



The Open Door

A publication of Aldersgate United Methodist Church
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A Church of open hearts, open minds, open doors

MAY 8TH



A little over two months ago Shelley notified the church that she was retiring effective May 30th. For the last two issues of the Open Door there has been an article asking for someone to step forward and fill the position. The job is a voluntary position as the church presently doesn't have the means to hire a paid person. Aside from that, the job only requires 3-4 hours a week and the schedule is flexible so you can pick your own hours.

At this point Shelley has about 30 days left. And, so far, there have been no volunteers. You can read the job description, as provided by Shelly, on the last page of this newsletter. One person said that the description was intimidating. There is a lot there, but many of the items to be done are only done infrequently and take little time. If there are questions, Shelley would be happy to talk with you if she is still available.

The leadership team would love to have someone in place in time for Shelley to show you the ropes as it would make the transition much easier for all.

HELP WANTED

Pastor Scott's Corner

In 1969, The Bee Gees, otherwise known as the Brothers Gibb, released an album named *Odessa*, a double album set. The only song on it that was released for the radio waves was the song entitled, "First of May." I've liked it from the first time I heard it... in 1969. It has somewhat of a haunting melody, and it always seemed sad to me. So here it is, almost May, and this song is in my mind. Here are the first two verses:

When I was small
And Christmas trees were tall
We used to laugh while others used to play
Don't ask me why
But time has passed us by
Someone else moved in from far away

(Barry, Maurice, Robin Gibb, 1969)

Now we are tall
And Christmas trees are small
And you don't ask the time of day
But you and I
Our love will never die
To kiss and cry, "Come, first of May"

As I read those words I can hear the music, but I must confess, I never knew what the song was about. In fact, as often happens with much music, what I "heard" them sing was not correct. I thought they sang, "But guess who cried come first of May." But instead, they sang "To kiss and cry..." Even so, someone is crying on First of May, but why? My curiosity piqued. Today's internet can be valuable, and the following is what I found:

In the liner notes for the trio's box set *Tales from The Brothers Gibb*, Barry revealed that the song owed some of its inspiration to the fact that May 1 was the birthday of his and his wife's dog. "When Linda and I first moved into an apartment near St. Paul's Cathedral," he wrote, "we got ourselves a Pyrenean mountain dog and named him Barnaby. The idea came from then. Sad to say, Barnaby's gone but the song lives on. (UDiscoverMusic.com)

Ah ha! There is sadness as the basis for this song; I thought so but didn't know why. The dog, Barnaby, born on May 1, had died. Yet, every May 1 he is remembered. That explains another line in the song, "The day I kissed your cheek, and you were gone."

All of us have dates in our lives like a first of May. For some of us these dates are recent, for others, a long time ago. I was thinking a few days ago that my dad would have turned 90 this July; he died when he was 62. On July 15 I will think of him. That was my brother-in-law's birthdate as well; being the same age as me, he would have turned 64 this year. July 15 will be a first of May for Frances and me. We used to kiss their cheeks, but now they are gone.

Yes, all of us have a first if May, or even several. I was thinking of this as we are about to conclude our look at the Book of Revelation in my Wednesday bible study. In the midst of these "first of Mays" for us, there is a promise I hold on to, Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them. (Rev. 14:13) Yes, Amen! Even though I mourn and weep on a First of May, I can also rejoice that for my dad and Roger, and the many others I have known who have died, those who are in the Lord will live!! So, I weep AND celebrate!! It's a paradox that often confuses unbelievers, but it is true for those of us in the Lord!

And then there is another promise that we look forward to, while the people we remember on a First of May already know and experience: "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Rev. 21:3-4)

The old things have passed away! We might still remember the first of May, and we will for as long as we live, but praise be to God and the work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, death has no hold on us.

Amen, and Thank God!! My prayers are with you



Sermons for the Month of May

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| 1. | The Seven Living Virtues "Goodness"
II Peter 1:3-9 | II Peter 1:6 |
| 8. | Mother's Day: "Solomon's Choice"
I Kings 3:16-28 | 31. Memorial Day Weekend
"Perseverance"
II Peter 1:6 |
| 15. | Virtues: "Knowledge"
II Peter 1:5 | |
| 22. | "Self-Control" | |

Pastor Scott is starting a new series the first of May titled "The Seven Living Virtues." Perhaps you have heard for "The Seven Deadly Sins?" You can't find those listed anywhere in the Scriptures, but these Seven Virtues are prominent in the opening of II Peter. For seven weeks, with interruptions for Mother's Day, Pentecost, and Father's Day, he will be looking at each of these Virtues.

We are currently worshipping publicly each Sunday at 10 AM in our Sanctuary. You are welcome to join us. All sermons at Aldersgate are recorded, audibly as well as visually. You can listen to them via our website, ChicoAUMC.org, on Facebook both through Pastor Scott's Wall or our Chico Aldersgate Church Wall, and we will send you the links via email.

If you wish, you may ask for a copy to be made on a CD in our Sanctuary. A donation of \$2 is requested for a such. Be blessed!

Pastor's Bible Study

Scott's Wednesday Bible Study continues in the examination of the Book of Revelation, and will be concluding it either in May, or the last week of April. What will be an examination of the Book of Matthew.

A New Testament study was requested after the last several years of being in Jeremiah, the Psalms, and Genesis and Exodus before that. The last Gospel, Pastor Scott explored, was John. Although he has examined Matthew before it has been a while.

This Class continues twice each Wednesday The class happens Wednesday at 10 AM and 7 PM. The 7 PM Class is offered as in person or a Zoom, while the 10 AM class will be in person only. If you want to join the Zoom Study, contact Pastor Scott at Aldersgaterev@gmail.com.

Friday Night Light!

We did not have a Light Night in April due to the Holy Week and Easter events. It will resume again in May!! It will also be held a week earlier due to Memorial Day Weekend being on the normal Fourth Friday. Friday, May 20, starting at 6 PM we will have a dinner, Missional Opportunity, and then... a Film!! "What?? Again???"

Wait, this one should be special. Through a donation we now hold a license to show films in our Sanctuary. So, Pastor Scott would like us to view the 2016 Film "Risen." The film, starring Joseph Fiennes and Cliff Curtis, tells this story as described in the IMDB website: "In 33 AD, a Roman Tribune in Judea is tasked to find the missing body of Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead." Although fiction, it is still a moving portrayal of Jesus and the Apostles in the days after the Resurrection. It is done well and is thought provoking.

The film will be at 7, dinner at 6. Currently, we don't have a host for the dinner. If you would like to do that, talk with Pastor Scott.

Barbecue Sunday!

It's time again for our Annual After-Worship Barbecue! We normally hold it on the second Sunday of the month, but this year that is Annual Conference Weekend, and Pastor Scott and Chris Gardner will be gone. (Since Chris is our cook, his absence will be HUGE!!) The weekend before it is Pentecost, the weekend after is Father's Day, so we are going to hold it on Sunday, June 26!!

Our Worship Service will be at its normal time of 10 a.m. with the Barbecue being held at the end of the service. The main item will be provided, please bring a dish or two to share with others! It will be a wonderful day of worship, Word, and food! Mark your calendars today!!

Music Notes

Many thanks to all, church family, as we continue with our “blended” musical services! Going from two distinct services musically to one means potentially many are “left out” in the singing due to unfamiliarity. But you’ve risen to the opportunity! I appreciate your willingness to submit to one another’s musical tastes.

To help out, the musical videos that I produce weekly will now be online by Friday (instead of Saturday https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNbpAgKsA_wY0wXsz9iD9pA). This will allow you to acquaint yourselves with unfamiliar songs or hymns before we gather on Sunday morning. Our congregational singing, which is, and has always been very good, can be even greater - not for us, but for the worship of our great God!

Our goal in gathering each week is to...worship! To turn our often-selfish attention elsewhere. To focus our hearts on our Savior. To renew our minds with the soul-altering truths of divine Scripture. The expressions of our united hearts in vibrant singing are a powerful testimony of God’s truth and presence. May we each be fully engaged in worship as fully devoted followers! For His Kingdom. For His glory.

Clark Minor, music director

Trustees Report



Refurbished tower

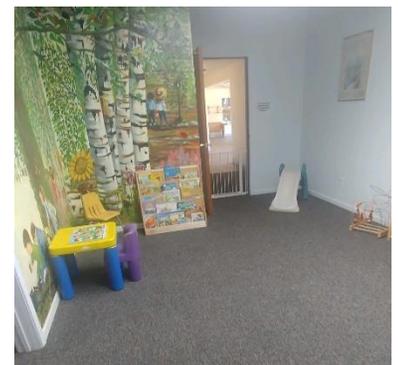
Prior to Easter, in anticipation of possibly having children at Easter service, the carpets were professionally steam cleaned, the toys were gone thru, and some were replaced.

On Saturday, April 23, we had a church workday.

During the week prior to the workday the carpets in rooms 7&8 and the carpet in the Sunday school wing hall were steam cleaned. Also, the choir room was reorganized, the music file cabinets gone thru, and many obsolete items being discarded.

The trustees would like to thank those that took the time to participate in the workday. The things that were accomplished were:

- The tower at the front entrance was refurbished. The stucco was repaired, it and the cross and flame, at the top, were painted and new LED lights were installed at the top of the tower to illuminate the parking area and the cross and flame. It has been several years since the lights were functional.
- The windows across the front of the church were cleaned.
- The carpets were vacuumed, and the bathrooms cleaned.
- The remainder of the overhead lights in the Sunday school wing were replaced with LED lights and the lighting in the choir room were repaired.
- The toys used in the outside play area were cleaned.
- The chairs in the preschool room were cleaned.
- The gutters were cleaned.



Nursery is ready for guests

And... in case you haven’t noticed. There are two new maple trees in the lawn, in front of the office, to replace the zelkova removed last year because of its declining health and the safety concerns it caused.



Leadership

Leadership did not have a meeting last month. Next meeting will be at the end of May on the 30th. We would like to thank the trustees for their workday. We would also like to thank Shelley for covering the office on Monday mornings. But now we need an office volunteer to help with the reports to the conference, sending out the prayer requests and sending the sermon topic to the newspaper. Please talk to one of your leadership team if you can help.

Finance Report

Thank you all for your financial gifts for March 2022. The offerings were close to \$4,000 more than February's Offerings, Praise God. However, we are behind our Budget at this time. Here are the words of Christine Pico, our Treasurer:

*"In reviewing p.6 Prior Year Comparison Report, total contributions for March 2022 of \$14,016. It is an increase of \$3,544 compared to last month; however, compared to March of last year, it is a **\$7,421** decrease. In comparing the contributions for the month of March over the last 10 years. March 2022 is the lowest.*

*Contributions to the General Fund for March are \$13,030.58. Total expenses for March are \$14,263.26. The General Funds Net Income for March is **-\$1,232.68.**"*

Thank you, Christine for your good work, and thank you people of Aldersgate for your support. Please keep this part of our ministry in prayer.

J. Scott Allred

In Memory



Carolyn Taylor, an active member and the choir director prior to Clark, died on April 24th. Her husband Joe preceded her in death. Keep the family in prayer, please.

Birthdays

Bryan Graves	5/17
Robert Wells	5/19
Rebekah Wootten	5/19
Frances Allred	5/22
Stacy Nelson	5/31

Anniversaries

Bobbie and Mike Dege	5/1/2016
Courtney & Zachary Howe	5/6/2018

Office Volunteer sought

For those interested, please contact Shelley Young at 530-893-5467 or <briar555@msn.com>. There will be an extensive orientation period with follow-up as needed. My last day is May 31st.

Days & Hours:

- Monday or Tuesday essential plus a flexible schedule “for things that come up”!
- Can set own hours--currently 3 hours, one day a week will be sufficient for weekly tasks.

Essential Skills/Attributes:

- Highly computer competent
- Task oriented and able to deal with minutia
- Self-directed
- Have a well-developed sense of humor
- Enjoy interacting with Pastor Scott
- Enjoy interacting with Leadership Team and Board of Trustees chairs and members
- When COVID is over, enjoy meeting the public in person as well as and on the phone

Every week task:

- Answer telephone, take messages and email the information to the person involved. Pick up messages from answering machine and email pastor with requests.
- Pick up mail from mailbox; sort, stamp with date and put in specified folders/wall boxes.
- Compile prayer list and send weekly to Prayer Chain. Send out prayer requests from message machine.
- Fill out electronic Vital Signs for Cal Nev Conference.
- Send weekly sermon topic to Enterprise Record religion editor.

Tasks on a monthly or yearly time frame:

- Forward Ken Lind’s request for Open Door articles. Forward any articles sent to church office to Ken.
- Forward Open Door by email to All AUMC; Make copies to snail mail to list of members who don’t have email.
- Order from Cokesbury special holiday letterhead & giving envelopes: Easter, Thanksgiving & Christmas.
- Format Pastor Scott’s holiday letters: then copy, label the envelopes and mail the three Holiday letters with giving envelopes: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas.
- Purchase office supplies including stamps; fill out reimbursement form and attach receipt. Put in Treasurer’s file. Purchase yearly calendars for office & Pastor.
- Update membership list and directory.
- For Church Conference: Compile average attendance; make list of first & second reading of people who no longer attend worship, or prayer groups or do not donate—check list with Pastor and Financial Secretary. Calculate membership numbers including deaths, baptisms, and transfers. Forward to person doing PowerPoint.

A Recent History of the Church Office:

When I started volunteering about six years ago the church office was staffed with 6 volunteers each covering one day a week for four hours. The office was open 5 days a week. We had a Sunday School program, plus, Awana and a Youth Program. Plus, there were two worship services and an active choir and praise team. Therefore each “volunteer day” had its own set of tasks and a volunteer to handle those tasks. When the pandemic hit and the church closed, so did the office. Nearly all the individual tasks were either eliminated or done by someone outside the office. All the volunteers stopped coming because of the mandate and because their tasks had been eliminated. Since my tasks, as Monday volunteer remained, so did I. I also picked up the few remaining tasks from the other days. That is the state of the office currently. The attached description breaks down those tasks into a weekly list and then a monthly/yearly list. It is possible for one volunteer to manage the office one day a week as it is currently set up. There appears to be no plan for a change in that set up for the foreseeable future. I hope this explains the information in the attached request for a volunteer beginning June 1st.

Blessings, Shelley Young