

The 'GATE

See what we have been up to at
CAMP ALDERSGATE

The 'GATE

Volume 6—Winter 2017

70th Anniversary

2017 marked the 70th anniversary of Camp Aldersgate. On Saturday, August 5th, Alumni, Campers, and Staff alike gathered to celebrate the past 70 years of ministry on these grounds, and to pray for the future of this ministry. Here is an excerpt from the message shared that day:

"I don't know about you, but when I think about what we are celebrating today, I get goose bumps. Think about it: today we are celebrating the 70th birthday of Camp Aldersgate. This place was started in 1947 with the signing of a lease from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. That makes 70 years of summer campers and retreat guests enjoying these grounds. 70 years of people singing silly camp songs, eating good food, making new friends, jumping in the lake, and having tons of fun. 70 years of campers and guests being unplugged, being out in God's creation amongst the beautiful nature, trees, and starry night sky. And most importantly, 70 years of campers and guests accepting Christ into their hearts for the first time on these grounds; 70 years of rededicating or re-kindling their relationship with Christ; 70 years of hearing their call to ministry; 70 years of life change and growth. I don't know about you, but I think that is something worth celebrating."

Please join us in praying a prayer of thanksgiving for the past and for continued blessings for the future.



We Need Your Help: Aldersgate History & Alumni Website

At our 70th Anniversary celebration, Aldersgate launched an exciting project: A History and Alumni Website. With this web page, we hope to provide a place for you to reminisce: to look at old staff photos, read newsletters from past years, see how the grounds have changed over the decades, read through staff histories, and more! Camp Aldersgate has a rich history that started all the way back in 1947. With this website we hope to celebrate and remember that history.

This is a project that we need help to complete. You can see what we have completed so far at www.campaldersgate.org on the "History and Alumni" page. If you can help us fill in the gaps or send us pictures, please submit to director@campaldersgate.org or mail to 3276 Dyewood Rd. SW, Carrollton, OH 44615.



Camp Gets Some Upgrades!

Air Conditioning

This past spring we installed air conditioning units in every cabin in addition to central A/C in the Lodge & Dining Hall. Campers, staff and guest groups alike were thrilled to be able to live in a more comfortable setting, get adequate rest, and wake up refreshed to enjoy the next day at Camp. We definitely saw more positive energy in the campers. Thank you to our donors for helping us finance this upgrade!



New Stove in Kitchen



The camp kitchen got an upgrade this spring with a brand new 10-burner gas stove with 2 ovens. The kitchen staff sure put it to good use this summer cooking delicious food for our campers and staff! The old black gas stove, originally purchased around 1967, lived a good life and served camp well.

Cabin Changing Stalls

This summer we added a curtained stall in a corner of every cabin for campers to change privately. The cabins are one big room with bunk beds and no privacy. Now campers have the option to change in private if they desire. This provides campers with a sense of comfort.



Summer Camp Review

Summer 2017 was an awesome summer at Camp Aldersgate. Our theme this year was "Secrets of the Kingdom". Every day we studied a different parable (stories with secret encoded messages) that Jesus used to teach us life lessons. At the end of the week, we learned that these aren't secrets at all. Rather, we are called to share this good news with everyone we can. Campers were challenged to "keep this good thing going" by continuing their Morning Watch routine at home. Morning Watch has become our traditional personal devotional time that we use to start off each day. It is a quiet time set aside to be in relationship with Jesus and listen to what He has to say to us in our lives.

ACA Visit & Accreditation



Aldersgate is an American Camp Association accredited camp. Every few years the Association sends visitors to evaluate and update our accreditation according to hundreds of industry standards. This year was a visit year and we are proud to announce that we passed with flying colors and have renewed our esteemed accreditation.

Thank You to Our Volunteers!



Thank you to First UMC of Carrollton and the Jumagi Group for donating materials and organizing volunteer crews to install insulation and a finished dropped ceiling to cabins 5 and 6. This was part of our Air Conditioning Project. We are seeking help to do the same work to Cabins 7 and 8.



Thank you to Mayfield UMC for completing several projects around camp, including staining the stairs to the activity field.

Thank you to Katie R. who committed to volunteering once a week throughout the summer to help with mowing and weeding the flower beds.

Thank You To Our Donors!

Aldersgate has an amazing group of supporters, alumni and donors. All the support you give helps us go further faster into the work God has called us to do. Thank you for your generosity that is helping us provide life-changing experiences for amazing kids like these:



2017 Camper Evaluation Quotes

- "My counselor taught me that I am accepted. He was my friend and even felt like family. He helped me understand God's love and how we can show it to others." -7th Grader
- "I learned to take some time to slow down and appreciate God's creation." -5th Grader
- "My counselors were there for me and both prayed over me. It was amazing!" -6th Grader
- "I learned that it's just as important to respect yourself as it is to respect others." -8th Grader

Help Aldersgate Go Further Faster!

As you have read, we have been hard at work improving Camp Aldersgate for our campers and guests. However, there is only so far we can go with our limited financial resources and time.

Has camp been powerful and formative in your life or in the life of someone you love? If so, please consider one of these giving opportunities to help us go further faster and make Camp Aldersgate even better for all!

- 1) Camp Aldersgate is, of course, a lake camp! One of our Pontoon Boats is in desperate need of repair and the other one is at the end of its life. Any funds you donate to the **Pontoon Purchase/Renovation** project will help us to replace 1 boat entirely and renovate the other. We are hoping to raise \$15,000 to complete this project.



- 2) Another great way to give is with a partial or full **Campership**. (\$355) Sadly, many families cannot afford the price of this life-changing experience. By giving a Campership, you help a child experience camp that otherwise could not.
- 3) A great way to get involved is to organize a **volunteer work crew** from your church or business. The biggest need for the coming year is cabin insulating, staining projects, firewood cutting, trail/campfire spot clearing, and carpentry projects. Camp can accommodate work crews of up to 10 people, ages 12+. Call or Email to discuss projects and dates!

Two Ways To Give:

Online at www.campaldersgate.org or

Mail to camp at 3276 Dyewood Rd SW., Carrollton, OH 44615



**East Ohio Conference
Of The United Methodist Church**

P.O. BOX 2800

NORTH CANTON, OH 44720

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**Online Registration for
Summer Camp 2018 opens December 1st!**

NEW THIS YEAR! Looking for a perfect Christmas or Birthday gift for the Aldersgate Fan in your life? Think about how excited your grandchild, niece, child, or even neighbor friend would be to open up a gift certificate for Summer Camp 2018. Who in your life can you bless with this life-changing experience? Order yours today by calling 330-499-3972 ext 108.

**Aldersgate's
Open House!**

Saturday, April 14 from 2-6 PM

Get a tour of camp, see how camp has developed, and meet the camp staff! Have a friend who you think would love camp and wants to check us out? Invite them to the Open House!

This is a free event.

**Rent Camp
Aldersgate**

Camp Aldersgate is a great location for your group's church retreat, family reunion, college staff training weekend, scrapbooking event, etc!

Open for rental groups
August-May. Get a quote online at
www.campaldersgate.org.

**Online
Camp Store**

Another great Christmas or Birthday gift would be an Aldersgate T-Shirt or Hoodie! Head to campaldersgate.org to buy one online today and receive in the mail!

