Volume 1. Issue 2

February 28, 2017

Connect



Aldersgate United Methodist Church

"sharing the living Christ through life-changing service and love"

ECHO — Connect
What's in a name? Welcome to the Connect!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 1st

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

We will have a service at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

There will also be teams of folks sent into the community to offer ashes throughout the day. If you are interested in helping in this way, please contact Scott or Rev. Tracy.



LEADER'S SUMMIT

Come be a part of the beginning conversation of what's next at AUMC.

Church Leaders, those who are elected, are expected. All others are invited!

This is a place for all the voices of the church.

Saturday, March 11th



9:00 AM till

2:00 PM

RSVP to Sally Ann in the church office to be included for lunch. 985-641-5829 RSVP to Stacey Boerner for child care. stacey@aldersgate-slidell.org

From Feasting to Fasting



The best of Mardi Gras is that it is rooted in Christian tradition. The season begins at Epiphany. The colors of Mardi Gras represent

the gifts of the Magi: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh - Gold, Green and Purple - Power, Faith and Justice, respectively.

The word "carnival" means, literally, "taking away of flesh." For Christians, a way to enter into a "season of penance" was marked by the withdrawal of eating of meat. In England and parts of Europe, the day immediately before Ash Wednesday, came to be known as Shrove Tuesday: the last "feast" day before the beginning of the fast. In more modern times, this "feast" tends to be about covering pancakes with butter and syrup...or frying breads in deep fat...thus, the day became known as Fat Tuesday...and, fat became another one of the excesses "to be given up" during the season of Lent.

In modern times, especially we, in Louisiana, have come to understand Mardi Gras, the Carnival season to be the expressions of many excesses. At its heart, Mardi Gras is about "family" and "people who are like family." Often, the "krewes" are comprised of family members and friends. Along the routes, it is about family, as well.

One of the post-Katrina remarks about Mardi Gras Day 2006 was the coming together of people who had been parade watching on the same ground for many generations. Following Hurricane Katrina, many folks remarked that they "showed up" at their parade grounds looking for their "family" with whom they had shared Mardi Gras with for generations.

It has been called, "The Greatest Free Show On Earth." Truly, for the "average parade goer" it would seem to be. The majesty, the beauty, the over the top floats and costumes, the children from schools all around the city marching in dance groups and marching bands are offered without an admission fee. I mean, think about it, total strangers, have spent "good money" to throw you a pair of 48" long beads, or a lighted krewe pendant, or a coveted Zulu coconut...I mean, how great is that?

Interestingly enough, some of the things that make Mardi Gras the best...also, make it the worst. Those excesses come at a tremendous price. From the "krewe" side, Mardi Gras is anything but free. A study on the Economic Impact of Mardi Gras on the City of New Orleans found that almost \$13 million dollars was spent related to New Orleans' 2011 Mardi Gras season by the "Krewe" members, themselves. Added to this is the amount of money that comes into the city through public and private revenues and expenses and the total

economic impact in 2011 was nearly \$150 million dollars... a free show it is not! An additional harsh really about this

"exercise of excesses" is that all of this is going on in the middle of abject poverty. Recent figures count NOLA's homelessness rate at nearly 3 times the national average. So, in a city that is not nearly rebuilt from the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, every year (literally) millions of dollars are being thrown

Following the "feasting" of the "fleshly" time is the season of "fasting." Ash Wednesday (March 1st) signifies the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is an opportunity to "break with the flesh." It is an invitation for the Christian to look in the mirror and see those places where there is separation from God, where there is confusion and disillusion, where brokenness finds healing and forgiveness finds reconciliation.

There are forty days of Lent. It is a time when we remember Jesus' time spent fasting in the wilderness, enduring temptations from the devil. The scripture tells us that, "He ate nothing and at the end of the time 'was hungry." Similarly, Christians are called on to observe a Holy Lent: "by selfexamination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, and selfdenial, and, by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word, to make a right beginning of repentance." Within the seven weeks of Lent, there are 7 Sundays. Sundays are considered "feast" days. It is believed in the ancient liturgy of the church, that Sundays can never be "fast" days because Sunday is always a day of the celebration of the resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lent should not be viewed as a legalistic or compulsory act, rather as an amazing opportunity to set time apart for spiritual cleansing, renewal, and preparation.

Christians believe that because it was the sin of man that led Jesus to be crucified, Lent should be used as a time to reflect on the significance of Christ's death, both for humanity as a whole and as individuals.

How will you observe a Holy Lent?

Whatever you do, do it. Don't give up spinach, if you don't like spinach. Don't take on something that is impossible for you to carry through.

Whatever you do, do it...with seriousness, with integrity, with expectation...pray your way through it...and be blessed on the journey...a Holy Lent may not be easy but, it is well worth the

Blessings, rev. Frank

Traditional Worship 8:30am Sanctuary

Contemporary Worship 11:00am Sanctuary Adult Sunday School 9:45 am-10:45 am → Cokesbury Building, Chapel, Asbury

Sunday School for Youth 9:45 am-10:45 am

Confirmation Sunday School Class (6-7 grade) meet in JWC Youth Sunday School Class (8-12 grade) meet in the Genesis

Children's Sunday School Plus 9:45 am-10:57 am → Susanna Wesley, JWC (pickup for ALL in John Wesley Center)





Music Notes for March

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Come Sing With Us on Palm Sunday!

This Lent, on Palm Sunday (April 9th) our festival choir will present a special musical offering to begin Holy Week. This work is a compilation with original narrations that will be shared in worship on Sunday, April 9th.

Join us on Wednesdays at 7:45pm, and make some beautiful music. This Lenten offering will help begin our holy week journey, and will conclude on Easter Sunday, our holiest of holidays and the root of our Christian faith, Come be part of telling of this story through music!

No previous choir experience is necessary to join this special event, just a servant's heart, and the desire to make a joyful noise!

If you have any questions, please call or email Scott at the church.

WEDNESDAYS at 7:45pm - Come and sing!

Worship Notes for March

March 1 Ash Wednesday Service will be at 7pm in the Sanctuary

March 5 First Sunday of Lent, beginning of worship series:

"The GOD We Can Know" Exploring the "I Am" sayings of Jesus

March 12 Celebration Bell Choir—8:30 service

Sunday, March 12th is Daylight Savings - Be sure to Spring Forward!

Ushers for March



8:30 Keith Burriss, Joe Foozer, Chirs Rider, Michael LaBourdette

11:00 Marty Jackson, Donna Lew, Sherri Kastner, Kevin Roark

We are always in need of additional ushers to fill our rosters. Please consider giving us a few weeks of Sundays to serve in worship! Email Scott or call the church office if you have questions or are interested.



The Chapel Choir of FUMC of Downers Grove, IL! March 28th, 7pm in the Sanctuary

The Downers Grove First United Methodist Church Chapel Choir Tour "Stand for Peace" shares the message of peace through music and scripture! Jesus teaches us how the peace of Christ can and does enter our life daily if we just ask!

We are so fortunate to be one the stops on the choir's 46th annual Spring Break musical mission trip to New Orleans. This choir visited us 4 years ago and asked to return again!

Come and enjoy a special night of great music and powerful witness!

We Need Host Families!!!

As the host church for the Chapel Choir during their stay in New Orleans, we are providing housing for the choir members.

These family stays are an integral part of the tour experience, and allow us to share our local culture and faith story in a unique way to hungry students.

We need to house 35 high-schoolers for two nights, March 28th and 29th.

(They have daytime activities planned, so we are only in need of night-time accommodations and breakfasts for two mornings.)

Please consider sharing the gift of hospitality and grace to these young people on their spring break mission tour.

If you would be willing to serve as a host for at least 2 students, please email our Director of Music, Scott Clausen at (Scott@aldersgate-slidell.org) or give him a call at the Church 985-641-5829.

3rdSunday **Something BIGGER!**



The offering on Sunday, March 19th will go towards helping defray the cost of attending

Camp Istrouma in the summer months.

Our first Sunday food drive is now an **EVERY SUNDAY** food drive. The need is great in our community for non-perishables. We have a goal of collecting 1,000 lbs of food for the Community Christian Concern food panty this year. Baskets will be at the front door each Sunday for your donations.

CCC Pantry Food Drive Year to Date Total Weight — <u>71 Pounds</u> % of 1,000 lbs Goal— <u>.07%</u>









GriefShare Leader Training Session

Aldersgate UMC will host a training workshop for prospective leaders of GriefShare Support Groups on March 18 from 10:00 AM to Noon

GriefShare is a structured, professionally designed, internationally distributed, spiritually-based grief support group. Each group consists of 13, two hour sessions including a video, discussion, sharing, and use of a participant guide book. The sessions are designed to help you rebuild your life and to offer help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Groups are led by two trained leaders, preferably one of each gender. Individuals interested in being trained to lead GriefShare groups in churches, libraries, schools, offices and other venues across the Slidell/Lacombe/Pearl River areas are needed. No prior training or experience is necessary although having grieved the loss of a loved one is beneficial.

The training will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 360 Robert Blvd in Genesis Hall, located next to the church office. The training is free. Leader Guides are available for \$25 each. Please send requests for more information by email to griefshare@aldersgate-slidell.org or call 985-641-5829 to sign up. Please contact David Kidder at 985-502-0484 if you have questions.

ALDERSGATE'S SENIOR CITIZENS HEAD TO SAGER BROWN

Why should the youth have all the fun on mission trips? It's time to take all that experience we've gained over the years and put it to work! AUMC's seniors (classified as 50 years of age and older) will be heading to UMCOR's Sager Brown facility in Baldwin, LA May 21-24.

Sager Brown is a 48,000 sq.ft. depot that receives, sorts, packs and ships supplies for disaster relief around the world. Dating back to 1867, Sager Brown has a rich history of making a difference in the world. We will put our energy into their flood bucket program and in the many relief program areas found on the campus.

I have talked with the Sager Brown staff and was candid with them concerning the age of our volunteers. I have been assured that there are many ways to serve and make a difference that do not include strenuous efforts or heavy lifting.

The cost of the trip is \$150, which includes most meals and lodging. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Scholarships are available for people who would like to go, but are without the needed funds.

Registration packets are available in the church office.

We will be staying overnight on the Sager Brown campus in Zook Hall. Two people will share a room and there are separate facilities for men and women. This trip is limited to 24 individuals.

A general information meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. in Cokesbury Rm. 203. We encourage you to attend to receive an overview of the trip and to ask questions.

For more information or to register, contact Suzie Hunt at 641-5829 or by email at suzie@aldersgate-slidell.org.



Aldersgate's Day of Caring 2017

Saturday, March 25th 8am till 4pm

Let's Love our Church and make It Shine! Below is a list of items we will complete on the Day of Caring.

- Gutter Clean-outs
- Greenery Trimming and Pruning
- Painting and Scraping
- · Screen repairs
- Ceiling Stain Removal
- · Groundskeeping

- Soffit and Fascia Repairs
- General Trash Pick-Up
- Painting of Cokesbury Kitchen Bath
- · SWC Fence Repair/Replace
- Window blind repair/installation

Call the church office to sign up now! 985-641-5829



Grown Ups Coffee & Conversation

A Fellowship for Seniors, 55+
Thursday, March 23
10 am • Genesis Hall

We did a switch in scheduling and enjoyed a talk from Karen Smith and the Slidell Camellia Club in February. Flowers bloom when they will and we wanted to take advantage of the abundant blooms for their waxing demonstration.

This month, we will have as our guest Bryan Massery from the St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement Program. Learn what you can do to help keep these pesky insects at bay, as well as what the parish office does to keep us safe and healthy when the little biters swarm. This program is free and open to the public.

In-House Photo Directory 2017 Church Directory

This will be done in-house. No outside sales pitch will occur!

Church Directory

Matching backgrounds will be setup at locations around campus. Photos will be taken before, between and immediately after Sunday Services and prior to large events taking place on campus.

While taking photos, we will also verify/update your church membership information. Suzie Hunt is looking for volunteers to help with this project. Please contact her at the church office at 985-641-5829 or at suzie@aldersgate-slidell.org.

Photo sessions are scheduled to begin Sunday, March 19. Watch for further details in the church bulletin and Friday e-mails.

THANK YOU!

Dear Aldersgate Church Family,

There are not enough words to express my deepest thanks for all you support, prayers, and many cards during my tough days.

You will not know how much it means to me for the support of the care team and those who made many visits to the hospital.

I am so blessed to be a part of such a caring and loving church family.

Thanks again and GOD BLESS YOU ALL

Barbara Berdine

WE BOUGHT A BUS!



We are excited about the new opportunities in ministries that this new vehicle will help make possible.



Come join us at Winter Jam

Who: Everyone is welcome

What: Concert featuring 10 bands

When: Saturday March 18th

Where: Smoothie King Center

How: Meet at Aldersgate UMC @ 3

Why: It is good fun and fellowship

Concert cost is \$10 cash at the door.

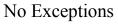
For more information call 985-641-5829 or email Adam Moore adam@aldersgate-slidell.org or check out our

Time is running out!

Those going to Mexico mission trip this summer must have passport applied for by









2017 SHARE SALES

Our annual youth fundraiser

MARCH 6-8 6:00-8:00 PM

MARCH 6-8 6:00-8:00 PM
IN THE CHURCH OFFICE



If you are planning to participate in summer missions, you will need to pick a night to come help sell shares.

YOUTH Worship Leaders Needed!

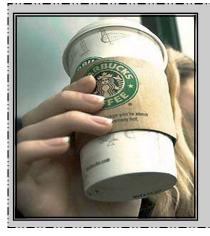
Would you like to

Read Scripture or Serve Communion

in Worship?

Can you help with first service Children's Moments?

Contact Scott or Adam for more information, scott@aldersgate-slidell.org, adam@aldersgate-slidell.org



Thursday Morning Coffee with High School Youth

We meet at Starbucks
(I-10 & Gause) at 6:30**am**.
All 9th-12th graders are invited to start your day with us!



VBS 2017

June 12—June 16 9am—12pm

Registration/ Volunteer Forms are available in the office and on the website!



A 6 week faith based summer program!

NOW REGISTERING

For Ages 3 years—exiting 1st graders

June 19 - July 28

3 options available M/W/F 9-12 M/W/F 9-3 M-F 7:30-4:30

For additional info contact Stacey: 641-5829 or stacey@aldersgate-slidell.org



NEWS FROM THE TREE!

Apple Tree Preschool & "Little Lambs" MDO

Registration for 2017-2018 School Year

Apple Tree will continue to register children ages 18 months through PreK as space permits. Registration forms can be picked up in the school office or delivered via email or fax. Please pass on this important information to friends and family who may have children interested in attending Apple Tree Preschool & Little Lambs MDO.

New Hours: 7am-6pm for preschoolers & 8am-4pm for Little Lambs MDO

If you have additional questions, please contact Cheryl Mann or Marsha Hubbard in the school office or stop by anytime Monday through Friday for a tour.

For More Information Contact Cheryl Mann, Director, appletreeslidell@gmail.com or Marsha Hubbard, Administrative Assistant, appletree@charter.net

985-641-0184



March 2017

March 1	Ash Wednesday - 7pm Worship Service in the Sanctuary		
March 5-12	Family Promise staying on campus this week		
March 11	Aldersgate will be hosting a Leadership Summit in the John Wesley Center from 9-2pm		
March 14	Cajun Dance Lesson 7pm, John Wesley Center		
March 18	GriefShare Leader Training 10am, Genesis Hall		
March 23	Grown Ups Coffee & Conversation 10am, Genesis Hall		
March 25	Day of Caring 8am-4pm, Campus Wide		
March 25-26	6 Children's Confirmation weekend with the Bishop		
March 28	Downer's Grove Youth Concert 7pm, Sanctuary		
	April 2017		
April 2	Healing Worship Service, anointing with oil		
April 9	10am Worship Service on Palm Sunday with Palm Processional Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Family Picnic at 11:30pm, John Wesley Center (Old School Eats Foodtruck will be on campus this day)		
April 13	Maundy Thursday-A Service of Prayer and Holy Communion 7pm, Sanctuary		
April 14	Church office closed Good Friday Reflections on the Cross 7pm, Sanctuary		
April 15	Easter Vigil Service 8pm, Sanctuary		
April 16	Easter Sunday		
	Easter Sunrise Service 6:30am at Heritage Park		
	8:30am Worship Service		
	9:45am Worship Service		
	11:00am Worship Service		
April 17	Church office closed		
April 27	Grown Ups Coffee & Conversation 10am, Genesis Hall		
April 30	Blood Drive 7:30am-1pm, Genesis Hall Confirmation Sunday at 8:30 service only Youth Silent Auction, John Wesley Center		

January 2017 Actual

Cash Receipts		
Contributions	\$50,447.10	
Other Income	\$1,500.00	
Designated Gifts	\$3,412.00	
Total	\$55,359.10	
Cash Disbursements		
SPR	\$35,909.97	
Trustees	\$14,814.67	
Budgeted Program Expenses	\$317.88	
Apportionments	\$7,182.59	
Program Expenses paid from		
Designated Funds	\$8,132.64	
Total	\$66,357.75	

2017 January Financials



Budgeted Contributions \$ 53,704
Actual Contributions \$ 50,447
Expenses to Date \$ 58,225

*The Communion Rail Offering for February supporting Aldersgate's Mission Fund came in at \$165.00.

Our nonperishable food collection in February for CCC weighed in at **90lbs.**

PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING

(\$10,998.65)

Our church family is our best source for names of those persons in need of care. Please contact the pastor at

Net Cash Flow

(641-5829) or a

Care Team member when you know of a need. You can also email your prayer request to

prayer@aldersgateslidell.org

Our Care Team coordinators are: Rhea Snyder, 643-3945; and Charlotte Clifford, 847-0966. <u>Christian Condolences</u>: Family and Friends in the death of Skip Carson. Family and friends in the death of Dale Lock. Family and friends in the death of Cliff Lowe. Family and friends in the death of Cole Whaley.

Joys: Birth of Jaxson Valentine Baltrukevich, son of Michael and Lauryn Baltrukevich. Birth of Lauren Elizabeth Dupont, daughter of Jennifer and Darren Dupont.

<u>Impending Tests/Surgery</u>: Marilyn England, Dianne Hughey, Janet Borders, Gina Puma, Gay Barnett, Cheryl Thonn, Kay Johnson.

Hospitalized: Noah Starks, Patti Fox.

Recovering at Home: Kathryn McKenney, Rev. Spiller Milton, Stacey Iennusa and family, Russ Swan,

Prayers: Andrea, Many Mandoza, Kevin, Scott Rousselle, All those affected by the tornadoes, Doris Merritt, Heloise Grant, Barbara Walker, 68 Employees of Textron who have lost their jobs, Kay Felkins, Employees of Louisiana Heart Hospital and Clinics and everyone affected by the closing, Meaghan Wallace, Sherry Zeitler, Jimmy Farmer, Mr. and Mrs. Farmer, George Williams, Barbara Stokes, Phyllis Mitchell, Edna Cox, Patrick LeBlanc, Libby Long, Our Country and Our Military, Our President, Homebound Members, The Unemployed, Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Continuing Concerns: Joanne Parker, Patrick Miller, Edith Marquette, Clint Crosier, Pat Doyle, Jean Van Norden, Lenny and Mina Iennusa, Len Zullo, Zachary Cheek, Ronnie Galloway, Susan Grant, Rachel Cochrane, Stacey Lovitt, Sonny Neville, Rev. James Biedenharn, Bill Fink, Larry Hamm, Luke Smith, Mary Joy Richard, Carson, Lissa Jordan, Esther Stephens, Carolyn Lee, Warren Benoit, Eugene Victor, Kristen Vanleusden, Huey Gardner, Ashleigh, Rick Saluga, Lesa Raia, Rick Duvieilh, Mary Gramlich, Walter Delle, Rick and Maria Hodgson, Sara Delaha, Mary Sue Sisco, Faye Hammer and family, Nancy Wood, Bonnie Byrd, Lucian Grass, Bobbie Stephens, Linda Dick, Barbara Fuller, Lloyd and Frances Grafton, Loretta Moore, Brycen Newman, Gene Williams, Camille Callais, Dr. Bill Nelson, David Nezat, Derek and Lauren Whitty Webber

^{*} January financial statements are available in the church office.

Spotlight

Honaker Funeral Home Forest Lawn Cemetery

In 1970 the Honaker family had the opportunity to purchase Forest Lawn Cemetery and so began a journey of the first funeral home cemetery combination in the State of Louisiana pioneered by Fred Honaker and his family. There are currently four generations of the Honaker family members working to this day. The Staff at Honaker Funeral Home - Forest Lawn Cemetery are caring and experienced professionals who understand that each family is unique and has personal requests and traditions. These request and traditions are of utmost importance to our staff of licensed Embalmers/Funeral Directors.

Contact Honaker Funeral Home at (985) 641-1900 for questions or information. Our visit their website at www.honakerforestlawn.com

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Honaker Funeral Home Forest Lawn Cemetery

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Staff Email:

Rev. Tracy L. MacKenzie:

Director of Worship & Music Ministry:

Director of Congregational Care & Missions:

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry:

Youth Administrator:

Director of Children's Ministry:

Facilities Manager:

Membership/Finance:

Office Manager:

Office Receptionist:

Prayer Concerns:

Church office:

Director of Epworth:

Louisiana Conference Website:

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General Information: AUMC@aldersgate-slidell.org www.aldersgate-slidell.org Church Website:

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