



The Open Door

A publication of Aldersgate United Methodist Church
2869 Cohasset Road, Chico, CA 95973

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A Church of open hearts, open minds, open doors

Happy New Year

But God...

Recently Terri Lucas shared the following stories about the power of prayer and God with those on the prayer chain. I thought that they were worth resharing. The first story occurred on Sunday December 16 and the second on December 20

Editor

"We asked for prayer for a young lady at the end of the service last Sunday. She was facing 8 years in prison. Monday her social worker called, and we spoke at length. She is an awesome advocate for this young lady. Instead of the 8 years, she was sentenced to 90 days at PSTR because this is the most growth and change in her the social worker has found. And if she completes it successfully then she will not have to serve a pending probation.

Wednesday night Kim and I had a dinner and Christmas Celebration for the women (of the Cottage). Kim scored 8 ribeyes, so I went to Trader Joe's for the rest of the items we needed with only a couple for me. While the clerk was ringing me up, he asked if I was hosting a gathering. I said yes, I was hosting a Christmas Party for the women at our Transition Living House. I had my card in the cc thingie when he leaned over and cancelled it. He told me the dinner was on them. He said we are doing a great service in our community and to have a wonderful Christmas. I was in tears and my response was "are you kidding me?". Kicked the bah humbugs out of me!"

De-Decorating Day!

On Sunday, January 6, we will be taking down the Christmas Decorations that have been blessing us for over a month. It's a sad occasion, but it will need to happen.

Many hands make light work, so all that can help will be appreciated. It is easier to take them down than to put them up. So, please help that day.

Thank you!

Membership Class!

Want to join Aldersgate UMC as a Member? Pastor Scott will be offering his two-day Class on the Sundays of February 3 and 10. The class starts at 6 PM both nights and lasts two hours.

All interested people are welcome to attend, those wanting to join, those who are already Members but want to take the class, as well as anyone just wanting to attend.

Please let Pastor Scott know if you will be attending.

Pastor Scott's Corner

Happy New Year!

A wonderful thing happened to me on the way to the Forum.... Actually, a wonderful thing did happen, but I was nowhere near the Forum, either the one in Rome or the one in Inglewood. It started on Friday, November 16, the end of the first week of the Camp Fire. I received an email from a Bill Saxman, the pastor of a UM Church in Summerville, Pennsylvania. It had been sent to Aldersgate 2 days earlier and forwarded to me by one of our volunteers. The email said:

The Kingsville UMC of Summerville, PA has watched with dismay the destruction of the fires in your area. You are in our prayers. We have a small but active Children's Sunday School and would like to support you and those folks, churches, in your area who are struggling to have hope during this time of stress.

If you are able to share with us some of your need or the need of a less fortunate church, we will forward what we can to materially help you.

The dollar amount cannot be much (\$200.00?) but we hope it will be of some comfort to know that we want to help bear your burdens.

Yours in Christ, Bill Saxman,

I was overjoyed to receive this and wrote Pastor Bill back. I suggested he do one of two things: a) Send the \$200 to UMCOR. Or b), Mail the check to me made out to the Salvation Army and I'll see that the Army receives it. That was all I heard!!! I received nothing back...

...until Tuesday, December 11. On that day I received a letter from a Vicky Rankin, Treasurer, Kingsville Sunday School. In her letter she wrote (after acknowledging that I had spoken with her Pastor, Bill Saxman):

We are a very small rural congregation here in Western Pennsylvania. Our plans were to use the Christmas money (\$200 that the Sunday School normally spends on Christmas Treats....) to help someone in need. Other people in the church indicated that they would like to add to the contribution we were planning to send. There was a special service "Hanging of the Greens" on Dec. 2, and a collection was taken up to be added to the initial donation. Our Congregation, though small, has a very generous heart and \$535.00 was collected.

Pastor Bill indicated that we could send the check to you, made payable to the Salvation Army, and you would get it to where it needed to be. Enclosed is a check for \$735.00. We realize that this is just a very small drop in the bucket; but, we pray that a life can be touched and we know, with God's help, that is possible.

It is hard to visualize the damage and destruction that has happened from this fire. We continue to pray for you and your neighbors as you all start to rebuild. May God bless you and your church in all you do.

Wow! I was blown away! They were apologizing for a wonderful gift of \$735!!! I wrote her back and told her what a wonderful thing this was, and how excited the Major at the S.A. was to receive this gift! But then something else happened.

This past Tuesday, Dec. 18, I received *another* letter from Brother Bill! It contained an additional check in the amount of \$350.00! It was also for the Salvation Army! Not wanting to give away a check that might have been sent in error, I wrote Bill another email. (After all, this check was signed by another person, not Ms. Rankin.) He responded in an email:

Scott, I'm sorry for the confusion. Both checks are good; one has come from Kingsville and a special Advent offering for that purpose; the other has come from Summerville. Thanks for getting back and giving me an opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and blessings for those who have lost so much.

What?? Oh!! Apparently, Brother Bill serves a two-point Charge! It would seem the one church didn't want to be outdone by the other! Excellent! Collectively then, this "Small rural Charge" sent the Salvation Army of Chico \$1,085.00!! That's tremendous! Praise God and thanks to our eastern Brothers and Sisters!

I wanted to share this with you as a matter of good news in the midst of this tragedy. I also want to thank those of you who gave to our Thanksgiving Offering that went to the Boys and Girls Club of Chico, and to the many of you who gave over \$1,600.00 to UMCOR in the name of Aldersgate towards the Camp Fire. As 2019 starts, more will be needed in ways of helping. I appreciate your prayers and support in any way you feel led to share. I know many people are thankful as well.

Be blessed and have a Happy New Year!

My prayers are with you.

Sermons for January

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| 6. | Epiphany: "But You, Bethlehem...."
Matt. 2:1-12 | 20. | "I'm Free, Part 2" II
Chron. 7:11-16 |
| 13. | "I'm Free, Part 1"
Ex. 20:4-6 | 27. | "I'm Free, Part 3"
John 8:31-36 |

All sermons giving in Aldersgate are recorded and available for copy. You may download them from our website, www.chicoaumc.org, or make a request to have one made on a CD at the computer table. We request a donation of \$2.00 for each CD. Thank you.

A Thank You!



Frances and Scott Allred want to thank the many people who attended their Open House on Saturday, December 8. They had an exciting time welcoming everyone and are thankful to those who brought gifts, even though they were not required. (They weren't rejected either!) People came constantly from 1:00 through 7 pm, and even stayed a little later. There were some special guests in the forms of Glen and Terry Raley from Marysville, Floyd and Donna Quenzer from Freson, and Johnny "Boomboom" and Carol Margetich from Penryn. First to arrive were the Raleys, the last were the Joyful Hosannas! It was a wonderful time!!!



The Vine

Happy New Year!

2018 was quite a year for me & our communities in Chico and Paradise. Thank you for your prayers and support.

To start 2019, the lessons in January are about our identities in Jesus. What does it mean to be a follower (or a disciple) of Jesus? What does Jesus say about following him?

I appreciate your support for the Vine with calendar sales and the recycling program of CA CRV cans and bottles (glass & plastic). I continue to collect the cans and bottles to provide money for youth activities. If you save your CRV items and bring them on Sunday's, let me know and I'll get it from you. You can also leave it in room 6, the youth room. If bringing them to church is hard for you, let me know and I'll arrange picking them up.

Thank you for your prayers for the Vine, the teens, the lessons, and for me. If you have questions about what's happening with the ministry, please let me know.

Larry Ducommun
Youth leader

Women's Christmas Brunch



Thirty-six women gathered at the Gaffney residence to celebrate our Saviors birth with a Christmas brunch. We enjoyed stratas and quiches along with cinnamon rolls, blueberry muffins and fresh fruit.

Thanks to Mary, Janice, Cheryl, Katya, Linda and Sara for their efforts to put together the brunch.

After brunch we gathered together to sing Christmas carols and to have a white-elephant gift exchange. A fun time seemed to be had by all attending.

Thanks again to Mary Gaffney for allowing us the use of her home. She is a great hostess.



For Another Year

Precious Father, thank you for another year.
Thank you for the year just past
For the joys and sorrows
For the laughter and tears
For the lessons learned and your
Patience in teaching us
For the people whose lives we've touched and
For those who touched mine
For answers to prayer and the privilege
Of coming to you in prayer
For a year filled with your presence

Thank you for the year just ahead
For the hope it holds
For the promises it proclaims
For the expectation of greater things
For the anticipation of what lies in the distance
For the opportunities you'll give me to
Bless others and for others blessing me
For 365 unseen days overflowing with your grace

-Jonathan Dukes

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Women's Bible Study 9:45 – 10:45 am Church office	2 NO Pastor Scott's Bible Study	3 Praise team 7:00 pm Choir 5:30	4 Celebrate Recovery 7pm	5
6 Epiphany: "But You, Bethlehem...." Matt. 2:1-12 The Vine 5:00 pm	7	8 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Women's Bible Study 9:45 – 10:45 am Church office	9 Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	10 Praise team 7:00 pm Choir 5:30	11 Celebrate Recovery 7pm	12
13 "I'm Free, Part 1" Ex. 20:4-6 The Vine 5:00 pm	14 Trustees meeting 6:00 Rm 7-8pm Finance team 7:00 pm	15 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Women's Bible Study 9:45 – 10:45 am Church office	16 Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	17 Praise team 7:00 pm Choir 5:30	18 Celebrate Recovery 7pm (Dinner)	19 Men's breakfast 8:00am Rm 7-8
20 "I'm Free, Part 2" Chron. 7:11-16 The Vine 5:00 pm	21 Leadership meeting 6:00 Rm 7-8	22 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Women's Bible Study 9:45 – 10:45 am Church office	23 Pastor Scotts Bible Study 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Rm 7-8	24 Praise team 7:00 pm Choir 5:30	25 Celebrate Recovery 7pm	26
27 "I'm Free, Part 3" John 8:31-36 The Vine 5:00 pm	28	29 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Cozy Dinner Women's Bible Study 9:45 – 10:45 am Church office	30 NO Pastor Scott's Bible Study	31 Praise team 7:00 pm Choir 5:30		

Birthdays

Doug Hays	1/5
Susan Patterson	1/7
Angel Korte	1/15
Teri Schell	1/16
Donna Hood	1/19
Neal Neuenburg	1/21
Louise Halfen	1/26
Ron Wootten	1/27
Barbara Moon	1/28