

The Antioch UMC

Epistle

May, 2014

The Preachers' Part

"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her." George Washington

This is the 100th anniversary of the national Mother's Day holiday! As the quote above indicates, there's a long tradition of honoring our mothers. Here in the United States, the first recognized celebration was in 1908.

Yet being grateful for moms has been a part of life since Old Testament times. Honoring our moms (and dads) is first on the list of 10 Commandments (#5) after the rules about worshiping and honoring God. As the special day approaches, we prepare to pay tribute to our mothers for their sacrifices and gifts, their love and devotion.

"Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children." Billy Graham

Dr. Graham's comment best captures the spirit of celebrating Mother's Day in our churches. We express our gratitude for the role moms play in shaping the character of all our children. It serves as a reminder, too, that the divide between "religious" and "secular" is a fabrication of our imagination. All of life is "religious;" we are either faith serving or defeating.

"Who is my mother? Whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven is my brother, sister and mother." Jesus of Nazareth

So, leave it to Jesus to re-define "mother." Rather than rely upon biology, Jesus says whoever does God's will is his family. This shouldn't come as a surprise to us – Jesus stretched out his arms to include everyone. He was always inviting outcasts and outsiders to be a part of the "family."

As church family, we might do well this season to be respectful and sympathetic of those who don't find joy in Mothers' Day.

Maria Gocke writes in *RelevantMagazine.com*, "Some of us don't have mothers to send cards to anymore, and will observe the day by visiting a grave site. Some of us have strained family relationships, and this day is a day of tension with our own kids, our own mothers or both. Some have intense regrets or guilt about their own mothering of their kids, young or grown. Others of us have lost children, suddenly and unexpectedly or after a long, difficult struggle. Others still are pained by Mothers' Day because we want nothing more than to be mothers, but are not able."

Becoming a mom is a gift, a gift of God's grace. *Being* a mom requires a lot of God's grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, may we extend grace to all women this Mother's Day.

Peace,

Alan



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Brittany Stallings	1
Jordan Spiers	1
Kenneth McDaniel	2
Ashley Clary	4
Josh Overby	7
Tracey Mahr	15
Tee-Wah Hayes	21
Lee Cundiff	22
Wellsley Bacon	23
Dawn Bacon	24
Renee Barnes West	29



News on the HOME front

There was definitely an Easter Parade at Pine View on Friday, April 18, down to the dining room to hear Wayne perform along with none other than Margaret Martin! Yes, Margaret is back and in fine form, we must say!! She and Wayne enjoyed singing and playing together again and it's for sure the residents were happy to sit and listen to them. There was even some dancing at the end!!

Margaret Smith came by to visit and listen in on the variety of music, everything from Easter Parade, Peter Cottontail and the much loved Easter hymns that so many residents remember from past Easters.

Visitors are always welcome at Pine View so if you have a few minutes, stop by and say hello. You'll be glad you did!

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.

Children's Church

What a great group of children we have here at Antioch! Hopefully everyone is taking the time to visit the fellowship room and see the newspaper articles that appear from time to time on the bulletin board. You never know who will show up in the paper !! Also, please ask any of the children what they are learning in Children's Church. You may be amazed at what you hear.

Church Notes

Last Chance! The beautiful print of Antioch UMC by Linda Walker Clark will be given away on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11. Each donation for the *Antioch UMC* print is \$5. All funds are for this year's Neighbors Helping Neighbors project, May 30-31. This is a local mission helping our neighbors right here in the county. If you have not already done so, please see Brenda for tickets.

Mother's Day, Sunday May 11

The annual celebration honoring God and our mothers is May 11. A BIG THANK YOU to Shirley Hite for coordinating this year's service. There will be special music and undoubtedly a surprise or two. Plan to attend! We will not hold **Food For Thought** on that day.

The Kits Are Coming!

From The Interpreter Magazine, March-April 2014

The Rev. Denise Honeycutt and her husband were missionaries in Nigeria in the late 1990s. Based in a small, remote village, there was "no running water, no electricity, no paved roads," she said. They were out one hot afternoon when a noise, some singing, something they couldn't clearly make out, began to rumble through the area. Suddenly, they could understand. "The kits are coming! The kits are coming!"

A big truck, filled with school kits, health kits and sewing kits, had arrived from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). They had no idea it was coming, but there it was.

"It was like Christmas," Honeycutt said. "I've been on the other side of making kits, and praying for those people who are going to receive them," she said. "But to be there, seeing them distributed, and seeing the difference it made ... made me feel proud to be United Methodist. All day long, God is working for good in the world," said Honeycutt. "God invites us to be a part of that. Through these kits, we partner with God in kingdom work."

The Lunenburg Charge is a generous supporter of the mission efforts associated "the kits" in conjunction with each year's Annual Conference. Information on "Kits for Conference" is attached to this newsletter. Kits will be gathered & blessed on Sunday, June 15.

Would you like to be a missionary?

Maybe for a day or two... and stay close to home? **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** will give you that opportunity. We will be providing home repair here in Lunenburg to homeowners unable to help themselves to the extent help is needed. Skilled workers, willing helpers, cooks and runners are needed. Sign up today for Friday and / or Saturday, May 30-31.

UMW

Nancy Turner hosted the April meeting of the UMW. Although there was a small group this month, the spirit of our Lord was there with us as we conducted the work of the group. Those who were not in attendance will be sorry to hear they missed Nancy's famous homemade ice-cream cake and it was delicious.

Our next UMW Meeting is: May 20, 2014 at the home of Nanny Sue Dawson, 1027 Stone Mill Road. Hope to see everyone there and please bring a guest who may want to join us !!

Coming to a church near you...

A sorcerer, a prison break and a shipwreck – could they be the work of the Holy Spirit?! We'll spend the summer exploring the Acts of the Apostles and see how the Spirit of God is at work here in our community!

Grow Our Church!

At the April meeting, the Antioch Church Council committed to growing our church beginning with participating in the September "Grow Your Church" weekend. A team from the church will work with professionals to develop an action plan specific to our community. What an exciting time to be disciples of Jesus! More info later.

Speaking of growth... nursery during worship is now host to as many as 3 infants – thank you, Jesus! Providing nursery services are a means of reaching out to the community. When our church is welcoming and caring, people want to be a part. Thanks to all who give and serve in this ministry.

Serving in May

<u>Date</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
4	Trudy	Barbara-Earl	Abby
11	Ginny-Betsey		William
18	Sara	Dawn-Wanda	Susan
25	Shirley	Susan-Diane	Ginny
1	Julie	Shirley-Dee	Shirley

Neil Barnes is recovering . . . AGAIN . . .from her recent surgery to repair her OTHER 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 DS is coming! The DS is coming!

District Superintendent Bob Parks will preside over a special called session of the Lunenburg Charge Conference on Thursday, May 22 at 7 pm. This will be held at Antioch. The purpose of the conference is to establish the pastor's salary as full-time effective July 1. Alan is currently serving "3/4 time." Please come show your support and have dessert following the business.

April by the Numbers:

Average Weekly Attendance = 50
Average Weekly Giving = \$1,276
Needed each week = \$1,278

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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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The Joke at THE END



THREE NUNS WERE ATTENDING A YANKEE BASEBALL GAME.

THREE MEN WERE SITTING DIRECTLY BEHIND THEM.
BECAUSE THEIR HABITS WERE PARTIALLY BLOCKING THE VIEW,
THE MEN DECIDED TO BADGER THE NUNS, HOPING THEY'D GET ANNOYED ENOUGH TO MOVE TO ANOTHER AREA.

IN A VERY LOUD VOICE, THE FIRST GUY SAID, "I THINK I'M GOING TO MOVE TO UTAH ... THERE ARE ONLY 100 NUNS LIVING THERE."

THEN THE SECOND GUY SPOKE UP AND SAID LOUDLY, "I WANT TO MOVE TO MONTANA. THERE ARE ONLY 50 NUNS LIVING THERE."

THE THIRD GUY YELLED, "I WANT TO GO TO IDAHO. THERE ARE ONLY 25 NUNS LIVING THERE."

THE MOTHER SUPERIOR TURNED AROUND, LOOKED AT THE MEN, AND IN A VERY SWEET AND CALM VOICE SAID,
"WHY DON'T YOU GO TO HELL. I KNOW FOR A FACT THERE AREN'T ANY NUNS THERE!