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# DAYBREAKING NEWS

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## Message from Pastor Tom | Aldersgate Stories

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Okay, like many of you, I'm getting antsy. In fact, watch the news and you discover people around the globe are antsy from being quarantined. We want to feel free, to get out and do what we want without a mask; wouldn't that feel good? This quarantine has offered benefits, I'm reading more, napping more, walking in the mornings, calling or texting others. Unfortunately, I'm eating more; so, when we get back together no comments on the weight, please. But this time has offered opportunity for reflection on all kinds of things.

I've spent time reflecting on a trip I made last September. I returned to the town of my roots; a small rural town in southwest Ohio. It had been several years since my last visit and my final visit with my brother who was in failing health. He died a year ago October and due to my first knee replacement I was unable to return to be with family at that time. I felt sad not being able to be there and felt a sense of urgency to see his family as soon as I was able. The September visit was good for me; to be with my brother's family.

With every visit to the ole homestead I revisit the past. It feels good, comfortable and peaceful to remember. This trip offered me the opportunity to worship in the church where I was baptized, confirmed and even ordained into the ministry. The church was built in the late 1800s, beautiful old sanctuary, stained glass windows, pipe organ and pulpit centered. The pews the same and even have cushions to soften the seat. That Sunday morning filled me with memories, so unfortunately, I didn't listen carefully to the preacher's words. I saw the pew where I sat with my family as a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and received my first call to the ministry. The memories flowed; that church was there for our family through all of life's stages; the several I mentioned but, also, the weddings, funerals, the singing, the learning and the friends. I was filled with joy as I had been blessed by being a part of that church. But now as I reflect back to that morning, I thought that church looked the same, like a page out of history. The sanctuary had not changed but the world around it is dramatically different. I think of my life from that first call to ministry; how much I have changed. I've changed in every arena of my life theological, political, socially. I like to think for the best but my brother didn't always think so. We were brothers and loved one another in spite of our differences.

Our world has changed, I have changed as I trust that each of you have as well. We, who are in our "senior" years, are well aware that our world has changed incomprehensibly in our life time. We've changed in order to be functioning and a relevant member of the global community but sometimes it's been hard and too slow. The church has changed and constantly needs to in order to minister to the present world. Now, I don't know what my childhood church does in all its ministry but the sanctuary and the worship were just like when I sat there in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. It felt good and yet it didn't. I felt peace and warmth as I remembered and then frustration and worry. Because I thought about us, Aldersgate, the changes that we are going and need to go through. It is not easy for us and especially for those of you have been a part of its ministry for many years. As I reflect on that September visit at the Eaton UMC, my childhood church, I realize how we must try new forms of ministry, perhaps foreign or strange to us, we have to try for the world isn't going to wait on us. I think how exciting, how healthy and, yet, frustrating all of this can be. How scary, what if it doesn't work? What if it doesn't meet our

expectations? Well, we have to try, don't we? Isn't this our call as followers of Jesus Christ, to minister to others and make the world, in which we find ourselves, a better place? We have to minister in the present world not in a world that has gone by.

This project that we have been working on with Dayspring has continued longer than we want to think about. It is frustrating to both churches. Let's remember this is a new concept for all of us involved and there are many angles that have to be considered so there will not be future problems. Of course, this whole Covid - 19 entered the picture and has created more delay. Hang in there! I encourage each of us to be positive and excited about the future of Aldersgate/Dayspring. I have to admit I get excited when I think about it, what it can be; not only for us but for the community. I confess that I am naive enough to believe that the Lord is at work amongst us for the Kingdom of God, I can't let that go.

Gosh! I miss you and can't wait until we can be together.  
In the Spirit,  
Tom

PS: Attention: Remember the 50th day after Easter is rapidly approaching and that means Pentecost Sunday. The liturgical color for that day is red. That season of the Christian Year is based on Acts 2. For preparation of that special day please read Acts 2 and then get your red out to wear on that day.

## Aldersgate Stories

This week's article is from another one of our very special members, Lee Smith, who sings in our choir, has been a liturgist and served on the Worship committee in the past, participated in the annual Hanging of the Greens, plus she is on the prayer chain Team 3, and also serves in additional ways.

In late 2012, Don and Lee Smith met in the choir, fell in love and were married in the Aldersgate sanctuary just before Christmas in 2013. Don gives Gerry Baker, who was his choir director at Bethel, full credit for their meeting. Lee (Walley, then) first joined Aldersgate in 1963 with her parents, Barb and Dave, and her brother, Marty. She was a member of the high school choir that traveled up and down the California coast, singing in various churches, as well as at Disneyland.

Lee says, "During our stay-at-home time, we have been catching up with last year's D-Backs games that are being replayed on TV. We are continuing our daily walks with our dog Sugar, though we have had to adjust our timing due to the heat. We are not ready yet, but look forward to returning to Aldersgate for worship and friendship when it is time. Take care."

### *Prayer Requests*

Keep our healthcare workers in your prayers, those working so that others may stay home; those who are homebound and in care facilities. For those living with medical conditions that need to be taken care of and treated during this COVID time. For charter member Phyllis Soberg's grandson recovering from COVID-19 while deployed on the USS Roosevelt. If you have prayer requests or other needs, please let the church know.

### *Giving*

Our offering plate is going to be lonely without Sunday Services, but never fear, you can still send your tithes and offerings to the Aldersgate church office: 3530 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85018-5609



Rev. Tom Kiracofe

Pastor

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