

Message from the Pastor:

May I come in?

It is in our hands to where we go from here. At our March Council meeting the Desert Southwest Conference Director of Outreach Ministries (Billie Fidlin) and Director of Connectional Ministries (Anthony Tang) led us in a unique process of asking questions but not allowing answers. It became both frustrating and challenging. The purpose was to have us think about our church, our ministry by asking questions; what's on our minds, our feelings. The process produced over a hundred questions. Now the work is ours; no one else can do it for us. Our homework was for each of us to review the results (found in this newsletter) then select what you recognize as top priorities.

We are all aware of the critical situation in which our church is presently found. We are at a place that new ministries, outreach and growth must occur or the doors will have to close.

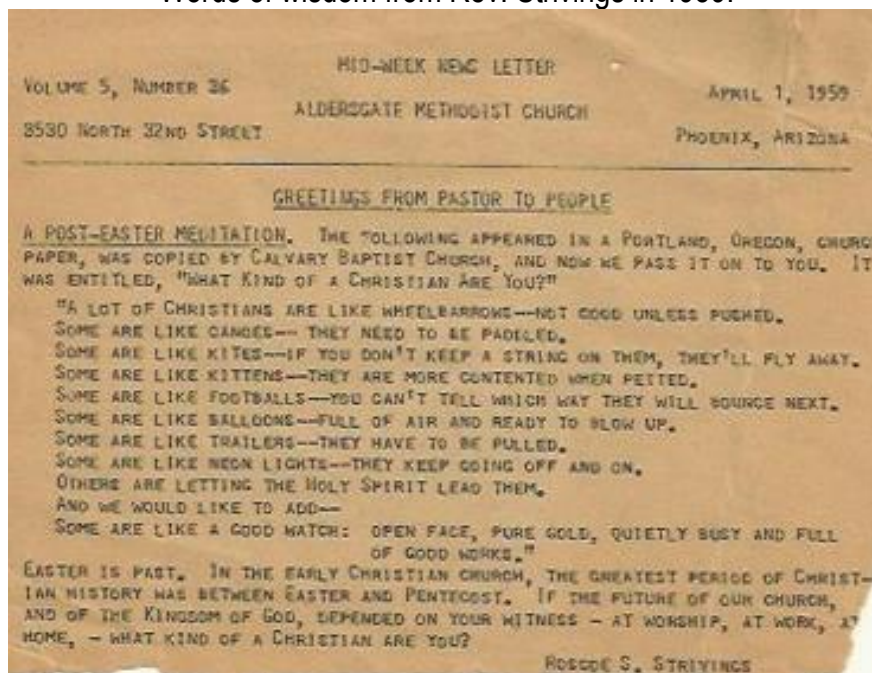
The results are in your hand, review and select those items you we feel are important and critical. At the April 17 Council meeting be prepared to share, debate, select and compromise with the end result to develop a plan of action. Through this process we must evaluate what, not only, is critical but manageable for our small congregation.

The very life of our church depends on this work. May we all be in prayer open to where the "Living Christ" may direct us as we set about our task.

See you in worship,

Tom

Words of wisdom from Rev. Strivings in 1959:



## COMING UP IN APRIL

**APRIL BIRTHDAY** - Lee Smith – April 16<sup>th</sup>

*Happy  
Birthday!*

Every Sunday	Worship	11:00 a.m.
	Fellowship Hour	12:00 NOON Following Worship
Every Tuesday	Choir Practice	4:00 p.m.
Every Wednesday	TOPS	9:00 a.m.
	AA	7:00 p.m.

Rewards Coordinator, Phyllis Soberg, provides the following information:

**BASHAS'**: Buy a gift card from Phyllis for \$15.00, which is good for fifteen dollars' worth of groceries. Don't throw the card away, you can use it the next time you shop -- go to the customer service counter and add whatever amount you wish, then you can shop using the card. We will receive six percent (6%) of your purchases from Bashas'. There are no rebates on alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, stamp, gift cards, Western Union transactions, taxes, fuel or lottery tickets.

**FRY'S**: This program has changed. If you are a Fry's shopper, you must have an email address to participate. If you do not have an email address, please contact Martha in the church office to complete a form to create an email for your account with Fry's. We will earn three to five percent (3% - 5%) on your Fry's purchases.

Please remember, this is free money from Bashas' and Fry's.

### KARAOKE

We will have Karaoke in Strivings Hall on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, you won't want to miss out on a good time. We will be serving snacks while people are singing or listening to familiar songs. The next karaoke will be Saturday, May 21.

The funds that are gathered at the Karaoke nights each month are donated to our Food Box Ministries. Approximately ten bags of food are distributed each Tuesday morning.

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council will meet following Worship Service on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> in Strivings Hall. Everyone is invited to review the list of questions from the last council meeting, included in this newsletter, in preparation for this meeting. Please plan to attend and bring the list of questions with you. Many thanks to Sarah Burke for preparing this list.

### FOOD BOX MINISTRY

The pantry is always in need of food. Items that are needed: Dry Beans, Rice, Crackers, Fruit, Jell-O and Pudding Cups, Powdered Milk, Cereal, Saltine Crackers, Peanut Butter, Ramen Noodles, Canned Meat (Tuna, Vienna Sausage or Chicken) and Vegetables.

If you can help by donating some of the above-listed items, drop them off at the church office from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays, or bring them with you to church on Sunday mornings and leave them in the choir room. Thank you to everyone that has contributed.

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

April monthly general meeting is not scheduled. Ruth Circle will meet on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Phyllis Soberg, 12631 North 40<sup>th</sup> Place. Lunch, drinks and dessert will be provided immediately following the meeting.

**What Is the Issue Aldersgate UMC Feels Compelled to Address?  
Serving/Reaching out to the Community.**

**Aldersgate UMC Must Reach Out to the Community**

1. How can we serve the children in the community?
2. How do you contact people in the local community?
3. How can you help us?
4. How to guide us to do the right things?
5. How do we show our faith?
6. Are there simple things we can share for God's example?
7. How do we share God with the community?
8. Do we have anything to offer?
9. How do we go about offering?
10. How do we offer our music and our faith?
11. How do we keep ourselves from getting stretched out in too many directions?  
Too many things to do?
12. What is it that we have to offer?
13. Why does our superior campus not draw more people to us?
14. Would it help to try a contemporary service?
15. Can we combine an event with another church with ours?
16. Can we contact other churches in the area for special events?

17. Are we really a welcoming congregation?
18. *Could our church do Sidewalk Sunday School?*
19. Could our church have the Food Truck come and invite people to eat?
20. Can we have a committee visit another church that's going to see their principles?
21. Could we possibly have a group of young people from say David's school to sing?
22. Can we rent our facilities to have a concert in our sanctuary?
23. Would more modern music attract the younger people?
24. How do we get started?
25. How can we extend our outside speaker music so that the community can hear?
26. Does the neighborhood want to hear?
27. What is our goal for providing a contemporary service?
28. How do we sell it?
29. Don't we guarantee salvation like others?
30. What do we have to gain?
31. Why would anybody who is not here be interested in what we have to offer?
32. Can we reinstate some of the things we have done in the past, such as: Pumpkin Patch, After-School Program, Splash Day, Carnival for kids?
33. How do we advertise?

34. What are we advertising?
35. How do we pay for it?
36. Where do we advertise?
37. Who is the leadership/the manpower?
38. Are we the manpower?
39. What is big manpower/physical?
40. How do we attract older people?
41. Could we consider having fish fries and some of the other events like we used to have in order to make money?
42. Who's going to fry the fish?
43. We have 49 members—who's going to do it?
44. How do we contact someone from the outside to do the fish fry?
45. How do you change that attitude—how can you get a different mindset where people expect it to be free because it's the church?
46. How do we advertise ahead of time for an event such as a fish fry which is not free?
47. How do we advertise events that are not free?
48. Do we have to make money?
49. Can we have scholarships— wrong word—but can we set money aside for people in the neighborhood?
50. Should we limit it to fish fries or should we consider chili?

51. Where does an activity like this fit into the priority of reaching out to the community?
52. Would offering free Wi-Fi to the community bring anyone into the congregation?
53. Do we have people who would monitor if we got a lot of people in?
54. Would there be any security issues?
55. So what is our problem here?
56. Should we focus on one age group—old people? young people? or both?  
Should we consider all ages?
57. How do we increase our visibility in the neighborhood?
58. What are some of the restrictions included in advertising?
59. How do we keep them?
60. How do we pay for the things we need now (such as repairs and upkeep)?
61. How do we get people to increase their giving: pledges?
62. If we increase our pledges, can we use increase not just for office?
63. Is there a way to get other United Methodist churches from our community to help?
64. How soon can we get started?
65. Could we do Bible skits in today's vernacular that would interest people?
66. If we do a lot of these things, do we need to hire a custodian?

67. Does the church need a full-time pastor, and if so, how do we go about doing that?
68. What do we have to offer?
69. How do we generate money to support programs that have something to offer?
70. Should we have a program here at the church given by a member of the Conference on legacy, wills and things of that sort?
71. Could we hire a community organizer that could do programs for kids in the neighborhood?
72. Could we have a literacy program?
73. Could the Conference give us someone to do programming--at Conference expense?
74. Could we invite other churches to join in a yard sale?
75. Could we have screens in the sanctuary?
76. How can we pay for screens?
77. Who would do all the programming of slides for the screens?
78. How would we get more money than we have, which would not cover what we would need as far as screens?
79. Is there someone at Conference that would help us set up the visuals?
80. Is our church open to all people who enter our doors?
81. What can we do to make our church more accessible to people with disabilities and to the homeless?

82. How do we find resources to extend ourselves into the community?
83. Can we contact schools?
84. Do we need big manpower to do small things?
85. What are small things?
86. How do we attract young people?
87. How can we attract older members?
88. How old?
89. What does really big manpower mean?
90. How do we get people in our doors?
91. How do we raise money to support the church?
92. Are we sure this is our problem?
  - a. What is our problem?
  - b. Where do we start?
  - c. How do we find out what our problem is?
  - d. What does the word "this" mean?
93. Is part of our problem the Conference?
94. Are we willing to give up previous and traditional things this church has done and be serious about starting new ministries in this church?
95. What evidence do we have that that would attract new members?
96. Is our location the problem?
97. Is it us?



98. What is the make-up of this area? Demographics?
99. Do we have current figures about the religious demographics?
100. Is there one successful church in this area that does not have a program for teens and young children?
101. Do we need to check any of the other denominations?
102. How long does it take to see a result if we change directions?
103. How do we know what the community wants from us?
104. What does the community need from us?

**What Do We Have to Offer**

105. How do we advertise what we have to offer?
106. Would it help to show reasons for attending church services?
107. Would sharing statistical figures be of interest to anyone?
108. If we were open to a contemporary service, are we open to remodeling our sanctuary?
109. What would this entail?
110. Could we lose membership with a contemporary service?
111. Can we have a follow-up after service for those who don't return?
112. What are we doing in the follow-up?
113. Is there money available from the Conference?
114. Should we consider partnering with Devonshire Senior Center?

115. How could we partner with Devonshire Senior Center?
116. Could we have a day for seniors to play cards or have a luncheon or a program?
117. Could we have a contemporary service?
118. Would a contemporary service be a second service or can we combine the traditional with the contemporary?
119. Can we show enough enthusiasm to sell tickets to a concert?
120. Has the Conference had experience helping other churches with a similar situation?
121. Can you be two half-time pastors?
122. Could we borrow young families from other churches so that when visitors come, they don't see empty pews and gray heads?
123. Who would help us with that?
124. Can we contact several churches to see if there is interest in sharing their congregations?
125. What do we have to offer other churches in return?

Marked as most important

No. 82	5 votes
No. 90	4 votes
Nos. 33 & 57	3 votes
No. 91	2 votes
Nos. 1, 41, 50, 54, 55, 60, 78, 79, 84, 86, 91, 114, 115, 119	1 vote



It's time to start cleaning your cabinets, cupboards and garages!! The Boy Scouts are having a huge Garage Sale on our Campus on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> and said that we could join them. So start now! We need clean workable items and knick-knacks, useable furniture, kitchen items, dishes, glassware, linens, etc. Be sure they're clean and in working order. All items must be priced (stickers are available) and everything can be left in Strivings Hall in front of the stage area. Set-up and sorting has been scheduled for Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. -- volunteer forms are available and should be turned in by April 26<sup>th</sup>. Donations of cookies, dessert bars or brownies will be accepted [no cakes, pies, etc.].



We will be serving chili dogs and sloppy joes with a bag of

chips & a drink for \$5.00 Bring your appetite!!!



Valerie Lintz

A day at Justa Center Doors open 7 AM till 3 PM Monday through Saturday and 7 AM till 1 PM on Sunday. So a day goes something like this. At 7 AM members start to arrive. Staff have put on the coffee pot. About 7:30 the van arrives from the women's shelter at 11th Ave and Watkins. Members sign in at the front desk then fan out to sign list to be seen by the nurse, take a shower, have their laundry done, be seen for intake, see the veterans service person, food stamp person, Medicare and social security person (that's me), legal services attorney or income tax help person. 8:30 time for meditation service in the chapel. On Sunday Pastor Rock leads worship service at 10 AM. By 9 AM the place is a beehive of activity. All the computers are in use by members checking email and searching for jobs on line. Members are lined up to use the phone to schedule medical and social service appointments. Others are into their lockers. Some are taking some quiet time out in the library. Oley the counselor is on the phone helping a member set up a mental health appointment. Olivia the social worker is closeted with a member dealing with violent assault. Mike has the truck loaded with household goods to take a member to his new apartment. Rock is on the phone with a landlord to work out a move in deal. Barbara, executive director is on the phone with a prospective donor. The ironing board has been set up. A member is at the supply closet looking for a new pair of socks. By 10:30 members under 60 head out for the 3 block walk to St. Vincent de Paul to get lunch. By 11 AM hot meals are delivered from the senior center and eligible members line up for lunch. By 2 PM the pace slows. Staff start to mop and clean. At 2:30 the van shows up to take the ladies back to the Watkins shelters. The fellows start to head out for the CASS shelter, overflow shelter, Rescue Mission; or in some cases just some place safe and out of sight to spend the night. Justa Center has an ongoing need for supplies for the morning coffee break and snacks. If you can help, call 602-254-6524 or drop off items at 1001 West Jefferson.

## JUSTA CENTER

**Aldersgate United Methodist Church**

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