

MAY



Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Aldersgate Hinge

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FISHING FOR ABUNDANT LIFE

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

As the rivers warm in Michigan and anglers get excited about another fishing season, I am reminded of this story:

A wealthy businessman was shocked to see a fisherman sitting beside his boat, playing with a small child. So the businessman asked, "Why aren't you out fishing?" The fisherman replied, "Because I've caught enough fish for one day."

"Why don't you catch some more?" the businessman further inquired.

"What would I do with them?" asked the fisherman.

"You could earn more money," said the businessman. "Then with the extra money, you could buy a bigger boat, go into deeper waters, and catch more fish. Then



you would make enough money to buy nylon nets. With the nets, you could catch even more fish and make more money. With that money you could own two boats, maybe three boats. Eventually you could have a whole fleet of boats and be rich like me."

"Then what would I do?" replied the fisherman.

"Then you could really enjoy life," answered the businessman. The fisherman looked at the businessman quizzically and asked, "What do you think I'm doing now?"

Let's not get so wrapped up in work that we simply forget to enjoy life – the life that God wants to give us more abundantly! Take some time out this spring and be sure to enjoy the abundant life that God's provided.

Pastor Mark

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SPRING RUMMAGE SALE!

The spring rummage sale will be Thursday, May 6 from 10 AM to 6 PM. Bag day will be Friday May 7 from 9 AM to Noon. The Aldersgate Family and Friends Sale will be Wednesday May 5 from 5 PM to 8 PM.

Sign Up sheets are posted for volunteers for the Spring Rummage Sale. Please consider helping sort and set up, work on the sale days, and/or help box and bag the leftover items after the sale. Sorting and set up will be on Monday, May 3rd and Tuesday, May 4th. and Wed. May 5th if needed.



THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

Back from our trip and happy to be back in Michigan even if it is cooler than Florida or Tennessee.

It is interesting to me to see how different a publication such as the *Hinge* can look with a different editor even though we started with the same basic format. My thanks to Jim Birch for doing a super job editing the April issue of the *Hinge*. If you get a chance, be sure to thank him also.

Our trip went well. It went to fast but we had a good time despite cooler than normal temperatures at the beginning of our stay Florida. However, Tennessee was warmer than normal and very nice. See either Jan or I for details. Because we were away, one normal column is missing. Seen Around Church is missing because quite simply, I did not see anything even though I know things happened.

This month you will find in Micah's Mark an announcement



from him which saddens me but is not unexpected. I felt that we would be lucky if he stayed another year. It sounds like a new and exciting chapter in his life and I, for one, wish him well.

Well spring is here and with it many of the end of the school year activities. You probably already read about the spring rummage sale. This is a good way to get rid of junk in the house, find a special bargain for yourself and help the trustees with funds to maintain our church. Other events for May are listed below and in other section of this newsletter.

Last, this month is the 50th anniversary of Aldersgate. I know a celebration is planned for September but 50 years ago this month, the church got started meeting at Parkdale.

Jack

BABY SHOWER

Because our church family has been such an important part of Amber's life we would love to have you join us for the **Double Blessing Shower** for Amber and Robert Parrish on Saturday, May 15th at 4:00 p.m. in celebration of the coming arrival of twins! The shower will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. They are registered at Babies Our Us and Target. Please RSVP Sue Lauer at 839-2748 by Tuesday, May 11th. It would be a blessing to see you there.



ALDERSGATE HAS TALENT

UMW Spring Event: Women, men, girls, boys, we NEED you! Showcase your special talent. Whether it is singing, dancing, drama, or playing an instrument. Alone or in a group, show us what you've got, on May 23 from 3 to 5pm. Contact Char McCoy @ 835-8785 with your talent and approximate time needed. We know talent abounds in our church family. Please share yours with all of us.



Thanks,

Char

WORSHIP AT ALDERSGATE

9:00 am – Contemporary

10:30 am – Traditional

May 16 - 7th Sunday of Easter

1+1+1=One John 17:20-26

May 2 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Celebration of Holy Communion *Changing the World One Sheep at a Time* John 21:1-19

May 23 - Pentecost Sunday

Detroit Annual Conference - Micah Chisholm preaching

May 9 - Mother's Day

Mom - the Original Seatbelt John 13:31-38

May 30 - Trinity Sunday/Memorial Weekend

Peace with Justice Sunday *I Was Confused* John 16:5-16

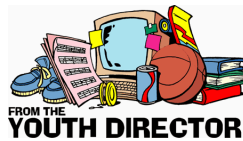


MICAH'S MARK

"Come follow me..." ~Mark 1:17 a

The invitation to follow Jesus is filled with excitement, uncertainty, and adventure. It is also accompanied by a promise "I will be with you until the end of the ages" (Matthew 28:28). For many years I followed my own desires, my own wants, my own ambitions. When I gave my life to Christ in college it was with the understanding that my life was no longer my own – all that I was, am and will be belongs to God. I have sought to let God lead me each and every day, to be obedient to him, and to serve him in a way that brings him glory.

Surrendering my life and its direction to Christ is what led me to Aldersgate in May of 2007. Now, in April of 2010, following God's direction for my life is leading me on to a new place and a new purpose. In September of 2010 I will begin studies for a Masters of Divinity Degree from Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA. I will be pursuing ordination to the priesthood in the Anglican Mission in America. Stephanie and I are discerning a call from God to be involved in church planting and inner city missions and community restoration. We are excited, scared and bittersweet about this new call from God. We are excited about the future and all that it will hold as we partner in marriage and ministry. We are scared because we are uncertain about all that the future will hold and because this call will require significant sacrifice on our part. We are bittersweet because we will deeply miss our families and friends. I am particularly torn because while I am thrilled about the future, I have come to love my youth and this church family very deeply and will miss everyone very much. I am especially thankful that we live in an era of technology where staying connected is easier than in the past. I pray that our friendships will continue for many years to come.



I want to give my deepest thanks to Aldersgate United Methodist Church – to all of you – for giving me the opportunity to share in your life for these three years. I have learned so much –

about God, myself, ministry and life. I have laughed and cried with many of you and have thousands of memories that I will treasure throughout my life. I came to Aldersgate fresh out of college, with little experience, but a desire to serve God and love others. I pray that I have been able to make a positive difference in the lives of the youth and their families that I have served. My greatest joy comes from seeing young people commit their lives to Christ and I pray that the seeds that have been planted and the decisions that have been made while I have been among you will continue to grow and take root and that these young people will rise up and show the world the redeeming power and love of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Youth programming will continue as scheduled and I commit to continuing to give my very best as I lead this ministry. I will be moving to Pennsylvania on July 19, 2010 to begin a new job and prepare for classes to begin. Stephanie and I are excited for our wedding in October and I hope to see many of your smiling faces there! These next months will be busy for me and for the youth. We have many great activities lined up between now and then. I ask for your prayers as Stephanie and I journey into this next phase of life together. You all hold a very special place in my heart and are in my prayers.

Grace & Peace!

Christ's Servant,

Micah

55 AND 3F'S

The last meeting of the season for our senior's group will occur on May 24 at Noon in Fellowship Hall. As usual, this will be a potluck so plan to bring a dish to pass. Our guest for this meeting will be Janine Ouderkirk who is the director of Family and Children's Services in Midland. She will tell us about the activities of her group.

55 and 3F's a the name implies is for those 55 years or age or older and/or retired from active work. The 3 F's are fun, food, and fellowship. And we enjoy all three. If you are new to our church or if you have recently retired or if



you are now 55 years of age or more and haven't tried our group, now is your chance to have a good time fellowshiping (that's talking) to those in your age group. We meet monthly during the school year. All we ask is that you indicate your intention to attend by signing the sign up sheet on the "What's Up At Aldersgate" bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall. Any questions, ask Jan or Jack Higgins.

ADDIE'S LINE

The Purpose of Christian Education “When we witness to God’s great love, we move out from the community of believers to confront injustice and to offer God’s grace to people who are estranged from God. We proclaim and offer to others the transforming love of Jesus Christ that we know in our own lives. Our witness takes place in the face of constant pressure from the world to conform to its ways. Our witness for Christ takes courage and discipline, and we know that it is not an option but a responsibility.” (*Foundations: Shaping the Ministry of Christian Education in Your Congregation, page 55*).



FROM THE
**DIRECTOR OF
CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION** helps us grow stronger in our relationship & understanding of Christ, study of God’s Word and how it applies to our lives today. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at aumcced@sbcglobal.net or 631-1151 if you have questions, topic or study ideas, concerns or just want to say “hi”.

Upcoming Highlights:

May 30th is a Family Sunday. We will offer Nursery/ Toddler Care at the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services. Have a safe Memorial Day.

June 20th is our Volunteer Recognition Sunday. Christian Education Volunteers will be recognized at both worship services with a cake reception held between services. What a blessing you are to us! Thank you.

June 21-25th is our week at Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School from 5:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. See more details inside this month’s Hinge.

In Service to Him,

Addie

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14 NIV)

If we are called to witness & proclaim to the world the transforming love of Jesus Christ in our own lives, we need to have been transformed. It is in the moment we come to know Christ, acknowledge Him as our Lord & Savior and choose to follow Him all the days of our life that our journey really begins. My prayer is that each person reading this has made the ultimate decision to be a Christ-follower. If not, what is holding you back? For those who made the decision to follow Christ, how is your witness? your proclamation? Each of us has a different sphere of influence, our own means of sharing the Good News. But each time we are presented with an opportunity to share and we remain silent by our words or actions, Satan wins. Be encouraged, each day offers a new opportunity.

For those of us within the Christian Education Ministry Area, we want to be available to you and open to your needs. We seek to provide programming for all ages that

GALACTIC BLAST

Plan to blast off at **Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!** at this year’s Vacation Bible School. We will be gathering the week of **June 21-25** beginning at 5:45 p.m. with a light supper at the Astro Bistro and completing our evening at 8:30 p.m. We will spend the week connecting with our wonderful, incredible, amazing, magnificent and awesome God as we see him as the Creator of everything - but the friend that touches our own lives daily. We will have a mission component again this year with more details to follow. Registration forms are located on the Mission Crew Sign-up Board in the narthex or by calling the church office. This is an amazing church-wide ministry opportunity that requires everyone’s involvement to make this another awesome year at VBS. There are a variety of options for serving from prayer support to class



leadership and everything in between. We have an extra need this year in terms of props & decorating. Please be on the lookout for any large sheets or boxes made of corrugated cardboard that can be transformed into everything cosmic. We would welcome assistance whether you have a short or long term commitment ability. Please be prayerful and consider in what way God might be calling you to serve on this “Cosmic Adventure”. If you have questions or would like volunteer please contact me at aumcced@sbcglobal.net or 631-1151. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Serving Together,

FIRST TREKKERS . . .

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holland Tulip Festival

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

First we'll enjoy "Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance" a fast-moving song and dance musical revue presented by the members of the acclaimed Evergreen Chorale. The show is preceded by a delicious luncheon served right at your table — a truly great entertainment value!

Then we'll get back on the bus with a guide from Holland and see over half a million tulips in city parks, public areas, and along city streets. The tour includes six miles of tulips brilliantly lining Holland's streets. We'll have stops for pictures and shopping. Then we will have a buffet dinner at the Holland First United Methodist Church before we head home.

RESERVATIONS for All Trekker Events

Call or email Marcia First UMC office at 835-6797 ext. 18 or mpayne@fumcmid.org. Give your name, phone, number of tickets and the name of the event. Make your check to the First United Methodist Church with the notation, "Trekksers."

Bring checks to the church office or mail to:

First United Methodist Church / Attn: First Trekkers / Box 466 / Midland, MI 48640

Contact Becky Jenkins, in the church office, with questions or to seek financial assistance. A limited number of partial scholarships are available.



MAY TREKKERS TRIP

Where : Holland MI

When: Tuesday May 4, 2010
Board the bus at 7:00

am leaving 7:30 am (back around 8:00 pm)

What is Included: "Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance" with lunch. Bus Tour of Holland MI with stops for pictures and shopping. Buffet Dinner at Holland First United Methodist Church All transportation by Blue Lakes Charter. Ticket price of \$75.00 includes bus, musical and luncheon, and buffet dinner.

Questions contact Becky Jenkins 835-6797 ext. 14 or bjenkins@fumcmid.org.



PRAYERS NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers

Hospitalizations:

Barb Boxwell – MidMichigan Hospital - March 23
District Superintendent Louise Ott – April 7
Harrison Roy – MidMichigan Hospital – April 9
Greg Eagle - Karmanos Hospital—April 26
Melanie LaMere - MidMichigan Hospital - April 22
Marlene Guild - MidMichigan Hospital - April 22

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



Deaths:

Please keep the following family in your prayers.

The family of Wally Dyste who passed away on April 3
Marcy Keller (sister of Beverly Marra) - April 23

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our emptiness and make us spiritually whole.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Bob Babcock
3501 Henry Street
Midland MI 48642



A FRESH LOOK AT PENTECOST

Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, on a day called Pente-cost, the Christian church was born. Because Pentecost was a holiday celebrating the harvest (a bit like our Thanksgiving), the apostles and a large crowd had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem.



Pentecost

Many people had assembled near Peter and the other followers of Christ when "From heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind ..." (Acts 2:2 ff, NRSV). Then tongues of fire descended on everyone in the crowd.

After the wind and fire descended, all sorts of languages, known and unknown, came out of the crowd. Each person spoke "about God's deeds of power" (verse 11). No wonder Luke wrote, "All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'" (verse 12).

The whole affair was mind-boggling and life-changing. The Holy Spirit had come upon many people; they knew God was powerfully at work in their midst.

On Pentecost many years ago, some 3,000 people came to believe in Christ. That's why today Christians remember this powerful event as the birthday of the church. Pentecost occurs on May 23 this year.

"In the time of your life, live — so that in that wondrous time you shall not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite variety and mystery of it."

—William Saroyan

UP BUT NOT AWAY

Many Christian denominations celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, which refers to a post-resurrection event that took place 40 days after Easter. This year it occurs on May 13.

According to Luke, Jesus led his friends to a Jerusalem suburb called Bethany. While on a small mountain, he blessed his friends and then rose into heaven while they watched.

The ascension was such a momentous occasion that after Jesus disappeared, his followers had a worship service at the spot. Then they "returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 24:52, NRSV).

Because Christ had promised to be with his followers always (Matthew 28:20), from then on they knew he would be with them as Spirit. Jesus' body was up and away, but spiritually he was still and always would be their companion.

Mothers write on the hearts of their children what the world's rough hand cannot erase."

—Author unknown



MORE THAN A NAME

When the late CBS correspondent Ed Bradley visited the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., he found a letter propped against the black wall. It read:



"I wanted to come back and say hello. You know, I went ahead and married Dick, and we have a beautiful little girl. Her favorite color is purple, the color of this stationery. I went to Arlington to see your grave, and on it, it said you got a Purple Heart for dying. Well, this is your purple heart for having lived. I hope that our daughter finds as wonderful and as beautiful a first love as you were for me. Good-bye. Hello. Nancy."

That's a strong reminder that those we honor on Memorial Day are more than simply names. They were living people who loved and were loved ... and are still loved.

—Adapted from *Homiletics*

THOUGHTS ON MEMORIAL DAY

"There never was a good war or a bad peace."
—Benjamin Franklin

"Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount."

—General Omar Bradley

YOUR FAITH CAN GROW

The suspension bridge over Niagara Falls was begun by a thread attached to a kite. When the wind blew, the kite floated across the water to the other side. Workers then attached a string to the thread and pulled it across. To the string, they attached a rope and pulled it back. By this slow-but-sure method, the bridge was built.

Our faith may be just a little thread or no larger than a mustard seed, but we must act on it (see James 2:14-18).

Through action, our faith will be strengthened (Colossians 1:23) as it moves us to do even greater works of faith for our Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:3). And in this slow-but-sure way, our faith can grow exceedingly (Ephesians 4:15-16).

EYE OF GOD

This symbol represents our "all-seeing" God, who is present everywhere and is always watching over us. ("The eyes of the Lord are in every place," Proverbs 15:3, NRSV.) The eye is inside an equilateral triangle, which is associated with the Holy Trinity.

