

Aldersgate Hinge

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THE WISDOM OF CHILDREN



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Special points of interest:

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- Mid Year Financial Report.
- Adult Sunday School—Experiencing God

It is well into the summer season. With the heat of the summer sun comes summer thunderstorms. One summer night during a severe thunderstorm, a mother was tucking her small son into bed. She was about to turn the light off when he asked in a trembling voice, "Mommy, will you stay with me all night?" Smiling, the mother gave him a warm, reassuring hug and said tenderly, "I can't dear. I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence followed, which was broken by a shaky voice saying, "The big sissy!"

Recently I read about a teenage girl who put fear aside and left her home to serve as a camp counselor for the summer. It is a camp in which there are several camps contained in one location. She was a "gap" counselor and therefore served in several different types of camps. One camp is called Camp Sparrowood. It is a camp for the mentally challenged, ages 8-99. She was not looking forward to serving in this group. She approached it with great fear and worry. And yet it turned out to be the most uplifting and spiritual time of growth for her all because of a little girl named Melanie.

Melanie was fourteen years old. She couldn't read or write and had difficulty with articulating thoughts. She was very anti-social and had difficulty getting along with others. Over the years she had developed her own imaginary friends to take the place of the ones she was unable to develop. When Melanie first came to camp, she was very quiet and withdrawn. She rarely talked to anyone. She played and even occasionally fought with her imagi-

nary friends. But despite that, she really enjoyed camp. The young camp counselor questioned and doubted whether Melanie gained anything from the camp. Nonetheless, it was such a positive experience that Melanie's parents sent her back later in the summer for a second week of camp. This time Melanie was a little more engaging and participatory.

It was on Tuesday night during free time that the counselor realized Melanie was missing. Frantically she scanned the outdoor field looking for some sign of Melanie when she spotted her over near the outside altar area. She noticed, as usual, Melanie was playing with her imaginary friends but something seemed different this time. As she watched, Melanie approached the cross and stood there staring at it. In a few moments Melanie reached up with both hands to the right side of the horizontal cross bar grabbed something and pulled. Then she went to the left side of the bar and repeated the same action. Likewise she went to the foot of the cross and pulled again. Then she bent to the foot of the cross and seemingly picked up something heavy and slung it over her shoulder and went over and sat down and started playing again. In a few minutes the counselor ventured over to talk to Melanie. She sat in the grass next to Melanie and asked her what she was doing. And in the clearest voice and thought, Melanie told her, "I took Jesus down off the cross so I could play with him."

Continued on page 2.

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

The weather is warm and the living is easy. And the church is quiet with not much activity but just wait until next month.

Have you been to any of the summer church services? To say the least, they have been interesting. Three have past as I write this and each has been unique and quite different. And there are 6 more as you read this. It is fun to see folks from both services and to enjoy a unique service.

The service on July 11 honoring Micah brought to mind my own youth. I attended a youth fellowship group regularly in high school but don't remember a lot about the experience. It must have had a positive affect on me however, since I have regularly attended church ever since including when I attended college in the big city of Chicago. I say this because it was a challenge each Sunday to find a



church to attend when I did not have a car. I hope and pray that what Micah has done (and Wyl before him) will affect our youth in the same way and they too will attend church regularly for the rest of their lives. After all, that is what we are trying to teach our young people.

We need to leave a legacy in the church where the young people of today continue to be active members in the church and keep the legacy of church membership going.

I hope you continue to enjoy the rest of this summer and look forward to the activities of the fall including Celebration Sunday and celebrating the 50th birthday of Aldersgate.

Jack

PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

All week Melanie carried Jesus on her shoulder stopping to play with him and included him in her daily life at camp. All week Melanie was a visual reminder of what it means to take Jesus off the cross and make him a part of our everyday lives. Far too often we are so busy admiring our Jesus on the cross, far to busying nailing him on the cross with our doubts, fears, and sins, that we never taken him down off the cross and let him live in our lives. In the sim-

ple mind, in the simple acts of a special needs child, the truth of discipleship in Christ is revealed.

Remember, the cross is now empty. Christ is alive and desires to walk with us in new life every day.

For God's Glory,

Pastor Mark

EXPERIENCING GOD

by Henry Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, and Claude King is the name of this upcoming fall adult Bible Study. Kendall Root will facilitate this Bible study based on seven Scriptural realities that teach us how to develop a true relationship with the Creator. By understanding how God is working through us even as we try to fathom His ways, we can begin to clearly know and do His will and discover our lives greatly and gracefully changed. (Blackaby) This is a thirteen- week study and will be held Monday evenings beginning August 30th -November 29th with one week off in between. Please be prayerful about being a part of this journey. Further details will follow but in the meantime if you have questions please contact Kendall Root at knjroot@hotmail.com or 835-8232

GOD'S PEOPLE AT WORSHIP

August 1
Priesthood of All Believers Sunday
A Celebration of Lay Ministry

August 8
It's Sacramental
Celebrating the Word Become Flesh



August 15
Camp Meeting Sunday (outdoor service)

August 22
ESPN at AUMC (Sports Sunday)
Group outing to the Loons Game

August 29
Make a Joyful Noise Sunday

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THANKS

MANY THANKS to all the amazing individuals that helped make this year's Vacation Bible School a wonderful experience for everyone involved. We are reminded of God's abounding love and when it is His plan, wondrous things can happen. The time, effort and love poured out by all to make **Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!** a fun and spirit filled time cannot be adequately measured.

The following people have blessed this ministry at Aldersgate and are appreciated beyond words: Donna Bennett, Ann & Jim Birch, Carla & Mike Blanchard, Melody Blanchard, Mike Blanchard, Shirley Brown, Karen Burow, Micah Chisholm, Ken Cunningham, Cassie Cuthbert, Rachel Cuthbert, Donna & Ralph Czerepinski, Christiann Elsen, Robyn Elsen, Geraldine Eshenbacher, Joan Everett, Deb Finney, Becky Fox, Great Lakes Ice Cream Company, Nan Heffel, Dorothy Hodge, Lori Jackson, Marge & Al Klashak, Char & Larry McCoy, Lisa McKenney, Julie MacLauchlan, Beverly Marra, Craig Maxwell, Cathy Menning, Carol &



Earl Miller, Keith Miller, Pastor Mark Miller, Linda Moore, Alice Morgan, Amber & Robert Parrish, Hope & Scot Pirie, Jennifer Root, Saginaw/Bay District Prop Center, Jackie Scribner, Jan Sheahan, Nan & Dick Skochdopole, Helen Smith, Shelley Snyder, Diana & Bob Strejc, Linda Tefft, Denise Thompson, Elaine Tobey, Rae & Jim Vaught, VBS "kids"

that supported our mission "Mission Briefs" throughout our week, Mary Wackerle, Diane & Doug White, Katie White & Kevin White, Katrina Wilsey, Kaylene Wilsey, Melene Wilsey and Alissa & Jeff Yoder.

The blessing of every child of God that was a participant at VBS is celebrated. As Commander Sam and Galileo shared with us our God is **"Praise God!"**

In His Service & for His Glory,

Addie

Director of Christian Education

55 AND 3F'S

At the last meeting of this group, we asked whether anyone would be willing to assume leadership of this group. So far there has been no response except one suggestion made at the meeting to have a leader of the month. If you have regularly participated in this group, let us know what your thoughts are.

Are you willing to accept leadership? Do you want the



group to continue? Would you be willing to lead one meeting a year? (this requires at least 9 volunteers)

Please call or email Jan or Jack Higgins with your thoughts and comments. We would like to see the group continue.

Jan and Jack Higgins

NEW ALDERSGATE WEBSITE LAUNCHED!

At the end of July we launched the new Aldersgate website and on August 8 we'll be introducing it to the congregation at the Sunday service. Now when you go to <http://www.aumcmidland.org> you'll see a new look with new content. We are very excited about the opportunities this new website gives church members, potential members, and the community. Please take some time to see what's there and where you could contribute—suggestions are welcome! If you'd like to receive e-mail updates and notices for church events, click on the Subscribe button at the lower right of the home page to enter your e-mail address. Your address will not be given out to anyone else. And you can always unsubscribe if you want to.



If you are using the old website address (<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/AldersgateUMCMI/>), please replace your Favorite with the new address. Soon, the old website will be gone. But it has served us well, and we thank Jim Morgan, webmaster for 14 years, for his hard work and dedication. Thanks also to our website development team for their guidance and ideas: Pastor Mark Miller, Julie MacLauchlan, Bob Fox, Jim Morgan, Paul Tolly, Addie Maxwell, Micah Chisholm.

Ann Birch

Webmaster

PRAYERS NEEDS

Get Well Wishes & Prayers

Hospitalizations:

Don Pfruender — MidMichigan 7/26/10

Vesta Kelley - MidMichigan 7/24/10

Deaths:

Please keep the following family in your prayers.

The family of Ed Behrens who passed away on May 29, 2010.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our emptiness and make us spiritually whole.



Births:

7/14/10 – Amy Marie and Jake Edwin Parrish, children of Amber and Robert Parrish and grandchildren of Mark and Sue Lauer.

ADDRESS CHANGE

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MID-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT OF ALDERSGATE UMC

The best way to describe Aldersgate's mid-year financial position as of June 30, 2010 is "fragile". We are meeting our basic obligations—payroll, district fees and loans; "fixed" portions of mission spending, conference fees, and other structural costs. "Variable" portions of several spending plan items have been deferred until our financial picture improves.



At the beginning of this year, Church Council was faced with a very formidable task. They needed to reconcile spending requests of \$342,000 with forecasted income of \$295,000 to \$300,000. The following chart summarizes the situation that Council was facing:

	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Proposed
AUMC Avg. Attendance	190	177	170
AUMC Giving Units (giving > \$250/year)	155	138	112
Total Spending	\$370,000	\$337,000	\$342,000

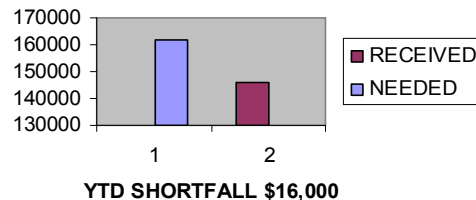
Council's solution to both maintaining our existing quality program and controlling costs was to develop a fixed/variable Spending Plan. The fixed portion is intended to be a minimum plan to maintain programs. At \$317,000, this plan does include some faith that God will guide us all to the path that will make it happen. The variable portion will only be spent with Council approval *if funds become available*. Council has charged Finance to closely monitor and report on our financial situation.

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS

Mid-YEAR 2010
AVE ATTENDANCE

9:00 95 10:30 74

TOTAL 169



The chart above graphically shows our current position. Attendance is tracking as forecasted. Unfortunately, income is trailing our need by 11%. We each need to ask God to provide guidance to help us discern how Aldersgate can best fulfill The Great Commission that Jesus charged us with—"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations," *Matthew 28:19*

Please pray for our church leaders as they continue to plan and execute our church programs.

If you have questions, comments and/or suggestions about this information, please contact Bruce Menning, Church Council Chairperson or Jack Brown, Church Finance Chairperson. Your feedback is appreciated.

Jack Brown

Finance Committee Chair