

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
May 20, 2007

Chairperson George Mingledorff called the meeting of the Church Council to order with prayer on Sunday, May 20, 2007 at 6:52 pm. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Coordinator Reports

- Nurturing Ministries – Libby Gregg reported that dates for the teachers and leaders retreat at Children’s Harbor would be Feb. 22-23 or Feb 1-2. Three new small groups will be offered for the summer with flyers for Sunday School and small groups available. There is a need this summer for Sunday School teachers.

The library committee has processed 67 books, 24 videos and 4 tapes in March and April. They are working on a bibliography of new adult and children’s books. They need more volunteers and an additional typewriter.

- Outreach Ministries – Rick Wilcher reported that the missions work area continues to plan for this year’s Great Day of Missions to be held September 22. In addition there will be a work team going to Selma on June 9 to do work at the Children’s Home. A New Orleans work team is in the planning stages to revisit that area to follow-up on work previously begun there. The Red Bird Mission team had a successful and moving experience on their trip. There were many testimonials and the plans are to make a second trip there next year.

The United Methodist Women report another successful year for fund raising and they appreciate the support they have received from the church’s members. They report that they have been able to meet their mission goals. The UMW support seminary students Danny Gilroy, Michael Precht, Michael Sigler, Robin Wilson and Dave McKinney, have provided support to the Youth Mission Trip, and have provided gifts to mission for each of our graduating seniors.

The Church and Society Committee continues to work on restocking the food pantry. Look for notices in the bulletin and Sunday School classes. Mr. Hinkle reports that Aldersgate should have its fourth Eagle Scout of the year by June 1 and in addition, should have a fifth Eagle Scout by the end of June.

George Mingledorff reported that Steve Badsky received a letter from Lauren Samford requested prayers and financial support of her mission trip with Adventures in Missions (AIM) to Africa on June 22-July 22.

- Witness Ministries – Lyn Wheatley reported that the Evangelism Committee distributed 97 crosses for Easter with other area churches calling to see if Aldersgate had any extras. Since the last report to the Council visitor attendance

has improved in all categories: previously attended visitors by approximately 5; first time visitors by approximately 2.

An average of ten women have meet on two occasions to begin a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Over 20 shawls have been created and were dedicated on Mother's Day at worship. Six shawls have been delivered. A journal is being kept with the recipient's name and occasion, plus a strand of yarn from the shawl. The congregation is invited to submit names for receiving a shawl.

The sanctuary was open all day to the public for personal prayer on Thursday, May 2. Prayer guides were available at the altar. Donna Barrs and Linda Swayne are organizing a prayer retreat for August 4 from 9 am to 3 pm. Journey Magazine will have an advertisement in June and July's editions. Registration is required for childcare. The Family Life Committee will provide lunch. Short blurbs in the bulletin are planned for June and July. The retreat will include experiential prayer stations in the CAC and a private prayer room, a prayer labyrinth, a lesson on developing a quiet time with God, closing worship and communion. The theme is "He Leads Me Beside Still Waters."

A lay person has led the morning prayers on the third Sunday of each month in both services since February and this will continue indefinitely. The Pray and Praise Emails continue to run smoothly with a contact list of 140 names. Prayers, praise reports and updates are transmitted to our church members and beyond, as well as a military prayer list. Contact Linda Swayne at prayandpraise@knology.net for submitted a request.

The Weekday Children's Ministries preschool ended May 18 with the summer session starting May 21. A security system is still in the planning stages. Two pieces of playground equipment have been added. The landscaping at the back of the CAC, the rose bushes in front, and flowers down the side of the building were put in by WCM.

Eight new Stephen Ministers will be commissioned on June 3 in the worship services. At present twelve care receivers are receiving support with a few others on a waiting list. We have one Stephen Minister currently available. Brenda Riddle and Lynn Fitzgerald will be training for leadership. That will give a total of six Stephen Leaders, plus Pastor Jeff Wilson and twenty Stephen Minister who can be assigned to the congregation for one-on-one, confidential care giving. Both leaders and ministers will be gathering in August for a retreat to enrich their lives so that they may be a greater blessing to others thru the Holy Spirit. Supervisory Groups continue to meet each first Thursday of the month with topics such as Listening, Grief in all situations and Boundaries for Care Givers and Care Receivers.

- Age-Level Ministries – George reported for Sheila Elmore the following upcoming events. Check on-line or the bulletin for more information.

Children – May 27 begins KidsTime at 10:30 am Sundays to take the place of KidStuf until September; June 3 Sunday School teacher training at 9:15; June 24-28, 5:30-8:30 pm, Aldersgate Ranch VBS, July 8-12 Blue Lake Camp. Beginning June 5 every Tuesday from 9:00-12:00 Mission Possible Kids will be held. Mission Possible Kids is a national program of which Aldersgate will be a chapter. It is designed for elementary age children. The children do hands-on mission projects. They earn stars and are “promoted” according to the number of missions they complete. A chart is also kept of how many lives they have touched. There is a \$15 registration fee. The program will be growing kids spiritually, getting parents and kids fired up about missions, attracting new families to our church, and helping thousands of people in need.

Young-in-Heart - will not meet again until September.

Family Life – will be planning a canoe trip in late July and a prayer retreat in early August.

Adult Ministries – A Single Spirit Pizza & Movie night was held May 12 with 10 people in attendance with 3 visitors. They will continue to get together once a month.

College & Career – Upcoming events include dinner at Lek’s Thai Restaurant at Union Station followed by Biscuit’s baseball game on June 20 and a cookout is being planned by the Whittingtons to acquaint the new high school grads with the “old” C&Cers.

Committee Reports

- Finance – Ronnie Watkins reported that through March expenses have exceeded giving by approximately \$10,000.
- Trustees – Howard Adams reported that the Trustees are negotiating for a security system and that the church has contracted for maintenance and janitorial services to start June 10.
- Personnel - Waldo Spencer reported that Betty Miller was hired to replace Treasurer Becky Caldwell, who resigned, for the same number of hours and pay.

Pastor Robin Wilson reported that the program staff met at Frazer for workshops on how to make Aldersgate a stronger church. Plans are being made for August Camp Meeting month with a “hoe down” and other exciting events.

Pastor Jeff Wilson reported that Aldersgate was host to the Macon East Baccalaureate service today, May 20. Annual Conference will be held the first week in June at Frazer with Robin, Steve Badsy, Jeff, and five lay members attending. At this year’s Annual

Conference churches from around the Alabama-West Florida Conference will pool resources in a missions offering for “Nothing But Nets”. This global grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria provides insecticide-treated bed nets for families in Africa. A \$10 donation goes directly toward the purchase, distribution, and education about the proper use of an insecticide-treated bed net. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will match each donation, net for net. Pastor Wilson encouraged the people of Aldersgate to respond by giving to this worthy cause.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 with the Called Charge Conference to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Loyal
Recording Secretary

Attachments: Agenda, Attendance List, Various Committee Reports