

ALDERSGATE NEWS

JANUARY 2017

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May I come in?

Good Bye to 2016 and Hello 2017! For many people, around the world, it is good to see 2016 go. There was so much terrorism and death throughout the past year. We witnessed anger and hatred globally, and as a result many suffered. Racism and discrimination, we work to overcome, is lifting its ugly head. Good bye 2016.

What will 2017 bring? The end of an old year and the beginning of a new is only another day on the calendar. But, for us it signifies the passing of the old and a clean slate, a sign to begin again, start anew. So the change becomes exciting and challenging for us. You know, New Year Resolutions are made, changes we want and the "good intentions" to see it through.

There is much to be done to change the course of 2016. We have a lot to do to work on the problems mentioned above. They effect and involve all of we humans, therefore, each one has responsibility. No one should or can avoid the issues. We have just celebrated Christmas, the birth of the Christ, the Savior, but what does that mean for us? Anything?

Howard Thurman wrote:

"The Work of Christmas:"
When the song of angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and princes are home.
When the shepherds are back with their flock.
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost.
to heal the broken.
to feed the hungry.
to release the prisoner.
to rebuild the nations.
to bring peace among brothers (and sisters.)
to make music in the heart.

It seems overwhelming and many of us ask; "what can I do?" Perhaps the answer is simpler than we think. Let's see, what is that rule? Ahh, yes!

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."



January Birthdays: **Betty Brown – 13th** **Kevin Burke – 20th** **Phyllis Soberg – 24th** **John Brown – 31st**
Happy Belated Birthday to Hailey Archibald

COMING UP IN JANUARY		
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fry's has notified us they are sending a check for \$59.26 for groceries purchased in October and November by 18 people. That's FREE money!!!! So, for those of you who shop at Fry's and have not signed up, see Martha in the church office. She will get you registered and we can start earning free money for each trip you make to Fry's. You can sign up your family, too, as you do not have to be an Aldersgate member to be a part of this program. Think free green!!!!!!

Phyllis Soberg



Thank you to Sarah Burke for helping with the UMOM Christmas cards -- \$310 were sold; thanks to everyone who bought cards. Special thanks to Sarah Burke and Phyllis Soberg for collecting money for the goat for the pastor from Heifer International, & thanks to our Aldersgate family for participating – plus we also purchased some honey bees, rabbits and chickens! Additional thanks to Don & Lee Smith for replacing some kitchen supplies.

Darlene Dominguez

Thanks also to those who decorated the sanctuary, the fellowship times, assisted with the Advent Wreath and Worship, our Choir for their commitment and work, Gerry Baker and David Rowe, Martha Benton for extra time spent on bulletins and many other details involved with Advent and Christmas and everyone that helped with the Christmas day luncheon. What a fabulous season!

A special thank you also goes out to Dickey's Barbecue Pit for their most generous meat donation recently, that was shared with many!

Dear Aldersgate Family,

Thank you for the wonderful Christmas gifts of a goat given in my honor to the Heifer Project and shelter at UMOM. Both these gifts go to help people who are striving to improve their lives. What better gift, it was perfect and I thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness. Also, thanks to many of you for your cards, sweet treats and snacks. As I am sure that you have noticed they went to waists! It was a nice Advent and Christmas Celebration at Aldersgate and it took the work of so many. Thank You!

Pastor Tom

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 bi-monthly meetings in January, Monday, **January 9th** and Monday, **January 23rd** 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 with us. Conference Call will begin at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, **January 10th** all committee members should attend.

Martha Benton

Free admission to the Desert Botanical Garden is **January 10th**, 2017. Meet Martha Brodersen at 1:00 p.m. inside the admission area.



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

East/West District Administrative Committees Training meeting here at Aldersgate on **January 14th**, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Be sure to register with Carla – cwhitmire@dscumc.org.

Next Church Council meeting is scheduled for **January 15th**, 2017, in the library following Sunday morning church service & fellowship time.



Please submit any February newsletter information to the Aldersgate church office by Monday, **January 30th**. 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.

Aldersgate Anniversary Sunday is **February 5th**, 2017.

East District Local Church Discipleship meeting on **February 11th**, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Paradise Valley United Methodist Church - 4455 East Lincoln Drive.

Please look for the Spring 2017 ASU Class Schedule for the Love of Learning – catalogues are located on the table by the water fountain in the narthex.

Lost items found -- small navy blue fabric purse and one pink stone hoop earring. Pick up in the church office.

YOU SAY	GOD SAYS	BIBLE VERSES
You say: "It's impossible"	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
You say: "I'm too tired"	God says: I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say: "Nobody really loves me"	God says: I love you	(John 3:16 & John 3:34)
You say: "I can't go on"	God says: My grace is sufficient	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
You say: "I can't figure things out"	God says: I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5-6)
You say: "I can't do it"	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
You say: "I'm not able"	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
You say: "It's not worth it"	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28)
You say: "I can't forgive myself"	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say: "I can't manage"	God says: I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
You say: "I'm afraid"	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	(II Timothy 1:7)
You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)
You say: "I'm not smart enough"	God says: I give you wisdom	(I Corinthians 1:30)
You say: "I feel all alone"	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)

Justa Center news:

In December Justa Center celebrated their tenth anniversary. Founded by Rev. Scott Richey, now a pastor at Central UMC, this unique faith based program serves seniors aged 55 and older who are homeless in the metro Phoenix area. This summer they grew from 130 daily visitors to 184 daily members but they take the time to address everyone by name and with dignity and respect. About 50% of their members now are women and the percentage of veterans is 30-40%. The good news is that Rev. Richey had the vision to create the unique program that Justa Center offers. The bad news is that they are seeing more homeless seniors.

Valerie Lintz

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