



**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:** “ALIVE” is the name of the current 52-week sermon series, which has been designed to invite us into a deeper understanding of the Bible. “In the Spirit” refers to the focus of this quarter of the church calendar. Today’s sermon, “Tribulation,” is number 46 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](http://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.

**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.

**Sunday:**  
9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship  
10:05 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
6:30 p.m. Garden Party

**Monday:**  
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Check out our website, [www.aldersgateabilene.org](http://www.aldersgateabilene.org), on the "connect" page for an updated calendar of events!

**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: Water Night This Wednesday!



On Wednesday, July 22, our Summer Blast activity will be Water Night on the north lawn of the church from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We'll have a big water slide, a smaller water slide for the younger kids, and a giant slip-n-slide!

Parents are welcome to stay and visit or drop off kids and pick them up when it's over. Kids should wear their swimsuits, bring a towel, and be prepared to get wet and have a great time. Water Night is always a fun time, and we hope everyone can come out this Wednesday!

For a complete list of Summer Blast activities, schedules are available for pickup at the Welcome Center. — Alayna Brooks

# Youth Ministry: Working in the UM ARMY

Hi, my name is Tori Dunnam. I am a part of the Aldersgate Worship Team, and I am also a member of the youth group that went to Wichita Falls for UM ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth) this past week. This was my second year going to UM ARMY and, as before, it was incredible! My group's project included painting the outside of a house, fixing the roof on the back porch, laying flooring in the kitchen, and putting up paneling in the kitchen. It was hard work, but the reward of helping our client accomplish these projects was well worth it, especially knowing that without our help, the work would not have been done.

Another youth, Toby Harnage, says, "This week I built a roof for a porch, and I learned how my hard work pays off."

The theme of the week was "Act Out In Gods Image." In worship, we talked about being chosen by God to show His love to the world and how that means that sometimes we have to step out of our comfort zone and "act out" in order to stand up for what is right. This week has motivated me to stand out, in love, even when it might be scary. Thank you all for your support and prayers this week! — Tori Dunnam



## Summer Mission Trips: Guatemala

Mission trip season at Aldersgate continues! In the past two weeks, our congregation has sent teams to Panama, Wichita Falls, Texas, and Slidell, Louisiana. Today, we will commission a team led by Pastor Steve and Greg Jaklewicz. They will leave on July 25 and return on August 1, marking Aldersgate's second trip to this particular site. (This photo is from the trip in 2013.) Please pray for these team members as they care



for the children and all who live and work at New Life Children's Home, sharing the love of God in everything that they do. — Amy Wilson Feltz

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Alayna Brooks     | Wendie Newkirk  |
| Joey Brooks       | Tiffani Quick   |
| Lily-Grace Brooks | Julianna Ripple |
| Sam Brooks        | Kevin Ripple    |
| Steve Brooks      | Amber Shipman   |
| Paige Case        | Abby Thomas     |
| Morgan Corbet     | Janet Thomas    |
| Tara Goodloe      | Coye Woolf      |
| Greg Jaklewicz    | Drew Zachary    |
| Jaret Jaklewicz   | Shannon Zachary |
| Camille Martinez  |                 |

**ALIVE in the Spirit: Tribulation**  
**Hebrews 10:32-39**  
**Sermon Notes**

*Thlipsis* revealed...

**Roots of Suffering**

**“Joyfully” Facing the Storms... *What?***

- Hebrews 10:19-23 \_\_\_\_\_
- Hebrews 10:24-25 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 6:10-20 \_\_\_\_\_

*The bottom of the soul may be in repose, even while we are in many outward troubles; just as the bottom of the sea is calm, while the surface is strongly agitated...If we suffer persecution and affliction in a right manner, we attain a larger measure of conformity to Christ, by a due improvement of one of these occasions, than we could have done merely by imitating his mercy, in abundance of good works.*

John Wesley, *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection.*

*Our Mission: Raising Up Deeply Devoted Disciples of Jesus*

# College Ministry: Appreciating Those Who Serve Others



Last Sunday night, our college ministry took a quick trip out to Camp Butman. A handful of students and I delivered some junk food (a camp necessity) and some hand-written notes to high school and college-aged summer staff. We met the staffers at Jeff and Deborah Robinson's home within the encampment and enjoyed a brief time of sharing, laughing, and playing. We chose to go out of our way to let these summer staff members know that there are people within the Aldersgate community who are thinking about them and praying for them. God works in many different ways through camp ministry,

especially in and through those who serve the campers. We believe it is important to let those students who are serving at camp all summer know that they are appreciated, and that their labor and service make a difference. So, we delivered junk food, notes, and playful competition.

I hope and pray that we continue considering the well-being of others and taking steps to offer encouragement, prayer, and support in whatever form necessary. — Kyle Watson

## Connections: Let Us Pray...

*“Welcoming and gracious God, whose love and compassion are boundless. Place in us a desire to greet each person we meet with the same love, compassion, and respect we would show to you. Help us to see your face in every person, and to serve your people with dignity and care. Bless us as we seek to love as you loved, and serve as you served. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.”* This is a common Catholic prayer that the First Impressions teams pray each Sunday morning before they go out to serve. The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, emphasized the preferential treatment of the poor and the marginalized, mirroring the ways of God as seen in the Old and New Testaments. My hope is that Aldersgate would grow even more in its practice of welcoming everyone in the exact same way regardless of skin color, socioeconomic status, language, sex, religious background, or age. After all, our Methodist roots are all about being a church that welcomes those who are rejected. If you would like, I invite you to pray this prayer every Sunday morning before you come to church. I believe that small acts of compassion and hospitality have the capacity to change the world.

—Jessica Watson

**FOR I WAS HUNGRY  
AND YOU FED ME;  
I WAS THIRSTY  
AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK.  
I WAS A STRANGER  
AND YOU WELCOMED ME;  
NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME...  
MATTHEW 25: 35-36**



**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

Ron Bredemeyer	Alice Shaw	Lou Adams
Clay Meadows	Delmon Wilson	Clinton Gayle
Jean Shoultz	Carolyn Strain	Addison English
Doris Ogden	Military and Families	Lora and Al Langford
Dori Oiler	Mary Gregory	Bob Kuykendall
Lou Swindell	Mary Buckner	Sherli Aldridge
Ken Schmidt		

*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](mailto: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., and on the fourth Tuesday of the month, from 6:00 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](https://facebook.com/AldersgateUnitedMethodistChurch)

**Twitter:** @AldersgateABI

**Instagram:** @aldersgateabi

## Presence

**7.12.2015**

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service = 213  
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service = 137  
Total Worship Service Attendance = 350  
Sunday school = 160

## Gifts

Budget for 2015 = \$808,647.00  
Received This Week = \$29,395.69  
Received This Month-to-Date = \$29,395.69  
Received Year-to-Date = \$428,902.50  
2015 Faith Promise Pledge = \$41,819.00  
2015 Faith Promise Contributions = \$27,159.12

**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](http://www.aldersgateabilene.org). If you have additional questions regarding Stewardship, contact K.B. Woods (672-7893, [kbwoods@aldersgateabilene.org](mailto: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](http://www.aldersgateabilene.org)

Facebook: Aldersgate UMC

Text Message Reminders:

gracepeace to 313131

E-mail Reminders:

[news@aldersgateabilene.org](mailto:news@aldersgateabilene.org)



# In the World

by Pastor Amy

The Open Door Community Garden is home to a beautiful orchard, where the many apples and peaches that were planted a few years ago now are producing fruit.

Just a few feet from the orchard stands a tall pear tree, planted years and years ago. This tree stood behind the white house that once served many purposes in our community — as a meeting place for the college group, later as storage for our rummage sale and, for a short time, as a nice front porch for our garden area.

As far as I know, that tree has not garnered much attention from anyone in the past several years. Still, it has continued to stand tall, provide shade and produce delicious pears, free for the taking.

In some ways, this tree has faded into the background of the garden activity, but it has not gone unnoticed by everyone. In fact, one member of our community has grown quite fond of it.

“I love that tree,” he says, “because it is producing lots of fruit even though it has been ignored, marginalized, and neglected.”

These words pierce my heart because they get right to the point of the ministry of Jesus as he was drawn to and offered grace to people who were ignored, marginalized, and neglected.

That’s the purpose of the mission of Aldersgate, as well, as we raise up deeply devoted disciples of Jesus so that we are nourished and strengthened to share the love and grace of God with any one who feels ignored, marginalized and neglected . . . and so that we have a community of love and support to call home when we feel that way, ourselves.

The most beautiful thing about all of this is that God is at work, before us, beside us and behind us, as we grow and serve in our faith. While we’re planting and pruning the apple and peach trees, an old, largely forgotten pear tree continues to stand strong, providing shade and producing fruit for anyone who needs it. Thanks be to God.



## Suggested Reading

We invite you to read *Eat This Book*:

*A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading* by Eugene H. Peterson.

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 \$15. 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 in our ALIVE sermon series.

### Sermon Passages

Sun: Hebrews 10:32-39

Mon: Luke 6:17-31

Tue: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Wed: 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Thur: Ephesians 6:10-20

Fri: Revelation 1:1-20

Sat: Revelation 7:9-17

### Chronological Bible Readings

Sun: Matt 27, Mark 15

Mon: Luke 23, John 18-19

Tue: Matt 28, Mark 16

Wed: Luke 24, John 20-21

Thur: Acts 1-3

Fri: Acts 4-6

Sat: Acts 7-8

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

*Psalms 119:103*