



The Gate Post

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 3



Behold the Man

(Ecce homo)

A Year of Taking Jesus Seriously-Take Two

In Him was Life

Feb. 3

Gushing up to Life

John 4:5-15

Feb. 10- Transfiguration

"They Saw His Glory"

Luke 9:28-36

LENT 2013

Jesus Says "I Am"

Feb. 13

Ash Wednesday -Before Abraham was, I Am

John 8:53-59

Feb. 17

I Am the Bread of Life

John 6:26-35

Feb. 24

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12-19

Our Mission: To Create Contagious Christian Community

That values children and helps them grow in the light of Love.

That meets people in the midst of crisis and walks alongside to find solace and solution.

That builds deep and caring relationships and fosters a sense of the joy of belonging.

That gathers together in worship in forms/expressions that are dynamic, meaningful and open to all.

Do you know what your toes are doing?

Over the past six months, I have shared with you some of the many individuals and groups who serve our church of whom I have become more aware. Many choose to serve quietly without any desire for recognition; in fact I have received only two suggestions for inclusion in this "space". This is probably evidence of many servants' desires that they not be recognized and lauded.

While we respect that, we also need to be aware of the great debt we owe them as they keep our church running and contribute to the total ministry of our church body. We adopted the label of "Community" for our church some years ago. Each one of us has a role to play whether we undertake that task or not. When we do our part, the Community is blessed; when we don't quite get round to it, our Community is less effective.

And so, in the last of these items, I want to address the myriad of other servants who might prefer not to be identified by name. There's the one who weeds the beds in the parking lot continuously; the one who keeps the library going single-handedly; the team that helps in the office to minimize our costs; those who continue to work with the Interfaith Hospitality Network; more than 150 volunteers who have worked with Me-'N-U meals; the countless people who give their time and talents through the music program; the group working on the construction of the "Street"; and lastly (but far from least) those who faithfully give their financial support to the church and all these ministries. The list goes on and on and we should never cease to thank God for all these servants and donors.

As I bring this series to a conclusion, I hope that you have gained as much insight into what goes on behind the scenes as I have. If you have any desire to help with any of these ministries and don't know who to contact, just use Michele Phillips in the office as an initial contact.

David Carter- Lay Leader

Aldersgate Financial Update

In an effort to keep Aldersgate Members more informed about the ongoing status of our Church's finances, the Finance Committee is providing the following information in summary form. Please note that our Church's revenue and expenses fluctuate throughout the year; and, each Member's commitment to honoring a pledge is vital to the financial stability of our Church. Thank you for your commitment and participation in giving.

	December 2012	December, 2011
Need per month	68,917.00	68,306.00
Received	130,864.00	70,679.00
Need YTD	827,004.00	819,672.00
Received YTD	809,777.00	758,193.00
Expense YTD	789,458.00	798,794.00

Outreach Community Offerings

AA- Every Monday @ 7:30p.m. in room 124

ALANON- Every Tuesday @ 7:30p.m. in room 131

ALATEEN- Every Tuesday @ 7:30p.m. in room 202

12 Step- Every Tuesday @ 7:30p.m. in room 124

Big Book- Every Thursday @ 6:30p.m.

Super Shots- the first Thursday of each month from 4p.m.-7p.m.

Me-N-U Community Meals- Every Thursday from 6p.m.-7p.m. in room 124.



Angel Tree End of the Year Report

The Angel Tree Ministry project went very smoothly this year. There were nine callers and thirteen people who helped with delivering the gifts. Thirty-seven families were serviced with 205 gifts provided by members and friends of Aldersgate UMC. Four family caregivers refused to respond to the phone calls, postcards, and letters sent to them so we could include their children in this year's Angel Tree Program.

All gifts were in on Sunday, Dec. 16th except for five. Thanks to the tracking forms I was able to contact the people with the five missing angel gifts. All gifts were in by Monday, Dec. 17th. On December 18th I had all of the gifts bagged for the last four families and they were delivered successfully.

I am very grateful to all who participated in this worthwhile project. I have signed Aldersgate UMC up for 2013 and will be glad to chair the Angel Tree Ministry again next year.

Ginny Johnson

Scouting Ministries

CUB SCOUT PACK 3349 meets Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Down Under. It serves boys in grades 1 to 5. Contact Cubmaster Aaron Wentland at 260-517-3212 or aaron.wentland@gmail.com



BOY SCOUT TROOP 349 meets Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Down Under. It serves boys 11 to 18. Contact Scoutmaster Dean Wilkening at 260-403-4291 or dwilkening@reawire.com

Venture Crew 2349 meets Mondays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Down Under. It is a co-ed scouting youth group for ages 14 to 20. Contact advisors Forrest and Sarah Bishop at 260-458-4292 or forrestbishop@gmail.com or sarahrosebishop@gmail.com

United Methodist Women

Martha Circle: will meet on Feb. 4 at 6p.m. Call Linda Sackman with questions at 403-2462.

Mary Circle: will not meet in Feb.

Rachel Circle: will not meet in Feb.

Ruth Circle: meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from Noon-1:00p.m. Questions contact Evonne Stephens (625-3227)

UMW Sunday will be Sunday, February 3rd with many members participating in the service.

For more information on how to join a circle please Contact Jan Mitchell at 432-2007.



Youth Ministry

Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m. (Meal from 6:00-6:30). Join us for....



Discipleship Night:

Sun. 03 – Service Event: Souper Bowl of Caring with Saint Joseph UMC (4th Sunday of Ordinary Time after Epiphany)

Sun. 10 – Retreat Weekend: Middle School Winter Retreat, 08-10 February, Mad River Ski Resort & Wilson Camp with Saint Joseph UMC -No Youth Group Meeting on Sunday Evening) (Last Sunday of Ordinary Time after Epiphany/Transfiguration of the Lord)

Wed. 13- Ash Wednesday (No High School Bible Study)

Sun. 17 – Discipleship Night: 6:00p.m.-7:45p.m.- Down Under (First Sunday in Lent)

Sun. 24 – Retreat Weekend: High School Lock In, Down Under. (No Youth Group Meeting this evening) (Second Sunday in Lent)

Our **High School Bible Study** is meeting in the Youth Ministry office each Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

For additional information or questions contact Rev. Christopher Millay at 432-1524.

The Street ~ KidLINKS Children's Ministry



What's Happening

February 17 ~ Joan Schell, John Schell, and Becky Sawyer, three members of your Children's Ministries' staff, will head to the Children's Pastors' Conference with plans to return with new ideas for our Sunday morning classes, Cradle Care, VBS, Kid's Club, J12 program and more! This conference is open to pastors, children's ministers, Sunday school teachers, etc.

This will be Joan's thirteenth year to attend this amazing week of faith, rejuvenation, inspiration, and interaction with approximately 2500 children's ministry workers and pastors who all share the same passion. Check it out at www.incm.org/cpc

We currently have a budget that covers the conference expenses of two people but we are taking three this year and will rely on faith to keep us within our budget for the remainder of 2013. We would love to take more people with us next year in hopes of bringing back even more new ideas, especially since the children's wing will be completed by then. So, we are praying and looking for ways to fund more of our ministry staff to attend this amazing conference in 2014....if you have ideas, please contact Joan Schell.

March 8 ~ We will host yet another Family Event with dinner and the return of our popular Stranger Safety Class. Designed for children (4 years and up) to attend with their parents. This dvd driven class is a joint effort by John Walsh (host of AMERICA'S MOST WANTED) and Julie Clark (Baby Einstein Company founder), THE SAFE SIDE--STRANGER SAFETY is full of tips for making children's lives safer. Walsh and Clark host as, with energy and humor, the enthusiastic Safe Side Superchick illustrates several safety lessons, giving kids the knowledge they need to keep a healthy distance from potentially dangerous strangers.

March 24 ~ We hold our first Sunday School classes in 'The Street'! Yep, construction is slated to be completed by this date and after worship we will celebrate with a Potluck lunch and the children's musical celebration!

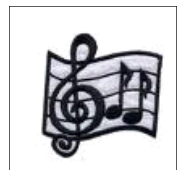
April ~ We are in the process of planning a follow up to the Stranger Safety class with a five week course for children to learn how to stay safe and be aware when strangers are around. We hope to have Mr. Fred return and teach the children these important safety rules and defensive moves.

Storytellers and Puppeteers ~ Do you love telling children stories? Do you like using puppets to tell stories? When we move our Sunday classes into 'The Street' in March we will be changing our lesson to a large group/small group format. We are looking for current teachers, parents, or other church members to come and teach the lesson to the children using different formats such as a storytelling, skits, or puppetry (we have several to choose from). Changing the method of teaching keeps children interested and engaged. Interested? Contact Joan Schell to discuss the lessons, teaching style, flexible, rotating schedule or to ask questions.

Thank you children for your generous giving! The Children's Ministries council received two letters in December thanking the children for their mission gifts... \$100 to **SCAN** (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect) and \$250 in baby goods, from their birthday party for Jesus, to **A Baby's Closet**, which is an Associated Churches program that helps low-income families and those experiencing hardships by providing essential baby items to safely and adequately care for their children.

Music, Worship & Arts Ministries

Here we are--half way through the month of January already. It seems like Christmas was yesterday and now we are looking ahead at Easter. Wait 'til you see what we have in store for you! We have some beautiful music scheduled for February worship services including songs the children will sing and ring on February 3rd. We love praising God through music!



Then don't forget---That incredible group--The Old Crown Brass Band will be back on Monday evening, February 11, at 7:00 p.m. to present yet again one of their thrilling concerts. Don't miss it!

Watch your mail for a letter from the Ministry of Music and Arts announcing some very, very exciting news for the month of March. We are presenting a series which we have titled "A Month of Sundays". You'll definitely want to be here every Sunday throughout the month for worship and in the afternoons of March 17 and 24. Mark your calendars! And watch for our letter soon to come.

The Aldersgate Bear Creek Native American Mission

I don't know if you've noticed the National Weather reports, but South Dakota has had blizzard conditions and very cold temperatures. So, all of the warm shirts, socks, gloves, hats and scarves you gave as Christmas gifts to our young friends on the reservation are really being put to good use. And of course the toys are being enjoyed very much. Thank you again for your kind, generous spirits. *MarLane*

The Aldersgate Academy



Aldersgate Academy continues to grow. We are adding an infant room for full time working parents. This is a much needed program, and we are excited about being able to serve the community in this manner. We are searching for a loving, capable adult to work in the program. This person needs to understand the developmental stages of infants as they grow to age 1. If you are interested, please contact Judith Melton at judith.melton1@frontier.com.

Our teaching staff just completed training in faith-based curriculum. This is an important part of our program, and we are grateful so many staff members participated in the training.

The Academy is offering a family night/book fair to church families and Academy families on Wednesday, February 27, from 5-7:30 p.m. The evening will include carnival games and prizes, dinner, and lots of books for purchase. We hope many families will choose to participate in this fun evening.

During the month of March, the Academy will be selling Mike's Car Wash coupons for \$8. These make excellent gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays, or Easter. Academy Council members will be available on Sunday mornings during March for your purchase. Funds raised will be used for equipment.

Senior Adults

Valentine's Day- Thursday, February 14th- Happy Valentine's Day to all!

Jolly Gaters- Tuesday, February 19, 2013 @ 11:30 a.m. Meeting at Hall's Triangle Park, 3010 Trier Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46815, ph 482-4342. No sign-up, just show up at the restaurant. Following lunch, we will do a short tour at the Heritage of Fort Wayne, 6030 Heritage Parkway, Fort Wayne, IN 46835. Please come and join us.

RADA Cutlery Sales- still have some dip mixes in stock available for sale. See Roy if interested or would like a catalog and order form or if you have any questions. This is a fundraiser for Senior Adults.

Covington Commons--Pastor Derek or Pastor Chris conducts a short service at Covington Commons the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. This month it will be the 28th, please come join us.

If there is anything that I can do for any Senior Adult, please contact me. I am in room 125 mid-mornings to mid-afternoons on Tuesdays and Thursdays, phone 432-1524, ext 250.

Roy Horther, Senior Adult Ministries Coordinator



Parish Visitor

It is my goal to be in contact with those who are unable to come to church, who have been in the hospital or are in rehab and nursing homes. I am not just for the Senior Adults, I am for anyone who could use a visit or a phone call. Please keep me informed of those needing some encouragement. Contact me at 432-1524.
Ellen Rhoades



DID YOU KNOW?

I will send you a CD of the Worship Services, if you let me know.

I also will come and serve you communion, if you let me know.

I will send you an Upper Room, if you let me know.

I will send you a bulletin along with my personal letter each week, if you let me know.

We give thanks to God for answered prayers in the lives of:

Sam Bleeke, 9 yr old son of Heather and Greg, who had brain surgery to remove a tumor that was non-cancerous. He is home and doing quite well although he does have quite a lengthy recovery.

It was wonderful to see Lynn Tarbell in church last Sunday. She has had a long recovery since her surgery and we give God the thanks. Patricia Tremper is in Coventry Meadows Rehab. Anna Marie Chamar has returned home to continue her recovery and therapy.

**PLEASE CHECK OUT THE CARE NOTES IN THE CONNECTION.
Several of them relate to the Senior Adults and questions about health issues.**

The Aldersgate Community



There's A Place For You

2417 Getz Road
Ft. Wayne, IN 46804

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Return Service Requested



Our Ministry Staff

Dr. Derek Weber- Lead Pastor
Rev. Christopher Millay- Associate Pastor
Rev. Don Wismer- Life Tree Cafe
Marlane Sturm- Dir. of Music, Worship & Arts Ministries
Deidra Gulley- Music Assistant on unpaid medical leave
Susannah Chadwell- Temporary Music Assistant
Brenda Henline- Accompanist
Joan Schell- Director of Children's Ministries
John Schell- Cradle Care and J12 Coordinator
Michele Phillips- Church Administrator
Deb Eckler- Financial Assistant
Ellen Rhoades- Parish Visitor
Roy Horther- Sr. Adult Ministry Coordinator
Judy Smith- Volunteer Librarian
Roy Horther- Custodian
Tina Mihalec- Custodian
Ken Arend- Night Host

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