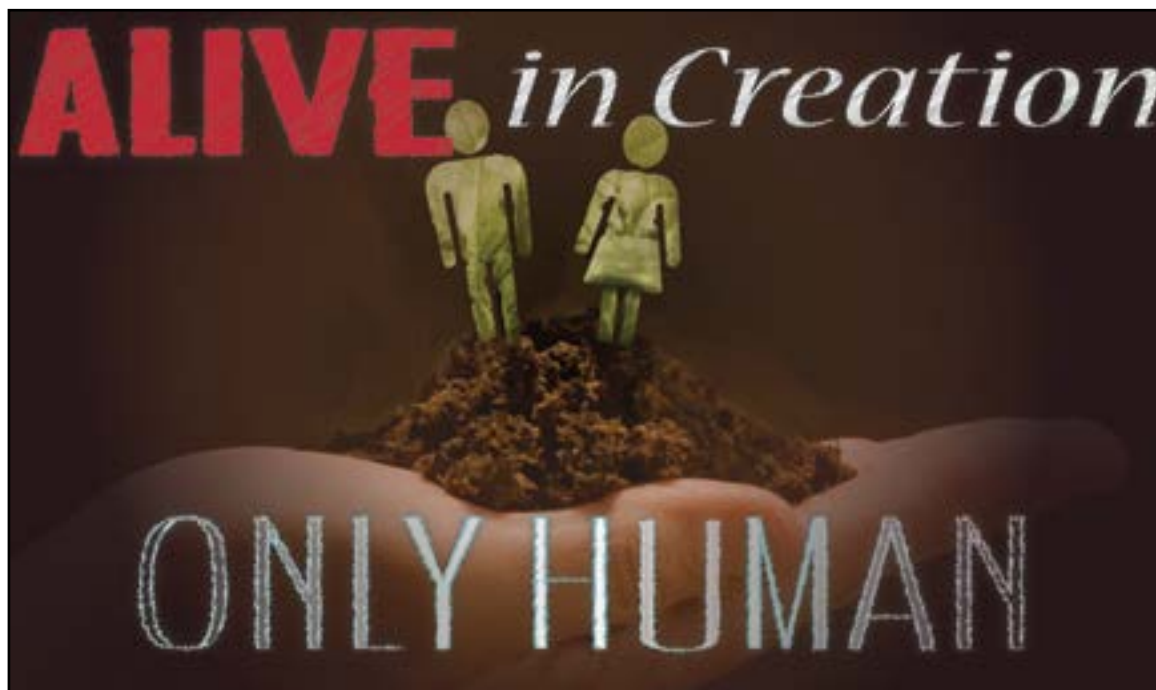




In Depth: The Aldersgate logo was inspired by the Love Sculpture in Philadelphia, PA., to remind us that God is Love and that Love is the Greatest Commandment.

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 Creation” refers to the focus of this quarter of the church calendar. Today’s sermon, “Only Human,” is the second 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 items
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
5:00 p.m. Kids for Christ
5:00 p.m. Youth Ministry
5:15 p.m. Growth Groups
7:30 p.m. The Oaks College Ministry

Tuesday:
6:00 p.m. Jubilee Ringers

Wednesday:
6:45 p.m. Growth Groups
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

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: Meet Carey Kitts and Family



We are so happy to be able to introduce Carey Kitts as our new Children's Choir teacher. Carey is a native of Abilene, having graduated from Hardin Simmons in 2001 and then later obtaining his teaching certification from McMurry in 2010.

He has been an elementary music teacher since 2010 and currently works at Martinez Elementary. He is married to Sheila, who is a 2001 graduate of McMurry. She is the owner of Kitts Design, Soapbox Communication and Turn Around Toys.

They have three sons, Carter and Jackson, who are 5 year old kindergartners at Austin Elementary, and Wilson, who is 2 years old. We are so excited to see what great work Carey will accomplish with our students.

Carey also says he is excited to be a part of a great church like Aldersgate!

Grace and Peace! — Alayna Brooks

Mission Field Opportunity: Tailgate Party @ McMurry



We have the unique opportunity to host a tailgate party prior to a McMurry University football game on September 27th. One way in which we invest in our mission field is through partnerships. We see this tailgate party as a partnership with the university as a whole. Football games have grown to mean much more than a win or loss. They have grown into community gathering times, where people share stories and spend time with new and old friends while supporting the many students, faculty and staff involved with football game-days. A tailgate party, hosted by our Aldersgate community, will help to foster these relationships as well as send a message to the university

and community that we care about the students, faculty, and staff. We realize that when we throw a party, we are creating culture that values people, connections, and community. So on Saturday, September 27th, at 4:00 p.m. we are going to throw a party— a tailgate party — before the football game, which starts at 6:00 p.m. We'll have some amazing smoked meats wrapped in tortillas, chips, ice cream, and soft drinks, as well as yard games for all to enjoy. The tailgate will be open to the entire community: students, faculty, staff, friends, and family – including Aldersgate. If you would like to join us for the tailgate and also for the football game, please RSVP to kyle@aldersgateabilene.org or 665-9916 by September 21st, so we can get you a free ticket to the game. You may indicate any interest in serving at the tailgate by using the enclosed insert. — Kyle Watson

Youth Ministry: Don't Be a Tool!

I have (or have heard others) use the phrase “God, use me for your purpose.” It is an interesting phrase that I never gave much thought to, other than that I wanted to further God's Kingdom through my words, actions, and thoughts. However, if I asked:

- Would you like to be used by your friends?
- Your spouse?
- The government?



I would expect that you would answer with a resounding: NO!

I believe that so often we can view ourselves as tools for God to use. The problem with this thought is that if I equate myself to a hammer, what happens when a hammer breaks? Now I'm no contractor, but I'd suspect I'd throw the old one away and buy a new one. This is a dangerous thought process as a worshipper because it proposes that we hold value only by what we can do/perform. This thought can be even more dangerous when our identities revolve around our talents and not as the beloved children of God.

In the book *How to Worship a King*, Zach Neese says, “God doesn't want to use you. He wants to know you. He wants to be known by you.”

I pray that we may all understand that our identity in Christ rather than our function, determines our worth and that this realization is the driving factor of what flows out in our words, actions, and thoughts.

— Daniel Mathis

ALIVE In Creation: Only Human
Genesis 2: 18-25
Sermon Notes
Raising Up Deeply Devoted Disciples of Jesus

Only Human

Good. Very Good. Not Good.

Lessons from the First Creation Story (Genesis 1)

1.

2.

Lessons from the Second Creation Story (Genesis 2)

1.

2.

The Image of God

Growth Group Questions

1. Pastor Amy shared a story about locking herself out of her house in the pouring rain. Do things like that ever happen to you? Consider sharing a story with your group.
2. Did anything in the sermon this week surprise or challenge you? Is there anything that you really want to discuss with your group? Please share.
3. What does the phrase, “I’m only human,” mean to you? Does your understanding of this phrase ever affect the way you interact with other people?
4. What is your favorite Bible Story? When do you first remember hearing it? What parts, if any, have never made sense to you or seem to contradict other parts of the Bible? What do you do with those parts?
5. Pastor Amy made the claim that if we give up on bearing the image of God in our relationships, we’re essentially giving up on the essence of what it means to be human. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
6. Theologian N.T. Wright uses the imagery of an angled mirror to describe how the image of God works in the world. What other imagery would you use to describe the image of God?
7. Read Colossians 3:1-17. What does it mean to be “renewed in knowledge in the image of the Creator” on a daily basis?
8. Read Mark 3:1-6. What does this story have to do with the image of God?
9. How might your Growth Group support you this week?

Connections: Our Door is always Open!



Throughout Scripture, a constant command issued by God is to welcome the foreigner and the stranger. Perhaps this command is repeated so often because God wants us to remember that in the Kingdom of God, there are no outsiders, no foreigners, no strangers. All are welcomed and invited.

Our modern minds might conceive of hospitality being a clean house, beautiful centerpieces, or mints on pillows.

While those things communicate worth and value to guests, the purpose of hospitality goes beyond aesthetics.

A theologian named Henri Nouwen once wrote that our vocation as Christians is to “convert...the enemy into a guest and to create the free and fearless space where brotherhood and sisterhood can be formed and fully experienced.” In the New Testament, we see Jesus practicing hospitality, by eating with people who were considered unclean and impure. Through the simple act of table fellowship, the barriers between the insider and the outsider evaporate until all are insiders and all belong. When we practice hospitality we too are tearing down those barriers that fool us into believing that some lives are less important than others. God’s desire is that all would be welcomed, all would be known, and that all would believe they are children of God.” — Jessica Watson

Rummage Sale: Loading & Unloading on September 27

The UMW Rummage Sale is October 1 (preview night \$5.00 charge at 6:00 p.m.) Thursday and Friday, October 2-3, the hours are 8:00 am-6:00 pm. Saturday, October 4, dollar a bag is from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Set up will begin on Saturday, September 27, when we unload the storage buildings. Anyone who would like to help is welcome to work from September through October 4th. Just show up anytime. You don’t have a schedule except your own. The unpacking will begin on Saturday, the 27th, and items will be placed all around the church, inside and out. The youth, college students and Boy Scouts will help to load, unload and place the heavy items to be sold.

The antique department will be in the library again this year. Jeans, sweaters and coats, as well as beds, mattresses, couches, chairs, and tables will line the hallways.

The Romeos (that’s Retired Old Men Eating Out) will pick up truckloads of goodies from people around town the week before the sale begins. If you have a pickup or a trailer and would like to help in this way, call the church office or call Glyn Hammons at 673-7485 for details. Some UMW Circles will work at night that week also. Everyone is welcome to sign up to bake desserts for the Bake Sale. Signup sheets will be distributed to Sunday School classes soon, or you may signup in the office. Show off a little and bake your special treats!

Everything is sold every year. If you have dishes in the kitchen, please take them home or you might just see them on the rummage sale dish table. See you there!

(Billie Langston and Carl Martin are discussing where to put the 2012 lamps in the picture to the right.)



Bowie Classroom Volunteers: The Power of an Hour



One hour a week. That's all the time I gave as a classroom volunteer at Bowie last year. True, that one hour didn't keep the teacher from ever staying late to prepare for her classes and it didn't solve all of the children's problems, but it did remind us all that simply being together is a great way to say, "I care about you. I recognize that sometimes you have difficult days. We're all in this together."

I have discovered in my two years of volunteering in that first grade classroom that you can say all of that without ever saying a word. That's the power of presence, even just an hour's worth. So, I'm ready to go back to school, back to the first grade at Bowie, where I know I'm going to learn so much about living life in community and sharing God's love on a day-to-day basis. If you happen to have an hour to give during the school day, I can connect you with a teacher

some students who would love to see your face each week. Just send me an email (amywilsonfeltz@aldersgateabilene.org) or call or text me at 325-660-5017. It could turn out to be one of the best hours of your week. — Amy Wilson Feltz

Academy: Snacks for Students and Teachers

We are collecting snacks in support of the Academy. The Academy is the children's weekday program, one area of the mission field of Aldersgate. We serve 115 children and their families every week. You may have seen the table in the hallway with birds and stars and wondered about its purpose.

The project was started to help provide breakfast, a snack or lunch for the teachers and students, when the morning routine becomes hectic and meals are forgotten on the kitchen counters or time has gotten away and meals are skipped altogether.

We all know the research of a good breakfast for a good day's learning and coping. When these busy times happen, we can offer a meal or drink and affect the outcome of someone's day.

You may take a bird or star as a reminder to purchase a certain item or you may bring any non-perishable breakfast, snack, or lunch item you wish and leave it on the table or by my office, by September 21st. — Carol Rogers



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	Delmon Wilson	Lou Adams
Emma Gene Gore	Carolyn Strain	Dan Gilbreath
Clay Meadows	Military and Families	Clinton Gayle
Jean Shoultz	Launa Brand	Addison English
Doris Ogden	Mary Gregory	Lora and Al Langford
Dori Oiler	Ann Arthur	Sara Queen
Lou Swindell	Mary Buckner	Bob Kuykendall
Alice Shaw	Leslie Kitchell	Sherli Aldridge

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 1102 N. Willis, 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://www.facebook.com/AldersgateUnitedMethodistChurch)

Twitter: @AldersgateABI

Instagram: @aldersgateabi

Email: stories@aldersgateabilene.org

Call: Steve: 325-660-4415 or Amy: 325-660-5017

Presence

(9.7.2014)

9:00 a.m. Worship Service= 193

11:00 a.m. Worship Service=193

Total Worship Service Attendance= 386

Sunday school=199

The Oaks = 39

Gifts

Budget for 2014 = \$754,631.00

Received This Week = \$21,996.77

Received Month-to-Date = \$21,996.77

Received Year-to-Date = \$531,728.34

2014 Faith Promise Pledges = \$70,859.00

2014 Faith Promise Contributions = \$129,525.94

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

& Mackenzie Corbett

Youth/Contemporary Worship:

Daniel Mathis

College/Young Adults: Kyle Watson

Connections: Jessica Watson

Academy: Carol Rogers

Reception: Susan Acosta

Administration: Carolyn Estes

Custodial Services:

Ruben 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

Reading the Word of God by Pastor Steve

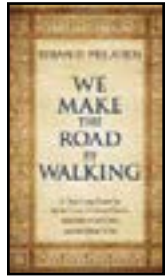
Throughout the coming year, Pastor Amy and I are going to be relentless in introducing you to a myriad of resources as we give ourselves over to the entire biblical witness for our corporate and personal transformation into the likeness of Jesus. We are inviting you to read the Bible daily with our Aldersgate Community. To the right of this article, you have two options. Pick one or both, or choose another Bible reading plan from somewhere else that you believe will be most helpful to you.

As a way to help guide your reading, I want to share with you John Wesley's (the founder of our Methodist movement) guidelines for regular bible reading. These words of encouragement are from the preface to his notes on the Old Testament that he wrote in 1765. May they transform the way we read scripture, so that we may be further transformed by the life giving words of Scripture!

"This is the way to understand the things of God; Meditate thereon day and night; so shall you attain the best knowledge; even to know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent. And this knowledge will lead you, to love Him, because he hath first loved us: yea, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. Will there not then be all that mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus and in consequence of this, while you joyfully experience all the holy tempers described in this book, you will likewise be outwardly holy as He that hath called you is holy, in all manner of conversation. If you desire to read the scripture in such a manner as may most effectually answer this end, would it not be advisable: 1. To set apart a little time, if you can, every morning and evening for that purpose; 2. At each time if you have leisure, to read a chapter out of the Old, and one out of the New Testament: is you cannot do this, to take a single chapter, or a part of one; 3. To read this with a single eye, to know the whole will of God, and a fixed resolution to do it. In order to know His will, you should; 4. Have a constant eye to the analogy of faith; the connection and harmony there is between those grand, fundamental doctrines, Original Sin, Justification by Faith, the New Birth, Inward and Outward Holiness; 5. Serious and earnest prayer should be constantly used, before we consult the oracles of God, seeing "scripture can only be understood thro' the same Spirit whereby "it was given." Our reading should likewise be closed with prayer, that what we read may be written on our hearts; 6. It might also be of use, if while we read, we were frequently to pause, and examine ourselves by what we read, both with regard to our hearts, and lives. This would furnish us with matter of praise, where we found God had enabled us to conform to his blessed will, and matter of humiliation and prayer, where we were conscious of having fallen short. And whatever light you then receive, should be used to the uttermost, and that immediately. Let there be no delay. Whatever you resolve, begin to execute the first moment you can. So shall you find this Word to be indeed the power of God unto present and eternal salvation."

Suggested Reading

Our current sermon series, has been inspired by the Bible and by "We Make the Road by Walking," authored by Brian McLaren. You are encouraged



to read both this year to dive into a deeper understanding of its major themes. The book chapters are short, and the questions are thought-provoking! Copies of the book are available through the church office for \$17.50 each. Grace and Peace!

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

Sunday:	Genesis 2: 18-25
Monday:	Genesis 2: 4-17
Tuesday:	Genesis 1: 1-31
Wednesday:	Colossians 3: 1-17
Thursday:	Ephesians 4:17-32
Friday:	Psalm 8
Saturday:	Mark 3: 1-6

Chronological Bible Readings

Sunday:	Job 17-20
Monday:	Job 21-23
Tuesday:	Job 24-28
Wednesday:	Job 29-31
Thursday:	Job 32-34
Friday:	Job 35-37
Saturday:	Job 38-39

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

Psalms 119: 103