

# The Antioch UMC

## Epistle

February 2013

### The Preachers' Part

#### **What does it mean to be the Presence of Christ?**

The mission of the church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ (Mat 28:19). Being a disciple is an ongoing process. Existing disciples are shaped and nurtured through prayer, studying scripture, worshipping, mission work, and tithing. New disciples are made by our witness through these activities, as well as outreach into the community, locally and abroad.

Throughout January, committees representing mission & outreach, worship, staff relations and church administration met to talk about how we can fulfill Christ's mission. We enthusiastically envision ourselves to be the Presence of Christ for each other and the world in which we live. This is not limited to a "glass half full" outlook – "our cup runneth over" with opportunities to grow our faith and the faith of others. We have established goals to help guide our ministry in 2013, and are committed to maintaining our traditional services and activities, plus some new ones. Here are a few highlights:

- Mission trip to NC
- Monthly children's activity
- Homecoming service in October
- Longest Night Service

We recognize a great gap exists in our education and nurturing for children and adults. In the spring we will develop a plan to provide Christian education for the church community, starting in September. Please take a look at the full Ministry Plan for 2013, available online at:

<http://www.antiochmethodistchurch.org/2013VisionPlan.pdf>

#### **Lent or Lint?! Well, it might be both.**

Lent is the church season usually expressed as a time of preparation. The word "Lent" comes from a Latin word meaning "40," as in the 40 (non-Sunday) days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. During Lent we often use the word "Repent!" John the Baptist, who prepared the way of the Lord Jesus preached, "Repent! For the Kingdom of heaven is near" (Mat 3:2). Jesus said something similar: "Repent, and believe the Good News" (Mark 1:15). Repent means to turn towards God, away from obstacles that get in the way of our completely loving God.

We get prepared for the resurrection life by 'getting our house in order,' cleaning up our lives so that we are more attentive to God (and a little less toward ourselves). That's where "lint" comes in. An online dictionary defines lint as "clinging bits of fiber and fluff." Not particularly attractive - or useful! A bad habit, or an unhealthy activity, or a costly pastime might be "lint" in your life. Something clinging to you. This Lent, consider removing some Lint if it is an obstacle in your relationship with God.

Blessings,

*Alan*

## Children's Corner

The children will have a BIG surprise for Everyone next Sunday – be sure and be here because you don't want to miss it.

## Visitors at church

As more and more people are attending Antioch please make sure you let the editor know who your visitors are so that they can be recognized.

## Mission News

The mission trip to Aurora, NC is scheduled for the end of this month. It is shaping up to be a great crew but we have tons of room for others who would like to experience the action first hand. Doing for others and loving our neighbors is a large part of what we, as Christians are called to do. It also puts a BIG smile on Jesus' face.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



February 7th	Sally Bacon
February 9th	Haynie Hite
February 10th	Ricky Bacon
February 15th	Dorothy Shields
February 16th	Joe Coleman
February 17th	Ray Hazelwood

## United Methodist Women

The monthly meeting of the UMW will be at 7:30 on Tuesday, February 19th at the home of Frances Bacon, 2384 Bacon Fork Road, Kenbridge. Dawn Bacon will be leading the program for this month. ALL of our women are encouraged to come and be a part of this wonderful Ministry of Love. So come for a visit and get "hooked" on giving. The UMW meets the third Tuesday of each month.

## Our On-Going and Upcoming Church Events - NOT to be Missed !!!

Have you ever wondered about the words we say in worship? What does "our daily bread" mean for us in the Lord's Prayer? Have you noticed that relationships are the key to the 10 Commandments? Were you aware that the 12 Apostles did not create the Apostles Creed? **Join "The Words We Say" Wednesday evenings during Lent.** The discussions will take place at the church from 7:15 until 8:30 pm.

- February 20th -The Ten Commandments
- February 27th -The Lord's Prayer

Other topics in March will be: The Apostles Creed, The Baptism Covenant and The Lord's Supper. So all of us who find it hard to attend the bible studies, trips to Pine View and other events and functions that take place during daily working hours, mark your calendars and let's learn together.

## From the master calendar - REPENT! February is the month of repentance

- Children's Valentine Activity Feb 10
- Food For Thought – 2nd Sunday Feb 10 "The Transfiguration"
- Lent Begins - Ash Wednesday Service Feb 13, 7 pm "Tempting Jesus"
- Lenten Season Study for Working Adults Wednesdays, Feb 20 – Mar 20
- Aurora NC Mission Trip Feb 28 – Mar 3

**Food For Thought** – Imagine seeing Jesus, Moses and Elijah – and not telling anyone about it! We'll talk about that, why these three people, and other things at the February discussion of the second Sunday sermon, on February 10th. All are invited to stay for this in-depth question and answer time to dig a little deeper into the meaning of the day's scripture and sermon. We always have a blast being in community with each other as we discover more and more of our biblical history. And lunch is usually pretty good, too.

## News on the HOMEfront

We had a great turnout for the 5th Wednesday worship service at Pine View. Betsey, Wayne, Bertha Bottoms, Thomas Taylor, Julie, Dorothy, Margaret, Ginny and Audrey were all there to lend their support, visit with friends and do a little singing. The Preacher sang a little, too. Our lovely ladies, Ms. Edna Bagley, Ms. Frances Hawthorne, Ms. Grace Marshall, and Ms. Crowder continue to thrive in their friendships, care and Christian love at their community home. So when you are in South Hill, please stop in and say hello to each of them and let them know you continue to keep them in your prayers.

Also remember to drop in for a visit with another lovely lady – Ms. Neil Barnes at Hickory Hill when you are passing through Burkeville. She is adapting well and would welcome a friendly and familiar face.

## Church Notes

Directory - Betsey and Julie are working on the NEW Church Directory. Please make sure Betsey has all of your information and all of your children's information no later than February 15th. If you would rather your information not be in the directory please let Betsey know that by February 15th as well. We are hopeful the Directory will be printed and then distributed at church on the first Sunday in March of this year.

Flowers - Anyone interested in having flower arrangements' in church on a specific Sunday this year (in honor or memory of someone's birthday, anniversary, etc.) please let Francis Bacon know so that she can record it on the Alter Flowers Calendar. Arrangements you make or purchase from the florist will be welcomed at each service. Fresh flowers have a way of making us all joyful and are a perfect way to honor or remember someone you love.

Easter Lilies– It is time to start thinking about how many Easter Lilies you will want to order this year. Watch the March newsletter for ordering info. Easter is March 31.

Song Fest - Wayne Hendricks will be sharing his gift of singing at Pine View on February 15th. All are welcome to come and support Wayne and visit our ladies. The singing will start at 2:30.

**From the Editor...** Well, here it is !! Our first edition of the *Epistle*. Our church community has much going on each month and a means for everyone to be 'in the know' seems needed. Please make notes on ways we can improve!

We are hopeful that this will be a monthly newsletter. Please share all church committee news and upcoming events, as well as birthdays, anniversaries, babies that are born, weddings that are coming up, children's events we may acknowledge or attend to show our church family support, visitors you have in church each Sunday, etc. Please send your "news" and events for the following month to our church email address: Lunenburg.umcs@gmail.com . The deadline for inclusion in the following month's Epistle will be the 25th of each month.

## ***Reminder...***

Ash Wednesday Service  
Feb 13, 7 pm  
"Tempting Jesus"

### *The Joke at THE END*

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

“Here’s a copy of the service,” he said impatiently. “But, you’ll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances.”

During the service, the minister paused and said, “Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who will pledge \$100 or more, please stand up.”

At that moment, the substitute organist played “The Star Spangled Banner.”

### **Antioch United Methodist Church**

3489 South Hill Road

Kenbridge VA 23944

[Lunenburg.umcs@gmail.com](mailto:Lunenburg.umcs@gmail.com)

[www.antiochmethodistchurch.org/](http://www.antiochmethodistchurch.org/)

**As a community of faith,  
individually and together,  
our mission is to be the  
Presence of Christ.**

**C. Alan Layman, Pastor**

[calayman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:calayman@sbcglobal.net)

434-676-2314

434-981-2727