



ALDRSGATE HINGE

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MICHAEL'S MINUTE

The Adventure

Who doesn't love a great vacation? Be it to a tropical island, across the nation, or to a family cabin up north, we all look forward with anticipation to a refreshing time away. Like most people, when our family is planning a vacation we go through the usual process of selecting the date, picking the destination, and planning the route. While we work to nail down many of the details beforehand, truth be told, much of what will make the most lasting memories are the details we discover along the way. I refer to these "unplanned" details as "**The Adventure.**"

On March 26, our church received our VCI Consultation Report and Prescriptions. Like the general plan for a vacation, the report gave us a big picture of the things that we will be doing, and to be honest, I was not surprised by any of the general directions contained in the report. But also like our vacation, there are many details and pieces that will be discovered and worked out along the journey.



I am so excited for Aldersgate and the energy I have seen in the past few weeks. I believe that as we work together to implement the VCI prescriptions, we will experience new life, vitality, and a sense of clear purpose. I pray that you feel the same.

However, if you still have questions or concerns about the consultation report, PLEASE CONTACT ME.

Our congregation will gather on Sunday, May 7 at 1pm for a special church conference to take the secret ballot vote on the Consultation Report and Prescriptions. There will be no discussion on the day of the vote and the results of the vote will be released as soon as they are counted.

God has Great Things In Store For Aldersgate United Methodist Church. I pray that you are filled with hope and enthusiasm as you embrace **The Adventure** ahead of us.

Because We Are Called,

Inside this issue:

Musings of the Editor	2
Worship Schedule	2
Jeff's Journal	3
55 and 3F's	4
Address Changes	4
Prayer Needs	5
Seen Around Church	6

Special points of interest:

- * Vacation Bible School
- * New Dig class for adults
- * Two articles from the past (Cleaning Out)
- * Gifts not wrapped as expected
- * Questions by children

JESUS, STAND AMONG US

Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power;
Let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.
Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;
Bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.



Thus with quickened footsteps we pursue our way,
watching for the dawning of eternal day.

—William Pennefather

MUSINGS OF THE EDITOR

Lent and Easter have passed. Nancy and I were fortunate to be in a Lenten study lead by Pastor Michael. The study of the Four Cups was very interesting and instructional to our entire group. One of the things I commented on at the last meeting was God's faithfulness to us all. I see this in the spring with plants long dormant from winter returning to life, leaves coming out on the trees, birds and other animals nesting. God's laws (laws of nature) are always with us and prove that God exists. What a wonderful universe that we live in.

The *Hinge* this month is for one month although next month we will be back on the two month schedule. My current medical problems are mainly behind me and traveling to see this wonderful world around us at least on this planet is in your editor's plans. I know, tough life, but my



attitude is that someone needs to enjoy and being retired, both Nancy and I have the time and we want to do this while we still can. So you will see us in church some and find us gone sometimes. We do plan to be around for the next two months to enjoy spring in our gardens.

This issue of the *Hinge* has much for you to read concerning activities this spring and summer. Get those calendars out and get them filled with God's offering. Remember VCI voting, VBS, graduation and much else. And be sure to get the 5 things about Aldersgate video that Pastor Michael puts out to keep us up to date.

Enjoy God's world as spring and summer unfold

Jack

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Power of Compassion

One of the clearest characteristics of God throughout the Bible is compassion. His compassion heals our broken hearts, reconciles relationships, and restores our tired souls. In this Easter series, Pastor Michael will invite us to experience the resurrection power of Jesus by encountering the Power of Compassion. (Pastor will complete this series started on Easter Sunday)

April 30	2 Corinthians 4:1-18 God Can Use Anybody
May 7	Acts 5:27-42 Finding Joy in the Midst of Uncertainty
May 14	1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 Showing Compassion to Your Family
May 21	Service of Spiritual renewal Randy & Marli Brown Ministries



Growing Closer

Do you want to build healthy, long-term relationships? The truth is that relationships can often be challenging. Even minor conflict with family and friends can create deep rifts in our relationships. However, there's good news. You have the power to control the issues affecting your relationships. Join Pastor Michael for a message series that will help you build stronger connections, and live a happier and more productive life as we Grow Closer to God and Others.

May 28	Ephesians 3:14-4:6 Building Healthy Relationships
June 4	Acts 2:1-13 Growing Closer To God
June 11	Luke 15:11-32 Loving The Far Off
June 18	Guest Preacher – Lynn Frazier

JEFF'S JOURNAL

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

I am reminded of this verse in thinking about the VCI prescriptions. If we vote yes, there will be a lot of work ahead of us. But if we all work together, with the gifts God has given us, we'll do just fine. Many hands make light work. On May 7th Remedy will be preparing a pancake breakfast fundraiser starting at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 1:00. This luncheon will be followed by the VCI vote starting at 1:00.

As most of you know Remedy Student Ministries is planning to go on a Missions Trip this summer to Long Island. I'm happy to report that we have raised enough money to pay for the trip! Thank-you all! We could not have done it without your generosity. We will still have a few more fundraisers this year to help pay for things such as van rentals, gas, food (while on the road to and from) toll



roads/bridge, etc.

During the month of May, we will finish up the "Four Cups" series. After that we will begin several weeks of training to be well prepared for the Missions Trip.

Just a reminder that Graduation Sunday is June 4th. If you have someone in your family graduating from either High School or College we would like to recognize their accomplishments. A breakfast that morning that will start at 8:15 for the Grads and their families. Followed by a slide show during service, with a bio of what their plans might be, in our bulletin. If this is something you would be interested in please RSVP for the breakfast via text @ (989) 859-5403 or with Julie at admin@aumcmidland.org.

In Christ's Love,

Jeff Tefft

WHEN GOD CALLS RESISTANT BELIEVERS TO HIS MISSION

The **10:30 am Adult D.I.G (Deeper in God) class** latest short term study is by Pastor Eric Mason and entitled *The Book of Jonah*. Over the next few weeks the class will look beyond what you might recall about Jonah. Have you ever considered how God uses extraordinary circumstances to break our heart of selfishness, convince us of His tender care, and unite our lives to His glory? If not then come

& explore how Jonah's life shows how God is less concerned about *what we do* for Him than *who we are* in Him.

Come and explore the *Book of Jonah* and see what God has to say to you. If you have any questions please see Patty Sawicki or contact her at 492-4464. All are welcome!

(Then the LORD said)... "But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness...Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?" Jonah 4:11

CLEANING OUT

Marge Klasak was cleaning out some old newspaper clipping, this one from a church newsletter many years ago. For those of you under 40, all of the items in caps were or still are soap detergents.

DUZ you DRIFT along with the TIDE of unconcern? VEL, now is the time to CHEER up. If you want real JOY, the TREND should be for all the family to BREEZE right into the Bible before the first DIAL tone you hear on the phone, seek the Bible so you'll be able to see those IVORY palaces of heaven. You can bet you LIFEBOUY

this action will result in PRAISE. Good LUX to you. Stay CLEAN.

This was published in the "Alliance Fellowship News"

Marge gave me a second clip called "Smile". It is on page 5 of this publication. In Kiwanis we sing a song frequently called "Smile". It always make us feel good and I hope this poem makes you feel good also.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Come join us for Rome: Paul and the Underground Church June 26th – 29th from 5:45 – 8:30 pm. Please note this year's VBS will take place Monday – Thursday. This is a wonderful ministry that takes many willing servant volunteers. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to be a part of this outreach opportunity. Who is God asking you to invite even now? Our calendars can get full...so don't miss out in allowing God to work through you during this special week.

This year we will explore a crowded Roman marketplace, tiptoe past the ever present & watchful Roman guards as we make our way to a hidden cave – where first-century Christians eagerly await our arrival! And visit the Apostle Paul for daily discoveries about God's love. During our time together we will see that God's love is a gift, changes us, is always with us, saves us and is worth sharing with others.



From opening to closing, we will be transported back to Rome. We will gather for supper at 5:45 pm. An adult class is in the plans. This VBS will offer opportunities from toddler-5th grade & adults. Volunteer opportunities abound for youth – adult. Please look for the VBS Servant Roster Sign-up in the narthex (lobby). Our first VBS Team meeting is Wednesday, May 10th at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall

If you have a smile and a willingness to show Christ's love to children of all ages, we have a place for you. Please contact me at 708-1758 or akdmax67@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to serve in some capacity.

Serving Together,

Addie

55 AND 3 F'S

Our active senior's group will be meeting on Monday, May 22 for a potluck in Fellowship Hall. Our guest will be Trisha Steele, Manager of the Midland County Fairgrounds. She will be telling us up to date information on the Midland County Fair and what happens at the fairgrounds the rest of the year after the fair.

This group is for those who are retired and/or over 55 years of age. We meet for fun, food, and fellowship. We enjoy each other's company and have an interesting and



fun experience. We would love to have you join us. Just indicate your intention to attend by signing up on the sheet posted on the "What Up At Aldersgate" bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Coffee, tea, water and bread are furnished along with table settings.

This will be our last meeting until September. Jack will be asking for volunteers to act as host for the meeting in the 2017-2018 year so check out when you are available. Leo and Sharon Clow are the host for this meeting.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Rebecca (Boynton) & Kevin Maupin
6651 Black Antler Circle
Indianapolis IN 46217-7082



Lindsey (Licht) & Tyler Losinski
921 Sylvia Street NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504-2846

PRAYER NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers:

Hospitalizations:

Jean Meddaugh – 3/1/17

Christiann Elsen – 3/1/17

Sandra Partlo – 3/3/17

Charlie Longsdorf – 4/8/17 & 4/23/17

Al Klashak – 4/9/17



(Note: since all have left the hospital, we have decided to leave the name of the hospital off this list in the future.)

May the God who “heals all our diseases,” grant healing to these friends.

Faith is like wi-fi: It’s invisible, but it has the power to connect you to what you need.

SMILE

A smile is quite a funny thing
It wrinkles up your face
And when it’s gone you never find
Its secret hiding place.
But far more wonderful it is
To see what smile can do,
You smile at one, he smiles at you
And so one smile makes two;

He smiles at someone since you smiled
And then that one smiles back.
And that one smiles until in truth
You wail at keeping track
And since a smile can do great good
By cheering hearts of care
Let’s smile and smile and not forget
That smiles for everywhere.

FILL YOUR BUCKET!

David Brooks, author of *The Road to Character* (Random House), created a moral bucket list in an effort to develop “eulogy virtues” — the traits praised at people’s funerals. Qualities such as humility, dependence and energizing love offer more joy than any “résumé virtues” ever will, he writes.



“There’s joy in freely chosen obedience to organizations, ideas and people. There’s joy in mutual stumbling. There’s an aesthetic joy we feel when we see morally good action, when we run across someone who is quiet and humble and good, when we see that however old we are, there’s lots to do ahead.”

Do not be afraid of tomorrow, for God is already there.

WILLING RECIPIENTS

A young graduate longed for a certain sports car and knew his dad could afford it. So on the big day, he was infuriated to receive instead a leather-bound, embossed Bible. He threw it down and left for good.

Years later, after his father died, the son entered his father's study with sorrow and regret. Sorting through belongings, he found the gift and this highlighted verse: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:11, ESV). Suddenly something dropped from the back of the Bible: a key with a tag from the dealer of the car he'd wanted long ago. On the tag was his graduation date and the words "Paid in Full."

WHY DON'T STREETLAMPS HAVE EARS?

Mom!" my 3-year-old self hissed at 6 a.m. "Why don't streetlamps have ears?" My mom later wrote (in a 1974 article) that she peered at me sleepily, silently asking a question of her own: "Seriously?!"

That year I amused — and exasperated — my parents with countless questions: "Why did sister leave one shoe here and one there?" "If God is up in heaven, how did he make the grass?" "Why are dandelions yellow?" To that query, Mom replied, "I guess that's how God wanted them" — and wrote, "In our house, we let God answer many of our questions."

I still have questions: Why is my dynamic young friend dying of cancer? Why are a parent's own children sometimes hard to love? How can we end war, poverty, sex trafficking? Should we donate money or save for college? How, exactly, does salvation work? Sometimes science or professionals are God's instruments to answer my questions. Sometimes answers come quietly to my heart — and sometimes they don't come at all.

Faith doesn't mean never questioning. It means trusting enough to ask, even when a question seems silly or pointless. Thanks, Mom and Dad, for teaching me by your loving example that God always welcomes my questions.

—Heidi Mann

SEEN AROUND CHURCH

- Did you see Dick Skochdopole's picture on the front page of the Midland Daily News. Dick was co-chair of the 50th anniversary celebration fro Kiwassee Kiwanis and you can see him congratulating Max Bottomley, one of only two charter members still alive, after he gave the club some remembrances of the start of the club.
- The Missions team sponsored Chris Hena, a missionary we sponsor in Liberia. We all learned a lot about her mission in Liberia.
- Easter egg hunt on the grounds of the church for our neighbors. A good time was had by all including our guests.
- Four Cups Lenten study has finished but it appears all who participated found it to be very enlightening.
- The 55 and 3F's group learned about many changes which will be included in the Farmer's Market this year including eliminating Wednesday morning market and instead holding it from 2pm to 7pm on Wednesday. Good for all of you who are still working.
- Our VCI consultation weekend was held at the church and was well attended - including the potluck on Sunday. Then the Church Council went off for a retreat to



decide how to handle the prescriptions we received. Voting on the prescriptions will be May 7 after church.

- Congratulations to our newest members Melissa and Jon Bellinger, Bonny and Robert Fraser and Karen Siver. We look forward to working with you around the church.
 - Renee Hahn playing violin with organ during singing hymns at the second service and participating in the worship band at the first service all in honor of her mother Denise Thompson. It was wonderful seeing Denise at church on Easter Sunday!!!
 - Thanks to John Ingram for leading the choir during March and April. Great job John and thanks from all of us.
 - Beautiful flowers on the alter for Easter. In addition we see new palms by the sign in table with beautiful flowers and palms by the cross in the narthex. Dorothy Peters and Nancy Higgins provided the displays in the narthex.
 - John Ingram's last Sunday as acting choir director and the choir did magnificently. Thanks John for your service.
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