



The Stewardship focus this fall for Aldersgate has been **Legacy of Generosity – Past, Present and Future**. We've celebrated the legacies of people who've gone before – how they started us on a path toward addressing needs in the community. We talked about our current legacy – what we are doing right now to nurture each other and those we may not even know. Finally, we dreamed about what our future legacy might be – how will we impact those who come after. Now we are addressing our commitment to current and future ministries.

You are receiving this letter because you have been connected to Aldersgate United Methodist Church in some manner. In a real sense you are part of the church's legacy.

At Aldersgate we want to be Christ's hands and feet in the community. We are currently in partnership with Aldersgate Center for Child Development and Northview Public Schools, providing mentoring and other support for children and teachers. Through the Vital Church Initiative process we are seeking to learn new ways to connect with community and be in ministry to those outside the walls of Aldersgate.

Part of our Legacy of Generosity is financial. We contribute to North End Community Ministry and Access of West Michigan every year. Aldersgate has paid 100% of its fair share toward UMC ministries and missions on state, national and international levels since it was chartered in 1959. Our second mile giving is astounding: so far in 2016 we have given over \$20,000 in special offerings. Just recently we contributed \$790 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief for use in Haiti following the devastation of Hurricane Matthew.

**Our task now is to prayerfully discern how we as individuals and families will support the Legacy of Generosity of Aldersgate.** What is God asking us to do? A question raised by the psalmist may serve us well during our personal time of consideration: "How can I repay the LORD – for all God's goodness to me?" (116:12, NIV). We can only find the answer in our hearts; however, a guideline might be "give out of gratitude for what God has given you."

An Estimate of Giving Card is included on this website. Why is it important to make a financial commitment to Aldersgate? Our prayerful, intentional efforts to ask God for insight, and then act upon our decisions, will express our love and gratitude for God in a personal and tangible way. Our estimate of giving enables the church to implement ministries throughout the year and continue building our "Legacy – Future."

**Please mail your Estimate of Giving Card to our Financial Secretary, John Ross Thompson, 4114 Sawkaw NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 by Monday November 7.** If you prefer, contributions may be made through our website, [graldersgate.org](http://graldersgate.org), "online giving" tab.

Together, we are growing in the grace of generous giving.

Sincerely,

The Legacy of Generosity Planning Team

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*"I am who I am because of who we all are." Desmond Tutu, explaining the African concept of Ubuntu*