manifesto *God is Not Great*, quips "religion poisons everything." The runaway success of Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code* owes in no small part to a similar strain of skepticism; namely, the suspicion that Christian history is largely a story of human ambition, greed and cruelty.

Dan Brown and Christopher Hitchens only offer more incendiary versions of popular conception. Walk into any bookstore and you will see that popular volumes on Christian history abound. Take a closer look at these books, however, and you will see how most of them tell the story of Christian history as a power struggle, played out between winners and losers, with orthodox doctrine ("right belief") imposed, sometimes violently, on one group by another. But is this the only story to tell?

The Pastors' Class: A People's History of Christianity

Beginning Sunday, September 12, Dennis and Jason will teach a short-term course on Christian history. While not ignoring the flaws and shortcomings of the historic Church, the class will counter popular caricatures of Christian history and instead, will attempt to tell another side to our story.

The class will use Diana Butler Bass' new book, *A People's History of Christianity*, as a guide. According to Bass, too often scholars and skeptics tell the story of Christian history without paying any attention to Jesus; that is, Christian history is more than just the "Big-C" story of ecclesial hierarchies. Bass thinks scholars and skeptics are wrong to view Christian history from the top down. Just as it's true today, Christianity is more than an institution. It's a living tradition whose "history" is played out in less magisterial ways: in homes, families and local churches.

Diana Butler Bass believes we live in a post-traditional world, in which "some tell history badly and others do not know it all." Sadly, this is sometimes even more true of Christians, yet when it comes to Christian history, much is at stake. Bass warns that when the Church loses touch with her history, Christians risk losing the ability to worship well, to read the bible accurately, and to make moral judgments.

In the forthcoming Pastors' Class, Dennis and Jason will invite participants to explore how ordinary, grassroots Christians have sought to interpret and practice Jesus' life and message in their own time and how their legacy impacts Christianity as we have received it.

For some time, Jason and Dennis have wanted to offer a pastor-led class. Both enjoy teaching. Even more so, both look forward to the opportunity to engage people on a more intimate, one-on-one level than the worship services provide and both look forward to being able to go deeper in subject material than a fifteen minute sermon will allow.

The Pastors' Class will meet during the 11:15 worship hour in the new Guback Center. Just as Dennis and Jason alternate their preaching responsibilities, they will alternate the teaching role for the class. When Dennis preaches, for example, Jason will teach.

The short-term course on Christian History is only the first course the pastors will offer this year in their Pastors' Class. Each course will last approximately six weeks and will accompany the sermon series preached in worship. The second course of the Pastors' Class will begin October 17 and will use John Ortberg's new book, *The Me I Want to Be: Becoming God's Best Version of You*.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES & SMALL GROUPS

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO VISIT ANY CLASS. STUDIES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 12, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:30

The Jesus I Never Knew, Rm 208/Ann Vernon
Early risers, get a spiritual jump-start mixed with fellowship on Sunday mornings with a new study of Philip Yancey's *The Jesus I Never Knew*. Discussion will be based on reading the book, biblical references, and responding to movie clips and DVD presentation by the author.

SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:45

**Great Figures of the New Testament, Rm 212/
Bill Cleveland**
The Searchers Class will study a series of lectures by Amy-Jill Levine. This study takes a close look at specific characters: who they are, what they do, and how they have been assessed across the centuries by historians, artists, theologians, and worshipers in pews.

Troublesome Bible Passages, Rm 208/Ken Latta
This study tackles Scriptures not normally studied from a discipleship viewpoint. This study book looks at 8 Old Testament and 15 New Testament scripture passages. Some of the lesson titles are: The Ten Commandments, Why Do Innocents Suffer?, Forgiveness, The Word Made Flesh, Speaking in Tongues, and more.

**A People's History of Christianity, Rm 209/
Jay Steadman**
The Basic Class will follow the fall sermon series by studying Diana Butler Bass' new book, *A People's History of Christianity*. The class will look at the history of the grassroots movements in Christianity that preserved Jesus' message of social justice for 2,000 years and impact on the church today.

Journey through the Bible, Rm 210/Steve Rezendes
If you're interested in an in-depth bible study, then this is the class for you. The Book of Exodus is quite possibly the most important scripture in the Old Testament and the most critical book for understanding the Gospel stories.

Christian Family Life Class, Rm 132
This class studies books and issues related to family life and raising children.

SUNDAY MORNING AT 11:15

**The Pastors' Class, Guback Center/
Dennis Perry or Jason Micheli**
This class will study in-depth the material being covered at that time in the sermon series.

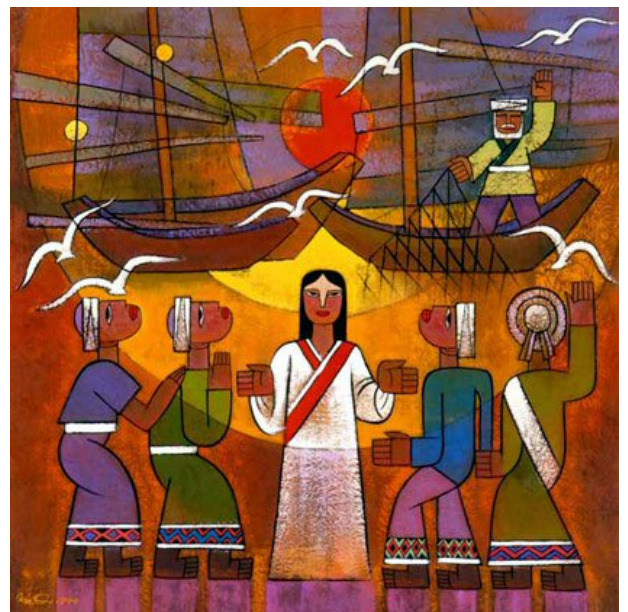
Foundations Class, Rm 132/Mac McPherson
This class undertakes topical, short-term studies.

SUNDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30

**The Bible Jesus Read, Rm 202/
Mike Crane and Jeff Long**
Philip Yancey explores the sometimes shocking and cryptic writings of the Old Testament to help readers know God better. Yancey serves as guide and interpretive leader of each session and, in a series of in-depth interviews and explanations, he covers: Job * Deuteronomy * Psalms * Ecclesiastes * The Prophets. Starts September 19.

TIME & DAY TO BE DETERMINED

**Small Group Forming for Young Couples/
Cheryl Bratten**
This fall a small group for couples in their thirties and forties will provide an opportunity for fellowship, conversation, study and service. Contact Cheryl at CLBratten@gmail.com.



ALDRSGATE PRAYER GROUP IS HERE FOR YOU

BY LEAH FRYE

Aldersgate is blessed to have a wonderful group of people who gather every Tuesday to pray. They pray for our church, every prayer request submitted to the church, and for one another. They commit to pray daily for every request (for one month) and to keep each and every request confidential.

The prayer group started in the late 1960's when Murice Kincannon and Barbara Spanjer were looking at books in the church library. The conversation they shared there led them to invite other women to an organizational meeting at Barbara's home where a prayer group was founded. Weekly meetings at the church have continued from that day to the present.

A book by authors Freer and Hall, "Two or Three Together," was a guiding tool for a beginning prayer group. For two years, Murice Kincannon and Bette Charlton attended Foundry United Methodist Church Prayer and Health Ministry each Sunday evening to study and gain insight from their intercessory prayer group and to help the Aldersgate Prayer group form their Prayer Covenant. This covenant is a commitment from each member to pray daily, keep requests confidential, and grow in their relationship with God.

Later, Ray Wiggins, Director of Christian Education at Aldersgate at that time helped the group find workbooks such as Maxie Dunnam's classic on prayer. The study component has continued and is an important source for spiritual growth of the members as they faithfully pray each day.



For the past couple of years, the group has chosen "Weavings," a quarterly journal of the spiritual life published by The Upper Room. In addition to prayer and study time, the group celebrates communion twice a month. Bette Charlton, who was an integral part of the group, started the Aldersgate Meditation group that continues to meet on Monday afternoons.

When asked to recall some of their time together and what they fondly remember, they immediately talk about how they have prayed and been with each other through illnesses and death as well as joyous times. Mary Ann Robertson fought stage III cancer and believes the prayer from this group helped her greatly. She has been cancer free for 20 years and credits God with this miracle. The group also recalled praying for a little boy who was ill for a long time. When the boy was well enough, his parents brought him to the group to thank them for praying.

The prayer group has grown together, their faith has deepened, and they have welcomed new members throughout the years. They meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings in the prayer room behind the Sanctuary. If you are interested in being a part of this vital ministry at Aldersgate, please contact Mary Ann Robertson at 703-780-6977 or Leah Frye at 703-765-6555, ext. 605.

ADULT MUSIC MINISTRY WELCOMES ADDITIONAL VOICES

BY JASON GOTTSBALL

September begins another season for our church-wide programs, and that includes many opportunities for adults to get involved in the ministry of music for worship. Activities are available for singers and instrumentalists with any level of experience and ability, and there are a variety of schedules and formats from which to choose.

Do you like to sing? Our choral groups explore repertoire from all time periods and genres, focusing on enhancing the preaching of the Word through music while also striving to grow as musicians and have fun at the same time. **Wesley Choir** is our primary service choir, rehearsing and participating in 11:15 AM worship on a weekly basis, as well as providing special music for seasonal holiday services.



If a weekly rehearsal is too frequent, or if you typically attend a different service, you might consider joining one of our gender-specific choirs—**Men of Note** and **Grace Notes**—which rehearse and participate in both our traditional-style Sunday worship services once a month, occasionally joining together with the Wesley Choir for special occasions. Another monthly activity is the **Aldersgate Chorale**, which offers more advanced singers opportunities to work as a small group on more challenging repertoire.

Are you more into contemporary praise and worship music? Singers and instrumentalists have weekly opportunities to participate in the informal and blended **Saturday Night** group or Christian Contemporary Music -oriented Sunday **Journeys** band. Below is an overview of the schedules for all these groups; contact the specific director for more information. Now is the time to get involved in making wonderful music for worship!

Wesley Choir

Director: Jason Gottshall <jgottshall@aldersgate.net>
Rehearsal: Wednesdays 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Sings Sundays 11:15 a.m.

Aldersgate Chorale

Director: Jason Gottshall <jgottshall@aldersgate.net>
Rehearsal: 1st Monday 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Sings on following Sunday 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Grace Notes

Director: Karli Eddinger <keddinge@aldersgate.net>
Rehearsal: 2nd Monday 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Sings on following Sunday 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Men of Note

Director: Jason Gottshall <jgottshall@aldersgate.net>
Rehearsal: 3rd Monday 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Sings on following Sunday 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Journeys Band

Director: Andreas Barrett <abarrett@aldersgate.net>
Rehearsal: Tuesdays 7– 9 p.m. & Sundays 8:30 a.m.
Sings Sunday 9:45 a.m.

Saturday Night Band

Director: Andreas Barrett <abarrett@aldersgate.net>
Rehearsal: Saturdays 4 – 5:30 p.m.
Sings at service immediately following at 5:30 p.m.

CHILDREN! SING A JOYFUL NOISE EVERY WEDNESDAY! NEW FORMAT AND DAY FOR CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

BY ANDREAS BARRETT

Summer may be over, but the **Aldersgate Children's Choirs** are just getting warmed up! That's right, it's time to start singing again and have we got a fun-filled year of music and worship in store for you! Beginning September 15, we'll meet every Wednesday evening from 5:30 until 6:15 with enough built-in flexibility to suit anyone's busy schedule.

Though we hope you can come all year long, if time is tight, we've created five themed 6 to 8-week blocks for you to consider. Do you enjoy traditional songs and styles? We've got you covered. Do you love contemporary sounds? We'll do that, too. Musicals? Our choirs will be doing two.

And because we understand that your children are peer oriented, choirs will be divided into four age-appropriate groups as a way to maximize everyone's ability to have a great time, musically and socially. It's going to be a great year, so please come and be part of the joyful noise that only children singing in God's house can make!

CHILDREN'S MUSIC KICKS OFF ON SEPTEMBER 15 AT 5:30 PM!

Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:15 pm

- Preschool Cherub Choir directed by Sue McConville
- Kindergarten & 1st grade Choir directed by Cathy Powell
- 2nd & 3rd grade Choir directed by Karli Eddinger
- 4th - 6th grade Choir directed by Andreas Barrett

DEBORAH JONES NAMED DIRECTOR OF HANDBELL CHOIRS

A new member of Aldersgate's music staff is Deborah Jones, director of handbell choirs. Currently the church has handbell opportunities for adults and youth as well as a 4th - 6th grade children's handbell choir that meets on Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

Deborah grew up in central Massachusetts and graduated from the University of Massachusetts earning a BA in Chemistry and a minor in Music. She married Will Jones in 1978 and enjoyed sharing his military career. They moved to Virginia when Will was assigned to the Pentagon in 1988 and decided to retire here.

Deborah has been playing handbells for twenty years. She currently subs in various local choirs and plays regularly with the Fort Myer Chapel Ringers. "Handbells brought me to Aldersgate," she says. "Roy Hendricks needed a sub for rehearsal. And then it was just for one Sunday. Then I was asked if I could be a "regular sub" (what is that?) and I've been ringing here ever since! I think it was divine intervention!"

Deborah works full time at the Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria. In her spare time, she loves to read and play the piano and is an avid bird watcher. She is looking forward to directing the handbell choirs. "To me, handbells are a most joyful way to pray out loud. There's a bell for everyone from 8 to 80 and all are welcome to join us."

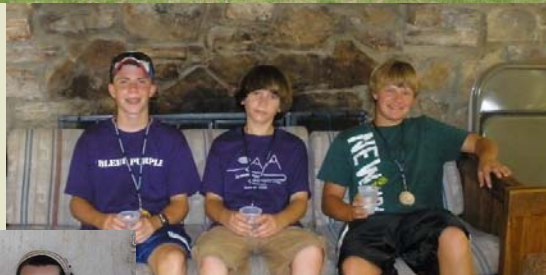
The adult bell choir meets on Tuesday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m. From 7 - 7:30 will be for ringers who would like to review technique and mark their music. The actual rehearsal will be from 7:30 - 9 p.m. Interested teenagers are welcome to join the adult group. Please contact Deborah at djones@aldersgate.net to learn more about joining a bell choir.



MISSION TRIPS 2010



Aldersgate sent over 100 people on mission trips this summer.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

ALDERSGATE UMW CHRISTMAS MARKET AND SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, November 13 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join us for fun, food and fabulous gift shopping!
Hand-made crafts, vendors, artwork,
lovingly used jewelry, bake sale, cafe and
of course, our great Silent Auction!

All proceeds go towards UMW mission projects
along the Route One Corridor, Guatemala and
Cambodia, to name a few.

Jewelry donations as well as items and
services for the silent auction are now being sought!

Questions? Contact Pat Travis at
mptravis@aol.com or 703-360-5264



UMM AT THE BALLGAME

Thirty-four people attended the United Methodist Men's (UMM) ballgame outing and fundraiser at Nationals Park on July 31. Part of the UMM group is pictured here in a tense moment just after the Philadelphia Phillies scored a run to break a four-all tie in the top of the ninth inning. They cheered up later when the NATS came back in the bottom of the ninth to win 7-5 on Ryan Zimmerman's three-run walk-off home run over the centerfield wall. UMM raised about \$250.

ALDERSGATE GROUP ATTENDS PASSION PLAY

Part of the Aldersgate group is pictured leaving for the airport to start an 11-day international trip that featured attending the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. The group traveled to four countries (Italy, Switzerland, Austria, and Germany). Aldersgate member, Barbara Boyce coordinated the trip.



Aldersgate Church

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