

The Antioch UMC

Epistle

March, 2013

The Preachers' Part

In Like a Lion...

The old adage, "In like a lion and out like a lamb," refers to March's weather. The month seems to have one foot in winter and the other in spring. My birthday is in early March and I recall a memorable childhood birthday party that included playing in snow! Yet, what begins cold and windy, typically ends warm, flowers sprouting blooms, trees budding - all signs of the approaching spring season.

In fact, one of the early signs of the approaching spring is the winds. As the days grow longer the earth's surface warms and the contrast with the colder air aloft creates the turbulence we call "the lion." As the month progresses and warm air saturates both the surface and the upper atmosphere, balance is restored and things calm down.

We enter this March with 28 of the 40 days of Lent still in front of us. This can be a tumultuous time! The excitement of a new Lent sacrifice is giving way to the frustration of "doing without." Our "soul searching" - am I truly committed to the life of discipleship, am I doing all I can to love God, and other people - is causing us to rethink our lifestyles.

Lent is the annual period in the Christian journey when we *re-turn* toward God. It's the season when we turn and face God, looking into the wind of the Holy Spirit as it blows the dust off, "clears the air" around us, so that we can see where - and to what - God is leading us.

Our Lenten Journey includes "The Words We Say," Wednesday mornings at 10 am, and Wednesday evenings at 7:15. On our Sunday, March 24 worship, we will sing "Hosanna's!" as we enter Jerusalem with Jesus. Then on Holy Thursday night at 7 pm, we'll meet at Williams Church to remember Jesus' life, celebrate the Lord's Supper and sadly, to reflect upon betrayal. On Good Friday, we will gather at 7 pm at Antioch to mourn the death of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. On the last day of March we celebrate new beginnings in the resurrection! From sunrise to mid-day, we will be in fellowship as the resurrected body of Christ.

The warmth you're feeling, that's the calming beauty of the resurrection - life reborn, life renewed. It's a gift of the Lamb of God. Thanks be to God, as we go

... *Out Like a Lamb*

Blessings,

Alan

Children's Corner

The children had a GREAT surprise for everyone on the Sunday before Valentine's Day.

Love Was All Around

The children at Antioch shared their love with the congregation. They enjoyed creating Valentine's Day cards which contained messages from, 'Jesus loves you,' to bible verses and personal words. Decorating cupcakes with hearts and sprinkles was a special treat, too. The love of all those present was evident as they received the children's gifts.

Cupcakes were also taken to, and shared with residents at Pine View, as well as others in the area.

Thank you to all of our young people and all of those who helped make this possible.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Audrey Smith - 3/9

Alan Layman – 3/10

Brandon Moseley - 3/17

Susan Moseley - 3/19

Katlyn Wells - 3/19

Margaret Gregory - 3/28

Happy Anniversary to Betsey and Wayne Hendricks on March 25th !!!

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. Our First study on the 10 Commandments was well attended and very informative.

- March 6 ... The Apostles Creed
- March 13 ... The Baptism Covenant
- March 20 ... The Lord's Supper

Be sure to mark your calendars and let's learn together.

From the master calendar -

- Food For Thought – 2nd Sunday
March 10
- Holy Thursday Service – March 28,
7 pm at Williams
- Good Friday Service – March 29, 7
pm at Antioch
- Easter Sunrise Service – March 31

Food For Thought – We had a really nice turnout in February for our Second Sunday “Food for Thought” gathering. Much was learned as Pastor Alan shared with us why Jesus chose whom He did to lead the people and share His word. If you have never stayed after church for “Food for Thought” please do so one month. The extra information (during the question and answer time) on that particular Sunday's sermon and the fun and fellowship that is shared will keep you coming back for seconds. ☺

News on the HOME front

We are happy to report that there were close to 30 people congregated in the dining room at Pine View to hear Wayne Hendricks and Margaret Martin (who is a part-time employee there) share their musical gifts.

Our four ladies, Edna Bagley, Elizabeth Crowder, Grace Marshall and Frances Hawthorne were all well and able to be there. Margaret Smith and Tee-Wah Hayes (Frances' sister) were also in attendance.

Some people may remember Margaret Martin as Margaret Hite. She is a very talented lady and enjoys playing the piano for Wayne and singing with him. Everyone shared cupcakes and joined in the singing. It's very moving to see these residents singing along or closing their eyes and enjoying their memories of the hymns that were sung.

They are always happy to have visitors so when you can, stop in for a visit, and, as always, keep them in your prayers.

Thank you Wayne. Everyone at Antioch appreciates your spreading of God's message through song to everyone at Pine View.

Mission News

The mission trip to Aurora, NC is underway. Please keep all involved in your prayers and be sure and read all about it in the April issue of the *Epistle*.

Church Notes

Ash Wednesday Service – Antioch saw a large crowd on Ash Wednesday. It was a very special service as Pastor Alan shared a bit of his “story” showing the power the Lord has and differences the Lord makes in our individual lives. The alter was sparsely decorated with

burlap, one white candle and a plain wooden cross. But in contrast, the glory of the Lord shown even more brightly as we sang beautiful and uplifting hymns and as we all gathered to receive the mark of the cross on our foreheads. Our 40 days of Lent had begun.

Directory – Please be sure and thank Betsey for all of her hard work on our new Church Directory. If there are any additions, deletions or corrections, please submit them for inclusion in the *Epistle*. Everyone can then make the changes to their copy of the Directory.

Honored – If you happened to miss church on February 10th you also missed Ms. Frances Bacon getting recognized. Frances was presented a pretty corsage and received a round of applause and many heart-felt Thank You's for just a small amount of the things she does for all of us at Antioch. Please give Frances a big hug the next time you see her.

Flowers - Thank you to Audrey Smith for the beautiful flower arrangement she had in church on the 10th of February.

Thank you to the Hite Family for the lovely arrangements they shared with the church on the 17th and 24th of February.

Easter Lilies– Please fill out the form at the end of the *Epistle* with the number of Lilies you would like to have in church for Easter Sunday. The forms and money will need to be given to Frances Bacon no later than Sunday, March 17th.

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.

Do you Know?

Why we change the liturgical cloths?

What do the different colors mean?

The Christian year contains two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized by the color green. Thus there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white and green in that order twice each year.

Purple is a color of both penitence and royalty used during the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent.

White and **Gold** are joyous and festive colors used during the Christmas and Easter Seasons (except on the Day of Pentecost) and in other seasons on festive days such as Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration, Trinity, All Saints and Christ the King. White may also be used at weddings and at services where the Sacrament of Baptism is central. White is recommended at services of death and resurrection because it symbolizes both death and resurrection. At services of Holy Communion white linens on top of the Lord's table are customary, but the paraments hanging over the front or sides of the table and the other visuals should reflect the day or season of the year.

Green is a color growth, used in the Seasons after the Epiphany and After Pentecost, except when special days call for white or red.

Red is a color of fire, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Day of Pentecost and at other times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. Red is also the color of blood-the blood of Christ and the blood of martyrs. Because of its intensity, red is most effective when used occasionally. It may be used beside white and gold through the Easter Season, It may be used during Holy Week beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday, to symbolize the blood of Christ.

--from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, pp. 224-226. More information on liturgical colors can be found at

www.kencollins.com/glossary/liturgy.htm#colors.

The Joke at THE END



It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Erin stayed home from church with a baby-sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Erin asked them what they were for.

'People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by,' her father told her.

'Wouldn't you know it,' Erin fumed, 'the **one** Sunday I don't go and He shows up.'

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

C. Alan Layman, Pastor

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Order Form for Easter Lilies

Name: _____

No. of Lilies: (\$12.00 each) _____

Total Paid to AUMC: \$_____

In Honor Of

In Memory Of

Remember this form and the money are due to Frances Bacon no later than Sunday, March the 17th.