

The Antioch UMC

Epistle

January, 2015

During the 18th century, John Wesley would lead a Covenant Renewal service in London on New Year's Day. These words of Invitation are his:

Let us commit ourselves to Christ as his servants.

Let's give ourselves to him, that we may belong to him. Christ has many ministries that need to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful.

Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some, we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are others where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. Christ will have no servants except by consent; Christ will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires. In short, Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

To make this covenant a reality in our lives, we need, then, listen to this counsel:

First, we need to set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord; in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance, in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant; in searching our hearts whether we have already freely given our life to Christ. We need to be clear in these matters, we cannot lie to God.

Second, we need be serious. We come to make this covenant in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, we are to claim God's covenant, rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength, so that we are able to keep our promise. We trust not our own strength and power.

Fourth, we are to resolve to be faithful. We have given to the Lord our hearts, we have opened our mouths to the Lord, and we have dedicated ourselves to God. With God's power, we never go back.

As we enter a new year, may God's grace equip you and sustain you in faithful service to the Lord

Alan



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

Walt Moseley	01
Bobby Overby	04
Brenda Thompson	04
Franklin Barnes	05
Julie Layman	09
James F. Conner, Jr.	10
Sam Bacon	11
Jennifer Hite	16
Wendy Ripberger	22
Margaret Smith	26
D. C. Keeter	28
Henry Lee Cundiff	29
Justin McDaniel	31
Ann Thompson	31

News on the HOME front

December was a busy month for some of our seniors and the residents of Pine View.

On the first Wednesday of December, Pastor Alan led an inspiring worship service at Pine View. He is there on the first Wednesday of each month. The service begins at 10 A.M. and lasts about an hour and all are welcome. You don't have to know someone at Pine View to come and worship with them. They would love to see you there!

On December 12, Wayne traveled to Pine View and entertained some of the residents there. He reports there was a small crowd, but the ones who were there enjoyed his music and a short sing-along of Christmas music.

The residents of Pine View turned the tables on folks December 23rd by inviting the volunteers who come there regularly to entertain, lead worship, etc., for a reception. A group of them, maybe 15 to 20 in number, sang Christmas carols to the volunteers and did a fine job. There was a reading of The Christmas Story along with a couple of recitations, even some jingle bells jingling!! Afterward, light refreshments were served. It was a special afternoon and so good to see everyone in such good spirits and dressed in Christmas attire.

All in all, it was a very busy month for our seniors, but one they all enjoyed. Please take the time to send notes, cards, etc., to a senior citizen whenever you can. It means a lot to them.

Oh, yes, a Pine View resident reported that Priscilla stopped by and left cards and treats in the residents' mailboxes - what a special thing for her to do! Maybe we should all follow her example!

<u>December by the Numbers:</u>	
Average Weekly Attendance =	63
Average Weekly Giving =	\$1,665
Needed each week =	\$1,278

UMW - Happy New Year

*Sweet memories warm us
through January's cold.
They are our treasure,
worth more than gold.
May we cherish the moments
as this new year begins,
Grateful for the blessings
of family and friends.*

*As December gives way
to January's snow,
and the New Year arrives,
may we not lose the glow
of giving, and caring,
and lending a hand,
and sharing common bonds
with fellow man.*

Best wishes for a peaceful and happy New Year!

Love,
Antioch UMW

UMW – cont.

Replenishing School Supplies

“Join in” with the ladies of Antioch UMW and help to “replenish” the **MOST NEEDED School Supplies**, for children at Kenbridge Elementary School.

1. **Baby Wipes / Disinfectant Wipes** (for the cold and flu season)
2. **Pencils - USA Gold pencils** are requested. Another name brand that sharpens well is **Ticonderoga**.
(Please Note: Some brands do not sharpen well; therefore, are not beneficial to the students).

Thanks for your help, in providing for local students, as they begin their 2nd semester.
May God bless you!

The United Methodist Women (**UMW**) meets once a month, on the Tuesday *after* the 3rd Sunday. **Our next meeting will be:** Tuesday, January 20th, 7:30 PM at Shirley Hite’s Home (3686 South Hill Rd.) All Ladies are Welcome to Attend. 😊

UMW – “Mission Moment”

For the upcoming district prayer breakfast all UMW units are asked to bring their “free mission items” to help others. That means **labels for education, box tops for education, tin pop tops, and cancelled stamps!**

How will these help our mission purpose? ...

The “labels for education” are sent to Henry Fork Service Center in Rocky Mount, VA to benefit their after school programs. The “box tops for education labels” are sent to Red Bird Mission and Henderson Settlement in KY to purchase art and athletic supplies, as well as books and electronics for their school and library. The “pop tops” from cans are taken to the Ronald McDonald House in Durham, NC near Duke Hospital, where the families of very sick children can stay. The “cancelled stamps” are taken to a stamp collector and distributor, who sells them to generate funds for UMCOR.

Will you join us in collecting “free stuff” that you usually toss in the trash can?

Save your “free stuff” to be recycled to help many worthwhile projects.

Let’s see how much free stuff we can collect by March!

Please Note:

The stamps should be cut from the envelope, leaving ¼ inch border around them. (Pre-sorted, nonprofit org. stamps are not needed as they have no monetary value.)

P.S. Our local UMW unit sends most of our education labels & box tops to Kenbridge Elementary School. But, we help support the missions named above, too.

Bring your free stuff to church and place in the collection box. Thank you!

Serving in January

	Nursery	Children's Church	Liturgist
4	Chris Jenna	Communion Sunday	Abby Barnes
11	Joyce Lori	Kim / William	William Bacon
18		Shirley / Sara	Susan Moseley
25		Brenda / Abby	Jenna Bacon
1	Chris Jenna	Communion Sunday	Shirley Hite

Church Notes

A senior luncheon was held on December 10th at Antioch. The invited guests were members of Antioch and Williams churches along with some former members and seniors that live in our community. After the meal, the guests enjoyed special music in the sanctuary.

A **HUGE** thank you goes out to the following for giving of their time to participate and assist Betsey and Wayne in putting the event together:

Bobby Flinn from Alberta who came to play the piano. Bobby and Wayne went to school together and stay in touch with each other.

Barbara and Earl for decorating the fellowship room so beautifully and to Barbara for singing with Wayne. Their voices blend really well and everyone enjoyed their songs. You should have heard them sing "O Holy Night!" - it would have given you goosebumps!!

Pastor Alan for his support and also for sharing a song with the group.

Brenda and Paula for their invaluable help in the kitchen serving the meal and cleaning up.

Thank you Betsey and Wayne for all you two did to organize this mission of love.

A New, Updated – church directory will be available in January of 2015. Please fill out and return the red information page from the December Epistle, before January 10th. We look forward to adding ALL of our new folks since the last edition. **Notice the box to just "check" if there are no changes.**

The Birthday Calendar for 2015 is on one of the tables in the fellowship room. It is as filled in with as many names as possible from last year. Some of us ended up with two birthdays -?- please mark through the incorrect one. Please take a minute to be sure you and your loved ones are listed on the date of their birth. Especially all of the new babies 😊.

Attention smartphone users! Use the barcode reader app on your phone to link to our website, AntiochMethodistChurch.org. Thanks to David Arthur for creating this QR barcode, which you will begin to see on our publications.



Imagine No Malaria

To date, the Antioch and Williams have saved 212 lives from malaria, contributing to the Virginia Conference total of 28,000 lives saved! The need remains as one person dies from malaria every 60 seconds, most of them children under the age of 5. Make your check payable to the church, and memo "No Malaria."

Congratulations to Katlyn & Bobby Moseley who plan to bless the church family with a new addition in July. Please keep them in your prayers. God is so good to us all the time.



Thank you so much to OUR children for the wonderful Christmas program and lesson about the Christmas Tree. Their talent and commitment never ceases to amaze. They worked very hard at practices and Camille did an outstanding job on the piano as well.

Would also like to do a shout out to Tristen for her beautiful rendition of Silent Night on her guitar.

Please remember to take a minute and tell them how much you love them and how wonderful they are.



Nursery News

Pictures of our babies **are needed** for the bulletin board in the nursery. Please add some of those cute pictures that are going around on Facebook. There is a container of water in the nursery for use in mixing formula or just for the babies to drink. Please keep this at room temperature for the babies.

Thank you to all who volunteer during the worship hour to provide this valuable service. Please take a second to check the sign-up sheet posted on the nursery door and fill in the blank spaces if you can. **We need two workers each Sunday** – what a blessing that is !!! Keep those precious babies coming. Thank you very much to Sara Hite for being the coordinator again this year.



The Joke at THE END

At a nursing home in Florida, a group of senior citizens were sitting around talking about their aches and pains.

"My arms are so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee," said one.

"I know what you mean. My cataracts are so bad I can't even see my coffee," replied another.

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck," said a third.

"My blood pressure pills make me dizzy," another contributed.

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting old," winced an old man. Then there was a short moment of silence.

"Thank God we can all still drive," said one woman cheerfully.

Antioch United Methodist Church

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www.antiochmethodistchurch.org/

Now on Facebook at AntiochUMC.Lunenburg

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

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