



December 1, 2018

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

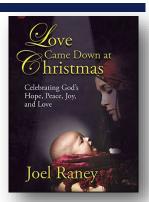
"sharing the living Christ through life-changing service and love"

Make plans to join us on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

Our Christmas Cantata

"Love Came Down at Christmas "

will be held on Sunday, Dec. 9th at both Worship Services!



## Sounds and Soups of the season - December 16 5pm - Sanctuary

A Concert of Christmas music featuring Apple Tree Preschool, Children & Youth Choir and Bell Choirs



Following Sounds of the Season will be <u>SOUPS OF THE SEASON</u>. Reserve your "Soup Spot" today by contacting the Church Office, 985–641–5829, and let us know

what Soup you will be bringing. Then meet us in the John Wesley Center for a time of fellowship and feasting on many different soups!

During the month of December and the Christmas Eve Services, lovely poinsettias will be displayed in the Sanctuary. If you would like to give one in memory or honor of someone, please stop by the church office to fill out a dedication form. Dedications are **\$15** for each poinsettia and will be accepted through Wednesday, December 12th. All dedications will be printed in a special Poinsettia Bulletin that will be available Monday, December 24th.



# Christmas Eve Worship-Dec. 24

5:00pm - Family Service with Children's Tableau and Candles 7:00pm - Traditional Service with Tableau 11:00pm - Contemplative/Contemporary Service



A From the time that I was a very small child, I could differentiate between the from Our "world's Christmas" and the "real Pastor Christmas."

Sure, I believed in Santa Claus...did I just use the past tense there? I loved Christmas carols. I have mentioned before that one of my favorite things to do during Christmas was to hang out in "our Christmas Tree room" and listen for hours to "Sing along with Mitch."

Pretty much, no one wanted to hear me sing...so, it was just me and Mitch.



But, my true understanding of the season

came through the many events that I, as a child, participated in at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Harahan, Louisiana.

The truth is "if the doors to that church were open, I was likely inside." We lived almost exactly a mile from the church. Whether I walked, rode my bike or got a ride from a church friend or my dad, I was connected to that church. I was the first teenager, at the age of 14, who served on the (then) Council on Ministries of the church.

And, for all of the gifts that the church gave me as a child, an understanding of the true meaning of Christmas may be the most important. Sure, I loved the "annual" Children's Christmas play; the outside live Nativity (I still chuckle that one year I was an angel-I know, right?); Christmas Caroling to the shut-ins; the too many to name Choir Cantatas (under the direction of the late Jane Ellis); Mrs. Marie Fine's fabulous organ playing, especially her rendition of "Ring the Bells." I still get goose bumps; the Chrismon Tree, lit with a hundred lights. How do I know this? Because every year, we were told that each light represented each family in the church and that there were 100 families.

Yes, I loved, loved, loved all of that.

While some of that defined the "real meaning of Christmas" it was the scriptures, the hymnody and the images of the story that cultivated in my heart what Christmas really is.

If you listen carefully to the "texts" of Christmas, you will hear that Christmas, at its heart, is a penitential season.

"Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee."

"O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear." These were dark, difficult times for Israel. It has been four hundred years since they have "had a word from the Lord." It has been six hundred years since the Jews were exiled from their home in Palestine to Babylon. When the Jews returned to Jerusalem, the city and the Temple had been destroyed. Enter King Herod. Herod began to rebuild the city, extravagantly. This increased the taxes, twice-fold: A 10% Temple tax and an additional 10% of income to be spent within the city gates of Jerusalem. The poor became poorer and the wealthy became wealthier. And, Herod had become a part of Rome and Rome had become a part of Jerusalem.

These were dark, difficult times. The Prophets had foretold of the consequences of disobedience to God's Holy Law. Still, the people sinned. Micah, Jeremiah and Isaiah all prophesied of the coming of the new King, the Messiah.

But, that had been almost 800 years before. And, instead of receiving the Messiah, there was exile and hardship. Had God actually forgotten God's people?

These were dark, difficult times.

Today, we are living in dark, difficult times. It is time for repentance, for turning one's life around, for recognizing God's great love delivered in the tiny, package of a sweet, little baby Jesus boy.

I was a child sitting in that church, at the age of eight or nine years old, and, I was in dark, difficult times. I can't tell you how I know that but, I know that. I can tell you that I wept openly and thankfully that God loved me so much that God sent God's Son into my life...even to death on the cross for me...I knew that my only hope that the darkness and sinfulness of my life could be overcome was through the Incarnation of God in the person of Jesus of Nazareth and through the power of God's Holy Spirit.

This is what the church gave to me in Christmas...well, I am still that broken little 9 year old girl whose living in a dark, difficult world whose only hope is in that tiny little sweet baby Jesus born in Bethlehem on a not so silent night more than 2000 years ago.

Throughout these pages are the many "offerings" of Christmas. How can I not hope that you, too, may find Christ in Christmas?

rev. Jusey machangie

## MUSIC & WORSHIP NOTES FOR DECEMBER



**Joel Rane** 

Cantata Sunday (both services)

December 9th

# "Love Came Down at Christmas"

Come hear a rich tapestry of original and familiar melodies in this compelling Christmas work by Joel Raney.

#### Ushers for December

8:30 Keith Burriss, Joe Foozer, Al Hughey, Jon Nelson, Chris Rider
11:00 Patti Guidry, Antonio Iennusa, Jim Fatic, Cheryl Thomas, Lou Thomas

We are in need of **Ushers**, **Greeters** & **Communion servers** for our 3 Christmas Eve services. Please consider being a part of the hospitality mission of Aldersgate on this very special night. Email Adam Trouard or call the church office if you have questions or are interested. music@aldersgate-slidell.org



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A concert of Christmas music featuring various choirs. Sunday, December 16th starting at 5pm in the Sanctuary





Sunday Mornings

Traditional Worship 8:30am 👬 Sanctuary

Contemporary Worship 11:00am 🏦 Sanctuary

#### Adult Sunday School 9:45 am-10:45 am

 $\rightarrow$  Cokesbury Building and Chapel

**Sunday School for Youth** 9:45 am-10:45 am Youth Sunday School Class (7-12 grade) meeting in Asbury College, Career & Coffee "C3" meet in Cokesbury 207

#### Children's Sunday School 9:45 am-10:45 am

→ Susanna Wesley, John Wesley Center

1	Presence	Peace	Joy	Love
A	.dvent/Chris	tmas 201	8 ~ Calenda	r of Events
Dec. 8	December 2 Children's Wish Ender Youth Progressive D	owment-Christmas inner		
Dec. 9	December 9 8:30am Cantata Servi 11:00am Cantata Ser	ice "Love Came Do vice "Love Came I	Down at Christmas"	
Dec. 16 Dec. 19	December 16 5:00pm Sounds of th 5:30pm Church-Wid		by Soups of the Seaso	n
Dec. 23	December 23 9am Birthday Party for 10:00am Combined S	or Jesus	God's Love	
		ice with Children's Service with Table		•
<b>Dec.</b> 30	December 30 10:00am Combined S		ıy of Christmas	
Jan. 6	Epiphany Sunday - 8:3	30am and 11:00an	n Worship Services	
T	FINA		END GIVIN	

Please make sure your final year-end giving contribution/tithes are dated by **December 31, 2018**.

We can receive 2018 contributions through <u>January 7, 2019</u>, as long as the checks are properly dated. Gifts may be turned in through the offering plate, the church office or put in the drop box.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IN DECEMBER



#### ANGEL TREE GIFTS

Thanks to all of you who adopted a precious angel from this year's Angel Tree. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

As a reminder: All wrapped gifts are due back to the church office by Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

## <u>Christmas</u> Dessert Party



#### Thursday, December 13 @ 10 am

This year, we are going to mix things up a bit. No Dirty Santa stealing involved, although we will have a little holiday fun.

• Please bring a wrapped gift valued at no more than \$10 to play. It should be something that YOU would like to RECEIVE and it should be something useful and consumable (Think chocolate, flashlight, t-paper, etc.).

If you would like, bring a yummy sweet or savory dessert to share. Beverages will be provided. R.S.V.P. to 641-5829.

\*\* As always, feel free to bring a friend or neighbor to any Grown Ups events. \*\*

# Join us Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> for Caroling, Cookies & Cocoa!

Join the Aldersgate family for our annual evening of caroling around our community, visiting those who have a more difficult time getting out and around. Bring a tray of your favorite Christmas treats to share, and meet in Genesis Hall at 5:30 pm. We will then carpool to various locations and return to the church when we are finished for hot cocoa, cookies and more fellowship!





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Sounds and Soups of the Season, Aldersgate's annual music program and potluck soup supper is Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

The delicious portion of the evening only happens through the generosity of volunteers who share a pot of their favorite soup with others.

Soups of all varieties are welcome. We ask that you bring your soup in a crock pot, so it can be served warm, and a ladle.

You can bring your soup to the JWC when you arrive for the music portion of the evening starting at 5 p.m. or by 5:45 p.m. if you are not attending the music part of the evening.

If you can join the ranks of soup chefs for this event, please contact Erin Core at erin@aldersgate-slidell.org or by calling the church office at 985-641-5829.





## NEWS FROM OUR YOUTH MINISTRY

## Saturday, December 8th Meet in <u>ASBURY</u> at 5pm

Youth: Please meet in Genesis Hall at 5pm with a White Elephant gift to exchange. Parents: Please bring a dish that can feed 6 youth and deliver it to the following locations on December 8th.

Appetizers (Last Name A-F) 125 Kingston Drive Slidell, LA 70458-5524 Sides (Last Name G-N)

Desserts (Last Name O-Z) 289 Rue Piper Slidell, LA 70461-5436

#### Parents! Please pick your Youth up at the Camps (289 Rue Piper, Slidell) no later than 9:30pm.

The Youth Christmas Progressive Dinner is a fellowship opportunity for the youth to get together and have a different meal course at 3 locations hosted by church members. It's a fun night and all youth are welcome to join us! We will transport the youth from the church to each location, and parents will pick-up from the final dessert house which will be at the home of the Camps.

#### Sunday Night Youth Schedule

12/2 Youth in Asbury snack supper is Lauren Brignac

12/9 Youth in Asbury snack supper is Stacey Iennusa

12/16 No Youth (Sounds & Soups of the Season)

12/19 No Youth (Caroling with the Church)

12/23 No Youth 12/30 No Youth



Winter Jam January 31 Leave Church at 5:30pm



On this night we are joining with the church for Caroling around our community. Bring a tray of your favorite Christmas treats to share, and let's meet in Genesis Hall at 5:30 pm. We will then carpool to various locations and return to the church when we are finished for hot cocoa, cookies and more fun!



HAPPENING 2019 Jan. 18-20

Presently accepting Application for Happening for 10th – 12th gr. Deadline for your Happening Application is

<u>January 1. 2019</u>

Contact Adam Moore to get an application or go to www.laumchappening.com

#### Save the date for our 2019 ... Senior High Retreat-March 15th-17th @ the Wesley

Center ... more information coming soon!

Contact Adam for more info! Camp Istrouma Attack School Camp School Camp School Camp School Camp Istrouma Contact Adam for more info!

## NEWS FOR OUR CHILDREN

**Birthday Party for Jesus Sunday December 23rd** 9 - 9:45am SWC

Join us for Crafts, Storytime, Songs, and a Snack!

Sounds and Soups of the Season Sunday December 16th 5pm

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# Faith Friends

Will be

attending

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Caroling, Cookies, & Cocoat

Wednesday December 19<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm

Meet in Genesis!

## ADULT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

#### Grown-Ups Coffee & Conversation January 24, 10am-Genesis Hall

The homeless veterans program at Camp NORA will be the subject of our January 2019 Coffee and Conversation here at Aldersgate Church on Thursday, January 24th.



Ed Lewis and Jeff Marshall, organizers of Camp NORA, with stands for No One Rides Alone, will talk about the new residential program for homeless veterans in Folsom. The program

is sponsored by Ride of the Brotherhood.

According to the ROTB website, statistics show that approximately one out of every four homeless males is a veteran. Veterans returning from combat duty with PTSD, disabling physical injuries, and few marketable skills or transferable skills often can't find or keep jobs. As many as 30 homeless veterans are living on the streets in St. Tammany parish on any given night.

The January gathering will offer information about what is being done locally to help veterans break the pattern of homelessness and hopelessness.

"Coffee and Conversation ..." is a monthly presentation sponsored by the Grown-Ups senior ministry. The program will begin at 10 a.m. with refreshments provided. It is free and open to all seniors in the general public.

For more information about the Spring Grown-Ups schedule, contact Suzie Hunt at <u>suzie@aldersgate-slidell.org</u>, or call the church office 985-641-5829.

R.O.M.E.O.\*s-

\*Really Outstanding Men Eating Out

Pete Hanson is your host for this informal meal, that allows time to get to know each other better away from the rushed Sunday morning schedule.

The R.O.M.E.O.s meet on the <u>1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month at Noon</u> New Orleans Hamburgers & Seafood 1677 Gause Blvd.

Lunch is Dutch-treat Fellowship is free!

R.S.V.P. to 641-5829 if you plan to attend.

## J.U.L.I.E.T.\*s-

\*Just Us Ladies Intentionally Eating Together

1st Thursday of the Month at Noon in the Way Café

Come and relax. Take time to sit and visit. Bring a brown bag lunch.

Drinks, Dessert and Fellowship In Abundance

R.S.V.P to 641-5829 if you can attend

## <u>HELP WANTED</u>

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#### Communion Set Up Person

We are in need of a person who can take responsibility for setting up our monthly communion service. They order and pick up the communion bread from a local bakery and set up the serving stations on the first Sunday of each month.

#### **Mingle Room Volunteers**

You can help in several ways. We are in need of helpers to make coffee on Sunday mornings, volunteers to bring in donut holes and people to act as hosts between services and be a friendly face for visitors to our church looking for information.

If interested, contact Suzie Hunt at the church office or email her at Suzie@aldersgate-slidell.org.



## Coming in 2019



## Grief Support Program Starts January 6

After the funeral, when the cards and flowers stop coming, most of the people return to their normal lives. But many people continue to grieve and feel alone.

To assist them through the grieving process, GriefShare, a 13 week support group is available to offer help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend.

"I have found that this structured program has a good balance of education and guided discussion. The freedom to share one's emotions and thoughts or to just be a listener creates a safe, warm, supportive environment to process grief and grow 'from mourning to joy.'," said David W Kidder, Ph.D., a GriefShare facilitator.

GriefShare sessions include video presentations, discussion and a workbook component. Participants can join in the GriefShare sessions at any time in the 13-week program. Aldersgate United Methodist Church will offer a GriefShare program beginning Sunday, Jan. 6 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The sessions will be facilitated by Debbie and Jimmy Watts in the Cokesbury Bldg, Room 206.

Participation is open to the general public. A \$15.00 donation is requested to cover the cost of the workbook. Registration is required and can be done by going to <u>www.griefshare.org</u> or by contacting the church ofc.

#### Something's Brewing on Tuesday Mornings

**Tuesday, January 8** will find the members of the Something's Brewing Bible Study/Book Club kicking off the new year with a new study. We will be using "The Armor of God" by Priscilla Shirer for our discussions. Linda Neville will be leading this study.

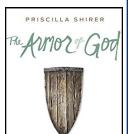


\*All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you — unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny. But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being

pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you.

The Enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. **The Armor of God**, more than merely a biblical description of the believer's inventory, is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory." (7 Sessions)

Something's Brewing is open to all women, church membership not required. Over cups of hot beverages, we study the word of God, learn from each other and leave refreshed and ready for the rest of our week.



We meet in Genesis Hall on Tuesday morning's at 9 a.m. Books are available in the church office for \$15. A nursery is available upon request with advance notice. Contact Suzie Hunt if you have any questions at suzie@aldersgate-slidell.org



#### ANNUAL COMMUNITY-WIDE THANKSGIVING DINNER CELEBRATION 10

What a Day! We are thankful for all the people who made the 20th Annual Community-wide Thanksgiving Dinner a success. More than 1450 delicious turkey dinners, complete with all the trimmings and PIE were served on site or delivered by a group of friendly drivers.

Although Aldersgate was Turkey Central for the weeks leading up to the big day, several area churches, businesses and a multitude of volunteers helped make it happened. They recruited volunteers, solicited donations of food and supplies, smoked the birds and then pulled them apart, cooked, served, drove and, most important, cleaned up the kitchen.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve so many people in our community and share the love of Christ on this wonderful holiday.

















<u>A shared note from one of this</u> <u>year's volunteers.</u>

After getting their route and collecting the dinner boxes, they volunteers drove to a rural part of our parish.

Pulling up to the address on the sheet, they stopped in front of what appeared to be an abandoned mobile home. Just to be sure, they walked up and knocked on the door. Turns out trailer was occupied. Someone answered the knock and received the much appreciated meals from the volunteer.

To serve and be served are both Gifts from God.









#### **STEWARDSHIP**



	October 2018	2018 Year to Date
Income	\$ 54,032.67	\$ 541,028.53
Expense	\$ 62,781.48	\$ 619,813.43
Net Loss \$	\$ (8,748.81)	\$ (78,784.90)



I know, many of you are finished with your Christmas gift buying. Some of you have yet to begin.

So, here's an idea: how about giving an extra year end gift to the church's operating budget?

If you have already completed your pledged giving for the year, perhaps you can consider giving an extra month's giving, or other discretionary amount, to the church in 2018.

If you have yet to complete your giving for the 2018 financial year, please do so, as you are able.

If you are not giving to the church presently, a year end gift is a great place to start.

Our completion of our operating budget for the end of 2018 is dependent upon our having a better than average month... a much better than average month.

The stronger we finish, the stronger we will begin for 2019.

## FINAL YEAR-END GIVING

Please make sure your final year-end giving contribution/tithes are dated by December 31, 2018. We can receive 2018 contributions through January 7, 2019, as long as the checks are properly dated. Gifts may be turned in through the offering plate, the church office or put in the drop box.

#### PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING

Our church
family is our
best source
for names of
those persons
in need of
care. Please
contact the
pastor at
(641-5829)
or a
Care Team
member via
email at
prayer@
aldersgate-
slidell.org

Condolences: Family and friends of Kendra Stroh, wife of Mark Stroh and mother of five children. Family and friends of Maron Gampp who passed away on November 24. Joys: A successful 20th Annual Community Wide Thanksgiving Day

Dinner Celebration! Adam Moore's approval for candidacy in the Louisiana Conference for Ordination.

Impending Tests/Surgery: Brice Moore, Nancy McIntosh, Gary Grant, Tom Goertz, Gleneet Hogan.

Hospitalized: Clint Crosier, Effie Ehrhardt, Rosalie Short, Annie Pearl McNaulty, Bobbie Bolin, Kim Tauzan, Cara Burge.

Recovering at Home: Judy Blanchard, Tammy White. Prayers: Bella, Addison Vignes, Wayne Leive, Bonnie Morrison, Kristina Cochran and family, Coworker of Cindy Davis, Tim Jones, Don, Patricia Williams, Quentin Krey, Bill Evans, Sharon and Manuel Salcido, Allison Mims, All in California who are in fire zones or have already lost their home, Todd Neal, Angela Hoose, Aimee and Amalee Ashe, Barbara and Eric Campbell, Angelina Budna Coc, Michelle

Camp, Nicolas Cross, Tycer Family, Karen Clifton, Our Country, Our Military, the Unemployed, President Trump, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Homebound Members, Rev. Tracy MacKenzie. Continuing Concerns: Lisa Gall, Lloyd Walworth, Buck and Marlene Gardner, Pat Doyle, Howard Rogillio, Charles Toomer, Jr., Lynn Bradley, Derek and Lauren Webber, Mary Felder, Doris Merritt, Louvella and Joseph Fontenot, Carolyn and Allan Koenig, Joel Clifton, John Stroh and family, Loreen Borchett, Mike Ford and family, Barbara Jones, Glenn Grant, Kendra Misner, Sydney Brehn, Blanche Copeland, Jane Aucoin, JoAnn Kidder, Brenna Carpenter, Larry Hamm, Angel Wilson, Kristen Vanleusden, Kay Felkins, Bill and Janice Fink, Luke Smith, Rick Saluga, Sara Delaha, Lissa Jordan, Faye Hammer and family.

#### Is Your Prayer Request Still Needed?

Please check prayer requests to see if your prayer still needs to be included. If not (or to add someone) please email our Care Team at prayers@aldersgate-slidell.org.

#### AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS...

#### Michael Guevara, DDS

Specialist in Orthodontics "Achieving a healthy, beautiful smile together" 1251 7th Street, 641-3587 www.slidellortho.com

Cindy Alberts, Realtor Coldwell Banker TEC Realtors ~ 2040 E. Gause, #4 "I'll Go The Extra Mile For You!" C: 707-7676 W: 649-6300 x208 Homes, Vacant Land, Commercial

Honaker Funeral Home Forest Lawn Cemetery "Dedicated To Those We Serve" 641-1900 ~ Hwy 190 West Terry Tranchina and Kevin Tranchina

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#### **MOORE & POWELL**

Certified Public Accountants A Professional Association 985-641-8000 ~ 120 Village Street, Suite 1 Joel L. Bruno, Jr., CPA Jane A. Aucoin www.moorepowell.com jane@moorepowell.com

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Christ <sup>Is</sup>Coming!

#### **Staff Email:**

Rev. Tracy L. MacKenzie: Director of Music & Worship Ministries Director of Congregational Care & Missions: Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Youth Administrator: Director of Children's Ministry: Office Manager: Financial Secretary: Office Receptionist: Prayer Concerns: Director of Epworth:

Louisiana Conference Website:

Tracy@aldersgate-slidell.org Music@aldersgate-slidell.org Suzie@aldersgate-slidell.org Adam@aldersgate-slidell.org Youth@aldersgate-slidell.org Stacey@aldersgate-slidell.org Erin@aldersgate-slidell.org Jon@aldersgate-slidell.org Prayer@aldersgate-slidell.org Jim@epworthproject.com www.la-umc.org Find us on: facebook。

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

AUMC - Aldersgate United Methodist Women's Group

Aldersgate United Methodist Youth (AUMY)

Apple Tree Preschool



Apple Tree Preschool Director: a

rector: appletreeslidell@gmail.com