

# THE ALDERSGATE EXPERIENCE

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# The Aldersgate Experience

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**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](mailto:office@aldersgate.net)

Church Office Hours

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

**Website: [www.aldersgate.net](http://www.aldersgate.net)**

Behind the scenes this issue:

Amy J. Hurd, APR  
Managing Editor

Contributors:

Barbara Boyce  
Candy Cole  
Andrew DiAntonio  
Karli Eddinger  
Heather Evans  
Jason Gottshall  
Libby Hillenbrand  
Steve Larkin  
Ed Little  
Jay McConville  
Jason Micheli  
Shirley Pitts

Photographs courtesy of:

Barbara Boyce  
Andrew DiAntonio  
Heather Evans  
Meghan Lau



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Laura Paige Mertins	Sarah Lynn Mertins
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Mary Herrup	Hannah Lau
Meighan Cutler	Andrew Hurd
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Anna Stolarz	Margarita Alexio
Bridget Temple	Sophie Evans
Frida Hopper	Amber Evans
Hayley Hopper	Andrew Sutherland
Catherine Chittal	Jack Leyden
Amy Coffin	Lily Chong
Katya Lawhead	

### **Aldersgate Day School Consignment Sale**

Children's clothing, toys, furniture, and more!

Consigners can drop off items on October 23 and 24  
Please go to [www.aldersgate.net/dayschool](http://www.aldersgate.net/dayschool) for a packet.

***Shopping open on October 25, 26 & 27!***

# Looking Back - The Gifts of Faith, Family & Friends

By Jason Micheli

## Looking Back: Ten Years Ago

September 11, 2001 is stamped on our collective memory in the same way JFK's death was for my parents' generation. 'Where were you on September 11?' we ask one another with equal measures of reverence and grief.



I was in the dining hall of Princeton Seminary, watching with others on a muted television screen. With no volume, none of us were quite sure if what we saw was real.

Other images from that day have remained just as permanent for me. I remember the four lanes of Route 1 running north in to NYC eerily empty, traveled by nothing but trash blowing in the breeze. I remember the digital Department of Transportation signs outside my apartment blinking: 'All roads into NYC closed.'

I remember the children, some of them Muslim, at the private school where I tutored. Unknowing about the day's events, they were building, of all things, towers made of wooden blocks. I remember a seminary classmate, who was Egyptian, having insults hurled at him at WAWA by passersby too angry and too scared to learn that he was, in fact, not a Muslim but a cradle Presbyterian.

And I remember the first Sunday after that Tuesday. Like every church in the nation, the pews in my student congregation were more crowded than usual. The first sermon I ever had to write was for that Sunday. But what spoke louder than anything I preached were the two parishioners missing from their normal rows.

In my first theology class after that Tuesday morning, we learned about the theologian Karl Barth's reaction to the specter of Nazism rising in Europe. Barth argued, controversially, that Christians should 'do theology as if nothing else was happening in the world.' Where a week prior Barth's point may have seemed philosophical, now it hit us as anything but.

What Barth meant was that Christians should never let the events of the world, no matter how trying, distract us from the work to which God has called us: to worship God, serve our neighbor and nurture our children in the way of Christ.

I think perhaps that's why immediately after 9/11 so many of us turned to our faith, family and friends for comfort.

In the face of tragedy, on some level, we know these are the lasting, transcendent things God's given us.

## Looking Back: The Past Year

Now ten years removed, in many ways it seems like we never made it to September 12, and in some ways it seems things, such as Muslim-Christian relations, have gotten worse. The vagaries of two long wars, the number of military casualties and civilian dead, the long deployments suffered by military families, the semantics of advanced interrogation, the suspicion provoked in airport security lines, and partisan rancor have all worked to do their best to keep our calendars locked on September 2001.

This is the national landscape the Christian Church has occupied these past ten years. At times the Church has succeeded only in mirroring the fear and fractures of the culture. At other times the Church has proved to be a faithful irritant to the dominant mood. I'm encouraged that Aldersgate has found its place in the latter rather than the former.

For example, over this past year, our congregation has welcomed the members of a neighborhood mosque to observe their Friday Jummah prayers in our building while their own building underwent renovations. What began as a use of our space has since led to Muslim-Christian small groups, faith-sharing forums, much conversation and not a little controversy. Initially for our church leadership the mosque's request for worship space was a no-brainer. It seemed almost parabolic: here was a neighbor in need; here was a group that typified both 'the stranger' and 'the enemy' to almost biblical proportions.

In a sermon last fall on the matter, I likened the building of relationships with strangers- strangers whom many presume are our enemies- to the birthing of a new creation. As with all new creation, I pointed out, labor pains precede the delivery. And in our own congregation, this year has not been without pain.

Even though our congregation's hospitality has been occasioned by some controversy, early on it was obvious the reaction within our church did not match the reaction we received from people around the country who'd heard about us in the press. Even those church members who disagreed with the mosque's use of our space did so in an intentionally Christian way. Their manner of disagreeing never matched the volume or vulgarity of the hate mail sent to us by so-called Christians outside our community.

*(Continued next page...)*

## Help Feed The Hungry this Fall

**Sunday Suppers:** Help shop, cook, boil eggs, and/or serve the hungry in downtown D.C. on a scheduled Sunday afternoon or evening. To volunteer, contact Scott Sutton at [scottmsutton@aol.com](mailto:scottmsutton@aol.com).

**Fall dates:** September 11, October 16, November 13

**Phoenix Rising:** Help shop, make sandwiches, fill lunch bags, and/or deliver meals to the hungry along Rt. 1. To volunteer, contact Leah Gunter at [blazn3@verizon.net](mailto:blazn3@verizon.net).

**Fall dates:** Sept. 8/9, Oct. 13/14, Nov. 10/11

**Serving Christ by Serving Others, green bag ministry:**

Aldersgate's green bags will be distributed at worship on October 9 to be returned with donated canned food for Route 1 food shelters. Contact Paul Amos at [outreach@aldersgate.net](mailto:outreach@aldersgate.net) for more information.

**Fall Green Bag return date:** October 23

*More about these programs at [www.aldersgate.net](http://www.aldersgate.net).*

## FAITH, FAMILY & FRIENDS

*Fall Kickoff — September 10 & 11*

**Worship Services - Grateful Remembrance**

Saturday, September 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 11

8:30 a.m. — 9:45 a.m. — 11:15 a.m.

*Nursery available during all worship services.*

**Sunday School**

Children, Confirmation, Youth, & Adult Classes at 9:45

Foundations adult class and Gods' Grace for children with learning differences at 11:15

**Annual Swamp Romp Youth Kickoff**

Aldersgate front lawn, 5 - 8 p.m. (7th - 12th Grades)

**All For One Kickoff**

Side lawn, 5 - 7 p.m. (4th - 6th Grades)

### *(Looking Back - continued from page 3)*

One of the bright spots this past year is that, in a culture increasingly deprived of civility, our congregation is one that can disagree in a Christian manner.

This disparity in response has led me to conclude that to a large extent the hostility between Christians and Muslims owes to the media, who fan the fires and have a stake in perpetuating the status quo. This is, I think, a cautionary reminder of Barth's wisdom. The Church should continue striding along in faithfulness and not be swayed by the moods and tempers of the time.

Looking back at this unique year at Aldersgate, I remember the U.S. soldier who lost both his legs in Iraq but who, in a roomful of Christians and Muslims at our church, testified that the miracle he's experienced isn't that he survived but that he 'survived with no hate in his heart for his enemy.' And I will remember how when many in the audience heard his testimony they knew they'd just heard the Gospel.

I will remember the twenty-something Muslim woman who shared to a group of Christian women that, until eating desserts with them and making idle churchy chit-chat, she'd been afraid her whole life of Christians.

I will remember the lay person in our congregation, whose husband served twice in Iraq and whose initial reaction to our church's hospitality to Muslims was 'no way.' I will remember how she prayed on it, earnestly, and heard a different Word.

Looking back, I'm grateful for the many sincere, probing religious conversations our church's hospitality provoked. I'm confident these are the kind of substantive, faith-based conversations that will leave our church stronger for the future.

I will remember the funeral I did this winter for a church family. The caretaker who had nursed the deceased in the long months before she died is a Muslim woman. The scripture they chose for the funeral? The Book of Ruth, the story of a presumed enemy nursing one of God's chosen and, through that friendship, finding her way in to the story of salvation.

In the aftermath of 9/11, it was the ordinary practices of faith, family and friends that so many of us turned to for comfort and meaning. During this past year, in a world at war, I believe Aldersgate has demonstrated that it's those same ordinary, small-scale practices that show the way to redemption.

Now, as our Muslim friends return to their own worship space, I look forward to ways our two communities can partner in the future to serve God and neighbor.

### **Looking Ahead: 9/11/11**

On the weekend of September 10-11, Aldersgate will both kick-off its programming year and remember the dark events of ten years ago. Our theme for the weekend's events will be: 'Faith, Family and Friends.'

I can think of no more appropriate response on a day like 9/11 than for Christians to worship God, to enjoy the bonds of fellowship and church family, to welcome children into Sunday School classrooms and to give the youth of our community a safe place to play and maybe even take their first ever steps in discovering a church home.

Ten years ago it was practices such as these that sustained us. Over this past year we've discovered just how peculiar and transformative these practices can prove in a world that does not share our vocation. I invite you to join us this September as we celebrate again the gifts of faith, family and friends.

# A Fall Filled With Faith, Family & Friends!

## Adult Sunday School Classes

9:45 a.m.

**The Brothers and Sisters in Christ (BASIC)** Room 209  
The class generally chooses biblically based short studies often with a video component that look at topics of concern to the church and our members. Recent studies have included the Adam Hamilton series *24 Hours that Changed the World* and *Christianity and World Religions* and the Ray Vander Lann series *That the World May Know - Faith Lessons*. The Class is currently discussing possible subjects for the coming year.

### Christian Family Life

Room 132  
Topical discussions and studies on family, faith and parenting.

### Journey through the Bible

Room 210  
The Gospel of Matthew in light of the story of the Exodus.

### Potpourri

Room 208  
Book Discussion: *The Shack* by William P. Young

### Searchers

Room 212  
The Future of Faith... God in America. Study of the God in America series broadcast on PBS, where various religious movements in this country from its beginnings to the present are vividly illustrated to give a feel of people's deep-felt concerns in their times. The evolution of relationships between religion and government is ever present.

11:15 a.m.

### Foundations

Room 132  
Faith lessons of biblical archaeology. Through video presentation and guided discussion, the class explores recent discoveries in biblical archaeology to help provide a deeper understanding of scripture. In-depth video tours of the buried, distant, or otherwise forgotten places where the stories of the Bible actually happened provide fascinating historical, cultural, religious and geographical contexts for a deeper understanding of the biblical faith lessons and insights into the Scriptures' significance for believers today.



## Sunday Evenings

### Pastors' Adult Confirmation Class

#### Part II: How Do We Worship God?

St Augustine thought that all our questions about God could be summarized with just one question: What is to worship God?

As Augustine saw it, worship is the first calling of the Christian and encompasses all other expressions and questions. The three virtues of faith, hope and love are but other forms our worship of God takes.

This fall we will explore Christian worship: the meaning, history and how-to of practices like prayer, baptism and scripture reading. Our goal in the sessions is formation not just information, knowledge or opinion-forming. Catechesis is meant to equip one to become friends with God.

We hope that by the end of this fall's catechism you will have a deeper understanding of what Christians do when they gather on Sunday mornings and a stronger confidence to practice your own personal devotion.

Session 1: October 16

Theme- Called to Worship: Keeping Time

Session 2: October 23

Theme- Baptism: Initiation into a Peculiar People

Session 3: October 30

Theme- Prayer: Learning the Language of the Kingdom

Session 4: November 6

Theme- Confession and Pardon: Remembering Rightly  
Field Trip- Holocaust Museum (November 5)

Session 5: November 13

Theme- Prayer: Speaking with the Father

Session 6: November 20

Theme- Scripture: Re-narrating the World

Session 7: November 27

Theme- Eucharist: Feasting on the Future

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**Wednesday Night Dinners resume on September 21!**  
Make reservations at [www.aldersgate.net](http://www.aldersgate.net)

# Register Online for All Children's Programs!

www.aldersgate.net

## Youth & Children's Sunday School

### Available All Morning

Nursery 123 and 124  
Family Nursery & Nursing Room 122

### Classes at 9:45 a.m.

3-year-olds 131  
Pre-Kindergarten 127  
Kindergarten 125  
1st Grade 114  
2nd Grade 116  
3rd Grade 205  
4th Grade 207  
5th Grade 206  
Confirmation (6th grade & up) Guback Center  
Jr. High 203  
Sr. High 202

### Class at 11:15 a.m.

God's Grace 208  
*(for children with learning differences)*



## Children's Music Programs

By Karli Eddinger

Nothing says "Praise God" with such joy and warmth as children singing or ringing bells in worship! If you have children from 3 years old through 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we have great musical groups for them to participate in. Your child is guaranteed to have a great time in our program: creating music, making new friends, and learning what it means to be a part of the worship experience.

Children's musical groups generally sing/ring during worship services every 6-8 weeks throughout the year. An added element to the vocal choirs are musicals where children get the opportunity to act as well as sing. Our bell choir often attends area festivals where they get to ring a variety of pieces with hundreds of other children.

Children are so moved by their experiences singing and ringing in church! We encourage you to support your children in their response to God's love by allowing them to participate in such a joy-filled, community-enriching endeavor!

### **Wednesday evenings from 5:00-5:45**

#### **Grades 4-7: Faith Ringers**

*(For all ringers who also would like to sing in Jubilation Choir)*  
Room 118 with Deborah Jones

### **Wednesday evenings from 5:45-6:30**

#### **Ages 3-4: Cherub Choir**

Room 126 with Sue McConville

#### **Grades K-1: Genesis Choir**

Guback Center with Cathy Powell

#### **Grades 2-3: Glory Choir**

Room 116 with Terri Phillips

#### **Grades 4-7: Jubilation Choir**

Music Room with Karli Eddinger

#### **Grades 4-7: Faith Ringers**

*(For those who are not singing in the choir)*  
Room 118 with Deborah Jones

*(Parents may wait for their children and socialize in room 102. Parents are also asked to rotate in as chaperones during choir practices - no musical ability necessary.)*

## All For One

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join  
All For One (AFO)

We are a fellowship group that meets every Sunday evening (unless otherwise stated) from 5 - 6 p.m. in Wesley Hall followed by a family style dinner, 6 - 6:15 p.m. (\$2 donation) in Founders Hall.

We use this time to come together to do fun activities that make us think about what it means to be a Christian in our everyday lives at home with our families, in school and out in the community.

We are also very involved in many of the outreach programs in the church such as Sunday Suppers, UCM and green bag collections. And if that wasn't enough to get you excited, during the year we also go bowling, putt putt golfing, laser tag, zip lining, and to see a show.

For more information or to be added to our email list please contact Heather Evans at [h.evans@aldersgate.net](mailto:h.evans@aldersgate.net) or 703-765-6555, ext. 616.

We look forward to seeing you at our fall kickoff event on September 11<sup>th</sup> 5 - 7 p.m.!

# Adult Music Ministry

By Jason Gottshall

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 the 11:15 a.m. 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 of 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 folksy **Saturday Night** or contemporary Christian music (CCM) Sunday **Journeys** ensembles. 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

Jason Gottshall, jgottshall@aldersgate.net  
Wednesdays 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. rehearsal  
Sing Sundays 11:15 a.m.

## Aldersgate Chorale

Jason Gottshall  
One Monday, monthly, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. rehearsal  
Sing Following Sunday 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

## Men of Note

Jason Gottshall  
One Monday, monthly, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. rehearsal  
Sing Following Sunday 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

## Grace Notes

Karli Eddinger, keddinge@aldersgate.net  
One Monday, monthly, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. rehearsal  
Sing Following Sunday 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

## Journeys Band

Andreas Barrett, abarrett@aldersgate.net  
Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. rehearsal  
Sing Sundays 9:45 a.m.

## Saturday Night Band

Andreas Barrett  
Saturdays 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. rehearsal  
Sing at Service immediately following

## Sermon Series: *Frequently Asked Questions*

September 17-18:  
How Do We Forgive?  
Genesis 50: 15 - 21

September 24-25:  
Why does God make believing in him so hard?  
Mark 9.14-24

October 1-2:  
How do I know what God wants me to do?  
Mark 12.13-17

October 8-9:  
What happens when we die?  
Isaiah 65.17-25



There are no “summer doldrums” here at Aldersgate – our busy church continues as always to work hard for Christ and our Community every single day.

As a new season approaches we want to let you know that this year’s Commitment Campaign will be a celebration of that work and all the joy and faith we spread through Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.

We will kick off the 2012 Campaign in October, so watch the newsletter for news and events...and remember to Celebrate!

## Evening Programs for Tweens and Youth

Don’t Miss the **Annual Swamp Romp** Kickoff  
Starting at 5 p.m. on September 11!

*Sunday Evenings starting September 18*

5 - 6 p.m. All For One (4th, 5th, & 6th graders)  
5 - 6 p.m. 7th & 8th Grade Youth Group  
6 - 7 p.m. 9th & 10th Grade Youth Group  
7 - 8 p.m. 11th & 12th Grade Youth Group

A filling, family-style dinner will be served for students around 5:45 – 6:15 p.m.

**Wesleyan Ringers, adult handbell group  
rehearses on Tuesday nights at 7:30 p.m.!**

# Revealing Christ's Transformative Love to the World

By Andrew DiAntonio



“They shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks”  
– Isaiah 2:4

In a very real way, mission is inherently about change. Anyone who has heard me speak on mission (or read an email I wrote about it) will know that I frequently describe mission as the task of revealing Christ's transformative love to the world. Circumstances, lives, and people are transformed through the physical and personal growth that accompanies Christ-like service.

This summer I got the opportunity to spend some quality time with the prophet Isaiah. At SPY, your senior high trip to Blacksburg, the scriptural theme of the week was “Break Forth,” from the 58<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah. The actual mission component – intense home repair – and worship were really good at SPY, but to be honest, the accommodations were a little rough. The guys were sleeping in an

enormous church basement that would have made an excellent setting for any gritty, horror film. The first night I could not sleep at all, tossing and turning and waking up every hour or so. By 4:45 I had had enough of not sleeping, so I headed up the industrial steel staircase and settled down on a couch in the church lobby. Bored and waiting for the coffee to start brewing at 6:30, I cracked open the bible.

Flipping to the Isaiah verse that was the theme of the week, I stopped and decided that I might as well start at chapter 1. The Book of Isaiah has always been one of my favorite parts of the bible. Isaiah's pronouncement of a redeeming Son of David and calls to social justice are captivating. But these messages, still powerful isolated from the entire text, are even more profound in the context of the whole book. Isaiah lived in a time of terrible social and moral upheaval. The kingdom of Judah was falling apart at the seams. The rulers were corrupt and greedy, getting richer and richer off the poor whom they commanded. The people, if not worshipping gods of gold, loved God in name only. Societies most vulnerable were crushed under oppression and vice. And to top it all off Assyria loomed ominously in the East, waiting to conquer and exploit neighboring kingdoms.

Isaiah could easily have thrown in the towel and conceded that it was the end. Game over. But instead, he proclaims God's plan to transform the world, both through personal change (stop doing that!) and through the promise of Emmanuel, literally *God with us*. By aligning our lives with Isaiah's prophesied Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace, we can transform swords into plowshares and enemies into friends. No wonder the Church Fathers believed that Isaiah “knew more perfectly than all others' the mystery of the religion of the Gospel.”

Reading Isaiah in its entirety really turned my thoughts to transformation, and I saw change in every aspect of mission. At SPY I saw a dilapidated trailer transform into a warm, dry, secure home. A family torn apart by hurt and suicide, mended. A youth who, a year before had been a quiet 7<sup>th</sup> grader, grow up into a hardworking, determined almost-high schooler. At JP, which was held in Goochland, VA this year, I saw a rural high school transformed into a vibrant and passionate church building, and an odd-ball assortment of sixth graders become empowered kingdom builders. Kids who a week before had barely known each others names became close friends.

In Guatemala the metamorphosis is palpable. The stoves we build unequivocally change how people live. Women can spend time making money to support their families, wood that was once copiously burned to heat homes is now more efficiently used, even the very air the Mayans breath is changed. Lungs no longer take in acrid, black smoke, but clean, healthy air. The change in our own youth, while less physical, is equally drastic. Young women and men, who at home can barely muster the energy to clean their own rooms (or office!) become servants to the poorest of the poor. Stepping off the plane, we are stripped of our status and rank, and become slaves in Christ. As Jesus told his friends the night he was betrayed to the cross, “No servant is greater than his master.” In mission, the proud are humbled. The privileged made servants.

I can't properly express how proud I am of our youth. Their hard work, compassion, and zeal are something amazing to behold. Their mission this summer might not have fixed all the hurts of the world, but like Isaiah proclaims, by allying themselves with God they become participants in the transformation of the world.

# Member Highlight: Carl McNair, Jr.

By Shirley Pitts

From West Point graduation until his retirement and throughout a subsequent career in the civilian sector, Major General Carl McNair has amassed an exceptional record of achievements. The people at Aldersgate call him "Carl".

He is a long time member of Aldersgate and has served his church well. He was Lay Leader for four years, served on the Board of Trustees, co-chaired the Capital Campaign and was Lay Delegate to the Annual Conference along with other volunteer positions. He enjoys being asked to speak at different churches at their homecomings or on a specific holiday. He mainly speaks on faith and how it helps a soldier to have faith in the face of battle.

Carl was born in Pensacola, Florida. His father had a car dealership there. Since Pensacola was a "navy town", Carl wanted to go to the Naval Academy. The only problem was, even though he had an appointment to the Naval Academy, he graduated from high school early and he had to be eighteen to go. So, he went to Emory University as a pre-med student and had time to pledge Sigma Alpha Epsilon. By the time he was eighteen, his appointment to the Naval Academy had been given to some one else so he decided to go to West Point.



*Carl and JoAnn McNair*

He said he wanted to "fly and jump out of airplanes." Besides graduating from West Point, he has a Bachelor's and a Master's in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech and a Master's of Public Administration from Shippensburg University.

There are so many honors and awards that Carl has received in his military career as well as in the civilian area. There is not enough space but to mention a few. His latest award was presented to him in the form of a large, round medal on a ribbon to go around his neck which denoted that he was a Distinguished Graduate of West Point. There are only 93 other honorees who have received this honor in the history of West Point.

While he was Commanding General of the Army at Fort Rucker he was also the first Chief of Army Aviation. He was instrumental in developing and improving a fledging branch and paving the way for Army Aviators to have a stellar performance in Desert Shield/Desert Storm, the Balkans and the current fighting in Operation Iraq Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. He was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame in 2004.

After his retirement from the army, he worked for Burdeshaw Associates, DynCorp and Computer Sciences Corporation in Executive positions. He has served also on many different Boards such as the Arlington National Cemetery Commemorative Project, Inc as Chairman and President, the Easter Seals of Greater Washington Area (Emeritus Board Member) and the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. He was given a Distinguished Service Award from the Chamber in 2010.

He and his wife, JoAnn, live at Hidden Brook in Springfield. They have a son and two daughters. They also have six grandchildren and one great-grand baby.

## Changes in the Financial Office at Aldersgate

Meghan Lau resigned as financial administrator this summer. The Staff Parish Relations Committee wants to thank Meghan for her service to Aldersgate. The Finance Committee has temporarily contracted with the CPA firm of Fernandes, DeGennaro & Associates to handle our financial tasks. Bookkeeper Dawn Lipscomb and Randy Melton, CPA, will be here on Tuesdays and Fridays to handle processing of deposits, payments, payroll and other tasks as needed.

They bring with them years of experience in accounting and working with churches. The Finance committee, together with the Staff Parish Relations Committee will study the needs of the church and decide on the appropriate long term solution which may include continuing the services of Fernandes, DeGennaro & Associates. Dawn and Randy can be reached at [finance@aldersgate.net](mailto:finance@aldersgate.net) or 703-765-6555 ext 607.

The Finance Committee continues to be cautiously optimistic about Aldersgate's financial status. We currently have a deficit in the Mission & Ministry (operating) budget of about \$12,000, but this is lower than expected for this time of year. As always, Aldersgate needs your presence, prayers, gifts and service.

# ALDRSGATE CHURCH COMMUNITY THEATER

**Twelve Angry Men**, by the American playwright **Reginald Rose**, was originally written for television, and it was broadcast live on CBS's show *Studio One* in 1954. Rose expanded the play for the stage, and the new version which was published in 1955 (Dramatic Publishing Company) is the one ACCT will perform.

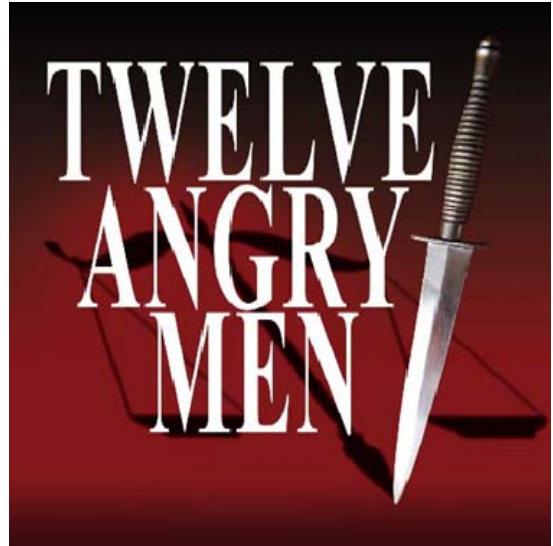
The play was inspired by Rose's own experience of jury duty on a manslaughter case in New York City. Rose was greatly impressed by the gravity of the situation, the somber activity of the court, and the "absolute finality" of the decision that he and his fellow jurors would have to make. He also thought that since no one other than the jurors had any idea of what went on in a jury room, "a play taking place entirely within a jury room might be an exciting and possibly moving experience for an audience."

The result is a taut, engrossing drama in which eleven jurors believe the defendant in a capital murder trial is guilty, while one juror stands up for what he believes is justice and tries to persuade the others to his way of thinking.

A 19-year-old man has just stood trial for the fatal stabbing of his father. "He doesn't stand a chance," mutters the guard as he leads the jurors off to deliberate. It looks like an open-and-shut case—until one of the jurors begins opening the others' eyes to the facts. "This is a remarkable thing about democracy," says the foreign-born juror, "that we are notified by mail to come down to this place—and decide on the guilt or innocence of a man; of a man we have not known before. We have nothing to gain or lose by our verdict. We should not make it a personal thing." But personal it does become, with each juror revealing his or her own character as the various testimonies are re-examined, the murder is re-enacted and a new murder threat is born before their eyes!

Tempers get short, arguments grow heated and the jurors become 12 angry men. The final verdict and how it is reached add up to an exceptional piece of dramatic literature.

*Produced by*  
*Kacie J. Greenwood and Robert Krause*  
*Directed by*  
*Roland B. Gomez*



**October 14 - 30**  
**Aldersgate's Wesley Hall**

Performances at 8:00 p.m.  
October 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, & 29  
Matinee performances at 2:00 p.m.  
October 16, 23, & 30

Tickets purchased at the door are Adult/\$15 and Youth/Senior \$12 (discounted if purchased online)

**Dinner show on October 20**  
with dinner at 7:00 p.m. and show at 8:00 p.m.  
Special dinner show \$35 with choice of two entrees

Please purchase your tickets at [www.acctonline.org](http://www.acctonline.org), during coffee hour, or at the performances.

## Forstall Becomes Director for the Aldersgate Nursery



Charlotte Forstall, who has worked in the Aldersgate nursery since January 2009, was named Director of Childcare this summer. Charlotte is a preacher's kid who grew up in the United Methodist Church (her dad is at Aldersgate UMC in Norfolk!) She is a graduate of Randolph-Macon College and is currently working on her MA in Art History at George Mason University focusing on the art of Ancient Rome. She loves working in the nursery at Aldersgate and says that Sunday mornings are the highlight of her week!

Charlotte can be reached at [cforstall@aldersgate.net](mailto:cforstall@aldersgate.net) to arrange to have childcare available for Aldersgate group meetings, classes, and events.



## The Travel Group Takes Flight

The Aldersgate Overseas Travel Group had a wonderful two weeks traveling in France – Paris, Normandy, Avignon, Provence, Nice, Monaco, Cannes and more. Joan and Dick Builta, Tammy Johnson and Ashley Goble, Gail and Win Lindley, and Tom and Barbara Boyce made this trip together in July.

Next May 7, 2012, the Travel Group will fly to the Netherlands to see the beautiful tulips and then have a day to see the very special FLORIADE—a flora and fauna expo held just every 10 years, then on to Belgium and Paris. The trip ends with a dinner upstairs in the Eiffel tower. If interested in this special 11 day excursion for \$3949 call Barbara Boyce at 703-780-7525.

## United Methodist Men *present* Friday Night Movies

7:30 p.m. in room 132

September 23:  
**"Facing the Giants"**  
*high school football and faith*

October 28:  
**"Fireproof"**  
*marriage and relationships*

November 18:  
**"Jesus of Nazareth"**  
*the heart and soul of our faith*

## In Appreciation

July 2011

Thank you with sincere gratitude and warmest thanks.

*To Aldersgate United Methodist Church,  
We are most appreciative of your letting us pray our  
Friday prayers in your church. We hereby express our  
"thank you very much" collectively in the many  
languages represented by our congregation who are all  
very grateful to everyone at Aldersgate.*

*Sincerely,  
ICNA (Islamic Circle of North America)*

When the Islamic Circle of North America discontinued their Friday prayers at Aldersgate, they sent a thank you card signed by many of their members and enclosed a generous donation that went into Aldersgate's discretionary fund to help those in need.

Over the past year, ICNA members donated and planted flower bulbs in front of the church and contributed canned food for several Aldersgate green bag food drives for the needy.

## The Aldersgate Bridge Group

This monthly group will play bridge at 7:30 p.m. in room 202 on the following dates: September 23, October 28, and November 18. Please call Robin Mathews at 703-360-5677 if you would like to play.

*Save the Date!*



## July 30 UMM Ballgame Fundraiser: NATS Won 3 – 0

Ed Little, President, Aldersgate United Methodist Men

The Aldersgate United Methodist Men (UMM) sponsored a night at a Washington Nationals baseball game on Saturday, July 30. A chartered bus took 47 of us—men and women—to the game and ten additional people bought tickets and made their own way. Proceeds for the evening came to \$638. These funds will be used to assist the UMM in providing assistance to area outreach efforts sponsored by the church. The night was met with success as the Nats beat the NY Mets by a score of 3-0. The star of the game, Jason Werth, drove in all three runs with a first inning home run. After the Nats' starting pitcher strained his back, the bullpen took over for the combined shutout. All had a good time. UMM sponsors a trip to the baseball park each year. We look forward to hosting the trip again next year with announcements next spring.



# Aldersgate Church

1301 Collingwood Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22308-1699

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## Summer Youth Missions

