ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

#586 **The GatePost** - The Monthly Newsletter of Aldersgate UMC January 1, 2018

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January at Aldersgate

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 - EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Worship at 9am - A God Who is Worthy

Holy Communion ~ Food Collection for Families Forward ~ Mission/Outreach Team Meeting after Worship

Dismantling the Greens, 3:30pm

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 - BAPTISM RENEWAL

Family Worship at 9am - A God Who's Love is Not Earned

Youth make lunches & serve the homeless in Santa Ana, 10:30am to 1pm

Zero Gravity (4th & 5th Grade Fellowship), 5:30pm in Room 8

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Worship at 9am - A God Who Celebrates the Tolerated

Food Collection for Sunday Suppers

Stewardship Ministry Fair, after worship in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday Suppers, 5:30pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Worship at 9am - A God Who Blesses the Crowd

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Aldersgate Children's Center

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The beginning of a New Year is always a chance to look back and be grateful for all the ways God was present with us, as well as look forward to the new opportunities God will provide in order to experience hope, peace, joy and love. During worship on Dec. 31, we renewed our covenant with Christ using a prayer from John Wesley:

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low by thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

These are powerful words! They mean that no matter what happens to us or our loved ones, we commit to following the ways of Christ.

In that effort, it is good to be aware of all the ways God is moving in our lives and community. In addition to being the beginning of a New Year, **January is also Human Trafficking Awareness Month.** It is a time to remember there are millions of our brothers and sisters enslaved around the world, and we, as members of the body of Christ, are called upon to bring awareness and prevention so all might experience the abundant life of love and grace that God offers to everyone. Our Abolitionist Task Force has been busy this least year bringing awareness to this topic. In January 2017 we posted signs around Tustin to bring awareness to Human Trafficking, and we will do the same this month. In November we hosted a showing of the movie, *Screenagers*, and had an overwhelming response from church members and community members who gathered to learn about the best ways to safely guide our children and youth through the world of technology. And in February, the Live 2 Free organization from Vanguard University will come and give a presentation to our youth group. These are some of the ways we continue to bring awareness to the plight of millions of God's children.

I hope and pray this month will be an opportunity for you to renew your covenant with Christ, and to discover a new way to help share God's love with some of God's precious children. May we worship God together, pray together, serve together, and together hope for a kinder, more loving world for all!

Blessings,
Pastor Karin

If you need prayers for yourself, a family member or a friend, you are invited to contact:

The Church Office
at (714) 544-3653.

All prayer requests are given to the pastors and office staff, who pray together weekly. Members of the prayer chain pray specifically for those who ask for prayers for themselves and/or others. If you are interested in becoming a member of the prayer chain, please contact the church office.

GRIEF SHARE®

A new 13-week session of Grief Share will begin on January 7, 2018. The group meets on Sundays at 2:30pm in the Church Library.

Contact the Church Office at (714) 544-3653 or Admin@aumctustin.org for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry...

...meets on the **1st and 3rd** Wednesdays **from 3pm to 5pm in the Fireside Room.** If you are interested in being part of this important and meaningful ministry, please feel free to attend a meeting—even if you have no experience, there are knitters and crocheters willing to help those that are just getting started. Please feel free to contact the Church Office if you have any questions or need further information about the group.

BeFriender Ministers

BeFriender Ministry
A Listening Presence

The BeFriender ministry of Aldersgate is a listening presence. This ministry is not a ministry of "doing", but of "being,"--being present and listening quietly. Everyone is, at times, on a difficult journey and needs a caring companion who will listen, empathize, and be a reminder of a caring, faith community. All requests and meetings are confidential. This ministry comes under the umbrella of the Care and Nurture team. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, do not hesitate to contact the church Office.

Environmental Ministries

Sherri Miller—EM Chair

"Those Who Have Gone Before"

So often we say after a memorial service, "I wish I had known that---I would've enjoyed discussing it with him/her." Sue Bishop and her two helpers, Jeannie Wright and Pat Downie, have been working hard to remedy just that---through their wonderful "Sharing Our Stories" program, which gives senior Aldersgate members the opportunity to tell their life stories. So far, we have enjoyed fascinating---and inspiring ---talks by Ethel Poh, Jackie Powell, Jack Murrieta, and Ruth McQuerry.

One person we didn't get to hear from (since the program is so new) was Charlene Horning. At her recent memorial service, Pastor Karin told about Charlene's years of service to Aldersgate and her many interests---including the outdoors. Charlene had traveled (with her late husband David) to numerous National Parks, and she had even bought a Prius (a hybrid car) to help the environment. In fact, she was an early member of Environmental Ministries. At the reception following the service, I saw a wonderful photo of Charlene with family members, all lying side-by-side on their stomachs at the very edge of a high cliff, gazing out over a beautiful valley far below. Charlene certainly loved and appreciated the breath-taking beauty of our world.

This also reminds me of long-time Aldersgate members Norm and Margaret Henke, happily residing in Georgia these days. We let them escape before they had the chance to tell all about their own amazing life stories, and their love of God's Creation.

Recently I did ask Margaret to tell me how Aldersgate's Environmental Ministries group got started. She said, "I went in to talk to Al Waterson about the fact that I wasn't hearing anything from the religious community about taking care of the Earth, and that I thought it was a moral issue that the church should be concerned about.

Pastor Al agreed and encouraged me. He suggested that I start by writing an article for the Gatepost every month. I wrote the first article in 1997. It was about why I thought preserving and protecting the Earth is a religious concern. After that, most of the articles were about things we could do as individuals or as a church community to help with this goal. And soon I began to find others who were also concerned, and we formed a small group---Environmental Ministries---which has continued to this day."

And I'll also add: after talking with folks from other religions who agreed that all the major world religions desire the protection of our planet, Margaret founded the Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment (OCICE)---which, like Environmental Ministries, continues to this day.

But wait!---there's more! In their 80s, Margaret and Norm bought an electric car powered by solar energy from their own residential solar panels. Zero emissions…zero! Plus, Norm worked with the Trustees to research future solar panels for our church buildings. Thank you, Norm and Margaret, for all you have accomplished. And Happy New Year from Aldersgate and Environmental Ministries! Come visit us again soon!

Youth News!

Scott Wilmoth - Youth Director

Happy New Year!

The youth ended the year with a wonderful December! We sang carols to our home bound church members, we watched Christmas movies together, and we had another fantastic progressive dinner and gift exchange! Thank you to the Warrens, the Magers and the Kuntzs for hosting our stops this year. Our youth have been very involved in worship as acolytes, dancers, singers, musicians, and readers of the Word, and we had youth perform in the annual Christmas Candlelight Dessert. All the proceeds from the dessert will help fund our mission trips this summer. We've also had a great time with our confirmation class and their mentors.

2017 was another banner year in the life of our youth group. Here are some highlights:

- Sent youth to Smith River and to San Diego for mission trips
- Once again, AUMC sent more children and youth to summer camps than any church in the conference
- Served hundreds of lunches to those in need in Santa Ana and served at Sunday Suppers
- Climbed indoor and outdoor towers
- Broke bread together during communion and dinners
- Provided butterflies at Easter
- Had fun “sleep” overs
- Helped with Fall Fest,
- Confirmed 11 youth as new members of our church
- Planned and executed a spiritual Youth Sunday worship service
- Played games of capture the flag and bench ball with the Zero Gravity group
- Had some exciting pool parties to continue to build relationships with each other and with God
- Had insightful Bible studies on the Sermon on the Mount and the story of Joseph.

In 2018 we will continue growing together in love and spirit. We will begin a new Bible study for junior and senior high youth. We will take senior high youth to Houston, Texas for Hurricane Harvey relief work and we will take junior high youth to Tsaile, Arizona to work with Sierra Service Project. We will send many children and youth to camps again, and we will continue to be the hands of Christ to others through service to the homeless, through Sunday Suppers, and through Youth Sunday worship. We will confirm seven more youth to become members of our church, and we will continue to have youth serve in worship on a weekly basis. The Miracle Movers will dance, Psalm 96 will sing, acolytes will carry the light, musicians will play, readers will speak the Word, and we will continue to grow together in faith and love. Thank you so much for an incredible 2017, and we are looking forward to 2018!

As always, thank you for your constant love and support of our youth. Amen!

Blessings,
Scott Wilmoth, Youth Director

Convergence – Relationships – CPR/AED/First Aid Training

by Chia-Ying Wang

"Convergence" and "relationships" are words from Pastor Ken's and Pastor Karin's sermons that seem to echo repeatedly for me. We might find ourselves in a situation – a planned or unplanned convergence – in which we and our skills are needed to help someone or even to help save someone's life.

Saving a life can mean just that, the awesome and selfless gift of saving a person's life. Saving a life can potentially mean even more, like saving relationships – the relationships of a parent and child, of siblings, of a grandparent and grandchild, of friends, of a helper and those s/he helps, and the list goes on.

Please consider attending a morning session, led by Heart-to-Heart CPR and First Aid's founder, Jack Griswold. Age 12 and up are welcome, as are age 8 and up with an adult to assist. Advance registration is recommended.

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2018

Place: AUMC Fellowship Hall

Time:

Sign-In	7:30-8:00 AM
CPR/AED Certification ($25 - cash only)	8:00- 9:30 AM
First Aid Certification ($25 - cash only)	9:30-10:30 AM
	(if First Aid only, come at 9:15 AM)

To sign up, please stop by the table on the patio after morning worship on January 14 and 28 or February 4 and 11 or contact the Church Office at (714) 544-3653 or Admin@aumctustin.org. If you want a copy of the training workbook in advance of the session, please pay in-full (cash only) when you register. Hope to see you there!

MISSION OUTREACH

The mission of the Mission/Outreach Team is to connect Aldersgate congregants with our neighbors in need, both near and far, by providing opportunities for ministry through our support and strength so that God's presence and unconditional love may be experienced.

Missions/Outreach Team Meeting - January 7, 2018

Our first Missions/Outreach Team meeting of the New Year will be on Sunday, January 7, at 10:30am, upstairs in the library. This meeting is for "old hands" and for new folks who would like to check out what we do.

Come join us as we discuss and plan how our church has been and will continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community and in our world.

Family Promise® of Orange County
Building Community, Strengthening Lives

Save the Dates!

2018 Family Promise Hosting Dates:

- Sunday, February 11 through Sunday, February 18 , 2018
- Sunday, May 6, through Sunday, May 13, 2018
- Sunday, July 15, through Sunday, July 22, 2018
- Sunday, December 2, through Sunday, December 9, 2018

Look for information on signing up to volunteer in Sunday bulletins, newsletters and e-Connections or contact the church office.

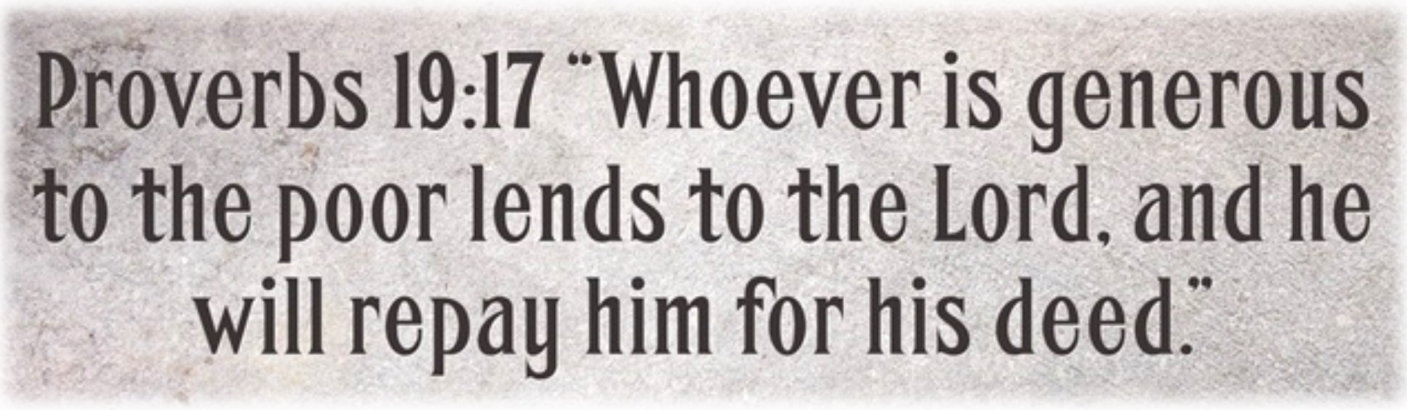
The mission of Family Promise is to help homeless and low-income *families* achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. Thank you for your commitment to this important outreach!

Manna Bags

Remember that manna bags are available to distribute to those who need assistance. You can pick them up in the Sanctuary or by the Connection Center on Sunday mornings or in the church office on weekdays during office hours.

In addition to sustenance, the bags also contain lists of other places that offer assistance, including a flyer for Sunday Suppers!

These are great to keep in your car for the occasions that you are out and about and may see someone that could benefit from a bag of food.



Sunday Supper Christmas Dinner
THANK YOU

It truly took a village! Aldersgate UMC volunteers and donors made the December 17 Christmas dinner memorable for 215 community guests. We had 300 gift cards, 97 volunteers and 15 bakers, and a beautiful collaboration of all Sunday Supper congregations. Our volunteers had amazing energy, creative ideas, can-do attitudes, and the great welcoming spirit of Christmas. From beautiful decorations, to two days of food prep, festive hats and shirts, craft bags and stockings for the kids, dishwashing, conversations with guests, donating gift cards, pouring hot chocolate and beverages, carrying out the trash, cleaning up and moving tables, baking desserts, handing out groceries, our volunteers were God's light in the waiting season of Advent, and, for many, tough times.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jeannie Wright, Jackie Powell and Cristen Astbury decorated the room to bring the cheer of Christmas to our dinner. They saved decorations from last year, added a few this year, and packed and stored them again for next year. They are an amazing team.

George Puente and Dave Kendall moved Aldersgate tables and chairs to St. Paul's Episcopal Church to make sure we had enough seating for all. They are humble servants.

Lori Daybell coordinated the stuffing of 175 stockings from local scout troops to give to the children and made bags full of craft items to keep the kids busy while waiting for dinner. What a gift for the children!

Gift Card Donors. Thank you all for providing $20 gift cards for our guests. They truly look forward to receiving them and we had enough leftover to give away on Christmas Eve.

MISSION OUTREACH

Opportunities and Events

Our **Thank Goodness It's Wednesday** night dinners are every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in providing a meal on a Wednesday, please contact Barbara Kuntz or the church office. All your expenses will be reimbursed.

Please join us for great food and fellowship! $5 per person and $15 maximum per family.

Sharing Our Stories (SOS)

It's time to start the music, it's time to light the lights...it's time for Sharing Our Stories with H. Hanson as our guest speaker! A talented musician and performer, H. is sure to regale and entertain and give you a glimpse into the behind-the scenes life in theater. Please join us—all are welcome!

Thursday, January 18 in the Fireside Room at 10am.

Pat Downie, Jeannie Wright, Sue Bishop

Hope Circle will meet on January 17 at 9:30am in the Fireside Room. Our program will be "Walking Through Life." Hope to see you all there.

Elizabeth Circle is meeting at the home of Karolyn Wells on Monday, January 8 at 6:45pm. We will be assembling Hygiene Kits for UMCOR in memory of Helen Waterson.

Joyful Noise Children's Choir

The Children's Choir practices on Sundays after worship in the Choir Room. The choir is open to all children from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Come make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!

Psalm 96 Youth Choir

The Youth Choir meets in the Choir Room on Sundays from 4:30pm to 5:30pm, before Youth Group. The choir is open to all youth from 6th through 12th grade. Yes, "Sing to the Lord a new song…"

MINISTRY FAIR

On **Sunday, January 21** we will be sponsoring a Ministry Fair after worship. The Fellowship Hall will be filled with tables of information and people sharing how you can become more involved in ministry in 2018.

Come and discover new ways to *connect* with others, *grow* in the likeness of Christ, and *serve* our community and world!

Connecting~Growing~Serving TOGETHER

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Schedule

* Worship at 9am *
* Childcare provided for infants & toddlers starting at 8:30am
Christian Education for children offered after Children's Moment in worship *

ALDERSGATE MOTTO

"We're Here for Good"

Purpose:

To welcome, accept and equip our community to share Christ's love in meaningful service.

We are guided by these principles:

- **Faith grounded in Scripture**
- **Spiritual Curiosity**
- **Gratitude**
- **Inclusion**
- **Meaningful Relationships**
- **Accountability**
- **Love and Grace**
- **Prayer**