



**Aldersgate
United Methodist Church**
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Vol. 23, Issue 9-10

Rev. Dennis Miller, Lead Pastor
Rev. Phil Brucks, Assoc. Pastor

Growing up together in Christ

Dear Aldersgate Family,

As I take time to write this article, signs of spring are already appearing. Seeing the landscaping work being finished during this great weather I am reminded of the faithfulness of God to us. This time of Lent should challenge us to reflect on the new life we need in our daily walk with Jesus.

Last weekend our Junior High Fusion group and 6th grade confirmands along with several adults went to the Believe Conference in St. Charles. We stayed at Church of the Good Shepherd and enjoyed the thrill of packing 32 kids into two small classrooms. However, what the bus and van rides teach us about the com-

munity we are in Jesus Christ is life-changing. As life crowds around us and we face the challenge of being everything God made us to be, we realize that with the right heart and attitude God can do incredible things in our lives.

I wouldn't trade one van ride with over a dozen kids for all the peace and tranquility of a rocking chair on the back of some cabin in the woods. I need those moments too, because of all the ways God has shown up to change my life on those amazing trips.



We are going through some hectic and changing times as a church, but don't forget God is showing up in all of it and we're responsible for moving forward in God's love in every circumstance. We have some great kids in our church and I'm glad to be one of them growing up in Christ. Hope to see you in Church this Sunday.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Dennis

A different prayer

Heavenly Father, help us remember the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who just worked nine hours and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children before collapsing into bed.



Help us remember the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, the scary-looking bum begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us remember the old couple walking annoyingly slowly through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment knowing that based on the biopsy report she got back last week this will be the last year they go shopping together.



Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not just to those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive or show patience, empathy and love, for everyone has a story.

—Author unknown

Desperate for spring

“It is for God’s glory that we bear much fruit!” (John 5:8)

I am so desperate for spring. This winter seems especially long and cold and barren to me. I don’t know if it’s because I enjoy long walks so much and haven’t been able to due to the frigid temps or if my body is just depleted of Vitamin D, but I ache for warmth and fresh air flooding my lungs.

I shared my testimony AGAIN with the youth at our Wednesday night Fusion café. For those of you who haven’t heard how God finally reached me, I would be happy to give you more details or you could ask one of the youth who have heard the story 10 times. But the bottom line is God reached me by writing a special note to me through a neighbor of my parents, and I have never been the same.

Every time I share this amazing gift from God I pray, “Oh God, please grab hold of the youth with clarity and power. Please let them know without a doubt you are God and you love them enough to speak to them in anyway you deem best to get their full attention and whole hearts.” I wonder when I share this story why God gave me a special letter when he had already given me 66 books in the Bible? It seems like that should have been enough. Why did he need to write one more for me? As I ponder this once again during the backdrop of this long, dreary winter that has left me so desperate for sunshine and warmth, I realize how desperate for Him I was at that time. I was really, completely empty and starving from the lack of nourishment the World offers.

My high school and early college years were my winter: cold, dark and empty. God did allow me one of the biggest blessings of my life, my first son, Ryan. I knew God was trying to speak to me about true love and sacrifice but I just wasn’t getting the message. Being a mother of an

amazing child only added to my desperation and my need to find a better way to live. I sought God with all my heart and he found me.

Now I am out of the spiritually barren years of my life! Sometimes I feel like I am in spring just soaking in the rain and sun as I break through the earth in my attempts to grow. Some days I feel like I am in the summer months bearing fruit just bursting with life. I have even been blessed with a few autumn days and seen some harvesting. Thankfully I am either preparing to bear fruit, bearing fruit or experiencing harvest, but I am not in the lifeless winter days anymore!



How about you? Are you desperate for God in the same way you are desperate for spring flowers and baseball season? I encourage you to read John 15:1-17 and be reminded your Father in heaven is the gardener and you were created to bear fruit, much fruit as we were reminded in our Monday morning ladies Bible study. This is God’s will for you and for me and it is all for his glory. Jesus is the vine we are to abide in, knowing apart from Him we can do nothing. Yet, in Him we display what He is producing!

I was born in winter and I am thankful God allowed the winter of my life to be as cold and dark as it was because it was then I learned to seek Him. I am never going back to those fruitless days.

Abiding in Jesus,

Elizabeth Buchanan

This week’s most needed items:

- * Cereal,
- * Pancake Mix & Syrup
- * Chicken
- * Hamburger
- * Tuna
- * Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta
- * Sugar-free Jelly & Jell-O
- * Diapers

Donations gratefully accepted
8 AM—12 PM
Mon—Wed—Fri
511 Kathryn Street
Nixa, MO 65714

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News and notes from the family at Aldersgate

Hospitality Team Meeting
TONIGHT at 6:30 PM
In the Worship Center



Stephen Ministry speaker
on services for seniors
March 11

Tomorrow at 6:30 PM in Aldersgate House, Stephen Ministry will host Becky Vitt with "Seniors on the Move" to speak about services available for seniors to help them in down-sizing, moving, and other needs. The congregation is invited to attend.

Confirmation Retreat
March 12
5:30-11 PM in the CLC



Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 14!

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before bed Saturday night!

Finance Meeting
February 16
6:30 PM in the Youth Auditorium

Singles Bunco Night
March 18

5:30-9 PM in the CLC

Singles, mark your calendars for the third Thursday of each month for game night! March will be Bunco night. Carla Wilcox will be teaching us all how to play. Bring a snack to share and join us!

No Wednesday Night Activities
March 24

Except choir practice!

Have a great spring break and we'll see you again March 31!



Aldersgate's Trivia Night April 9!

Get your teams together now! More info to come soon!

In thanks...

We would like to thank our church family for all the prayers, food and support during the time of our most recent loss of Ron's mom. Thank you for making us feel so loved. We could certainly feel God's presence in each one of you. Also, God's healing hand was felt through Pastor Dennis as he led us in Betty's memorial service. Our church is definitely a church with a warm heart!
—Ron and Becky Grant



My family and I want to thank our wonderful, warm-hearted congregation for all your prayers, cards and help with Jack's memorial service and before. Your love, support, prayers and calls have meant so much to me over the past few months! May God continue to shine through our congregation! Love in Christ,

—Arlene Russell

In sympathy...

Our thoughts and heartfelt prayers are with Kristy Endacott and family in the loss of her father, Charles H'Doubler.



April 1 is the deadline to register
for the summer mission trip

Susan Kendrick is forming a group of folks that would like to serve at Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. The team will be leaving Saturday, June 5, and returning Saturday, June 12. This will be a work project. The type of work is based on the skill level of the team members. Cost for the trip will be \$250 and includes room, board and supplies. If you would like to join the team, or want to know more about it, please contact Susan at 724-8342 before April 1.

Balance: Stability produced by even distribution of weight or forces

Our lives are delicately balanced. A small shift in one area of life can set us off balance. A major change can send us spinning out of control. Stephen Ministers can help when life gets out of balance. They listen and care, and most importantly, bring the stability of Jesus' love and grace into people's lives. If your life or that of someone you know has shifted out of balance, consider Stephen Ministry. Contact Stephen Leaders Claren Holmes (581-2870) or Delilah Brown (725-2329) for more information.

Let's stay in touch!



We now have mailing addresses for two members of our church family who were recently deployed. Drop them a line now and then and let them know they are appreciated.

CWS Drew Gregory
TV AVCRAD (TAMP)
APO 09366

SSG. Flannery, D.
TAMP-I
APO-AE 09391



Spring Softball is coming!

Naida Shipp will be in the Worship Center Commons between services to answer questions and take names of all players interested in the spring softball league. Official registration forms will be available soon, so dust off those bats and gloves!



Easter Egg Hunt

April 3

1 PM

Invite your friends and neighbors!

Children through grade 5 are invited to participate!

(Candy donations would be greatly appreciated.)



Good Friday Service

April 2

7:00 PM