

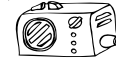


Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1741 Sayles Blvd.
Abilene, TX 79605

"The Church With A Warm Heart"

Phone 325-672-7893 	Fax 325-672-3851 	Prayer: wyatt77@sbcglobal.net WEB www.aldersgateabilene.org	Radio 1340 AM 
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Abilene, TX 79605

Our Core Values: Love and Prayer
Our Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ
Our Vision: All people are welcome

Volume 08 Number 14 April 8, 2009

Aldersgate Experience

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday: 8 am - 12:00 pm & 1 pm - 5 pm



FROM THE PASTOR

"THE TOMB OF JESUS"

We know where the pyramids of Egypt are, and they are famous because they contain the mummified bodies of ancient Egyptian kings. We know where Westminster Abbey is in London; it is revered because it holds the bodies of many English nobles and others who are famous. Mohammed's tomb is noted for the stone coffin and the bones it contains. Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C. is honored as the resting place of many outstanding Americans.

Yet, we are not 100% certain of the location of the garden tomb of Jesus. Some people believe they know where it is, but there is some disagreement about it. Do you know why there is disagreement? Because the tomb is empty. There are no remains there. So, the most famous tomb in the world is famous, not because of whom it contains, but because it is empty. It is empty because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and lives today. We celebrate that life this Sunday morning:

- *At 7:00 am, at Drigger's Field for the Easter Sunrise Service.
- *At 7:30 am, in our Fellowship Hall, for Easter Breakfast.
- *At 8:30 am, in our Sanctuary, for worship and the Flowering of the Cross.
- *At 10:50 am, in our Sanctuary, for worship and the Flowering of the Cross.

And everyday, as we acknowledge the resurrected life of Jesus in us!

See you Sunday. In Christ, Derrell

BIG COUNTRY MEN'S MINISTRY GATHERING

UPCOMING EVENT:

- *What: City-Wide Men's Ministry Gathering
- *When: Saturday, April 18th
- *Time: 6:30 pm
- *Where: Cooper High School Auditorium
- *Cost: Free
- *Speaker: Dr. Rick Rigsby

This invitation comes from Big Country Men's Ministry, a group of men from churches all over the Abilene area. The men's ministry doesn't belong to any church or denomination, but wishes to promote community among Christian men through fellowship, prayer, planning, and events such as this on April 18. I've spoken to several men about the event and the speaker. They all say that Rick Rigsby is the best speaker they have ever heard. He was a television news reporter for a CBS affiliate in Northern California, but then went on to become a university professor, now at Texas A & M; he continues to serve as the chaplain for the Aggies football team. He has received the Outstanding Distinguished Teaching Award by Texas A & M University.

This event is organized by the laity of area churches in order to energize Christian men in their witness and in caring for each other.

Church Staff: Derrell Patterson, Pastor; Gloria George, Administrative Assistant/Newsletter Editor; Susan Acosta, Receptionist; Brian Hecimovich, Music Director; Tim Palmer, College/Outreach Director; Alan Hartmann, Youth Director; Lauren Bratcher, Asst. Youth Director; Tracie Hartmann, Children's Director; Sarah Colburn, Children's Intern; Ralph Garcia, Custodian

THIS WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY

Wednesday, April 8

- 9:00 a.m. Beth Moore Bible Study
- Noon Prayer Group
- 5:00 p.m. All Church Meal
- 5:30 p.m. Children's Music
- 6:00 p.m. Wacky Wednesday
- 6:00 p.m. All Church Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Jubilee Ringers
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 6:00 p.m. Youth
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 12 - Easter Sunday

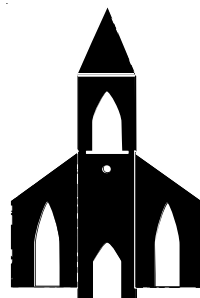
Flowering of the Cross

- 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
- 7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. Worship Service

NO EVENING ACTIVITIES

FIRST TIME VISITORS

Randy & Peggy Hurst
Anna Berthel
Tim & Dawn Jones
Dalton Douglas (youth)



MCMURRY/COLLEGE

Lindsey Williams	Rebecca Pollan
William Young	Preston Luke
Ryan Lake	Jennifer Hall
Leanna Begay	Becky Overton
Tim Henderson	Rachel Thyron

FUNDRAISER FOR BOY SCOUT TROOP 272

Boy Scout Troop 272 is selling 40lb bags of fertilizer - specially formulated for the Abilene area soil by Abilene Ag. 13-13-13 with micro-nutrients.

COST PER BAG:
\$20 (pick-up)
\$23 ((delivered)
\$25 (delivered and applied to your yard)

PICK UP DATE:
Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm,
Sunday, April 26, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

SALE STARTS:
Now! The scouts would prefer you to pre-order by using one of the contact methods below. However, fertilizer will be available for sale in the Aldersgate parking lot on April 25 and April 26 for those who didn't pre-order.

CONTACTS:
Phone: Jerry English, 672-1710
Email: scoutmaster@abilenetroop272.us

Week of Apr. 12 - 19

Sunday, April 12 - Easter Sunday

Flowering of the Cross

- 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
 - 7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
 - 8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service
 - 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 - 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
- NO EVENING ACTIVITIES

Monday, April 13

- 9:30 a.m. Disciple I (Adult Bible)
- 2:00 p.m. UMW Sara Circle
- 6:45 p.m. Ladies BSF
- 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 272

Tuesday, April 14

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. Neighborhood Seniors
- 6:30 p.m. Mission Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, April 15

- 9:00 a.m. Beth Moore Bible Study
- Noon Prayer Group
- 5:00 p.m. All Church Meal
- 5:30 p.m. Children's Music
- 6:00 p.m. Wacky Wednesday
- 6:00 p.m. All Church Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. Jubilee Ringers
- 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 6:00 p.m. Youth
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 16

- Noon Children's Department
Decorating Committee

Friday, April 17

- 10:00 a.m. Conversation with God
Prayer Group

Saturday, April 18

Sunday, April 19

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:50 a.m. Worship Service
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Drama & Music Team
- 5:00 p.m. Youth
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Paren'ts Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. The Oaks College Community
at 2250 S. 14th St.

FROM THE COLLEGE/OUTREACH DIRECTOR

“GOOD FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS”

Sally Villers handed me a copy of Robert Frost’s poem “Mending Wall” this past Sunday morning. In the poem, the speaker questions the oft used assertion that “good fences make good neighbors.” What, the author asks, is he walling in or out by building a wall between his property and his neighbor’s? He owns an apple orchard. His neighbor’s land produces tall pine trees. In one of my favorite lines, the speaker states, “My apple trees will never get across/ And eat the cones under his pines.” In the author’s mind there is no need for a wall that only serves to separate neighbors.

Jesus spoke many times about what it means to be a good neighbor. In each instance, Jesus taught that good neighbors are the folks who strive toward deeper connections with the people around them, not the ones who erect barriers to isolate themselves or to keep people out. Jesus teaches us to love our neighbors. To commune with them. To share with them.

Now, I am not advocating in this article that we all go out and tear our fences down. That might lead to some not so neighborly discussions with your neighbors (unless you both consent to the project before the task is under way... in which case I say, “go for it!”). But, what I am advocating is a desire to know and connect with the people you’ve been placed in the middle of. More than tearing down physical fences, I believe that we should tear down the barriers in our own hearts and minds that separate us from loving each other. The fences of greed, prejudice, arrogance, and fear do much more to separate us than an actual physical fence, and time after time in Scripture we who are called by God’s name are called to transcend these false barriers on the wings of faith, hope, and love.

As we begin to cultivate our community garden in the backyard of 1834 Amarillo Street, we don’t plan on tearing the fences down. But we do plan on never locking the gate so that anyone in the neighborhood can come and work on the garden. We do plan on cultivating an environment of care and hospitality so that everyone is welcome to enjoy God’s creation, our friendship, and our hard work. Good fences may keep stray dogs out of our garden, but they do nothing to produce good neighbors- which is a more important crop than anything else this garden grows.

If you are interested in joining our endeavor at the Harvest Community Garden... well, what more is there to say than, “Come on in. The gate’s unlocked!”

See you neighbor.
Tim

GREETINGS FROM the_gate.

Student Ministries



Man, what a week! Clear the Stage was amazing. We had around 165 to 170 people come and worship with us last Wednesday night. I have seen a lot of people around town since and they have said how much the Spirit moved them. A gigantic thank you to Klint Bratcher, Kyle Tiner with Clear to Go, Landry and the rest of the fellows with Look to the Sky, and Tim Palmer - thank you for letting God use you in such a beautiful way.

We had such a touching time in youth Sunday night. I want the entire church to know what an amazing youth group we have and how they have a heart for God. I love all you guys so much.

There will be no youth this coming Sunday, however we will need you guys to come and help Saturday morning at about 9:15 am with the Easter egg hunt. We always have so much fun helping the little kids catch those sneaky eggs. Wednesday night is on a regular schedule. We will also have a parent’s meeting Sunday April 19th (Ethan’s Birthday) at 5:00 pm in the youth room.

Peace, love, and Jesus, Alan

AROUND ALDERSGATE

CONGRATULATIONS: Derrell Patterson was honored at the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Dinner last Thursday, for his dedication to his Little Brother, Gabriel and as the Community-Based Big Brother of the Year; Buzz Jones was honored with the J. Harris Heart Award.

DEAR ALDERSGATE FAMILY, I am very thankful and joyful for the blessings each one of you have showered upon the Dowell’s following my surgery. Your visits, meals, cards, phone calls and emails have made my recovery an easy one. God’s love has shown through your acts of kindness. Words cannot adequately express my deep appreciation and gratefulness for your encouragement, love, thoughts and prayers! I praise God and thank him daily for each of you and for Aldersgate. Blessings & love, Kaye Dowell

DEAR ALDERSGATE FAMILY: Your concern and phone calls, visits and expressions of sympathy and encouragement have meant so much to me as I have been recuperating from my surgery.

Thank you, Evanel Marlow

VOTE FOR DAVID’S VIDEO: David Lumpkins, a 13-year-old member of our church and a Boy Scout, has written and produced a humorous video entitled “Smoking Socks” for a Boy Scout nationally sponsored Smoking Stinks video contest. The finalists are determined by the number of votes each video receives, and David would like your vote. The video can be viewed and voted on at BOYSLIFE.ORG. From the website, click on CONTESTS, and then SMOKING STINKS VIDEO CONTEST. David’s video is on the far left, toward the bottom, and is titled: “Smoking Socks”. Just click on it to view, vote and leave a comment. The Boy’s Life website is a kid-oriented, safe website, and no personal information or e-mail is required to vote. You can vote every day through April 30.

ABILENE DISTRICT LAY SPEAKING TRAINING: BASIC AND ADVANCED COURSES Grace United Methodist Church, 1402 Grape St., Saturday, April 25, 2009, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm (Lunch served)

HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

APRIL 9 - MAUNDY THURSDAY/TENEBRAE SERVICE

6:30 pm Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service

APRIL 10 - GOOD FRIDAY

The church office is closed on Good Friday.

APRIL 11 - EASTER EGG HUNT

10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

We will play games, listen to stories, and hunt Easter eggs! Please bring 1 bag of wrapped candy per child. *Volunteers are needed for: games, stories, crafts, and hiding eggs.*

APRIL 12 - EASTER SERVICES

7:00 am Sunrise Service

Aldersgate early risers will greet the day at Driggers Field (McMurry’s baseball field). **Bring a blanket, stadium seat, or towel** to sit on because the bleachers are wet from dew early in the morning. **(If the weather is bad, we will have the service in the Sanctuary)**

7:30 am Easter Breakfast after the Sunrise Service

(Love offering basket will be available to help offset the cost)



The Men’s Fellowship Breakfast have volunteered to cook and prepare this year’s Easter Sunrise Breakfast. They plan to have a buffet table that has something for everyone, even down to the Health food portion.

8:30 am & 10:50 am Flowering of the Cross during Worship

Everyone is encouraged to participate in Flowering of the Cross. Please bring flowers with you on Easter Sunday morning to place on the cross at a specific time in the service. As you place your flowers on the cross, take a moment to thank God for Easter.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The Missions Task Force is launching out into new areas this year. Because of additional funds that are available, we are able to expand the missions and ministry for God’s glory. We will keep the congregation informed of these ministries. We continue support of existing missions, but we are thankful to be able to add support for:

*A growing Hispanic Ministry taking place in our district, located and led at First UMC in Abilene;

*The Four Corners Native American Missions, through help to three of the McMurry students who also attend Aldersgate;

*Our College Ministry, The Oaks; specifically we have offered financial and prayer support for the recent Spring Break Mission Trip to Shreveport, LA, and other upcoming events.

The opportunities keep growing. Watch for news about more exciting ministries taking place because of the commitment we all have to Faith Promise Giving.

Thank you. Missions Task Force

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



APRIL 13: Sara Circle - 2:00 pm, Patio Room

APRIL 20: Seago Circle - 2:00 pm, Sarah Nemeth’s home, 2610 Edgemont

APRIL 20: Trinity Circle - 6:30 pm, Sherry Johnson’s home, 4002 Ridgmar Lane

APRIL 21: Ruth Circle - 9:30 am, Patio Room

EXPRESSING OUR LOVE FOR GOD THROUGH . . .

OUR PRAYERS

Hendrick Medical Center:

Abilene Regional Hospital:

Pray for:

Carolyn Brewington

Peggy Young

Jane Ayers

Ann Canon

Continue to Pray for:

Jewell Martin, Letha Irvine, Mary Adams, Montie Odom, Mildred Cornelius, Sue Gayle, Betty Garrett, Caroline Rankin, Bill & Louise McLaren, Jane Gray, Don Fletcher, Jean & Hud Shultz, Eileen Faulks, Dell Smith, Clay Meadows, Denny McFarland, Betty DeBerry, Gordon Gray, Jerry Rosser, Steve Johnson, Mary Mills, Bobby Cox, R.I. Collinsworth, Don Clemmer, Warren Underwood, The Journey

Be in Prayer for our Military Family and Friends:

Nathan Johnson (Marine)

Braxton Rehm (Air Force)

Joe Terry, (Air Force)

Jim Burgess (Air Force)

Phillip Sellers (Army)

John Jackson (Army)

James Rose, (Marine)

Reese Barnett (Marine)

Daniel Lindsey (Army)

Scott Jones (Army)

All Troops still deployed

OUR PRESENCE

8:30 a.m. Service 57 + Choir

Sunday School 205

10:50 a.m. Service 252

OUR GIFTS

Budget for 2008 \$596,081

Needed each week \$11,464

Received this week \$17,485

Needed YTD \$160,496

Received Year-To-Date \$187,808

Ahead or (Behind) \$(2,688)

Mission Task Force Update

Faith Promise Received \$28,298

A MESSAGE FROM ST. JAMES UMC

St. James Church, 3100 Barrow Street, Abilene has a small singles’ group, and we would like to invite single adults from other churches to join our group. We’re presently in the process of planning activities, and we’d love to have others be a part of the planning. We’d appreciate input from individuals as well as from existing singles’ groups. Please call Elaine at St. James 692-0263 or Susan at 695-4843 for more information.