

The Antioch UMC

Epistle

August, 2013

The Preachers' Part

One Sunday, just before the service started, as the pianist played the prelude, the preacher was surprised to find a little boy standing beside him, where he sat at the front of the sanctuary. "Are you Moses?" the little boy asked.

The preacher smiled, realizing the little boy was looking at his alb, the white servant's garment with the cord belt he wore on communion Sundays. "I'm not Moses," the preacher said. "This is a robe, a covering I wear when I serve communion. It's like a uniform for someone who takes care of others; like a shepherd who takes care of his sheep."

Seemingly satisfied, the boy turned and went back to his seat, where he told his grandmother, plainly and matter-of-factly, "He's a shepherd."

"He's a shepherd." It's one of the oldest images in the Bible. Abraham was a shepherd. So was King David. Jesus used sheep and shepherds in several of his parables. Who were the first people told of Jesus' birth? Shepherds.

As your pastor and preacher, I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve you and care for you. I graciously accept the honor and responsibility of being a shepherd on behalf of Jesus. Yet this honor does not belong only to "the Preacher." We are all disciples of Jesus and share responsibility to care for others, love them and serve them, in Christ's name.

When I think of "shepherds," the first image that comes to mind is that of the children of

Antioch lighting the fourth advent candle last December. As the teenagers read the scripture story, and lit the candle "as a symbol of the shepherds, *agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world,*" there knelt all the little ones, in their rough robes and headdress, attentively watching and listening, taking it all in, participating in the worship life of the church. They were giving and receiving.

In August we begin a new school year, in September we initiate a new children's ministry, in October we make plans for the coming new year.... There are lots of sheep to be served, cared for, taught, and led. There are little shepherds who need experienced big shepherds to lead and teach them.

As an agent of the gospel, may you know the joy of being recognized with the blessing, "He's a shepherd."

Alan



Children's Corner

Excitement is building for our Children's Church ministry! Many of you have come forward offering to serve as teachers. It's not too late to participate this way. Funds are being sought to purchase new age and size appropriate furniture. Please consider supporting the ministry by giving, above your normal tithing. Place cash in an envelope; make a check payable to Antioch UMC and memo "Children's Ministry". And continue to pray for the children, their parents, the teachers and our church.

Birthdays



Maben Hite	August 4
David Arthur	August 11
Leigh Anne Bacon	August 12
Neil Barnes	August 13
Jimmy Chumney	August 28

If you have not already done so . . . PLEASE take a minute to put your name on the Birthday Calendar in the Fellowship Room. Thanks !

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

The Faces in August Are Familiar

August continues the weekly experience of "familiar faces" of unnamed women in scripture.

Aug 4 John 4:4-27
An Unlikely Revelation: The Woman at the Well

Aug 7 – No Bible Study as we will be providing worship at Pine View

Aug 11 1 Cor 1:1-9; 11:1-16; 14:34-36
The Church in Corinth's Gifted Women

Aug 14 Bible Study

Aug 18 Worship Luke 8:1-3 & Mark 15:40-41
An Apostle's Anonymity

On Sunday, August 25, the Farmville District Youth Worship Team will lead a joint worship service, to be held at Antioch at 11:00 am. This promises to be a unique, Spirit-filled time of worship – a great way to transition our worship series!

Coming in September

We leave behind the "familiar faces" of the summer, turning our attention to prayer. Jesus was constantly going off to pray, and Paul tells us we should "pray without ceasing" (2 Thes 5:17). What is it? How do we do it? What should we expect? Our weekday Bible study and Sunday worship services will explore scripture, seeking answers to these questions and more. Antioch's new Children's Church will also be learning about prayer in September.

Food For Thought

“Food for Thought” is an open invitation each **Second Sunday** for everyone in attendance to delve deeper into the meaning of the sermon and scripture.

HOMECOMING - Mark your calendars for **October 13th** !! Antioch's Homecoming. This will be a special day of worship and fellowship. The sermon will be delivered by our special guest speaker Reverend Dr. Paul Baker. Paul is the associate pastor of Woodlake UMC. He is the former vice president of administration for Hampden- Sydney College. Worship will be followed by a fabulous lunch. We all know how good the local cooks are! An afternoon of entertainment provided by local talents Liz Hamlett and Cristyl Hawthorne Word, will culminate the day of fellowship. Please plan on attending and also on inviting and bringing friends and family. You will not want to miss this opportunity to share time with friends of past and present!

News on the HOME front

On Friday, July 12, Wayne Hendricks and Margaret Martin, along with their roadie, Betsey, traveled to the Envoy of Lawrenceville to entertain the residents there with their music. A good time was had by all, even though some of the residents nodded off. As Margaret commented, “we lullabied them to sleep!”

The next Friday, July 19, Wayne and Margaret entertained at Pine View. There were close to 30 people seated in the dining room to hear the music. Frances Hawthorne and Grace Marshall were not feeling well enough to attend, but Edna Bagley was in attendance. Of course, we missed Elizabeth Crowder –

she was always a regular. Bertha Bottoms was there to visit the residents and enjoy the music. Everyone had a good time - there was quite a bit of “singing along” and hand clapping going on!!

We would like to congratulate Edna Bagley on her 97th birthday, Saturday, July 20. She received lots of birthday cards and appreciated each one of them. She also had a room full of balloons and flowers and was definitely “Queen for a Day”. Her picture even showed up on FaceBook!

You are encouraged to drop by Pine View or any nursing/retirement home for a visit. The residents are always so glad to see visitors and catch up on the news “at home” It's a blessing for visitors and residents alike.

Mission News

In a WORD . . . Gleaning. Thank you to everyone for your help in the on-going gleaning process. The recipients of the fresh vegetables are blessed by the giving of your time and love.

Church Notes

Directory - Do not forget to let Betsey know if you have corrections for the Antioch Directory. Please take a second to, pick a name at random, call and check on one of our church family members. You never know when a “smile” on the other end of the phone will be just what is NEEDED.

Happy New Year!

Like a game of hide-and-go-seek, 'ready or not,' it's time to begin planning for 2014!

During the 2013 Charge Conference, District Superintendent Bob Parks focused our attention on worship attendance as one of the **fruits of a vital congregation**. He challenged us to show that we are bearing fruit in this area of ministry. Antioch has experienced a 10% increase in worship attendance over the last year, a tremendous sign of vitality. The Holy Spirit is working in Lunenburg!

This year's vital congregations' focus will be encouraging new professions of faith. This is something we need to be attentive to, as neither church has added a new, first-time church member in quite a while.

So as to focus more on ministry and less on business, **Charge Conference** will be held on Sunday, November 3 with our Discipleship Circle: Victoria UMC, Kenbridge UMC and the Nottoway-Lunenburg Charge. The Conference will occur at Kenbridge UMC from 3 to 5 pm, with dinner to follow.

The Lunenburg Charge will follow the following timeline so as to prepare leadership, ministry and financial plans in advance of the Charge Conference.

- August: Committees meet as necessary to prepare plans and request funding
- September: Lay Leadership (nominations) and Finance Committees prepare proposals
- Early October: Church councils act on finance and committee requests
- Mid-October: Charge Conference reports prepared and submitted

What are your gifts for serving Christ's church? What are your interests? What are you passionate about? In 1st Corinthians 12, Paul writes about the body of Christ – the church – and the many gifts given by God to different people. Everyone receives a gift via the Holy Spirit! When the gifts and talents are put together, the ministry of the church can be effective. "A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good" (1 Cor 12:7).

Talk to Alan about how you might share yourself for the "common good" of the local church. Maybe it's participating in worship, singing, or teaching. Possibly serving on a committee or in a leadership role is of interest to you, or something more behind the scenes, like church maintenance or landscaping. Now is the time to step forward, responding to where God's grace is leading you!

Flowers – Thank you to the family of Bertha Overby Arthur for the beautiful flowers that were in church on Sunday July 21st and 28th in her memory. Thank you to Frances for the lovely Gladiolas she shared on the 28th.

If you are interested in providing flowers for any Sunday this year, please sign up on the **FLOWER CALENDAR** in the fellowship area .

UMW

The UMW did not meet in the month of June. The regularly scheduled July meeting was held on Tuesday the 23rd at the home of Audrey Smith.

The regularly scheduled meeting for August will be on August, 20th at the home of Ginny Arthur – 116 Overby Plantation Lane, Kenbridge. The UMW is open to all of our ladies from both churches so come join the fun.

WOOHOOS!!!

Congratulations to Tessie and Sam on the news that . . . **It's a BOY !!!!**

The New Fellowship Room has had a Face-Lift! Thanks so much to the following painters: Betsey, Brenda, Julie, Alan, Earl & Wayne. Be sure and give Earl a hug for taking the lead on this and making sure all needed supplies were ready and waiting. Be sure to go take a look at how beautiful it has turned out.

Thank You to Frances for sharing the delicious tomatoes with all of us, What a treat !!

The Joke at THE END



Two Jewish gentlemen, long-time friends, happened to meet, and one noticed that the other seemed depressed.

"What's wrong?" he asked

"There's terrible trouble in my family, " the first fellow said. "I sent my son to Israel so that he would come home a better Jew and believe it or not, he came home a Christian."

"It's funny that you should mention that," said the second man. "Exactly the same thing happened to me. I sent my son to Israel so that he'd become a better Jew, and he too, came home a Christian."

They both decided to seek the advice of their rabbi. They went and told their rabbi what had happened in their families.

"It's funny that you should mention that," said the rabbi, "because exactly the same thing happened in our family. I sent my only son to Israel in hope that he would become a better Jew, and, believe it not, he also came home a Christian."

At that, the three men fell to their knees, and with tears streaming down their faces, addressed God the Father Almighty directly. When each of them told the Lord their stories, they heard a voice from heaven reply: "It's funny that you should mention that . . ."