

# The Antioch UMC

## Epistle

April, 2014

### The Preachers' Part

*Alleluia!*

*Christ the Lord is risen today, earth and heaven in chorus say!*

*Alleluia!*

The joy and gratitude felt by Charles Wesley when he penned these words in 1739 is unquestionable! Alleluia! Christ is risen! This confession - that Jesus died, was buried and is raised from the dead - is at the heart of our Christian *faith*.

How did it happen? We don't know, and it does not matter. It is a mystery that we accept. We trust in God's grace, the essence and expression of divine love, to do what's in our best interest, to make us "Easter People."

What does that mean? In short, we are not perfect, we make mistakes, do things we shouldn't, say things we regret. We act this way because we are separated from God, and we remain separated from God because we act this way. It's a vicious cycle.

And it's the reason we remember Thursday and Friday of Holy Week. In route to the empty tomb and joy of Easter, we must walk through Christ's betrayal, denial and crucifixion by the likes of us. By receiving the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday we remember the last supper of Jesus and his disciples. In recalling the

execution on Good Friday, we remember that Christ died because of our sins. The pathway to the empty tomb passes through Golgotha.

But in Jesus, God breaks the vicious cycle. God breaks in to human nature - as Jesus Christ - and creates a "new thing." Jesus was one with God, there was no separation, and everything he did was pleasing to God. Because he was "true God from true God" (the Nicene Creed), death could not defeat him.

As Easter People, we accept the gift of God, through Jesus, to everlasting life. It's a gift that offers us hope, despite our imperfections, and forgiveness because of them. As Easter People, we accept the challenge, too. The challenge to live like Jesus lived, so that, by God's grace, we can close the gap that separates us from God.

*Alleluia!*

*Raise your joys and triumphs high, sing ye heavens and earth reply!*

*Alleluia!*



Christ Victorious,  
Rising Glorious,  
ALLELUIA!

Peace,

*Asan*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

Jackie Malone	6th
Braden McDaniel	12th
Lori Bacon	14th
Grace Hite	19th
Shirley Hite	26th
Rebecca Joyner	27th
Andy Malone	27th



**News on the HOME front**

Shamrocks were everywhere at Pine View on Monday, March 17 (St. Patrick’s Day). Halls and doors and even the residents were sporting shamrocks.

Festivities began Monday afternoon with a St. Patrick’s Day party. Wayne was invited to bring his guitar and entertain with his music while the residents enjoyed special treats served to them by Gloria Rhodes, the new Activities Director.

The residents were especially happy because they had been quarantined for about a week due to a virus going around the facility. A party and music were just what they needed to lift their spirits.

Approximately twenty residents were assembled and each one seemed to have a good time.

Please keep these residents and staff in your thoughts and prayers. They would also appreciate a visit and/or a card to let them know you are thinking of them.

**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**

**Annual Conference will soon be here!**

The Lunenburg Charge is a generous supporter of the mission efforts associated with the annual gathering. Information on “Kits for Conference” and “4 Cans for Conference” is now available on the fellowship room bulletin board. Shop and package early!

**Neil Barnes** is recovering from her recent surgery to repair a broken hip. She is temporarily staying at Heritage Hall for therapy. Send Neil a card to:

Room 308  
900 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 550  
Blackstone, VA 23824

**The Antioch Outreach and Mission committee** are excited to offer a beautiful painting by Linda Walker as a means of garnering some funds for this year’s Neighbor’s Helping Neighbors project. This is a local mission helping our neighbors right here in the county. Each donation for the *Antioch UMC* print is \$5. If you have not already done so, please see Brenda for tickets.

**Alan and Julie** attended the *Bishop's Convocation on Prayer* on March 29 at Trinity UMC, in Richmond. The Rev. Tom Albin, Dean of Upper Room Ministries, was the featured speaker. Workshops on spiritual disciplines were offered as part of the convocation. Julie and Alan attended different workshops and had lots of conversation on the way home. Bishop Cho delivered a heart-felt message on the value of attending church and on the importance of prayer in our lives. All 400 plus in attendance were very blessed by his words.

**Conversation on Forgiveness**

Our Lenten Conversation on Forgiveness will wind up this Thursday. Alan and Abby have given those in attendance a lot to think about. The use of Adam Hamilton's book, *Forgiveness*, has proven to be a great resource for our discussions. The Holy Spirit has been with us at each meeting and we have all learned what to do with . . . stones.

**Lilies for Easter Sunday**

Contact Frances Bacon by Sunday April 13 to order a lily for Easter Sunday. You can call her at 676-8450 or fill out this form and get it to Frances.

Lily is given by

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In Honor of                      OR                      Memory of

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**WooHoo!**

*To our bright and successful young leaders...*

**Wellsley Bacon** is Salutatorian of the Kenston Forest Class of 2014. She will attend Virginia Tech in the fall.

**Amber Malone** has been accepted into Old Dominion University. Amber will graduate from Park View High School and Southside Virginia Community College in May.

*And to our youngest future leader...*

We give thanks to God for the March 2<sup>nd</sup> birth of **William Ray Joyner (Will)** to Rebecca and Adam. Will continues to eat and grow at St. Francis Hospital. Rebecca and Adam continue to travel each day to Midlothian to be with Will. Your support and prayers are appreciated.

*And don't forget* last year's graduate, **Brittany Stallings**, at Longwood University. Send her a card to Box 2458, Farmville VA 23909.

**Serving in April**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
6	Julie	Shirley-Dee	Walt Moseley
13	Wanda	Brenda-Abby	Dawn Bacon
20			Earl Callis
27	Shirley	Barbara-Earl	Tessie Bacon
4	Trudy	Brenda-Gayle	Abby Barnes

## March by the Numbers:

Average Weekly Attendance = 56

Average Weekly Giving = \$1,302

Needed each week = \$1,278

## Holy Week Services

### **Palm Sunday**

Celebrate Jesus' Triumphant Entry into the Holy City. Worship begins at 11 am.

### **Holy Thursday**

Receive the Lord's Supper as we remember the last supper.

7 pm at Williams UMC, 4670 Longview Dr.

You are also invited to participate in a service of worship and celebration of the Lord's Supper at Pine View Rest Home, Academy Road in South Hill at 10 am.

### **Good Friday**

Friday's death carries us to the Glory of Easter.

7 pm at Antioch UMC.

### **Easter Morning**

Sunrise service at 6:30 am begins on the patio of Antioch before proceeding indoors.

The celebration continues with breakfast following worship.

Easter Celebrations continue at 9:30 am at Williams UMC and 11 am at Antioch UMC.



## **Community Lenten Worship Services**

Southside Clergy Association Prayer and Reflection, Wednesdays at 12 noon

April 9 South Hill United Methodist Church, Joanne Bedford preaching

## UMW

Julie Layman hosted the March 18th meeting of the UMW at the parsonage. An inspiring program entitled "Turning Faith, Hope, & Love Into Action" was presented by Julie. This topic provided opportunity for discussion and reflection regarding the gifts each individual has that can be used to share the love of God.

**Our next UMW Meeting is:** April 22, 2014 at the home of Nancy Turner, 7305 Longview Drive.

## 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



**A** minister dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates.

Ahead of him is a guy who's dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans.

Saint Peter addresses this guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The guy replies, "I'm Joe Cohen, taxi driver, of Noo Yawk City."

St. Peter consults his list.

He smiles and says to the taxi driver, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

The taxi driver goes into Heaven with his robe and staff, and it's the minister's turn.

He stands erect and booms out, "I am Joseph Snow, pastor of Calvary for the last forty-three years."

St Peter consults his list.

He says to the minister, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Just a minute," says the minister.  
"That man was a taxi driver, and he

gets a silken robe and golden staff. How can this be?"

"Up here, we work by results," says Saint Peter. "While you preached, people slept; while he drove, people prayed."

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### **Antioch United Methodist Church**

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[Lunenburg.umcs@gmail.com](mailto:Lunenburg.umcs@gmail.com)

[www.antiochmethodistchurch.org/](http://www.antiochmethodistchurch.org/)

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

C. Alan Layman, Pastor

[calayman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:calayman@sbcglobal.net)

434-676-2314

434-981-2727