



### **“Past Legacy” – Ann Nelson - October 16, 2016**

Lately I've heard, “It was a kum ba ya moment.” I've also heard, “Maybe you need to have a “Come to Jesus’ talk.”

Well, that's how it was when I was growing up in the Aldersgate community in the late 50's and 60's. Our youth group did sing, “kum ba ya” around bonfires and at Wesley Woods and Lake Louise Methodist camps. We also – really, can you believe this — had hymn sings some Sunday nights at MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship).

I knew Aldersgate adults as well as the kids because parents had social events like a progressive dinner. I also remember adults roasting hot dogs and singing around a bonfire at the little summer cottage where I now live 7 months of the year. (And despite “hootenannys” and John Denver and Peter, Paul, and Mary, my mother mourned, “Oh, Ann, what will you kids sing when you're our age?)

Guess some things are always the same ... right?

So, I really am who I am, because of who Aldersgate was back then. In Albion, where I lived for 40 years, I started adult groups at my church for socializing. I taught Sunday school and kids' worship center. My sons had to wear nicer clothes than play clothes because of me, even though they reminded me that God didn't care. Every week they were at Sunday school and worship, even though they tried various ploys to get around me. Yes, they sang in children's choirs and musicals, and enjoyed youth events, but in different form from my youth.

I'm back at Aldersgate, now, and play clothes are just fine for worship. I love bringing my coffee or water along, too. Obviously, praise songs don't sound the same as my childhood hymns, but they carry the same prayerful or enthusiastic spirit I remember from long ago; and that's what Aldersgate is about: change and enthusiasm and spiritual growth.

Our Legacy of Generosity, expressed through prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness enables Aldersgate to continue to move forward, making possible ministries that touch lives and make a difference in our church and community. But more important, our generosity is one of the ways we can express our love for God.

I'm glad be back and part of Aldersgate once again!