

July 14, 2010

# The Heartbeat



**Aldersgate  
United Methodist Church**  
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**Rev. Dennis Miller, Lead Pastor**  
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## Living as family, celebrating our brother

Dear Aldersgate Family,

When I first came to Aldersgate, I encountered a very loving and caring church, and it provided my family with an incredible home. Everyone was so wonderful, but Dick Curry let me know that I could expect to see a member of the congregation early on Sunday mornings who was very conscientious in preparing to usher for the 8:30 service. I believe this had begun when Lee Strawhun was here. Dick was not wrong. Promptly at 6:30 AM, sometimes a little earlier, Austin Brooks was waiting in his red Dodge Ram truck for me to arrive.

It became a challenge to arrive before him, and if I was running late I was always worried how bad Austin would tease me for making him wait. If I could get the coffee made before he arrived, I knew I had done well. It saddens me to think I have not been arriving as early because Austin had been unable to keep up his ushering duties due to his health. Sometime July 7th, Austin went home to be with the Lord. He had been at Bible Study two weeks before with the same smile when he walked in and the same enthusiasm for being at his church. Although he had been struggling these last days, I could still see the love he had for the people of Aldersgate.

We will celebrate Austin's life this coming Sunday especially at our 8:30 service with a special Memorial Worship Service. This may seem a little unusual, but most families are unusual and we are no exception. Austin found a family here at Aldersgate and now he has arrived

to his heavenly home. May we continue on our journey growing in our faith as a family!

Hope to see you in Church this Sunday.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dennis

P.S. Remember our family fun nights Wednesdays in July. This is a great opportunity to celebrate the love we have for one another as a church family and just relax and enjoy each other's company. The fun starts at 5:30 PM!

### **TONIGHT! Pizza, ice cream social, games**

\$2 per person, \$5 per family. Bring a batch of your best homemade ice cream and board games to play!

### **July 21 BBQ potluck and music**

Ray Massey will be barbecuing for us, so bring a side dish or dessert to share. Then stay for praise music from our Youth Praise Band or bring along board games and play in the CLC.

### **July 28 Subs and drive-in movie night in the gym**

It's retro night in the CLC at Aldersgate! After sandwiches and chips (cost is \$2 per person or \$5 per family), we'll have a drive-in movie night complete with a classic countdown, opening cartoon, the original Disney classic film "The Absent-minded Professor," and a real movie popcorn machine! Bring your blankets and lawn chairs!

## Join us for a church float trip this Saturday! Sign up today!



Join us for a 4-hour float down the James River sponsored by the Men's Fellowship! We'll start at the H. R. Kerr access and float to Galena. Cost is \$30 per canoe. Each canoe can

hold either two adults, two adults and one child, or three older children.

We'll meet at church at 9 AM and carpool to the site. Bottled water and Gatorade will be provided, but please bring your own lunch. **If you'd like to go, call the church office or talk to Ryan Thomassen TODAY!**

Many people say miracles don't happen today like they did in the days of Jesus. Each day that we walk on this earth is a miracle, but then there are the days when God's work is so clear that we can really see the extraordinary.

I was blessed to go on a mission trip to Nicaragua recently. That first morning walking down the hill into the village was the start of God's work as the children greeted us with so much joy and love. When we gathered for morning devotions and saw the love and kindness of the people, my excitement of being there grew even more. As we hammered, carried bricks and poured cement, I felt a sense of community beginning. The people from the very young to the very old, were all working side by side with us, a sign that we are all part of the body in Christ.

As the week went on, our love for these people grew, but there were other events that touched our lives. We took a trip to the mental hospital to bring them sheets, towels, and hygiene items. What I didn't know was how much this place was going to impact me. We were escorted to a courtyard where several of the residents were, all men. What I saw in their eyes were souls trapped in a diseased body that they can't leave. We sang a couple of songs in Spanish about Jesus. What happened next was again God's hand working in these men. Several fell to their knees in prayer, many cried, many reached out their hands to us and asked, "Are you my friend?"



The next journey God took us on was down in the dumps. Just imagine living in your city's local dump. I will never forget that smell I experienced that day. And one of ways of survival is to dig through the trash to find items of use. God blessed us with enough funds to be able to give 71 of the families living there rice and beans.

But God still wasn't done with us. Tragedy struck on Friday. Two girls from the village were hit by a car. One was very seriously injured; the other not so bad. Luzi-cara's head injuries were so severe she was unrecognizable. Even after surgery was performed, she was not expected to live. She was later removed from life support and died. The family was notified. We were all saddened by the news, but also remembered that this sweet angel had just accepted the Lord the night before. That gave us some peace.

But God was not done yet. Twenty minutes after being pronounced dead, her heart started beating again and she started breathing. When they hooked her back up to life support and an IV, she had a severe nosebleed which removed pressure from her brain.

At the time of writing, she is still in a coma. But alive. We are waiting to hear an update, but whatever the outcome many lives were changed because of this miracle, especially those of her family. They all accepted Christ into their hearts and know they will be with her again either here or in heaven.

**GOD IS SO AWESOME!**

## Compassion Run/Golf Tournament Results



Our seventh annual Champions for Compassion 5K/10K Run/Walk was held June 26th. Many thanks to all the volunteers and participants who made this year's event possible! Here are some stats from the event.

5K runners/walkers = 109

10K runners= 28

Total runners/walkers = 137

Participant ages= 6- 64

Total Volunteers = approx. 40 (corner marshals, registrations, water stops, & men's group breakfast)

Money raised = estimate approx. \$2,000 split between Least of These & AUMC Compassion Ministry.

Cans of food donated= 60

Good time had by all = priceless!

48 golfers from Aldersgate enjoyed nine holes of golf before the rains came at our Summer Golf Tournament. Thanks to everyone who joined in, especially our new entries. The results are:

A winners: Rick Sterling, Adam Sterling, Linda Sterling and Ron Grant

B Winners: Carl Simpson, Jim Deakins, Greg Janeczke and Linda Rourke

Men Long Drive: Baron Ullrich

Men Closest to the Pin: Travis McMahan

Women Long Drive: Cindy Clark

Women Closest to the Pin: Sarah Ernst

Thanks to those on the Golf Committee: Rick Hood, Carl Simpson and Ralph Ernst. Thanks to those who donated prizes: Wal-Mart (Joe Sutter), Carl Simpson—Passes to Silo Ridge, Linda Rourke—Glasses, Carl Presley—Shirts.

See you for the fall tournament!

- Ralph Ernst



# Here's what happening around Aldersgate



## Youth Mission Trip July 15-18

Please keep these 25 youth and adult team members in prayer as they serve in Dallas: Jordan Griffen, Kaitlyn Cook, Sarah Jemison, Lauren Moats, Carissa Slattery, Emily Miller, Caleb Miller, Hannah Cunningham, Caleb Brandt, Mackenzie Kurth, Hannah Sands, Josh Buchanan, Hannah Buchanan, Kelsey Badger, Victoria Bleau, Sara Clark, Lauren Clark, Allie Jennings, Brannon & Elizabeth Buchanan, Chris & Lauri Griffen, Leeann Moats, Melissa Trebilcock, and Gwyn Burns.

## Singles Game Night July 15

5:30 PM in the CLC

Bring your favorite games and a snack to share and join us for fun and fellowship!

## Church Float Trip July 17

The Men's Fellowship is sponsoring this float of the James River. See page 1 for more info.



## Youth Leaders Meeting July 17

9 AM in CLC 201

All youth leaders are asked to attend.

## Men's Bible Study Resumes July 19

## Finance Meeting July 20

6:30 PM in the Youth Auditorium



## Family Fun Nights July 21 & 28

July 21st we'll have a barbecue potluck and enjoy music from our Youth Praise Team. We'll even have a surprise outside for the kids after the music! Bring a side dish or dessert to share and join in the fun!

July 28th is drive-in movie night! We'll provide dinner (\$2 per person or \$5 per

family) and real movie popcorn, plus a pre-show cartoon and the Disney classic film, "The Absent-minded Professor." Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy a retro night with us!

## Friday Adult Bible Study Resumes July 23



## VBS Volunteer Training July 27 7 PM in CLC 201-202

All VBS volunteers should plan to attend. This training will cover our Safe Sanctuary policies and procedures as well as VBS training. Please see Pam Foster for more information.

## Pictorial Directory Update

Printing will begin next week! Volunteers are needed to help bind the directories. If you can help during office hours, please call Brenda in the church office!

## VBS Help Needed!

We need lots of volunteers to help with snacks, crafts, games, and story time and to be crew leaders for the 200+ children we are expecting this year. Please call the office or sign up on your Connect Card in the Sunday bulletin if you can help a child explore the mighty love of God!



## VBS Snack Items Needed

- \* Little Hugs juice jugs
- \* Cookies
- \* Small pretzels
- \* Goldfish crackers
- \* Animal crackers

- \* Cheerios
- \* M & Ms
- \* Individually packaged gummy fruit snacks

## VBS Craft Items Needed

- \* Paper towel/toilet tissue tubes
- \* Pipe cleaners
- \* Glue dots
- \* Fun foam sheets (bright colors)
- \* Small Styrofoam balls
- \* 1/8" dowel rods

We do not need any more egg cartons.

## Please pray for our country

The United States of America is in a dangerous place with economic crisis, rampant immorality, and the devastation of abortion. II Chronicles 7:14 states, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear them and forgive their sins and heal their land." It is up to the church to do as the Lord commands. People of Aldersgate, please commit to pray for our nation for the next 120 days. The power of prayer is amazing. Please pray.

—Susan Fletcher

## In memory...

In memory of Austin Brooks, who went home to heaven last week, we will have a special memorial worship service Sunday, July 18th, at 8:30 AM. A service with military honors will be held at the Veteran's Cemetery July 16th at 2 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Aldersgate's Camp Scholarship Fund.

## Summertime Stress Slowing You Down?

We like to think of summer as being a relaxing, enjoyable time. But hurts, struggles, crises, and problems don't take a vacation. Many times our difficulties seem even worse during the summer because everyone else seems to be enjoying life while we are feeling down.

If you are experiencing a difficult time--emotionally, spiritually, or relationally--you don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing. Men are matched with men women are matched with women. It's free. It's confidential. And it will make a difference in your life! Call 725-4949 for more information about Stephen Ministry.





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