

# The Antioch UMC

## Epistle

March, 2014

### The Preachers' Part

#### Re-turning to God

Here we are once again. It's that time of year. Lent.

As I was reminded this week, Lent "is more than giving up chocolate." Isn't that kind of how we approach these 40 days? A half-hearted promise to "give up something" because, well... that's what we do in Lent.

The idea is that we sacrifice something of value as a way of joining Jesus' pilgrimage towards the cross. That's where he gave up his life for us. The least we could do is to sacrifice chocolate (ice cream, sodas, beer, shopping, movies, insert your object here...).

Sacrificing something we enjoy serves as a daily reminder that we are being invited to walk more closely with Christ. Actually, "invited" is too casual a word. Called. Each of us is being Called by God to take a look at ourselves; to see ourselves with the light of Christ shining on us.

The biblical call to re-turn toward God is heard in the words of John the Baptist (Mat 3:2) and of Jesus (Mat 4:17). Peter preaches it at Pentecost (Acts 2:38) and in Revelation (2:5, 2:16 and 3:20) the risen Christ calls established churches to "turn toward God."

In each of these occasions God's people are called to turn toward God with the command: "change your hearts and lives."

Repentance is intended by God to be life changing. Not 40 day change. Life change. Our sacrificial acts during Lent are intended to

transform our lives *forever*. When we give up something of great value, we are reminded daily of God's presence, faithfulness and love.

**Time and time again**, we say how valuable our time is. Time is a precious resource, and we "wish we had more time." Life's demands lead us to exclaim that we can't "spare the time."

This Lent, I invite you – no, I *call* you – to sacrifice something of real value. To sacrifice this most valuable treasure – your time.

Dedicate some of your time to God by reading or listening to the Bible, praying, reading a daily devotional. If you currently give God 15 minutes a day, double it to 30. If 30, make it 45 minutes. If you are presently offering God none of your time, then try 10 minutes a day, increasing it week by week.

But be careful! If you give up something of real value, you might find God changing your life. Forever.



Peace,

*Alan*

## Children's Corner

Please stop by the Children's Church Room and see some of the art work displayed. Also take note of how organized and full of Christian love and spirit it is in there!

A special thank you to two of our teens for joining the mission team to New Bern. Alex Hite and Hallie Stallings !!!



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Audrey Smith	9
Alan Layman	10
Sara Hite	14
Brandon Moseley	17
Tommy Conner	17
Susan Moseley	19
Katlyn Moseley	19
Elizabeth Buchanan	28
Jeff Hendricks	31



## News on the HOME front

On Valentine's Day, Wayne traveled to Pine View to play and sing for the residents. He usually has an afternoon slot, but so as to not interfere with the Valentine party that afternoon, his time was changed to morning.

There were 22 residents in the dining room ready and waiting! One of the nurses joked that those needing medication wanted to be sure they got it before he started singing. It's hard to say who enjoys those times the most, Wayne or the residents.

He will be going back on Friday, March 14 at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome to come and participate, listen or dance if you are so inclined.

As always, please keep the residents and staff of Pine View in your prayers.

**1<sup>st</sup> 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

### Preaching Lent

Since the first of the year, our attention has been drawn to having a better quality of life, and the United Methodist way of salvation. Throughout Lent, we will turn to the traditional Gospel accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus. We will accompany our Lord as he makes his way up to Jerusalem. Might your life be changed by walking this journey with him? Ask yourself these questions...

- March 9 Walt Moseley will be preaching
- March 16 John 3:1-17 Born again – *again?!?*
- March 23 John 4:5-42 Truth or Consequences?
- March 30 John 9:1-41 What *do* the blind see?
- April 6 John 11:1-45 What are friends for?

### PRAYERS & ITEMS NEEDED

Robyn Fowler, along with Tammy & Sydney Green from First Baptist Church in South Hill, will be traveling to Honduras on a medical mission trip this August.

First Baptist is holding a yard sale in April to help these ladies raise funds for their trip.

Any items you would like to donate as you do your spring cleaning (including clothing) will be greatly appreciated.

You can contact Robyn or Betsey for further information or questions.

Please keep Robyn, Tammy and Sydney uplifted in prayer as they prepare for this trip to serve the people of Honduras, as well as serving the Lord.

### Looking for ways to strengthen your spiritual life?

Consider joining Alan at the Bishop's Convocation on Prayer. It will be held on March 29 at Trinity UMC, Richmond (903 Forest Avenue) from 10 am – 3 pm. The Rev. Tom Albin, Dean of Upper Room Ministries, will be the featured speaker. Workshops on spiritual disciplines will also be offered as part of the convocation. For more info, talk with Alan, or go to [http://www.vaumc.org/pages/news/2014vanews/2014vanews\\_5talentalbin](http://www.vaumc.org/pages/news/2014vanews/2014vanews_5talentalbin)

### Coming to a Town Near Us! – The School for Children's Ministry

We are fortunate to have the Conference School for Children's Ministry in Farmville this year. Workshops for effective teaching and leading are being offered. Join Pastor Alan in day of activity and instruction on Saturday, April 5. Contact Alan for more info.

### Conversation on Forgiveness

We are excited to have 14 parishioners participating in the Conversation on Forgiveness as part of their Lent. We will meet five Thursday evenings beginning March 13, at Antioch from 7 to 8:30. Rev. Adam Hamilton's book, *Forgiveness*, will be our resource, Abby Barnes and Alan will be our facilitators, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will be our guide.

### Woohoo!

**Congratulations** to Kim and William on the birth of their new baby girl. Ruthie Ann was born on February 14<sup>th</sup> ! What a GREAT little Valentine.

**Congratulations** to Pastor Alan! The Virginia Conference Board of Ordained Ministry is recommending Alan be commissioned as a Provisional Elder. This means that the Board agrees that God is calling Alan to ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church and is ready to begin that ministry. Once confirmed by the Order of Elders, commissioning will occur during the Service of Ordering for Ministry at Annual Conference, June 21.

**This edition** of the Epistle marks the beginning of our second year of publication!

**Serving in March**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Nursery</u></b>	<b><u>Children's Church</u></b>	<b><u>Liturgist</u></b>
2	Wanda	Brenda-Abby	Abby Barnes
9	Trudy	Barbara-Earl	William Bacon
16	Marjorie	Julie-Gayle	Susan Moseley
23	Julie	Dawn-Wanda	Ginny Arthur
30	Lori	Susan-Diane	Tom Barnes

**February by the Numbers:**

**Average Weekly Attendance = 49**

**Average Weekly Giving = \$1,231**

**Needed each week = \$1,278**

**UMW**

**“Mission Moment” for Prayer Breakfast**

At the upcoming prayer breakfast all units are asked to bring their “free mission items” for the Kingdom Party. That means your collected labels for education, your cancelled stamps, your box tops for education and your tin pop tops! How will this help our mission purpose? The labels for education are sent to Henry Fork Service Center in Rocky Mount, VA. Since their new van has been purchased, they are saving the labels to get free electronics for 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. Did you know that the UMW has been collecting cancelled stamps since 1982? How does that help our mission statement? In these 32 years \$4,526 has been donated to UMCOR through the sale of thousands of used stamps that you usually toss in the trash can. The stamps should be cut from the envelope leaving ¼ inch border around them. The pre-sorted, nonprofit org. stamps are not needed as they have no monetary value. When the stamps are taken to a district or conference event, they are given to the York River District ladies and they give them to Jean Smith who takes them to a stamp collector and distributor. Now, do you see how your free stuff can be recycled to help many worthwhile projects?

**Please help the Antioch UMW unit, with this mission!** Collect the following “free mission items”... (Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education, cancelled stamps, and tin pop tops) and bring them to church. Your free stuff will be recycled, to help many worthwhile projects (*including our local schools*).

If you have any questions, please contact Ginny Arthur, Susan Moseley, or Nancy Turner. (Call 676-3247, 676-2081, or 676-2995). See you soon with all your labels, box tops, pop tops, and stamps!

### **UMW District Prayer Breakfast**

**When:** Saturday, March 8

**Where:** Brian’s Steakhouse, South Hill

**Theme:** “The Kingdom of God is a Party”.

**Registration:** 8:30 am

**Breakfast:** 9:00 am

**Cost:** \$9.00

### **Our next UMW Meeting is:**

Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at Julie Layman’s (3311 South Hill Road) . 8 o’clock all ladies are welcome.

### **Farmville / Global Board of Ministries**

The Global Board of Ministries and team leader meeting for Farmville were both cancelled this month due to snow, so nothing to report there. We did have a discipleship circle 3 meeting. The meeting was held at Victoria UMC on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. Several items of interest were how we could work together to benefit the local communities. Helping in the school systems as lunch buddies, tutor, after school programs including religious programs among other items. You do need to be fingerprinted and have a background check to help, but it would be greatly appreciated. Another topic of interest was Neighbors Helping Neighbors. If you know of someone that needs home repairs and is

unable to pay to get them done, you may get an application for them to fill out at Cal Spencer's office in Kenbridge. They must own their own home. The dates are May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> so mark your calendar.

### **Spring Forward!**

Set your clocks up an hour on Saturday evening, March 8, so you will be on time for Sunday worship!



### **Calendar of March Activity**

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Worship at Pine View, 10 am
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday Service, 7 pm
- 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> – New Bern Mission
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Men’s Breakfast at Williams, 8 am
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Walt Moseley preaching
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study, 10 am
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Forgiveness Study, 7 pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Wells Bacon Baptism
- 18<sup>th</sup> – UMW
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Discipleship Circle at St. Marks, 7 pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study, 10 am
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Forgiveness Study, 7 pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – “Come As You Are” Contemporary Worship, 7 pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Bible Study, 10 am
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Forgiveness Study, 7 pm

## Community Lenten Worship Services

Southside Clergy Association Prayer and Reflection, Wednesdays at 12 noon

March 5 Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
*Ash Wednesday*

March 12 South Hill Presbyterian Church, Tim Irving preaching

March 19 Trinity Episcopal Church, Kevin Rosenfield preaching

March 26 First Baptist Church, Herman Lundy preaching

April 2 Gethsemane Baptist Church, Paul Sciotto preaching

April 9 South Hill United Methodist Church, Joanne Bedford preaching

### **Madeline's House ~ Volunteers Needed**

Madeline's House needs Volunteers, to help with their Newsletters (fold and stamp them).

It usually takes 3 or 4 days, if they get 3 to 4 people. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

(Any day) March 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

Work 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Lunch 12:00 – 1:00

*Or, work half-day:*

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

or

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

To volunteer, or for more information, contact **Joy Long**, Program Assistant.

(434) 374-1096 or

[scvpprogramassistant@gmail.com](mailto:scvpprogramassistant@gmail.com)

## The Joke at THE END



There's a little old Christian lady living next door to an atheist. Every morning the lady comes out onto her front porch and shouts "Praise the Lord!"

The atheist yells back, "There is no God".

She does this every morning with the same result. As time goes on the lady runs into financial difficulties and has trouble buying food. She goes out onto the porch and asks God for help with groceries, then says "Praise the Lord".

The next morning she goes out onto the porch and there's the groceries she's asked for, of course she says "Praise the Lord".

The atheist jumps out from behind a bush and says, "Ha, I bought those groceries - there is no God".

The lady looks at him and smiles, she shouts "Praise the Lord --- not only did you provide for me Lord, you made Satan pay for the groceries!"

\* \* \*

### **Antioch United Methodist Church**

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

C. Alan Layman, Pastor

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