



# 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*

## **Pastor Scott and Frances' Goodbye!**

Dear Friends of Aldersgate. Frances and I really want to thank you for the very nice party and lunch you gave us on Sunday, June 25. It was very nice, emotional, and a blessing. I want to thank the Leadership Team that took several months putting it together; I know because they kept kicking me out of the meetings! I loved the movie theme, the trivia, the music, and the goodbye! It made for a very nice last day!

We made it safely to Fresno that afternoon and evening, arriving here at 8:15. Our stuff has been delivered, and Frances is calling this "Hell Week" – you ought to see this place filled with boxes!! I've tried wiggling my nose like Samantha in Bewitched, but it hasn't worked. Guess I've got to get busy!

Our new address is 6385 N Laureen, Fresno, CA 93710.

My new email is [Snottyisretired@gmail.com](mailto:Snottyisretired@gmail.com)

Frances' email is [retiredkinderteach@gmail.com](mailto:retiredkinderteach@gmail.com)

Please know that you will always have a place to stay if you want to visit us here in Fresno. We have guest rooms available... once we get the boxes out of them!

Thank you all for 12 good years. I hope you enjoy Scott and Clara for 12 more! My prayers are with you!



**... and now the first message from our new pastor, Scott Gessford (I'm not calling it 'Pastor Scotts Corner' unless he wants me to. Time well tell.**

Blessings Aldersgate Church Family,

For the last three years, I have been the Pastor of the Federated Church of Orland. The strange thing about this church is that it is about 60% Methodist and 40% Presbyterian! I have learned a great deal from this opportunity and have been blessed to spend the time I have working with them.

My wife, Clara, and I have three children, four grandchildren, and two furry kids. Clara works in education. She has worked for Pierce Joint Unified School District for the last eighteen years and has recently taken on a new job, running the extended learning and after school programs for the entire district. She has a gift with children and loves her job. We have had the privilege of loving and being each other's best friend for the last twenty-seven years. Our oldest daughter Candace lives in Arbuckle with her husband William and our four grandchildren. Rylie loves her horse, Danny, volleyball and softball. Levi lives for football and basketball. Gauge loves football and being active. The youngest, Owen, is full energy. We love being grandparents because we get to do all the fun things and just spend time enjoying and supporting them in all their activities.

Our middle daughter, Alyson, is twenty-four. She is strong and independent. She was diagnosed with Autism but has never let that slow her down or hinder her in any way. She works hard and has accomplished so many things. She is high functioning but does struggle with social cues and interprets most things literally. She loves horses and dogs. She has a rescue dog named Willow. They spend a lot of time together. She has learned to train dogs and service dogs, which she loves very much!

Our youngest, Mathew will be twenty-one in a few short days. Matthew was always our social butterfly. Matthew is very smart and has enjoyed sports. He played baseball but really loved the time he spent boxing. Life changed for Matthew when he was fourteen. Matthew and his best friend were in welding class. His friend caught on fire. Matthew was the first to see what was happening and helped to put the fire out and to go get help. Unfortunately, Manny was burned over 75% of his body. By the grace of God Manny is still with us and home living the best life he can. However, this experience has left Matthew with PTSD. He has good and bad days. He is triggered by sirens, the smell of smoke, and has panic attacks sometimes. He has a corgi named Beta that really helps him to stay busy and comforts him when he is having a rough time.

My family and I were very excited to get the call that we would be moving to Chico to join your church family. It is our hope and goal to get to know each of you. Hopefully, the struggles with the covid-19 is behind us now. We are looking forward to getting to know every one of you and are very excited to begin our journey together!

Let's work together to navigate all of the challenges before us and bring our praises, prayers, and concerns to the Lord. Allow God to comfort and guide us in all we do. The verse that grounds and gives me comfort is Joshua 1:9. Be Strong and Courageous for the Lord our God is with you wherever you go. It is so powerful and comforting to know that no matter what curve ball life throws at us, the Lord our God is always with us. He is our comfort and our strength. God will guide us through any challenge we might face. During our first worship service together I will be using this verse to explain my ministry and the meaning behind it for me.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Scott Gessford

**More Pastor Scott Gessford**

The following is an exert from a letter received from the conference, when pastor Scott's appointment was announced to the Leadership team, with a few extra tidbits.

Pastor Scott is currently serving the Orland Federated Church. Prior to that he served the Tehama United Methodist Ministries which is a cooperative parish that includes Red Bluff, Los Molinos, Cone and El Camino United Methodist Churches. Prior to becoming a pastor Scott served the Arbuckle and Williams United Methodist Churches as a Certified Lay Minister. He brings to ministry a strong commitment to prayer, a passion for preaching, a love of teaching, a heart for mission and a focus to equip lay people for their ministry.

## Sermons for the month of July

- 2 Be Strong & Courageous  
Joshua 1:1-10
9. The walk to Emmaus  
Luke:13-35

16. The great commission  
Matthew 28: 16-20
- 23, 30. to be announced

Thank You!! Thank You!! Thank You!!

It may take a village to raise a child! However, it takes a congregation to carry off a retirement celebration for Pastor Scott and Frances!!!!

There are so many people who made it go well: Clark and the Praise team for both worship and the program, Larry's amazing video, Diane as MC, Skot's trivia, Joe Hejl for bar-b-que-ing the tri tip, and Marva and her flurry of helpers who distributed the cake! Thank you to everyone who brought delicious salads, beans and rolls.

There was more than enough to feed close to 80 people and for those who wanted seconds to have them!! Thank you to all the wonderful people who helped set up on Saturday, tidy up on Sunday and on Monday to put the tables away and rearrange the chairs.



And finally, thank you to all whose generous donations made the gift cards possible! Randy and I are so grateful for all of your participation! It was a good send off!

## Leadership Update

Leadership would like to say a big thank you to all of you that helped during this time of transition from Pastor Scott Allred to the new Pastor Scott Gessford. Many of you helped with the yard sale, packing and cleanup after Scott and Francie left for their new home in Fresno.

There were too many helping, to be named, as I do not want to miss any names.

We would like to offer a thank you to Joe Hejl, for coming, with his trailer, to barbecue those delicious Tri Tips for the retirement party and thanks, also to Shelley and Randy, for organizing the send-off potluck, decorations, and program.

Please welcome our new Pastor Scott and his wife, Clara, along with, their two adult children, at home, Alyson and Matthew. Their other daughter, Candace and four grandchildren, live in Arbuckle, so Scott will have Saturdays off for all their sport activities. We will have a welcome ice cream social in July after Scott and family get settled in the house in Chico. Watch for the announcement for the date and time.

On the Gessford's first few Sundays, please print your name on a name tag provided in the narthex to help them learn all our names.



## **Trustees**

The Trustees were able to complete a couple of projects, this past month, that have taken some time. They changed phone and internet providers, from ATT to Verizon. This was because our contract with ATT ended, and as a result the monthly bill doubled, and along with the long-standing problem with extremely poor internet it was decided to try someone different. The cost of using Verizon is a fraction of what ATT had been charging. The internet will surely be better. Only time will tell.

The other project, if you haven't noticed, is that the opening between us and the office complex next door has been closed, to cars, with a decorative wall, and their trash dumpster has been returned to their side of the property line. This was all accomplished through Brian Graves efforts. This was done to reduce non church traffic through our parking lot and cut down on wear and tear to the asphalt.



If there are other issues that you think need to be addressed, feel free to talk to a member of the Board of Trustees for consideration.

## **Birthdays**

Ruthie Holland	7/8	Pastor Scott Allred	7/24
Marvin Stelle	7/15	Chris Gardner	7/24
Maxine Keefer	7/19	Megan Loy	7/28
Melody Neuenburg	7/20		

## **A few pictures from the party**







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