

The Antioch UMC

Epistle

February, 2014

The Preachers' Part

A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs.

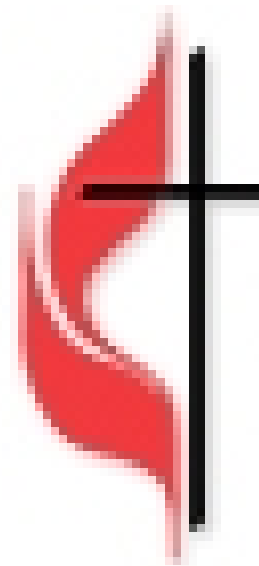
After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.'

Peace,

Asan



Children’s Corner

“The Retreat was really fun. We did family group, music, art, pool, games, T shirts, bible 101 and Talent show. I met lots of new people. My favorite part was crafts because we made these awesome bracelets. We also learned about the different friends in the bible. The Retreat was so much fun I hope to be going back next year.”

Camille Ethel Epley Bacon (2014)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Camille, Summer, David and Mallory all attended CAMP this month. Thank you Jackie for chaperoning and thank you to the church and the UMW for their financial support.

- Diane Bacon 1st
- Sallie Bacon 7th
- Haynie Hite 9th
- Ricky Bacon 10th
- Bobby Bagley 13th
- Tommy Conner 13th
- Dorothy Shields 15th
- Jody Coleman 15th
- Joe Coleman 16th
- Ray Hazelwood 27th

Children’s Church schedule for Feb

Date	Leaders & Helpers	Lesson
Feb 2	Julie & Gayle	Jesus Calls Fishermen
Feb 9	Dawn & Wanda	Jesus Heals Peter’s Mother-in-Law
Feb 16	Susan & Diane	Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes
Feb 23	Shirley & Dee	Jesus Calms the Storm

Children’s Church Leaders and Helpers will meet to review the program on Tuesday, February 4 at 7 pm.



News on the HOME front

1st WEDNESDAY – The first Wednesday of each month Alan conducts a service for the Pine View family. The service starts at 10 AM and everyone is invited to attend.

Church Notes

Devastation. That is how many of us feel this week in the aftermath of Nathan Stallings taking his life. We feel the loss for ourselves and his family; we feel lost.

When life seems unbearable, know that the weight is temporary, and that there are people who want to help carry it with you. Tell a friend how you feel; call Pastor Alan - 676-2314 or 434-981-2727 or someone else you trust. Information shared with Alan or any pastor in confidence is completely confidential unless it pertains to hurting yourself or someone else. Then pastors have a legal responsibility to seek additional help.

There are professional mental health resources, too:

The National Suicide Prevention Hotline - 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Crossroads Community Services Board emergency number - 1-800-548-1688

Crossroads Lunenburg office - (434)696-3747

Jesus built a ministry - still ongoing after 2,000 years - by listening to people and loving them, no matter what they did or said or were feeling. Allow Christ's hands to help *you* when you need help.

Lay Servant Academy in Blackstone

We are fortunate to be living so close to the Conference retreat center in Blackstone, and the programs offered there. February 21-23 the Lay Servant Academy will be providing courses of interest and those necessary for becoming certified as a Lay Speaker. This is a great opportunity to receive training from some of the best laity and clergy in the Va Conference, right here at home! For more information, contact Alan or go to <http://www.vaumc.org/ncfilerepository/events/2014LayServantAcademy.pdf>

Congratulations to Andrew Book - Andrew has been approved by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for ordination as an Elder at this year's Annual Conference.

New Bern Mission

We have been given a new mission by God to serve the New Bern, NC community. We will be providing home construction and remodeling services to an area still recovering from hurricane Irene. Dates of the mission are Thursday, March 6, returning Sunday March 9. Skilled workers and willing helpers are needed. Prayers are needed by the entire congregation for those who are going, and for those who we will be serving!

A special offering to support the team and the mission will be accepted on Sunday, March 2. Please give generously.

So – what *does* a Methodist believe?

Have you ever been asked that question? Maybe you've wondered yourself! We will attempt to answer this in a new sermon and lesson series. In February and March, from now until the beginning of Lent, we'll explore the basic beliefs of Christianity from the perspective of Methodism. We hope to make it interesting and fun as we explore our theology!

“I am sorry.” “I forgive you.”

Our January 19th sermon, “Forgiveness” laid a good foundation for a deeper conversation. You are invited to join that conversation on Thursday's throughout Lent. For five weeks beginning March 13, we will talk about the burden of guilt and shame, distinguish between forgetting and not remembering, and look at concrete things we can do to give and receive forgiveness.

Each session will be held from 7 to 8:30 pm. We will use Adam Hamilton's little book, “Forgiveness,” as a resource. The cost is \$10 per household to cover the cost of the book.

The commitment deadline (for placing a book order) is Sunday, February 23. Just let Alan know you want forgiveness. ☺

Ash Wednesday Service

Lent is the season of preparing for death and resurrection. It is the 40 non-Sundays before Easter, and we mark the season with the sanctuary color purple (like Advent, the church's other season of preparation). Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and an occasion for repentance. Ashes in the sign of the cross are placed on the forehead as a sign that we recognize our mortality and turn to God for salvation.

On Wednesday, March 5, we will gather at Antioch at 7 pm for a service of worship, repentance and ashes, as we begin preparing for a life which triumphs over death in Jesus Christ, whom God raised from the dead.

Charis' visit Storm-ed out

Missionary Charis Storms' visit was snowed out, but she will come again. We are planning a visit for early May, when the weather warms and flowers, not snow, dot the landscape.

VAVIM TRAINING

On Jan. 18th Brenda Barnes traveled to Williamsburg for a day of training to become a Volunteers In Mission leader. Often times when you go on a mission trip you must have a trained leader in order for your team to serve. The session not only taught what you needed to do to become a leader, but how you should live a Christian life.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Think of Samaria as anywhere you are different and perhaps not wanted, Judea is VA and the SE and Jerusalem is your town, home and/or workplace. Everyone can be in mission whether it is near or far, or

supporting the team by providing food, devotions or prayers.

Therefore you should keep your heart open to what breaks God's heart. Keep your eyes open for chances to serve at any moment of any day. From the moment we accept Christ as Lord we are on 1 lifelong trip. God is already at work ahead of you.

COME AS YOU ARE PRAISE AND WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday Jan. 26th our own Alan Layman led a praise and worship service at the Kenbridge Community Center. His sermon on letting God lead was very inspirational. The music was provided by Mike Johnson, the minister of Thrifts Chapel, St. Marks and Laurel Hill, and his friend Chris. The crowd sang and clapped and a spiritual time was experienced by all.

THANK YOU NOTES

We have received thank you notes from the Samaritan's Purse for providing children abroad with hand-picked gifts, the Salvation Army for providing and helping bag and box food for those less fortunate than us and from Alan thanking us for our generous gift at Christmas. The notes are posted on the board in the Fellowship Hall for all to read.

GIFT

Linda Walker Clark has painted a beautiful picture of Antioch which she has donated for a fundraiser for **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**. Linda Walker, as most of you know, went to Antioch and was married here before moving to Victoria with her husband Timmy. The history is on the back of her painting. If you would like to view the painting it is hanging in the Fellowship Hall. Be thinking of ways we can use this painting to help our fellow neighbors. (Raffle, Silent Auction, etc.)

January by the Numbers:

Average Weekly Attendance = 47

Average Weekly Giving = \$1,283

Needed each week = \$1,278

UMW

The UMW meets *once a month*, on the Tuesday after the 3rd Sunday.

UMW – We have been assigned another child to sponsor, through *ChildFund International*, because Yency is no longer part of the program. Meet our new little girl. ☺



This is Daylin Yosmary Alvarado Membreno
Birth Date: September 17, 2006

Daylin is a sweet child, who lives in a poor rural community located at the western part of Honduras. Fortunately, she has no mental or physical disabilities; and stays healthy most of the time. She attends elementary school and her favorite subject is drawing. Furthermore, she likes to play with dolls. She lives with her parents and a brother. Her father, Wilberto, is a farmer who cultivates corn and beans. Her mother, Daysi, is a housewife. Both parents are literate. Their low income is approximately of US\$ 60.00 monthly, which is not enough to cover even their most basic needs. This family lives in their own house,

made of adobe walls, zinc roof and cement floor. It also has all the public services found in their location. Our UMW sponsorship will contribute to support the different programs aimed in providing children a better quality of education and health community services; as well as support in additional programs to favor the community development as part of the priorities of this Development Area. May God bless Daylin and all the children in her community!

The next UMW Meeting is:

Tuesday, February 18th at 7:30
Frances Bacon's Home
2384 Bacon Fork Road

All Ladies Welcome

The UMW District Prayer Breakfast is Saturday, March 8, at Brian's Steakhouse in South Hill.

The theme for the meeting is
"The Kingdom of God is a Party".
Registration is at 8:30 am,
and breakfast is at 9 am.
Cost is \$9.

A registration form can be found in
the Winter District UMW newsletter.
Deadline for registration is February 25.
Everyone is invited –
just make sure to register
because we need an accurate count for the restaurant.

If you have any questions, contact Betsy Hanmer,
Farmville District UMW President
434-736-9241 or bhanmer@verizon.net

Notes for your February Calendar

- 4 Children's Church volunteers meet, 7 pm
- 5 Worship at Pine View, 10 am
- 8 Men's Breakfast at Williams, 8 am
- 9 Food-For-Thought follows worship
- 11 Outreach-Missions team, 7 pm
- 16 3rd Sunday Luncheon, Williams, noon
- 18 UMW at Frances', 7:30 pm
- 20 Discipleship Circle, St. Marks UMC, 7 pm

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Antioch United Methodist Church

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Lunenburg.umcs@gmail.com

www.antiochmethodistchurch.org/

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

C. Alan Layman, Pastor

calayman@sbcglobal.net

434-676-2314

434-981-2727

The Joke at THE END



You Never Hear in Church

Hey! It's MY turn to sit on the front pew!

I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went over time 25 minutes.

Personally, I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.

I've decided to give our church the \$500.00 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.

I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class.

I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!

Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!

Preacher, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.

And the Preacher's favorite...

Since we're all here, let's start the worship service early!