

# In the World

By Pastor Amy



The Jesus Creed (Matthew 22:37-39) that we recite in our worship services ends with this phrase: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Here at Aldersgate, we consider the neighborhood around the church building to be part of what we call our local mission field. We feel particularly called to serve the people who live in this area as we go about our mission of *raising up deeply devoted disciples of Jesus*.

This has been one of the primary goals of the Open Door Community Garden (located at South 19th and Amarillo) since it began. The first seed was planted in 2013, making 2017 the Open Door’s fifth spring season. Over the years, our neighbors have enjoyed fresh produce, the beauty of the garden from the view of the gazebo, access to a Little Free Library, the opportunity to take home food as needed from the Free Food Box and much more. For our congregation, the garden offers a place to meet and connect with our neighbors and also with each other. It’s a great site for community and group events!

In short, the Open Door Community Garden is a labor in loving our neighbors as ourselves.

And, as with any garden, the Open Door requires labor, indeed! This year, we are going to build three more keyhole gardens (see photo below). This will take a little more labor up front, but it will be so much easier to maintain the plants. (Much of the work on the keyholes will take place in the next two weeks, especially on **Friday, January 20**, and on **Saturday, January 28**, both at 1 p.m.). If you are interested in helping, please contact me at [amywilsonfeltz@aldersgateabilene.org](mailto:amywilsonfeltz@aldersgateabilene.org) or at (325) 660-5017.

The really great thing about keyhole gardens is that EVERY FAMILY in the congregation has the opportunity to participate in building and filling them by saving and donating the following items:

- \* CARDBOARD    \* leaves    \* books    \* magazines
- \* cotton clothing    \* hay/straw    \* compost
- \* weed-free dirt

It may seem like a big mess, but this is how creation works. A whole bunch of chaos is pulled together and repurposed to bring forth rich life. This is true for the earth, for human beings and certainly for community gardens. For any way you can contribute to the chaos and the beauty as we love our neighbors as ourselves, I say, “Thanks be to God!”

