Journeys with Judy
Go With God!

It is hard to say Good-bye in any language. In Spanish, the formal phrase *Vaya Con Dios!* means “Goes with God.” In Hawaiian, “Aloha” is the same for hello as well as good-bye. It breaks down into the words sharing the breath or essence of life. It also means, *affection, love, peace, compassion* and *mercy.*

While the movers have loaded and taken my personal belonging to ship them to Ukiah, CA, it still does not seem real in some ways. I feel so fully your pastor as I have been these last three years. On this is an oddly sunny day after days on rain, I feel torn at planning to leave.

I’m really grateful for the wonderful times we have had together. We have grown in ministry and we’ve seen each other thru a lot of changes as people have moved away, graduated from school, church staff have changed, people have died and life has continued.

Our ministry has been filled with many accomplishments. From creating our youth group, to enhancing worship, and strengthening our financial stewardship and attendance, expanding education for all ages, and much more - there is much to celebrate. We have also discussed many dreams and there is much that Aldersgate can continue to accomplish.

I’ve never left a church feeling regrets that I did not accomplish something. My health limits here kept me from completing rich possibilities of young adult and college ministries and the founding of an Aldersgate Community Garden. It is my prayer that God continue this work.

In the exit interview with the Staff Parish Relations Committee, I was grateful to hear that both my Interplay (movement, voice and stillness) and the class Discovering Your Creative Self were appreciated and some people would have liked more of that. Those are things I would love to share more. It helps to celebrate what worked well!

There are many ministries that Aldersgate has done. There are good minis- Continued on page 4
Starting June 1st we will be on our Summer Worship schedule. Sunday Worship will be at 10:00am.

Pastoral Care while Pastor Judy attends Alaska UM Conference in Homer May 31 – June 6. Our Lay Leader, Sandi Pahlke, our Lay Delegate and Barb Mitchell our Alternate Delegate and will also be attending Conference. Pastor Tari Stage-Harvey, of Shepherd of the Valley will be covering pastoral emergencies, 789-4093.

Pastor Judy’s Last Sunday ~ Sunday June 19th, A Celebration of Our Ministry Together in worship and a farewell potluck picnic following worship. A sign-up sheet for the potluck will be out soon, watch for more info in the TW@A. Please contact Amy Ely in the Church Office for more information.

You’re Invited to celebrate the marriage of Shelly Smith and Richard Schmitz’s June 18 at 2:00pm.

The congregation is invited to attend! Shelly and Richard are asking that instead of gifts, an offering be made for the children and youth ministry of Aldersgate! The reception will be a potluck so please bring a potluck dish to share. Please RSVP to Shelly at 780-5262 or srsmith@acsalaska.net. If you plan to bring a dish or would like to help in some other way, please contact Shelly.
CHURCHES INVITE COMMUNITY TO SUMMER FAMILY FAITH NIGHTS

Hey kids, grab your favorite grown-ups and mark your summer activities calendars. Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, and St. Brendan’s Episcopal Church invite the community to three free Family Faith Nights, 5:00 to 7:30 p.m., on the following Sundays; June 12, July 10, and August 14.

Family Faith Nights are designed for families of all ages, shapes and sizes (moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, best friends, brothers, sisters, and kids of all ages). Each night features a different theme and the activities - dinner, worship, and faith building activities - surround that theme. Everyone is encouraged to attend all three nights.

The first Family Faith Night will take place at 5 p.m., Sunday, June 12 at St. Brendan’s Episcopal Church. Participants will take part in an Outback Adventure. You’ll take on the outback as you “carve” your own petroglyph and go on a walkabout.

The July 10 Family Faith Night is a Top Secret Spy Adventure and will take place at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

On August 14 it will be held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church and features a Huddle Up Football Adventure.

On the first night, families will receive a “passport.” If you have your passport stamped at all three Family Faith Nights, you can turn it in to receive a special gift (one per family group). **We need several volunteers: adults who will accompany children who come without adults, two to be greeters.** For further information, call one of the participating churches; Aldersgate at 789-4050, Shepherd of the Valley at 789-4093, or St. Brendan’s at 789-5152.

Eagle River United Methodist Camp in Juneau is seeking a resident year round manager.

Duties include hospitality, reservations, and maintenance. Housing provided. Must pass state and federal background check.

Send a letter of application with qualifications and references to: ERUMC Director, PO Box 211285, Auke Bay, AK 99821.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters**

**News from Big Brothers Big Sisters:** Currently, BBBS needs school mentors who can volunteer at Harborview, Auke Bay, Glacier Valley and Riverbend elementary schools. Some of the biggest supporters of the School Program are Juneau teachers. They see students come back from their time with their mentor filled with confidence, smiling big, ready to learn and eager to succeed. It only takes an hour a week to make a BIG difference! Please spread the word to family, friends and co-workers. Enroll today, get interviewed over the summer at your convenience and be matched next school year. It’s that simple! Call 586-3350 or visit [www.bbbsak.org](http://www.bbbsak.org) for more information.

Thank You’s

- Thank you to the Nurture Team and others for a wonderful all church retreat at the Shrine!
- Thank you to Russ Shivers for the wonderful Sandwich Board that allows us to post info.
- To all of Aldersgate, Thank you very much for your support of my celebration of Graduating High School. I would like you all to know that as I walked on stage, I thought about all those that have supported me. I couldn’t help but smile when I thought about good ol’ Aldersgate! ~ From Daniel
Lots of great news about United Methodist Ministries around Alaska:
go to:
http://www.alaskaumc.org

In the United Methodist Book of Worship’s liturgy of farewell for the ending of an appointment, the pastor leaving says these words: “I thank (Aldersgate), its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last (3) years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.” The congregation says: “We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.” Then the pastor says: “I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.”

On June 19, we’ll celebrate Our Ministries Together in worship and a picnic to follow. June 20, I’ll load onto the ferry to head south.

It can be hard to say goodbye. While none of us are perfect, we have served God well in these 3 years. Let’s continue to do that together in the time we have left.

Blessings and Love on Your Journeys,
Pastor Judy Shook

What’s New in Aldersgate UMC Community

Thank you everyone who fed the Pigs Our Pigs on a Mission for May raised $93.88 for Raine Shannara

May’s Attendance:

Our Red Wagon gathers food for our Valley Food Bank, unless otherwise specified. This little wagon will be making an appearance every Sunday. Please bring in any non-perishable items to help us fill the wagon!

June’s Glory Hole Servers - We have no one signed up to be servers at the Glory hole on Saturday June, 18th, Please sign-up to Serve on the clipboard by the nametags. If you have questions please contact Keith Pahlke.

We would like to have a Birthday/Anniversary Section in this newsletter so if we can wish you a Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary or other special occasion please email us, at: aumcjuneau@gci.net, your information and I will include it in the newsletter.

Youth Group Scoop!

Stay tuned to your emails and the This Week at Aldersgate as there are a number of Youth Group Activities being planned.

Which may include a trip to the new pool, remodeling/ redecorating the Youth Room above the garage, an obstacle course and others.

For more information to anything related to the youth group please contact Marie Lam 790-3358 or Rachel Gladhart 209-8274
ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. (UMNS) — United Methodist bishops must lead, rather than lean, into the church’s future, Bishop Larry M. Goodpaster, President of the Council of Bishops, told the Council May 2.

TOLEDO, Ohio (UMNS) — With a billboard message declaring that “Being Gay is a Gift from God,” a small Ohio congregation, Central United Methodist Church, has made a giant statement sure to stir debate.

DETROIT (UMNS) — A policy adopted, but not yet implemented, by United Methodists in New York and Connecticut that would have allowed clergy to marry someone of the same sex has been declared “null, void and of no effect” by the Judicial Council, the denomination’s top court.

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. (UMNS) — United Methodist bishops voted overwhelmingly May 2 to support folding the denomination’s ecumenical agency, the Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns, and its work into the Council of Bishops.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — U.S. and international Methodist-related education associations, representing some 770 international institutions and 121 U.S. schools, colleges and universities, will hold their first joint conference July 24-28 in Washington.

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. (UMNS) — The United Methodist Council of Bishops meeting, which concluded May 6, was the first such gathering to be paperless. Bishops viewed reports and proposals either on their own tablets or laptops or on one of 74 Nooks purchased for this and future bishop meetings.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — Two groups responsible for denominational budgets quickly accepted proposed overall budget reductions. For the first time in the history of The United Methodist Church, even the best-case budget projection called for a reduction in the actual dollars available for funding general-church operations.

NEW YORK (UMNS) — Last month’s outbreak of powerful tornadoes left a whirlwind of need in its wake. “In the 13 years I’ve worked in U.S. disaster response, there never has been a series of emergencies as widespread as what we’re seeing this year,” said the Rev. Tom Hazelwood of the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

MENTOR, Ohio (UMNS) — On Change the World Weekend, members of Mentor United Methodist Church planted azaleas in a nursing home, cleaned a thoroughfare, cooked for homeless folks, signed up for a Volunteers in Mission trip and led a Zumba dance class.

OMAHA, Neb. (UMNS) — Grammy-winner Sheryl Crow lent a hand at one of the United Methodist Big Garden sites on May 12.

MANCHESTER, England (UMNS) — A conversation between the chaplaincy team at Royal Bolton Hospital, which includes the Rev. Kathleen LaCamera, a United Methodist pastor, and the hospital’s palliative care consultant has resulted in "Dying for a Laugh," a film in which six comedians joke and reflect on the subject of death and dying.

Anchorage, AK (e~Aurora) - It is the intention of Bishop Hagiya to appoint the Rev. David Horning as pastor of First UMC, Fairbanks, effective August 1, 2011. Dave and his wife, Amie, who have 8 children between them are currently serving at St. Paul's UMC, Oxnard, CA.

MZUZU, Malawi (UMNS) — Inside a dilapidated building illuminated with only window light, women are learning to become entrepreneurs. The sewing school, started by a United Methodist pastor, has trained 11 poor women to start tailoring businesses.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — Since Jan. 1, 2011, legislators in seven states have introduced nine bills attacking evolution education. In response, some United Methodists are asking why science and the church can’t coexist. In 2008, General Conference passed a statement declaring scientific “descriptions of cosmological, geological, and biological evolution are not in conflict with theology.”
Pigs on a Mission: June Mission ~ UMCOR’s Spring Storm Advance.

MAY 26, 2011
From Bishop Schnase of the Missouri Conference

Subject: Schnase Note on Joplin Tornado

Dear Colleagues

I give God thanks for every one of you for your many kind emails, voice messages, phone calls, and expressions of concern following the devastating tornado that destroyed much of Joplin, MO. Among those killed were several United Methodists, and every United Methodist Church in the area has members who have lost their homes. All our pastors and church staff are safe. We lost two church buildings, including St. Paul United Methodist Church (a large, strong, vibrant congregation with an average attendance of close to 1000), and we lost the District Superintendent’s Office. Several other churches and parsonages received more limited damage. The hospital and five of the seven schools in Joplin were nearly completely destroyed.

The Missouri Conference Disaster Response team has been active and effective from the earliest hours, and many of our churches have sent trained First Responder teams. Tom Hazelwood from UMCOR was on the ground in Joplin within 24 hours. Many of you have generously offered funds directly to the Missouri Conference and others have expressed your intention of supporting the UMCOR Spring Storms appeal. All of your gifts are appreciated. In addition many have expressed their active interest in sending VIM teams to the area. Please refrain from doing so during the immediate days ahead since only highly trained and professional teams are on-site at this time. However, we shall covet your help during the weeks and months to come.

The city of Joplin was named after Rev. Harris Joplin, an early Methodist preacher who settled there in 1839. For years, he hosted people in his home and led them in worship, prayer, and singing. His ministry was one of hospitality in the truest sense, and he used his own humble dwelling as a tool for ministry. As far as I know, the building he used no longer exists, but the church community he founded provided the seeds from which dozens of area congregations have sprouted. All of us who are Missouri United Methodists are to some degree the fruit of his ministry.

Tornadoes and hurricanes and floods and fires can take away our beloved and sacred places in a moment’s time, but the love of God that binds us to another is not nearly so vulnerable. God’s persistent and persevering love causes us to reach out to help a neighbor and to embrace strangers and to assist one another in the rebuilding of lives. The church is not the pile of lumber and bricks left after the destroying winds and rains; the church is the gathering of people standing above the rubble unified by the spirit of Christ to love and serve others. The church is the people counseling one another through unfathomable grief and loss. The church is people risking lives for their neighbors and opening their homes to strangers. The church is people across the state and nation and world praying and giving and preparing to offer their best and highest in service to help rebuild lives. The church is alive and vigorous and redeeming. It is grace in every gesture and love in every action. The church is the body of Christ doing the things Jesus did in Jesus’ name today.

Thanks to you, United Methodists will rebuild in Joplin. On behalf of others of our colleagues whose areas have been affected by tornados and floods, I strongly encourage you to lift up the UMCOR Spring Storms appeal. Funds at UMCOR are extraordinarily low right now, and this severely limits our capacity to act quickly and effectively during times of tragedy. Your help is appreciated.

Yours in Christ,
Robert Schnase, Missouri Conference

HOW YOU CAN HELP

From the office of Creative Ministries-Missouri Conference

Dear Friends,

You have indicated your desire to serve those affected by recent disasters in the state of Missouri via our online form. Our conference is so very grateful for the overwhelming support and encouragement we have received in the wake of the tornado in Joplin. Thank you.

While we are in the coordination phase of this disaster you can expect to receive updates in this format. As volunteer opportunities become available I will share them with you in an email like this. Here are some things for you to know now:

We are currently arranging the utilization of trained Early Response Teams (ERT’s). ERT’s are individuals or groups who have been through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Basic Training course, have completed their Annual Conference Background Check procedures and have received an UMCOR ERT badge. In the early phases of disaster it is important for us to utilize teams with the knowledge of extreme disaster scenarios, debris removal policies (for insurance companies, FEMA, SEMA, etc.), and with a good understanding of what it means to provide appropriate spiritual and emotional support to disaster survivors. The ERT Basic course equips volunteers to enter a disaster scenario with a solid understanding of these areas. If you are interested in attending an ERT Basic training course contact your local Volunteers in Mission or Disaster Coordinator via your Jurisdictional Coordinator.

If you are not part of an ERT there are still things you can do now to serve the people of Joplin. In Missouri, through the Festival of Sharing, we are collecting Emergency Clean Up Buckets and Personal Hygiene Packs. Contents of the buckets and packs as well as drop off sites within the state of Missouri can be found on our website. Emergency Clean Up Buckets can also be donated through UMCOR distribution centers. These kits are needed now and will be for future disasters as well. Monetary donations are especially useful at this time as they can be used for immediate and long term needs. You can make online donations via the Missouri Conference Office of Creative Ministries website at www.umcom.org or through UMCOR's Spring Storm fund.

Joplin, Missouri has been overwhelmed by the generous donations of materials goods, but is struggling with the amount of unaffiliated donations that are being dropped off all the time. Please keep this in mind as you plan your future response to the Joplin disaster.

Thank-you all again for your generous support. Please keep the people of Joplin in your prayers as they work to rebuild their lives.

Blessings,
Audrey Phelps, Missouri Conference, Volunteers in Mission
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