



Aldersgate United Methodist Church

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Aldersgate UMC Web Site –
<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/aldersgate-greece-ny/>

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Pastor's Reflections



Transforming lives and serving Christ with joy

The slogan, “transforming lives and serving Christ with joy,” captures the heart of the mission and vision of the Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Notice both “transforming” and “serving” are verbs, words that require action. My dictionary definition for “transform” is “to markedly change the nature, function, or condition of.”

From a theological standpoint, we know that God is the one who does the

transforming. When we receive God’s amazing grace through faith in Jesus Christ, God changes our nature from condemned sinner to forgiven child of God. We are given new birth and made new creations in Christ. Jesus’ death and resurrection that we celebrate in a special way on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter is the centerpiece of God’s action on our behalf.

Even as God is the one who acts to transform our lives, we must cooperate with him. As Paul writes, *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good and pleasing, and perfect will.”* (Romans 12:2)

We are to work with God as individuals and as a church so that our lives, the lives of others,

our community, and the world are transformed into the image of Christ.

On March 1, church leaders will be looking at specific ways to cooperate with God in the work of transforming lives. I hope all who are involved in leadership at Aldersgate or think God may be calling you into leadership will come. Sign up on the sheet posted by the elevator or by calling the church office (663-3665).

My prayer for you during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter is that you will open yourself in a new way to God’s transforming love.

In Christ’s love,

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OUR MINISTRY OF CONCERN

People are added to our ongoing prayer list on request. If you know of someone whose name and/or concern should be added, please verify that the person desires to be on a published list before requesting the addition. Names are added and can be removed from the prayer list by request. If you have a prayer request, please call Barbara Robinson at 227-7845. Reports regarding prayer results are made also.

Recovering at Hill Haven: Jim DeBell

Recovering at home:

Carl Dunn, Bette Edgett, Don Heinz, Lynn Hoyt, Ted Peck, Susan Perkins, Jim Schaber, Scott Toombs, Carline Wiley
 Those with ongoing health concerns: Amy (grandniece of Sylvia & Jack Lynch), Joyce Anderson (sister of Wanda Strauss), Noel Anderson, Pauline Ashley, Bill Barton (friend of

Tom O'Connor), Albina DeBell (mother of Jim DeBell), Nancy Beers (granddaughter of Mavis and Malcolm), Don Bueg (friend of the Carstens), Wynne Brandenburg (mother to Jerry Sisson), Phoebe Brown, Michele Cairns, Ted Coburn, Sue Ellen Doyle (daughter of the Coburns), Carl Dunn, Bishop Violet Fisher, Carol Flowers (niece of Bob Wiederhold), Tina Fogg (sister to Michele Cairns), Jean Frey, Cleida Galligan (mother of Karen Sladden), Ed Geier, Mary Good (mother of Cindy Purzycki), Judy Hare, Dave Haring, Kira Harpole, Jerry Hertweck (Barry & Nancy Massing's friend), Becky Hess, Gary & Cindy Hogan, Glenn Ide, Kim Latragna, Anna Kneisel (mother of Anne Palmer), Lynn Linder (sister-in-law of Tammy Linder), Ruth Loomis, Jack Lynch, Mary Lynch (daughter-in-law to Jack & Sylvia Lynch), Steven

Lynch (son of Sylvia & Jack Lynch), Cody Mastradenato (neighbor of O'Connor's), Charlotte McCabe (Betty Baybutt's daughter), Denise Montgomery (daughter of Gloria Montgomery), Marion Murray (friend of Joyce & Jim DeBell), Jane O'Toole (friend of Kim Latragna), Gayle Penders, Carrie Reinhardt (friend of Tom O'Connor), Polly Roberts (friend of Bette Edgett), Steven Savage, Nora Spindler, John Sobus, Jr., Theresa (friend of the Geiers), Martha Thomson, Heather Tidwell (granddaughter of Ross & Nancy Wayne), Alene VanPutte, Hal Wagner, Dorothy Wind (daughter of Larry Scrivens), Clair Yeamans (step-father of David Kaszubowski), Adele Wozniak (sister of John Sobus)

Please call the church office if you have other names that need to be added or reinstated to the list or removed from the list.

Due to privacy restrictions at our hospitals They will no longer release patient information over the phone. In the event that you are hospitalized, please let us know. If you are unable to notify us, please have a family member or close friend call the church office, Pastor Anne or Pastor Jerry.



There are two prayer chains at Aldersgate. Each is coordinated by Barbara Robinson. One is for daytime calling. The other is for calling in the evening. Each member of the prayer chain has only one person to call and everyone will

lift up the prayer requests in his or her own way. This can be a very rewarding experience, especially when concerns turn into joy. We invite you to be part of this care team. Call me at 227-7845.

Barbara Robinson



ALDERSGATE EMERGENCY VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The church provides emergency services such as transportation and babysitting. If you can provide services, or need help, call Lyn Soeffing at 392-8988.

PARISH VISITATION

Please advise the church office when someone enters the hospital (or is discharged). This will help in providing better pastoral care and help avoid unnecessary trips. If you, or someone of whom you are aware, desire a pastoral call, please advise the church office. Arrangements for the Sacrament of Holy Communion are encouraged. Both pastors visit regularly and would be happy to include others in the visitation schedule.

Jackie Schneider	March 4
Phoebe Brown	March 5
Scott Wagner	March 7
Dan Rothfuss	March 9
Steve Tyler	March 9
Robert Winter	March 10
Gerald Wolter	March 12
Matthew Michaels	March 12
Gloria	
Montgomery	March 13
Barbara	
Robinson	March 13
Dave Cosman	March 16
Jamie Manfredi	March 16
John Groves	March 17
John Shukitis	March 17
Kyle Brown	March 17
Alene VanPutte	March 18
Sarah Roza	March 20
Sylvia Lynch	March 22
Andrea Rex	March 26
Cathy Carpenter	March 27
Connie Gomez	March 27
Patricia Forbes	March 28
Nathan	
Vankouwenberg	March 28

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Bryan Savage	March 28
Dean Hogestyn	March 29
Bob Hockey	March 30
Paul Brown	March 30
Gordon Spicer	March 30
Bill Tschorke	March 31

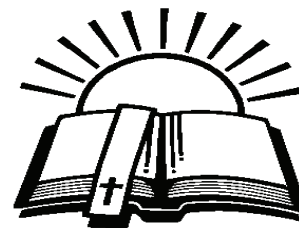


ANNIVERSARIES

John & Pat Geiselman	March 11
John & Marilyn Sobus	March 18
James & Lorraine	
Christie	March 18
Tom & Frances	
Vankouwenberg	March 24

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MARCH

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Luke 31:1-9 | 15. Mark 9:9-13 | 29. John 20:11-20 |
| 2. John 9:1-41 | 16. Matthew 21:1-11 | 30. John 20:19-31 |
| 3. Hebrews 10:32-39 | 17. Acts 7:30-34 | 31. 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 |
| 4. 1 Corinthians 4:6-21 | 18. Romans 11:1-6 | |
| 5. Luke 12:22-31 | 19. John 13:21-32 | |
| 6. Romans 2:17-29 | 20. John 13:1-17, 31-35 | |
| 7. Romans 9:6-13 | 21. John 18:1-19:42 | |
| 8. Matthew 7:1-6 | 22. Matthew 27:57-66 | |
| 9. John 11:1-45 | 23. Matthew 28:1-10 | |
| 10. Romans 2:1-11 | 24. Colossians 3:5-11 | |
| 11. Romans 3:9-22 | 25. Colossians 3:12-17 | |
| 12. Matthew 7:13-20 | 26. Matthew 28:1-10 | |
| 13. Hebrews 8:1-7 | 27. Colossians 4:2-5 | |
| 14. Hebrews 11:23-28 | 28. 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | |





EDUCATION

Pretzel Sunday

A big **“THANK YOU”** to parents, teachers and teens, who helped make **Pretzel Sunday** a success .

It may have been snowing cold outside but it felt warm and cozy inside with the smell of hot baked pretzels floating through Ide Hall. Everyone had a great time. **‘THANK YOU’** again.

Mitten Tree

Our Mitten tree was decorated with 20 hats, 29 scarf’s, 11 pairs of mittens and 2 pair’s of booties totaling 62 items for the Cameron Center. Thank you for your support.

Lenten Activities

During Lent, classes 1~6 are meeting in Room 3~4 for a special Lenten program. **“It’s a Miracle”** We will make and keep “The Miracle of Me” Journal and write about the of **YOU**, _make a Holy Week Garden, a play dough world, a parchment of the Ten Commandments, a stormy maze, feed five thousand, heal a blind man, eat Passover Bread and make butterflies.

Each child will need an empty egg carton.

Vacation Bible School

July 21~25
“Power Lab”
Discovering Jesus’
Miraculous Power

Why did the scientist install a knocker on his door?

To win the no-bell prize

Get ready to see amazing things happen at this science-themed VBS with engaging experience kids will love. Come meet Fizz, Sparki, Dwed, Max, Electra, Squeaky and Chadder.

Remember the Bible Point **“Jesus gives us the power to be thankful.”**

“Aha!”

Easter Lily Time....already?

March 23rd is just around the corner, so please consider placing an Easter Lily in our Chancel on that glorious Sunday!

Order blanks will be made available in the Sunday bulletins beginning February 24th. You may order a lily in memory or in honor of your loved one by completely filling out

an order blank with names exactly as you would want to have them listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Enclose your payment (\$9.00 per plant) with the order blank in an envelope marked “Altar Fund”. Make check payable to “Aldersgate UMC Altar Fund”. The envelope may be placed in the offering plate.

The **deadline** for ordering will be **Sunday, March 9th**, without exceptions.

If you have any questions, please call Barbara Condon at 865-0871.





To my church family:

I want to thank all of you who sent me cards and prayed for me since my operation on Dec. 19th. You have strengthened my faith and I will be forever grateful.

Also, a special thank you to my Wednesday Night Small Group for all that they have done for me, especially bringing me such delicious meals! I don't know how I would have gotten through this ordeal without your continued love and support.

Sincerely,
Carl Dunn

Help Needed for Sunday School & Junior Church

Both Sunday School and Jr. Church are in need of your help for the spring quarter (March 2—June 29).

Our young ladies from Elim Bible Institute will be leaving in early April. This leaved over 2-1/2 months without a teaching staff for both Sunday School and Jr. Church.

If you can help or have any questions, please call Jane Guitson at 544-7787.

THANK YOU & UPDATE FROM MERI WHITAKER

For many years the UMW has remembered our covenant missionary Meri Whitaker with a card and gift for her January 16 birthday. With the check is a note explaining that the money is for her personal use. (When we started this practice, one of our members pointed out that missionaries have a tendency to “give their all” to the mission in which they are engaged—hence the specificity of the note.)

We recently received the following letter in response to this year's gift:

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the gift that you sent for my birthday. It is always so nice to be remembered. I bought a new jacket with it. It was 80 degrees here yesterday but today it is cold and rainy. The temperature dropped 30 degrees in an hour this morning.

We are planning to open the new health resource center in about six weeks and things are really hopping for it. We have eleven children in the Day Care and two more registered today. Our seniors now host 125 at their lunches every Mon. and Wed. so we are really growing and changing. We have gone from a staff of fourteen this time last year to a staff of twenty.

I hope this finds you all warm and dry and enjoying the winter. Keep us in your prayers and thank you again for your very thoughtful gift on my birthday.

In Christ,
Rev. Meri Whitaker

From the Pastor of Visitation and Membership Care

Dear Aldersgate Friends:

As the March issue of the Hinge goes to press, the days of Lent are swiftly passing and it will soon be another Easter. I hope that these days that have passed so swiftly have been very meaningful to you. Time, indeed, is a special gift from God. This is illustrated in the story called

The Box

It had been some time since Jack had seen the old man. College, girls, career, and life itself got in the way. In fact, Jack moved clear across the country in pursuit of his dreams. There, in the rush of his busy life, Jack had little time to think about the past and often no time to spend with his wife and son. He was working on his future, and nothing could stop him.

Over the phone, his mother told him "Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wednesday." Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days. "Jack, did you hear me?" "Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him. I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," Jack said. "Well, he didn't forget you. Every time I saw him he asked how you were doing. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over on 'his side of the fence', as he put it," Mom told him. "I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said. "You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," she said.

"He's the one who taught me carpentry," he said. "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important...Mom, I'll

be there for the funeral," Jack said. As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away.

The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time. Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture...Jack stopped suddenly. "What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked. "The box is gone," he said. "What box?" Mom asked. "There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" Jack said. It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it. "Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom."

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox. "Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read. Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it

read. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside. Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch. Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved: "Jack, Thanks for your time! - Harold Belser". "The think he valued most was...my time?" Jacked held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days.

"Why?" Janet, his assistant asked. "I need some time to spend with my son," he said. "Oh, by the way, Janet, thanks for your time!"

During these last weeks of Lent 2008, would you give someone you love a little of this valuable gift — your time?

Sincerely,

Jerry Wolter
Visitation Pastor

Tea Party Secret Sisters Prayer Partner

All women of the church are invited to attend the Ladies' Tea Party on Saturday, April 19th at 9:00 am. We will have a lovely time of fellowship over a light breakfast. Please bring your favorite tea cup or coffee cup to enjoy your beverage in. Barb Draft and Rachelle Vitullo will offer a devotional about prayer, and those who desire can participate in the

selection of their SECRET SISTERS PRAYER PARTNER for the remainder of the year (guidelines to be discussed at event). We anticipate this will be a program we will enjoy year after year, and we look forward to seeing you at this very first Prayer Tea. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space.



GAME NIGHT

What: Game Night (Featuring Euchre and Table Tennis)

**When: Saturday
March 15**

Time: 6:00 - 8:00PM

Where: Ide Center



If you are still shy about coming out to play Euchre, don't be. Last month we had another first-time winner and he was a novice just a couple months ago. A number of people brought some

great snacks last month which were enjoyed by all. As that seemed to work well, we'll keep it going.

OUR CHURCH STAFF IS HERE TO SERVE

Anne O'Connor, Pastor 621-4799
 (e-mail: annehoconnor@aol.com)
 (Church e-mail: aldersgate@frontiernet.net)
 Fax 865-8442
Gerald A. Wolter 621-1904
 Pastor of Visitation & Membership Care
 (e-mail: hgwolter@frontiernet.net)
 (Church e-mail: aldersgatejerry@frontiernet.net)
Jane Guitson 544-7787
 Christian Education Coordinator
 (e-mail: jguitson@rochester.rr.com)
Tamara Ruiz Organist
Evelyn Welker Housekeeper
Lea McQuown Custodian
Candy Metzger Office Phone: 663-3665
 Administrative Assistant
 (e-mail: aldersgatecandy@frontiernet.net)
David Rogenmoser Choir Director

**J
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r**
 Contemporary Worship Coordinator
 (e-mail: jseiger@tmail.com)
Philip Vitullo 663-3665
 Cell Phone: 880-6261
 Youth Director
 (e-mail: aldersgateyouth@frontiernet.net)
Robin Fox Nursery Attendant

United Methodist Women

MARCH 27 MEETING TO FEATURE UM DELEGATION TO ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Beth Woolever, a member of the Genesee Valley District UMW Executive Committee, will be the speaker at the next General Meeting on Thursday, March 27. Beth and Marilyn Israel, another member of Asbury UMC, traveled from February 3-15 in Israel and Palestine with the 4th Justice and Peace delegation sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries. Beth reported that they came back overwhelmed with information and a suitcase loaded with books and pamphlets to read. By the time of the meeting, they will be prepared to share with us their impressions and information on the role of the United Methodist Church in the area.

The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the study topics for United Methodist Women in 2007 and 2008 and is once again on the front-burner of U.S. foreign policy. Our speakers will be able to give us an up-to-date and personal account of their view of the issues.

The evening will begin at 6:15 PM in the Ide Family Life Center with a soup, salad, and dessert supper that costs just \$3.00 payable at the door. Please do sign up in advance, however, so that a place is set for you at the table. This meeting is

open to all men and women, youth and adults-- interested in the topic.

DISTRICT COMMUNION BREAKFAST SET FOR MARCH 15

The annual Genesee Valley District United Methodist Women's Communion Breakfast will be held this year at five locations: Hamlin, West Webster, North Chili, Rush, Geneseo. Reservations are necessary because several of these churches have limited seating capacity. The Communion Breakfast is held every year on the Saturday before Palm Sunday and the responsibility for hosting it is rotated around the district.

The worship service will begin at 8:30 AM and be followed by a breakfast that costs just \$5.00. Women who plan to attend should sign up on the bulletin board and give their money to Betty Hild by March 9. Please indicate your preferred destination and whether or not you would like to carpool.



MORNING CIRCLE PLANS "MEAL IN THE UPPER ROOM" FOR MARCH 18

An old tradition is being restored this year. All women of the church are invited to join the Morning Circle on March 18 for an especially meaningful Lenten service known as "The Meal in the Upper Room." Those attending will gather at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary for the Preparation Service then move silently into the Ide Family Life Center for the meal of foods chosen for their significance to the occasion. This service will replace the regular daytime Morning Circle meeting for the month of March.

A sign-up sheet for attendance will be posted on the bulletin board by March 2. Please feel free to invite friends who may be interested as well. If you have any questions, or would like to help with the service or meal preparation, please call Gege Dunn at 663-9235.

READING CIRCLE

The Good Husband of Zebra Drive, another in the #1 Ladies' Detective Agency series by delightful author Alexander McCall Smith, is the selection for the March 6 meeting of the Reading Circle. Reading Circle meets at 1:00 PM in the church library on the first Thursday of each month throughout

The year. Visitors and new members are always welcome.



The book for April 3 will be *These Is My Words* by Nancy E. Turner. If copies of the featured books are not available in the church library, you should be able to get them from the public library.

For more information, see or call Frances Crabtree at 392-0772.

OTHER UPCOMING DATES:

March 10 – Sew 'n Sew's at 1:00 PM in Lower Level Room 1.

April 19 – Prayer Partner Morning Tea, 9:00 AM

May 10 – Mother-Daughter Banquet

June 5-7 – Annual Treasures Sale

July 24-26 – School of Christian Mission, Daemen College, Amherst

October 17-18 – Return of the Craft Show!

Mission News

“WELLS OF HOPE”— UMCOR’S WORK: GIVE YOUR SUPPORT ON MARCH 2

From the United Methodist Committee on Relief, we read the following:

“Water. It’s something many of us take for granted. It’s only as far away as our nearest faucet. Unlike most of the world’s citizens, we don’t have to worry about collecting water; it comes to us instead.

“One place UMCOR is helping people to gain better access to water is in Afghanistan. Thousands of people are returning to Afghanistan after years of living as refugees in other countries. They come home to decimated communities and need to completely rebuild their homes, schools, business and basic infrastructure.

“One essential piece for reconstruction is water. It’s scarce in Afghanistan, and a community cannot sustain itself without it. UMCOR has constructed more than 20 wells in the communities where it works, each well providing more than 200 people with water to meet their day-to-day needs.

“Through UMCOR’s programs, families are rebuilding with a new hope for their futures. This important work would not be possible without One Great Hour of Sharing. This special offering funds the cost of doing business for UMCOR and allows UMCOR to keep its promise to send 100 percent of designated funds to the intended project. Your generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are imperative for UMCOR’s work to continue.”

January/February *Interpreter* YOUR SPECIAL GIFT AT EASTER SUPPORTS MISSIONARY MERI WHITAKER

One of the primary sources for meeting our annual commitment of \$2500 to support our covenant missionary Meri Whitaker is the Easter Offering. Her work among the Cherokee as Director at the Cookson Hills Center in Eastern Oklahoma is an important United Methodist ministry to our Native American brothers and sisters in a very needy part of our country. Those who heard her speak last year at this time were greatly touched both by the needs there and by her love for the people and her commitment to reaching out to them.

Please be generous both with your prayers and with your money for this most important relationship. Put

special gift in the Easter Offering envelopes provided with your packet of church envelopes, or mark “*Easter Offering*” on your check or pew envelope.



HELP NEEDED WITH GM BOXTOP AND CAMPBELL’S UPC COLLECTION

your Collecting Campbell’s Universal Product Codes and Labels for Education symbols and General Mills Box Tops for Education has been a convenient and inexpensive way to support the work of Red Bird Mission School in Eastern Kentucky for many years now.

A volunteer is needed to trim, organize and send them to Red Bird for redemption. This is a service opportunity that requires only a limited amount of time and can be carried out while watching television, or it could serve as a good excuse for two friends to get together periodically.

Over the years through the generosity of these companies, Red Bird has been able to “purchase” vans for transportation as well as reference books, computers, athletic equipment, and other school supplies—all essential for carrying out the mission of educating children living in the area and students boarding there, some

of whom are the children of United Methodist missionaries.

If you have UPC’s and box top labels saved, go ahead and put them in the green box on the mission counter. There’s plenty of room for lots of labels until someone steps forward to do the job!

DONATIONS FROM APPLEBEE'S GOES OVER \$7000

As of the end of January 2008, Applebee's had donated a total of **\$7241.57** to our Building Fund. Since Aldersgate support for the Applebee's dining for dollars program continues to be strong, we expect to continue eating there on the first Monday of every month through December this year. (One year at a

time!) Our next night at Applebee's on West Ridge Road is **Monday, March 3**. Come between 4 & 9 PM to enjoy a good dinner with family and friends; then turn in your receipt to the Aldersgate representatives at the front table for the 10% credit toward the Building Fund. See you there!

EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

A special thank you is in order for **Kathy Savage**, who once again organized a fine variety show and art display for us to enjoy. The program included 23 acts that went very smoothly with the guidance of Master of Ceremonies **Jerry Jones**—in his tuxedo no less! The work of nine Aldersgate artists was on display as well, which attendees viewed while enjoying the refreshments organized by **Marilyn Sobus** and **Cindy Roza**.

Ticket sales netted \$962.00. An additional \$82.25 was added by **Barbara Condon**, who donated the money from sales of her artwork that evening. The money this year will go toward the purchase of additional tables/chairs for use in the Ide Center.

There is such a variety of talent and so much enjoyment from this event that plans are underway to make this an annual event.



COMMITMENTS MADE FOR ALL WINDOWS

Praise the Lord! Members of our church have stepped forward and made commitments to underwrite the cost of all 16 of the upper north and south windows. Pike Stained Glass is scheduled to install the south windows the week of March 10-14. Having commitments made for all the windows on the north now means that Valerie O'Hara, our stained glass artist, will be able to match and coordinate the colors for

both sides with the glass in the studio using available glass rather than waiting to try to coordinate with one set installed and with new glass coming in. (Think of matching dye lots on yarn.)

We thank "Cap and Cam" for their calling attention to the need in a timely manner, but we especially praise the Lord for moving hearts to commit to these gifts. Throughout this

building process, He has provided for us at each step and continues to do so.

DEAR SALLY STEWARDSHIP:

I hear that the nominating committee is meeting again. Don't we have too many committees? I hear that finding people to fill all the slots is really hard. It seems to be the same few that do all the work.

Keep It Simple

Dear Friend:
(I address you as "friend" because I don't want to write "Dear Simple"—not too tactful; and, as you may have noticed, I have never found a "simple" answer to any question!)

Anyway, here goes! Yes, the Nominating Committee is meeting. Since we use April 1 to March 31 as our service year, the committee is busiest in the January-March months. It does meet occasionally at other times of the year if a vacancy

needs to be filled.

Too many committees? I don't know. The Nominating Committee will ask the Charge Conference to dissolve the Building Committee now that construction is complete. Many of the committees are called for by the United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, which guides the organization of UM churches. Some areas of work are required, but a lot of flexibility is allowed based on local church size and needs. Perhaps some functions could be further combined, but the committees we have are active and following through on some aspect of our church life.

Same few doing the work? True, some members of our congregation are very busy. On the other hand, a rough count of last year's list of

officers and leaders shows over 150 different people in one position or another. The list includes ushers and acolytes, but does not include the members of the Contemporary Worship Team or the Choir, which would add to the list of those serving regularly. Many more members help each year with specific events.

Sometimes it helps to see ourselves as others see us. Wes Magruder, a missionary in Cameroon, reported in May-June 2007 issue of *New World Outlook* (the UM mission magazine) that hardly a week passes that he doesn't get someone in his office asking to speak with him about becoming a United Methodist pastor. He does have to be careful. Some are interested primarily because it is known that Methodists pay monthly

stipends to pastors (not a bad idea when you think of it!) when you think of it!) On the other hand, many are attracted because they think of us as a "solid organization." He wrote, "They long for structures of accountability and discipline, which they have found lacking in the fast-growing Pentecostal churches sweeping the country." He also wrote, however, that we all need to be reminded that the United Methodist Church is not a McDonald's franchise to be duplicated around the world. It is important to remember and teach our Wesleyan roots and vision, to identify and train gifted leaders, to instill a sense of mission service, and to be flexible in developing a structure that enables us to carry out that mission.

Perhaps if we looked at that call from a member of the Nominating Committee as a "call to ministry" and each committee consistently looked at each task as an important "service opportunity" within the church, we would remember that the Nominating Committee is not "filling slots." Like the Blues Brothers, we are being called to a "Mission for God."

Will you join me in . . .
Answering the Call?

Sally Stewardship

Power in the Blood Drive II

Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood. This ongoing need is felt by our area hospitals and patients. By donating blood, you can help save the lives of accident victims, patients with cancer or other diseases, and those undergoing surgery.

Our "James 2:18 Gang" (Wednesday Night Small Group) is proud to announce that they are sponsoring with the Red Cross another **BLOOD DRIVE** to be held **on SATURDAY, MARCH 8, in the ALDERSGATE IDE FAMILY LIFE CENTER from 9 am until 1 pm.**

The "Gang" will be providing substantial refreshments for donors, and they request your support and participation in this drive. It is an opportunity for the Aldersgate Family to demonstrate its love and commitment to the community.

Please set aside some time on your March 8 schedule to donate a pint of life-saving blood. Remember, it may be the life of a friend or relative whom you will save. You are eligible to donate if you have not done so since January 12. If you have other questions, you can call Kevin Brown at 227-6189.

The James 2:18 Gang thanks you for donating the *power in YOUR blood.*

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES IN MARCH

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
3/2	Sammy Hanko	Amanda Farrell & Rene Tibbles
3/9	Ed Carstens	Rebecca & Ryan Lindeman
3/16	Usher	Mike/Nick Spicer
3/23	Usher	Zander, Keannu, & Chanze Cloete
3/30	Usher	Caleb Thompson

USHER SCHEDULE

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
3/2	Al & Myrt Holmes Dan & Jan Rothfuss	Terry & Nancy Young Tom and Zuni Simons
3/9	Al & Myrt Holmes, Joan Michlin Larry VanAllen	Nancy Bader, Walt Dunn, Vince & Laura Acciaio
3/16	Al & Myrt Holmes Glenn & Alene VanPutte	Gary Hogestyn, Denise Furey, Dean and Jackie Hogestyn

NURSERY WORKERS - Robin Fox

9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Nursery workers are needed (teens or adults)
Contact Jane Guitson at 544-7787,
if you are able to help.

7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday
3/20 Al & Myrt Holmes, Terry & Nancy Young

7:00 PM—Good Friday
3/21 NEED USHERS

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
3/23	Al & Myrt Holmes Dan & Jan Rothfuss	John Cochran Walt Dunn, Eric Bock, Colleen Tyler

SCRIPTURE READERS

	9:30 AM	11:00 AM
3/2	Al Holmes	Nancy Young
3/9	Dan Rothfuss	Gege Dunn
3/16	Sandi Norris	Wilma Shaughnessy
3/23	Mark DeVinCentis	Dick Caupp
3/30	Gary Groves	Nancy Bader

3/30	All & Myrt Holmes, Mark & Susan DeVincentis	Patty Forbes, Candy Metzger Cindy Purzycki, Jan Winter
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Aldersgate

United Methodist Church

4115 Dewey Avenue
Rochester, NY 14616

Phone: 585-663-3665

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

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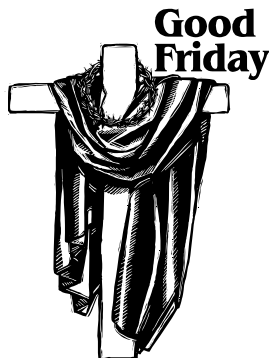
Rochester, NY Permit
No. 1208



*Service on
March 20th
at 7:00 PM*



*Services on
March 16th
at 9:30 & 11:00 AM*



*Service on
March 21st
at 7:00 PM*



*Services on
March 23rd
at 9:30 & 11:00 AM*