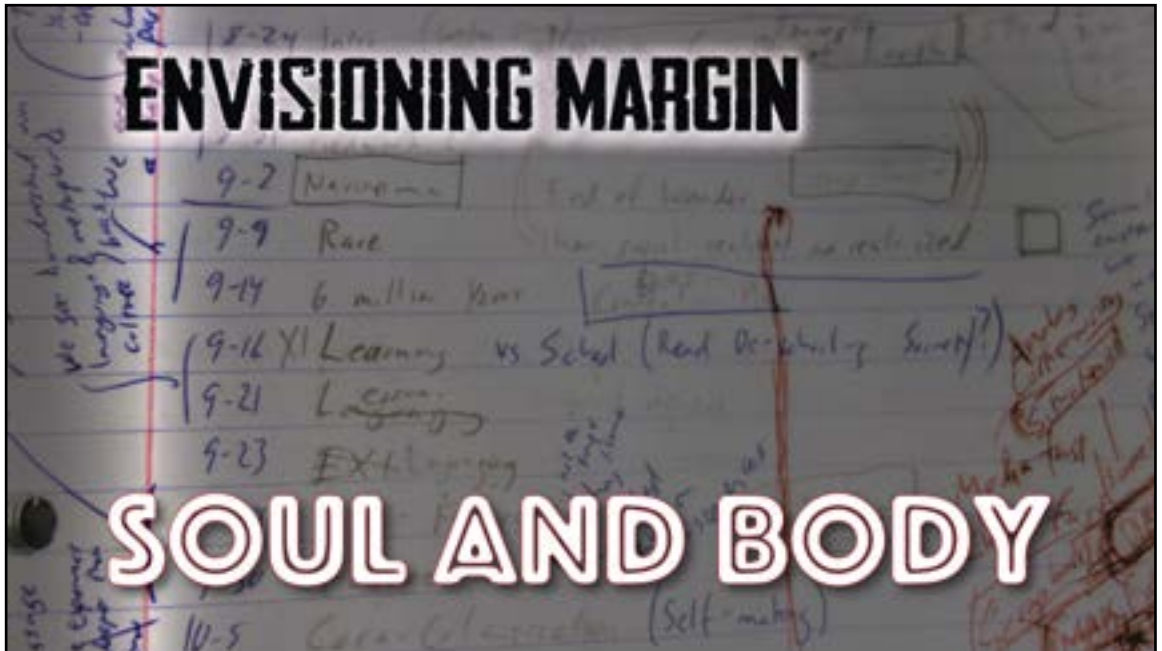




In Depth: The Aldersgate logo was inspired by the Love Sculpture in Philadelphia, PA., to remind us that God is Love and that Love is the Greatest Commandment.

Aldersgate *In Action*



In Depth: “Envisioning Margin” is the name of our 4-week stewardship sermon series, which has been designed to invite us to explore the faithful management of our resources in all aspects of our lives. Today’s sermon, “Soul and Body,” is the first in the series. You will find the order of worship for today’s service on Page 4.

Welcome to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, where the mission is to raise up deeply devoted disciples of Jesus. You have a place here. Regardless of who you are, where you have been and where you are in faith’s journey, you belong here. In *Aldersgate In Action*, you will find information about various ministries and opportunities. Please, feel no pressure. Just know that if you are looking to grow in your faith and in relationships with God and others, you are welcome and encouraged to do both here. Grace and Peace!

Aldersgate United Methodist Church • 1741 Sayles Blvd., Abilene, TX 79605 • (325) 672-7893
www.aldersgateabilene.org



In the Works

Regularly Scheduled Services and Opportunities to Grow and Serve:
All are welcome! Please contact the Office (672-7893), if you'd like to know more about becoming involved in the activities on the schedule below.

This Week:

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:05 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
5:00 p.m. Kids for Christ
5:00 p.m. Youth
5:30 p.m. Growth Groups
7:30 p.m. College Ministry

Monday:

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
8:00 p.m. College Growth Group

Tuesday:

6:00 p.m. Jubilee Ringers

Wednesday:

2:00 p.m. Growth Groups
6:30 p.m. Growth Groups
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Upcoming Events:

October 18: Worshiping with Heart and Hands in the Garden

October 31: Trunk or Treat!

November 22: One Less Coat Drive and Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

In Depth: Each week, these two pages will contain updates, news and other information about Aldersgate's music ministry, the children's, youth and college ministries, and opportunities to serve in the Mission Field. (The Mission Field has been identified as four areas of focus in which to share the love of God outside of the church locally: McMurry University (and other Abilene colleges and universities), Bowie Elementary, Our Neighborhoods and Aldersgate Academy).

Children's Ministry: Trunk or Treat

It's the first Sunday in October, and that means Trunk or Treat will be here before we know it! I LOVE Trunk or Treat! Trunk or Treat is our neighborhood and Academy outreach and a fun time for our church. Many people bring their cars with the trunks decorated to pass out candy to trick-or-treaters, and we also



have air castles, a train, hotdogs and other food. It is always so fun to see all the kids (and adults) come out in their costumes and have a great time. I mostly just so appreciate how the church comes together to make this a wonderful event not only for our church members, but for our Academy, our neighbors, and anyone driving by.

Trunk or Treat will take place on Halloween, Saturday October 31, this year from 5:30-7:00pm. Please pick up a bag or two of candy the next several times you go to the grocery store, and drop it in the baskets outside the sanctuary doors as we prepare for this event. You can help other ways too: bring your car, help cook and serve hotdogs, cotton candy or popcorn, drive the train, etc. An insert for you to sign up will be placed in the "In Action" when it gets closer to Halloween. I'm so looking forward to a fun night together!

— Alayna Brooks

Aldersgate Academy: Volunteer Reading Program

Children love to hear people read to them, so we are beginning an intergenerational enrichment reading program at the Aldersgate Academy on Friday mornings at 11:00 a.m. You are invited to read to the three and four year old classes during this time. Each volunteer would read to one or two classes and their teachers. The classes have between six and 10 students. This opportunity would take about 25–30 minutes once a month. The Academy has a large selection of books to choose from, or if you prefer, you can bring books from home or the Abilene Public Library. An informational training will take place on Friday October 16 at 11:00 a.m. in the Renewer's classroom. If this sounds like a program you could be passionate about, please text Carol Rogers, Academy Director, at 439-0230 or call Susan Placencia, Assistant Director, at 677-1045. You may also email either one of us at mdo@aldersgateabilene.org. This is an exciting opportunity to connect with Academy staff and children in a relational way and at the same time promote a love of reading in a young child. — Carol Rogers



Open Door: Worshiping with Heart and Hands

On Sunday, October 18, you are invited to come to Aldersgate's worship services in your work clothes and then walk over to the Open Door Community Garden (South 19th and Amarillo) for a time of fellowship and service in this area of our mission field. We're calling this event *Worshiping with Heart and Hands*, and volunteers of all ages are welcome to participate as we pull the plants, till the soil and spread hay over the ground. The work will take place in shifts, with the first shift taking place after Sunday School at 11:30 a.m. and the other commencing after a free lunch after the second service ends. That's right! The order



of the day will not be all work and no play. Our time together will include a delicious lunch of pulled pork sandwiches prepared by our very own Pastor Steve. Nothing could be closer to the heart of the gospel than a community of believers that commits to worshiping together, eating together and working together in one afternoon for the sake of sharing God's love with our neighbors in real and tangible ways. Thanks be to God for the continued divine work we continue to witness in our mission field, and thanks be to you for your willingness to partner with our Creator in such restorative work in our world. Grace and Peace!

Envisioning MARGIN: Soul and Body

Mark 8:34-38, Matthew 11:28-30

Sermon Notes

Stewardship Month (Psalm 24:1, I Corinthians 6:19-20)

Can we really have it all?

The meaning of margin and the “problem” of progress.

The Yolk of Jesus = Rest

“Margin is the space between our load and our limits. It is the amount allowed beyond that which is needed. It is something held in reserve for contingencies or unanticipated situations. Margin is the gap between rest and exhaustion, the space between breathing freely and suffocating...Margin is the space that once existed between ourselves and our limits.”

— Richard Swenson

Our Mission: Raising Up Deeply Devoted Disciples of Jesus

Growth Group Questions

Week 4: October 4-10, 2015

1. When you get some unexpected free time, how do you normally spend it?
2. Have you ever been asked to care for something that belonged to another person? What joy and/or stress did that responsibility bring?
3. Was there anything about this week's message that got your attention and you wanted to be sure it was discussed during your Growth Group meeting?
4. Pastor Steve said, "The teachings of Jesus seek to steer us far and wide from the narrative that we can have it all. Living our life to have it all will certainly lead to losing it." How did this part of the sermon strike you? Do you agree? Please explain.

(continued on reverse side)

Growth Group Questions Continued

5. Why do you think we are so tempted to fill our lives with activity and responsibility beyond our margins, to our limits?
6. What serves as a certain indicator that you have used up all the margin in your life and are getting dangerously close to your limits?
7. When was the last time you responded to the question, “How are you?” with the answer “Tired/Exhausted?” How about the answer, “Rested?” Do you think paying attention to these answers could provide a window into the way you are caring for your soul and body? Please explain.
8. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus says, “Come to me.” How do you intentionally make room in your life to respond regularly to this invitation?

Youth Ministry: Choosing Your Communities



Over the last few weeks in Sunday school, we have focused on the topic of making decisions. Something that really struck me in these conversations was the focus on choosing the people with whom we surround ourselves. Choosing friends and communities to be a part of are some decisions that teenagers have to make everyday. We want them to ask, “Are you going to surround yourself with people who see the best in you and lift you up, or are you going to follow the fools that could really care less?” The Aldersgate family provides such a place of strength for the teenagers in our community, and it is great to see them thrive in such a Christ-centered environment.

Watching the students in our youth group grow closer to each other and to the adults involved in the youth program is very encouraging to me. The school year has started out great, and I can’t wait to see how God continues to move in the beautiful hearts of these kids!

Grace and Peace — Phoebe Head

College Ministry: Lunch Money

Did you know that Aldersgate Sunday school classes provide the meals that our college students eat each week at The Oaks during the school year? This is an incredible ministry of our church that often goes overlooked. To all of you who ever have helped with these Sunday night meals: thank you! As I lead the college ministry, I try my best to help our students show their appreciation for the generosity they receive on a weekly basis.

One night during The Oaks, we discussed a portion of the prophesy of Amos, where we see God teaching us that both righteousness and justice must be rooted in our worship and faith practices. As a result of this conversation, I pitched the idea of collecting spare change and extra dollars on Sunday nights during The Oaks. At the end of the semester, our students plan to use this money to make a contribution to a local feeding ministry like the Bowie Elementary weekend food program, the UMC food pantry, or Salvation Army. My hope is that our college students, out of gratitude for all the free meals and support which they receive from our community, will in turn offer generosity to others.

— Kyle Watson



In Depth: At Aldersgate, all are invited to practice faithfulness in our prayers, presence (attendance), gifts (offering of money), service (action in the community) and witness (sharing our faith). You will find information about service and witness throughout the pages of Aldersgate In Action. This page is dedicated to matters of prayer, presence, and gifts.

Prayers

Clay Meadows	Carolyn Strain	Lou Adams
Doris Ogden	Military and Families	Clinton Gayle
Dori Oiler	Mary Gregory	Addison English
Lou Swindell	Mary Buckner	Lora Langford
Ken Schmidt	Millie Speed	Bob Kuykendall
Alice Shaw	Sarah Doucette	Sherli Aldridge
Delmon Wilson		

The e-mail prayer list is coordinated by Barbara Owens. Please send prayer requests and requests to join the e-mail list to prayer@aldersgateabilene.org.

Aldersgate volunteers serve at the Methodist Food Pantry, located at N. 1st and Shelton, on the second Tuesday of the month, from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Free childcare is available. For more information call Susan Steele at 605-381-6322.

Facebook page: facebook.com/AldersgateUnitedMethodistChurch

Twitter: @AldersgateABI

Instagram: @aldersgateabi

Presence

9.27.2015

9:00 a.m. Traditional Service = 212

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service = 166

Total Worship = 378

Sunday School = 172

In Depth: Sunday School classes are offered at 10:05 a.m. for all ages. To learn more about Adult Sunday School classes, call Amy Wilson Feltz at 672-7893 or send her an e-mail to amywilsonfeltz@aldersgateabilene.org.

Gifts

Budget for 2015 = \$808,647.00

Received This Week = \$9,458.00

Received This Month-to-Date = \$51,683.21

Received Year-to-Date = \$580,753.54

2015 Faith Promise Pledge = \$41,819.00

2015 Faith Promise Contributions = \$34,712.52

Total Playground Pledges & Donations = \$75,645.00

In Depth: Aldersgate offers two forms of electronic giving: Online Bill Pay and ACH Direct Draft. EFT Authorization Forms are available in the office and on our website at www.aldersgateabilene.org. If you have additional questions regarding Stewardship, contact K.B. Woods (672-7893, kbwoods@aldersgateabilene.org).

Ministry Leaders

Pastor: Steve Brooks (325) 660-4415

Associate Pastor:

Amy Wilson Feltz (325) 660-5017

Finance: K. B. Woods

Music: David Wallis

Children: Alayna Brooks

& Amber Redman

Youth/Contemporary Worship:

Daniel Mathis

College/Young Adults: Kyle Watson

Connections: Jessica Watson

Academy: Carol Rogers

Reception: Susan Acosta

Administration: Kathryn Andrews

Custodial Services:

Robert Sandoval

Staying Connected:

Address: 1741 Sayles, 79605

Phone Number: (325) 672-7893

Office Hours:

Mon. - Thurs. 8-12, 1-5

Fri. 8-12

Web Site:

www.aldersgateabilene.org

Facebook: Aldersgate UMC

Text Message Reminders:

gracepeace to 313131

E-mail Reminders:

news@aldersgateabilene.org



In the Word

by Pastor Steve

Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

-I John 5:21

Last week, we concluded our series of sermons on the book of I John. John writes and proclaims that our call to have unimpeded fellowship with one another flows from a deep love for God. In doing so, John invites us to consider whether we are loving or hating, walking in the light or walking in darkness, believing the truth or believing lies. There's just not much wiggle room when it comes to this thunderous disciple speaking on behalf of God to us. John ultimately invites us to open ourselves to the sanctifying grace of God, which can be understood as becoming so full of the love of God that there is not any room for anything else.

This begs the question: "What is taking room up in our lives that keeps us from being more full of the love of God?"

It may seem that John ends his letter in a strange way with the verse above. He has made no mention of idols up until this very last verse. This perceived anomaly has left scholars scratching their heads for centuries, but I think this is the exact point that John is making. Idols are the primary thing that keep us from being more full of the love of God.

In the ancient world, idols were images of the gods made out of wood. They were adored and worshiped to make the gods feel good about themselves so that they in turn would treat the humans benevolently. Idols, then, were a means of gaining security from the gods.

Today, an idol can be anything from which we derive our value, meaning, significance, and security. Another way to think about it is to ask the question: "What makes me feel good about me being me?"

This is a great question to sit with during our times of self-examination. If things like money, material possessions, jobs, degrees, relationships, successes and the like tend to be the answers to that question, we have some soul work to do. We need to give ourselves some space or margin from those things to gain a healthy perspective. We need to soak ourselves in the realities that God has lavished divine love upon us, that we are called the children of God, and that God's work in us has the power to push any idol out of our hearts, creating more room for love.

Suggested Reading

We invite you to read *Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives* by Richard Swenson. If you would like a copy, please call the church office at 672-7893, or make a note on the Welcome Card, and we will order a copy for you. The price is \$14. Grace and Peace!

— Pastor Steve and Pastor Amy



Daily Bible Readings

Below you will find a list of sermon related passages and a list of passages that will take you through the Bible in a year. Please consider reading both each day as we continue to grow in our knowledge of God's word.

Sermon Passages

Sun: Mark 8:34-38,
Matthew 11:28-30
Mon: Exodus 20:8-11
Tue: I Kings 19:1-9
Wed: Psalm 62:1-12
Thur: Isaiah 40:28-30
Fri: I Corinthians 6:12-20
Sat: Hebrews 4:1-13

Chronological Bible Readings

Sun: Genesis 48-50
Mon: Exodus 1-3
Tue: Exodus 4-6
Wed: Exodus 7-9
Thur: Exodus 10-12
Fri: Exodus 13-15
Sat: Exodus 16-18

*How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

Psalm 119: 103