



"To Know Jesus And To Make Him Known"

Good News

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August 23, 2015

Breakthrough

"[P]rayer is communication from our hearts to the great mystery; to the animating energy of love we are sometimes bold enough to believe in; to something unimaginably big, and not us." - Anne Lamott, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*

Prayer can be intimidating. Even the language we use in referring to prayer can make folks feel uncomfortable or wonder whether they really are "spiritual" enough to pray. We refer to those who are ever active in interceding in prayer for others "Prayer Warriors." We refer to prayer as a spiritual "discipline." We even make judgments about whether a person is a "good pray-er" or not. All of this leads to some of us feeling uncomfortable about praying in public and unsure how to pray in private.

Here's the beauty, though. Prayer is not about performance or achievement. It is about risking to know, and to be known by, the God of creation. Therefore, anyone can pray.

Beginning last week and continuing for the next several weeks, we will be looking at common questions that people have about prayer. Through searching Scripture and sharing personal stories about the work of prayer, we hope to help each person experience a "Breakthrough."

I hope that you will give times of regular prayer, in whatever forms are most helpful to you, a try during these weeks. On Sundays, you'll find opportunities for directed daily prayer. Throughout the week, you are welcome to visit and utilize the experiential prayer room set up by our Prayer Team in room 20 at the Aldersgate campus.

My daily prayer during these weeks is that you will experience a Breakthrough!

Peace,

Music Ministry

Come Join Us for Our Aldersgate Chancel Choir's "GuestFest 2015"

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 26

Our "GuestFest" will take place on Wednesday, August 26, at 6:30 p.m. We'll begin with a quick choir practice to introduce everyone to our Fall lineup of music and get a sneak peak at our Christmas music, followed by a light montage of some of our Favorite Finger Food cuisine. Our evening will be concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Acolyte/Carol Choir Kick-Off Ice Skating Party Children—Grade 1 to Grade 6 Saturday, August 22 10:00—1:00

We'll meet at 10:00 at the Ice Palace at Eastdale Mall for our skating and lunch party. Everyone will get a Chick-Fil-A kid's meal for lunch. You don't have to be a member of the choir or acolyte to join us for this fun trip. All children in grades 1 through 6 are welcome to participate in this free trip!

Ring to the Lord!

Come, Ring With Us!

Ours is to proclaim the glory of the Lord with ringing!

Please contact Steve Badskey (sbadskey@aldersgateumc.org, w—272-6152, h—244-9975, or Wendy Askew (271-8922, askewquad@juno.com) if you're interested in joining our Joyful Bells this year.

War Room

Prayer is and can be a powerful weapon in our marriages, families, churches...everywhere and anywhere in the circumstances that life brings! The upcoming film, *War Room*, from the creators of *Fireproof*, *Courageous*, and *Facing the Giants*, is a powerful film about the importance and significance of prayer that reminds us that life...marriage, family, work, etc...is lived out on a spiritual battlefield, not a fairytale storybook or romantic balcony. The characters are realistic and these life situations mirror many of our own daily struggles.

As we, as a congregation pursuing breakthrough in this area of prayer over the next 5 weeks, a group from our church will attend the movie Sunday, August 30 at the 4:00 showing at the Carmike Theaters. We have purchased a block of 70 tickets to sell on a first-come basis. Please contact Jill Murphy (271-2532 or bjmurf6@yahoo.com) or see her at the church to reserve and pay for your tickets. If unable to go at this timeframe with the group, we encourage you to go see this movie and offer to take a friend. Offering to pray for someone is like offering to buy them a ticket to see a movie—no one ever turns you down! Who are you bringing with you to see *War Room*? "***War Room* truly has the potential to change your life. It's that powerful and that important.**" (Rev. Tony Evans)

Young in Heart

Rev. Michael Cobb will kick off the program of the Young in Heart Group on Tuesday, September 1 at 11:30 in the Christian Activity Center. Michael will present a "fireside chat" where he will talk about his life and ministry. A full lunch is available beginning at 11:30 for \$6.00 per person. Reservations are needed by Sunday, August 30. Please sign your name to the provided signup sheets in the Sunday School classrooms, the one located on the Young in Heart bulletin board, (located across from the program offices) or call Lynn Ray at 215-1232 or Martha Murphy at 286-5024. The program will begin around noon. All are invited to attend.

Prayer Room

During our Breakthrough sermon series on prayer, an experiential prayer room has been set up in room 20. It will be available during church hours to allow us to journey in prayer together. Feel free to utilize this room over the next several weeks as part of your personal prayer life for purposeful time and space to meet with God.



SWIFT

SWIFT (Single Women in Fellowship Together) will hold the August get-together on Friday, August 21, 2015, 6:30 pm at the home of Martha Lyon. We will be doing a potluck salad dinner. All single ladies of the church are invited to attend. We will be discussing upcoming events for the fall and winter months. For further information and directions to Martha's home, please contact either Dorris Cox at 399-5144 or Carol Breising at 391-4606.

Missions

In *A Field Guide For Everyday Mission* Ben Connelly and Bob Roberts, Jr, write, "Surprise – If you call yourself a follower of Jesus, He calls you a missionary! You may never go halfway around the world, but because of God's work in you, you *are* on mission." Aldersgate provides many opportunities for you to demonstrate the Gospel. You can serve meals to the homeless at Reality and Truth, pack meals for needy children in our Back-Pack Program, serve in our Food Pantry or with Family Promise or any of our local ministry partners, and participate in special events such as our annual Great Day of Service.

The coming year will offer opportunities to serve in Colombia and Ecuador and at Red Bird Mission in Appalachia if you feel led to venture out beyond our local area. Another great way to serve is through one of our missions-related ministry teams – the Missions Prayer Team, an Acts 1:8 Team (Local, National or International), the 2016 GIC Lead Team or the Missions Communications Team. Rev. Michael Cobb or Robert Thompson can help you get connected to any of these.

Children's Ministry



Children's Corner

*Our Mission:
To know Jesus and to make Him known
in each child's HEART!*

Our children's department is growing and we need your help! We are looking for volunteers to serve as greeters and assistants for 3D Kids Children's Worship! We need adults age 19 and older to serve once a month in this exciting and interactive worship service. All adult volunteers will receive Safe Sanctuary training and a background check before serving. Please contact Katie Blair, Director of Children's Ministries to sign up (katie@aldersgateumc.org or 356-5979).



Backpack Ministry

Reminder—The Maranatha Class has signed up for the week of August 31 through September 4 to serve in the Backpack Ministry.



Acolyte Recognition



We will have a special recognition for all of our Acolytes during our upcoming August 23, 10:30 worship service in the Sanctuary. Immediately after our service we will have an Acolyte training session at 11:40 in the Sanctuary for all of our children and youth. All of our Acolyte and Carol Choir children are invited to join us for our Kick-Off party at The Eastdale Ice Palace Skating rink from 10:00 – 1:00 the day before our recognition on Saturday, August 22.

Youth Announcements

HUB is underway as we have kicked off the fall, so join us on Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:00 to hangout and worship.

I am excited about getting small groups started back up in a few weeks, so be looking for the times when your group will gather and where they will meet.

Brittney Liebke
Director of Youth Ministries

Monday Morning Small Group for Women A Guide to Prayer for Ministers & Other Servants

Rueben P. Job & Norman Shawchuck
Begins August 24, 2015, 11:00 a.m.—12:15 p.m.
Led by Betty Cates

The authors of the study call this a “guide to help develop the disciplines that seem most helpful to us in our own personal search for spiritual growth and development.” As United Methodist Ministers they discovered, wherever God sent them, other pilgrims in search and eager quest who asked, “What can I do to keep my experience with God alive?” How should I read the Bible for my own spiritual nurture?” A Guide to Prayer was written in response to those questions. Each week there is a different topic; such as, Christian Maturity, The Cost of Servanthood, Patience, True Greatness, Forgiveness, Servants of Christ, True Humility, etc. There are scripture readings for each day and Sunday readings that follow the Lectionary. There are also readings and prayers for reflection. Together, we will be developing a daily discipline of scripture, prayer, and meditation. You will receive the book at our first meeting. If you are interested in the class, please contact Betty at bamcates@charter.net.

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

The first study series of our Tuesday Morning Men's Breakfast and Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, August 25 with our senior pastor, Dr. Brian Miller. He will lead us through the end of September (6 weeks). Breakfast will be ready at 6:30 a.m. and we will be finished by 7:30 a.m. Feel free to bring a friend!

August is Camp Meeting Month!

Our dress will be casual and our music spirited and uplifting as we will once again celebrate our Methodist heritage with our annual “*Camp Meeting*” month during our Traditional worship service in the Sanctuary.

Aldersgate Food Pantry

August Food of the Month

It's back to school time!!
The food pantry serves an average of
87 children per month.

FEED A CHILD



PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY

Please place in collection baskets located in the Atrium, Christian Activity Center and outside the Program Staff Offices.

Join us for worship this Sunday!

8:15 Chapel Service with
Holy Communion—Dr. Brian Miller
10:30 Contemporary—Rev. Michael Cobb
10:30 Traditional—Dr. Brian Miller

John 17:1-26

Breakthrough: Why Did Jesus Pray?

Our gifts to God!

August 16, 2015
Morning Worship—353 Sunday School—220

June, 2015

Budget for 2015	\$1,200,181
Operating Budget Requirement to Date	600,091
Operating Budget Income Received to Date	591,550
Operating Budget Expenses to Date	580,013
Total Pledges to Capital Campaign	1,419,823
Total Received to Date	1,356,379

Aldersgate Weekly Calendar of Events
August 23-29, 2015

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23		9:30 a.m. Discipleship Team Meeting/Administrative Office Conference Room
8:15 a.m. Chapel Service with Weekly Communion Chapel		9:30 a.m. Food Pantry Waiting Room/Room 29
9:15 a.m. Sunday School for Adults, Youth, Children		6:00 p.m. Boy/Cub Scouts/Rooms 15-29
9:15 a.m. Confirmation Class/Room 29		WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
9:15 a.m. Ecuador Information Meeting/Parlor		2:00 p.m. Art Class/Room 25
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service/Sanctuary		6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir GuestFest Rehearsal
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service/CAC		THURSDAY, AUGUST 27
4:30 p.m. Joyful Bells/Room 29		6:30 a.m. Men's Emmaus Reunion Group/Parlor
MONDAY, AUGUST 24		8:00 a.m. Newsletter/Bulletin Preparation/Room 26
1:00 p.m. Clergy Team Meeting/Administrative Office Conference Room		9:30 a.m. Food Pantry Waiting Room/Room 29
5:30 p.m. Grief Support Group/Room 25		10:00 a.m. Prayer Group/Room 24
5:30 p.m. Jazzercise/CAC		5:00 p.m. Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama Recruitment Rally/CAC
6:00 p.m. Lay Leadership Committee Meeting Room 26		5:30 p.m. Jazzercise/CAC
7:15 p.m. Men's Rec. Basketball/CAC		6:00 p.m. PPR Committee Meeting/Room 119
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25		FRIDAY, AUGUST 28
5:00 a.m. Voting/CAC		7:00 p.m. Ezekiel Basketball/CAC
6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast & Bible Study/Room 22		SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
9:00 a.m. History Committee/Room 119		9:30 a.m. Ezekiel Basketball/CAC
9:30 a.m. Administrative Staff Meeting/Room 26		5:00 p.m. CrossWalk Class/Rooms 22, 25