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May I Come in?

It doesn't seem possible! The Aldersgate flock returned to their home one year ago to start the "New Aldersgate." You were persistent in becoming your own church once again! Some said "you were foolish" and others "how brave and courageous you were." Perhaps it was a little of both, who really knows. From my view it took a lot of courage and hard work. It was like beginning again, so much involved, so much work. Then of course you were concerned as to who would be your pastor and perhaps still are as you got me.

We have worked this year. I have had to get back in the groove after 12 years of retirement. It has been somewhat a challenge remembering how to be a pastor again and all that goes with it. Then, for all of us, the reality set in we had to literally "begin again" not just start where you left off. You are to be commended for a job well done.

What a learning and growing challenge it has been. This year has had many wonderful moments of celebrations, worship, the joy of worshipping in the Aldersgate sanctuary. We have shared concerns and been supportive of one another. We have done the best we could at being in mission beyond our walls. We decided to focus on senior concerns and held a series for the community sessions to offer relevant and valuable information for senior citizens. They were good and went well. Our small number and older group have done what the church is to be about.

We all know that due to our age and small membership we have difficult days ahead. It's the reality. Here's what I know, you are a "tuff bunch," persistent, courageous, don't take "no" for an answer and willing to work. You are people of faith and commitment. We will continue to work hard and do our very best knowing that the Lord leads us and whatever the future holds it can only be said "well done faithful servants."

It has been my joy and blessing to be with you this first year of being the "New Aldersgate."

See you in worship,
Tom

Thank you so much for making my birthday a great celebration and over so many days. The cards, best wishes, gifts, cakes and party were all appreciated and enjoyed.



December Birthdays

Gerry Baker's 90th – December 5
Betty Trabue – December 30



COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

Every Sunday	Worship	11:00 a.m.
Every Sunday	Fellowship Hour	12:00 NOON
Every Monday	Arizona Masterworks	6:30 p.m.
Every Wednesday	TOPS	9:00 a.m.
Every Wednesday	AA	7:00 p.m.



Thank you to all those who helped with the elegant, delicious turkey & ham potluck anniversary dinner on Sunday, November 20th. A special thanks goes to John & Betty Brown, Joyce Ramsey, Trudy Horney, Sarah Burke and Linda Harman for all of their help on the dinner. Everyone had a good time and the food was truly outstanding!

Thanksgiving Carpet Project: Take a look at this project and pictures of some projects around the world back in the Narthex. Thanks to Martha Brodersen for her wonderful contribution.

Also thanks much to Gail Everts for all of her holiday season decorations around campus. What a joy!

Hanging of The Greens: Many thanks to Don and Lee Smith, Joyce Ramsey, Gail Everts, Martha Brodersen, plus Maribel Pineda Romero & her son Matthew. Our sanctuary looks beautiful.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UMOM Christmas Cards are offered for sale at this time – contact Darlene Dominguez or Sarah Burke to purchase them.

The Healing Circle for Christmas project: We are helping our Phoenix Native American United Methodist Fellowship by collecting hygiene care kits and underwear for teenagers (all sizes). This will help with the at-risk teenagers on the Gila Reservation.



*The family of Gerry Baker invites you to celebrate her 90th birthday after the Sunday morning service on **December 4, 2016**. We'll see you then.*

Free admission to the Desert Botanical Garden is **December 13, 2016**. Meet Martha Brodersen at 1:00 p.m. inside the admission area.



Sandi Patty concert will be at Scottsdale Bible Church on February 16th at 7:00 p.m.

\$20.00 each person **** Deadline is December 15.

Please let the church office know if you are interested in purchasing these discounted tickets and maybe traveling over to the concert together.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **December 18, 2016**, after the Sunday morning service.

Phyllis Soberg

Update on the Shoebox Christmas Child project – Sarah Burke and Darlene Dominguez took the boxes to the drop-off church. We ended up with fifty-one (51) shoeboxes and paid the shipping for each box – Great Job, everyone! It was a fun project.

Darlene Dominguez

Christmas Eve Service at The Bridge (Creighton church) will be at 5:00 p.m.



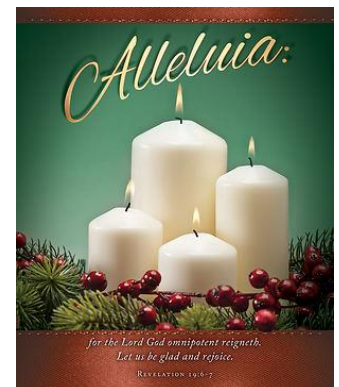
December 24:

*5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service at the Bridge
(Creighton Church)*

10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service at Aldersgate

December 25:

11:00 a.m. Christmas Day service at Aldersgate



Please submit any January newsletter information to the Aldersgate church office by Monday, **December 26th**. Newsletters are handed out to those in worship on the first Sunday of each month. Those not present will have their newsletter mailed the following week.



Our Food Box Ministry gives out up to ten emergency bags of food every Tuesday morning—all food donations are welcome and canned goods are needed. Drop off all donations in the bin by the back door of the sanctuary.

How to Reach New People committee is having an initial meeting on Monday, **December 5th** at 4:00 p.m. in Kephart Hall which includes an early supper made by Martha Benton. Even if you were not selected to serve on the committee, we want your comments and suggestions, so come and share the meal with us. We will have a program overview and then talk about what projects can work for us! Ongoing weekly suppers will be planned and may include the new preschool parents and others. I sure hope to see you there!

Martha Benton

Also, if you know of someone in the hospital, ill or suffering in any way please inform the office.

Justa Center news:

Home for the holidays will not be a reality for most of the folks served by Justa Center. It is easy to become homeless. Miss a few paychecks, can't pay the rent, out you go. Getting out of homelessness is more complicated. If you have an income, how do you meet basic needs and save enough to pay a \$25 application fee, move in deposits and first month's rent? How do you find a place to live if you have no car or gas money? Most landlords do a credit check. Poor credit, history of eviction, application denied. What do you use as a mailing address while looking for housing? When you had to move out with no place to go, what happened to all your belongings? You only took what you could carry or would fit in the car. How do you replace dishes, linens, or a bed? On Christmas Eve as we enjoy our warm and cozy homes, think of those who do not have a place to call home.

Valerie Lintz

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