

The 'GATE

Camp Aldersgate's Annual Newsletter 2021

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Volume 10—Fall 2021

It Was Good to be Back

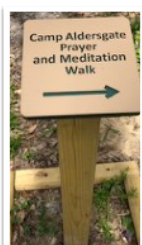
After an incredibly challenging 2020 which saw Aldersgate closed under Governor's orders, a canceled Summer Camp program, and a Fall and Spring Retreat season which saw 70% of our retreat groups cancel, it was so good to be back this summer and to taste a little bit of "normal". We emphasize "a little taste" as we certainly are not fully back to normal. Safety is our number one core value and as such- we ran our summer camp program at a half capacity, limiting each week to no more than 30 campers per week.

We adapted the program to a new model we affectionately called "bubble camping", giving our individual campers a taste of normal, but limiting their potential exposure to only the campers and counselors in their group. We did a drive-through Check In and Check Out and enhanced our cleaning regimen. Reading through the camper and parent's evaluations this summer, campers certainly did miss traditions like Wide Games and individual choice elective time. However, everyone seemed to understand what we were doing. 98% of the evaluations were glowingly positive with campers stating they can't wait until next year! While a little weird and challenging at times, it was good! The saying, "you don't know what you have until it's gone" was certainly true for us this summer! At this point in time, we are happy to report that this fall was actually one of the busiest falls we have had in a long time in terms of numbers of groups renting out Aldersgate. Most of these groups have been small, many half the size they normally would be, and so Camp is still far from back to normal, but we are making progress and learning to adapt with the changing world around us! A huge shout out goes out to the Summer Staff of 2021- Thank you so much for adapting to make this summer possible!



NEW- Prayer Trail

A huge thank you goes out to Logan who chose Aldersgate for his Eagle Scout Project. He spent 2020 planning and designing and in the spring, he and his Boy Scout Troop installed a new Prayer Trail. The trail has 9 stations with a scripture, a challenging thought and a "half picnic table" that Logan designed to sit and journal at each station! The prayer trail is officially open and free of charge to anyone Monday-Thursday during non Summer months and by appointment on the weekends. Come visit and check it out! Thank you Logan!



Activity Center Restored

One of the original buildings dating back to Aldersgate's origin in 1947, we are proud to announce that the Activity Center (previously the dorms) is in the final stages of its 4 year long restoration. Each year we have tackled a different piece, from repairing the foundation one year, to a new roof the next, to new siding and new shutter windows, to finally this year turning our attention to the inside- replacing rotten doors, new lighting and a fresh coat of paint! If you are interested in helping us finish this project please send us an email!



A Word From the Camp Director- Are Camp & Retreats Still Relevant in 2021?

Simply put, I think that Camps and Retreat Centers are more needed today than ever before. Today's world is filled with an ever growing list of distractions, peer pressure, and the negative side effects that come with technology. The whole idea of getting away from all of that, taking a break to unplug from the world and to spend a dedicated amount of time making a new friend, connecting with a young adult Christian mentor, and focusing on God; where else in the world is that happening in this effective of a way? At camp, we watch the campers struggle in the first 24 without their phones, but then something happens; a couple days into their week, they forget about it and find themselves smiling and having conversation around a meal table with their new friends talking about the day. Don't get me wrong, I love my phone too, but every so often it is healthy to take a break from it and to reconnect with my Heavenly Father and others around me. This "process" takes a dedicated amount of time, more so than just an hour at church on a Sunday. And so absolutely yes, I believe that Camps and Retreat Centers are still relevant today, and frankly more than they ever have been. Thank you to the Aldersgate Alumni who agree and show their support by sending their campers to camp, attending a retreat, financially supporting the ministry, coming out and getting your hands dirty with a volunteer project, by spreading the word about camp to your friends and family, and by keeping Aldersgate in your prayers! -Dan

Sung Graces

A long standing tradition at camp is Sung Graces! Before each meal, campers gather for both a spoken and a sung grace. This week, when your family sits down for a meal together, we challenge you to do a sung grace together! If you can't be together in person, try a meal via Zoom and include a sung grace together. Here are the lyrics to a current camper favorite:

The Superman Grace!

To the tune of:
the Superman Theme Song
Motions:
Each Line pump fist in the air

Thank you God for giving us food!
Thank you God for giving us friends!
For giving us food—ooood!
For giving us frie—ends
We thank you God...Amen!

Thank You to Our Volunteers & Donors



The beauty of Camp Aldersgate is made possible through the support of our Volunteers and Donors and that was never more true than in 2021! Thank you to these groups who came out and got their hands dirty :

- Asbury Chapel UMC
- First UMC of Carrollton
- Mayfield UMC
- Granger UMC
- Boy Scout Troop 1921



As well as the many donors who gave gifts & individuals who volunteered!

75th Anniversary

Aldersgate will be 75 years old on July 1st, 2022! We think that this is reason to celebrate!

We are planning a
FREE Family Fun Event
at the end of the summer on
Sunday, July 31st from 2-6PM.
Add it to your calendar today
and plan to join us at the end of
the summer!

How Can You Help?

As Camp is entering its 75th year, we have our eyes on the next 75 years! If you believe in the Power of Camp, would you consider one of these options to help camp continue to thrive and reach more people?

- Consider organizing a small group to volunteer with projects around the site
- Major improvements such as paving the road down through camp, adding Air Conditioning, and replacing Pontoon Boats are made possible through our donors. Consider a financial gift to help us with projects around the site.
- You can also financially support camp by purchasing Aldersgate merchandise on our Online Camp Store for Christmas gifts!
- Give a partial or full Campership (\$400). By giving a Campership, you help a child experience camp that otherwise could not.
- Remember Aldersgate in your will (contact Gary Jones at 330-499-3972 ext 120).
- Please continue to pray for the ministry at Camp Aldersgate!



Two Ways To Give: Online at www.campaldersgate.org or mail a check to Camp. Gifts are tax-deductible.