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**Aldersgate  
United  
Methodist  
Church**

## MICHAEL'S MINUTE

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### Special points of interest:

- Advent study
- Rummage Sale
- Thank you's

### The Purpose of Christmas

People celebrate Christmas in so many ways, but have we really considered the purpose of Christmas? The Bible has a lot to teach us about the purpose of Christmas, let me offer just two.

**1. God Accepts Humanity!** Without a doubt, most people have been told that they must accept Jesus as their personal savior, but have they been told that Jesus accepts them as His personal friend? The centrality of the gospel is not that we must love God, but that God loves us. That's why it is called "Good News". God always makes the first step toward us and in the incarnation of Christmas, God makes the ultimate step toward us. We see this in the Christmas story as God chose a young woman to give birth to the Messiah and sent the angels, not to a king, but to common shepherds. God accepts you!

So many people strive to be acceptable to God, but we don't measure up to our own standards, let alone God's. The Good News of the holiday season is that God Loves AND ACCEPTS Us! The Bible says, "even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close" (Psalm 27:10).

**2. God Invites Us Into Community!** In a day of such accessible communication and social



networking, it amazes me that people still feel isolated and disconnected. I was recently talking to a young lady who boasted that she had over 200 friends on the online social community "Facebook." However, I know from personal experience that

she often feels isolated and alone. I heard of another person who invited all of her "Facebook" friends to a gathering at a restaurant and expected dozens because she had so many online friends. Yet when the night of her party came, she sat alone in a corner booth, isolated and unplugged.

One of the greatest realities of the Christmas event is that God invites us into His family. We are no longer orphans without a sense of community. In fact, as a Christian, you are part of God's family. The Bible says it this way, "His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ..."

This holiday, as you settle into your usual routine of Christmas cards and family dinners, stop for a moment and ensure that the purpose of Christmas is part of your holiday celebrations.

Because We Are Called,

*Michael T.*

## THANKS FROM THE CUSTODIAN

I would like to thank everyone who helped clean up after the Fall Harvest Party. It was wonderful to walk into Fellowship Hall that was all cleaned up, trash, tables, floors, chairs and everything else. Thank you, thank you, thank you. *Jackie*



## MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

And so we are looking at the last issue of the *Hinge* for 2016. The year has gone so fast and yet at times slowly. For Nancy and I it has been an interesting year with successful surgery for each of us, interesting trips outside Midland and many visits with friends and family both in Midland and while traveling. God has been good to us and we thank Him every day for how he has blessed us. We hope that you have been similarly blessed and we pray for each of you, our Aldersgate family.

December brings many activities to both Aldersgate and the community. Celebration of the birth of our blessed Lord most certainly dominates our lives during this month.



This issue of the *Hinge* describes some of these activities. Please read both the *Hinge* and the bulletin carefully.

As I write this, the Sharing Tree is still in place and I hope each of you has shared your blessings with others in the community.

There are many special events and services during this month and the day of Jesus' birth is on SUNDAY. What a chance to celebrate this important occasion with our Aldersgate family.

Nancy and I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Jack*

## PEACE ON EARTH

During the Christmas season, we sing songs and send cards proclaiming peace on earth and good will toward men. But how is peace accomplished? How can you have peace in your life, relationships, and the world around you? In this holiday series

Pastor Michael will inspire and encourage us to take practical steps toward building better relationships so that our corner of the world can experience peace on earth.

Services at 9:00 and 10:30

December 4 Ephesians 2:8-18  
Restoring Relationships

December 11 Luke 4:16-21 Praying For Others



December 18 Luke 2:10

Sharing Good News  
Piano concert at 2:00  
with Michelle Kuhl, followed by a  
cookie reception.

Christmas Eve service at 6:00 and 8:00PM

December 24 Luke 1:26-38

Defeating The Fears that Steal  
our Peace

December 25 Christmas Day Service 10:00 AM  
Lessons & Carols

January 1 New Years Day Service 10:00 AM  
To be determined

## ANGEL



*Angel*, which means “messenger” in both Hebrew and Greek, is a spirit-being God created to perform tasks for him. In the Bible, angels appear in human form (always as men) to deliver divine messages. Angels appear separately to Joseph and Mary, announcing Jesus’ upcoming birth, and “a multitude of the heavenly host” (Luke 2:13) tells shepherds of the Savior’s arrival. Scripture offers little information about angels, though we know some rebelled against God. Among the holy angels, categories include cherubim and seraphim.

## JEFF'S JOURNAL

*Luke 2:8-12 (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Merry Christmas! I hope you are all able to spend this Christmas season with family and friends.

The month of December will find Remedy busy as usual. Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> we'll be heading down to Simpson Park Camp for



their 1896 Starlight Christmas. Our tour guide (Michael T.) has promised us a great time; we are looking forward to it! Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> we'll be having our annual Red Hat (Christmas) Party. Lots of food, two gift exchange and tons of

laughs.

As far as what we'll be studying in the month; I'm not sure yet. But I know God will lay something on my heart; and we'll be in His word.

This truly is my favorite time of the year!

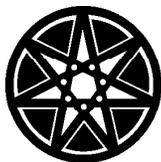
Until next time,

*Jeff Tefft*

## A SAVIOR IS BORN...

Come and be a part of the **Advent Study** by Pete Briscoe entitled *A Savior Is Born*. This study will be led by Cassie Cuthbert and Addie Maxwell and take place 10:00 – 11:30 am Monday mornings (November 28, December 5, 12 & 19) in the church lounge. Plan to bring your Bible and an open heart...to be touched during this Advent Season.

The humble events surrounding Christ's birth glorify all that our Savior is. From the stable to the cross, He redeemed us from sin to give us life. Just as his birth introduced grace and redemption for all people then, the invita-



tion continues for us today. This underserved gift is truly what the wonder of the first Christmas is all about! (Bluefish TV/RightNowMedia)

If you have questions please contact Cassie Cuthbert at 631-3306.

*And the angel answered and said to her (Mary), "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."*

**Luke 1:35**

## PASTOR THANK YOU

Dear Aldersgate Family,

I want to express my deepest gratitude for all the kind notes and cards that Patty and I received over the past couple weeks.

While walking to the car the other evening, with tears in her eyes and a sniffle in her voice, Patty said "I love these people so much!" You have become more than just a "church" we serve, you are our family and words cannot express our gratitude for you. Thank you for embodying the tender mercies of Jesus in

*Thank you*



*Michael T.*

your presence and prayers. I thank God for sending us to Aldersgate...you are an amazing church family and we love you.

Because We Are Called,

## 55 AND 3F'S

Our senior's group will meet December 5 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Betty and Arnie Huntress who will talk about the circus. Karen and Dick Burow will be the host. This group is for those over the age of 55. Please sign indicating you plan to attend on the sign up bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.



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## RUMMAGE SALE

The Trustees have announced that they will no longer sponsor the annual rummage sale. As a result, until further announcements, no rummage should be dropped off at the church.

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## THANK YOU

Aldersgate Friends, I'm recovering very well from my recent surgery and recovery. Thank you for all your prayers, cards, and concerns in the past month as I journeyed through my health issues. You are all a blessing in my life.

Nancy Higgins



## PRAYER NEEDS

### Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

#### Hospitalizations:

Jim Morgan – MidMichigan Medical Center – 11/8/16

Nancy Higgins – MidMichigan Medical Center – 11/14/16

May the God who “heals all our diseases,” grant healing to this friend.



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## ADDRESS CHANGE

John & Sharon Ingram

Old Oak Trails

3329 Buckhorn Circle

Sanford, MI 48657

Helen Dukes

418 Barker Ave NW

Grand Rapids MI 49504-5076



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God doesn't call the qualified,  
He qualifies the called.

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## SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Many people from many churches helping with Thanksgiving Baskets. What a wonderful community outreach from our church community to those in need.
- The Sharing Tree in the narthex has also been popular with many from our congregation getting tags for presents for others in our community.
- Those gathered in room 112 for 15 minutes of quiet prayer prior to each of our services.
- UMK helping assemble personal care kits for the Thanksgiving baskets program.
- Euchre night each month at the church.
- 55 and 3 F's learning about how our county government works.
- Opportunity to give to UMCOR for the Hurricane Matthew disaster response.
- Our new grand piano which we purchased from West Michigan Avenue UMC. In addition, a microphone system has been added to the sound board so we can



all hear the beautiful sound of the piano through the speaker system thanks to a Jan Higgins memorial gift. She was a long time member of our church who passed away three year ago.

- Members of our church helping West Michigan Avenue UMC (Melenie Wilsey's church) on the fourth Wednesday of each month with their Rooted Teens program and Julie is looking for some more volunteers to help with a program she is working on each Wednesday evening.
  - Annual church conference on November 12.
  - Stewardship commitment during the month of November. An opportunity for each of us to commit to the mission of our church.
  - Good Fall Harvest, a Halloween event for the church and neighborhood.
  - ACT Uganda presentation October 26.
  - Work behind the church to level ground. Much dirt added from Whiting Forest.
  - Cassie Cuthbert running both services during Laity Sunday including an interesting sermon.
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