

# The Antioch UMC

## Epistle

June, 2014

### The Preachers' Part

This summer we will embark on a spiritual journey. In our weekly worship and Bible study group we will journey with the first disciples as they experience God in Jesus' absence.

"*Windswept*" is the bold drama that is the book of Acts. It tells the story of God's faithfulness in sending the Holy Spirit, as promised. It is the story of the people's faithful response, and their struggle to be faithful. And it's the story of the Spirit - led adventure into uncharted waters, when the disciples of Jesus went places and did things they never, ever thought possible. They were "*Windswept*."

But our summer series is not just to hear about someone else's journey, listening to tales of another's "summer vacation." The Acts of the Apostles was written as inspired by the Holy Spirit. We read it (and all scripture) by the Holy Spirit's guidance. Those old stories are vitally relevant to us today - to our spiritual journey.

The bold drama that is the book of Acts tells the story of God's faithfulness in sending the Holy Spirit *to us*. It is the story of *our* faithful response, and *our* struggle to be faithful, because it's not always easy honoring our commitments. And it's the story of the Spirit - led adventure into uncharted waters, when *we*, disciples of Jesus, go places and do things we never, ever thought possible.

I often hear folks lament that the Ten Commandments are no longer publicly displayed. The first four of those commandments have to do with our faithfulness toward God. They rightfully assume God's faithfulness to us.

1) Nothing is more important than God. 2) There is no substitute for God (no idols!). 3) "Don't use God's name as if it were of no significance" (CEB Ex 20:7). And, 4) Remember the day of worship- it is a Holy Day.

This summer, as we are being renewed and revitalized and challenged, you are invited to join me in a covenant with God: to demonstrate a faithful commitment to God by engaging in one hour a day of spiritual disciplines. It is a time devoted just for the One who is most important. Spiritual disciplines are praying, reading the Bible, studying devotionals and meditation. It's okay to do this in two or three segments each day.

I will guide you to resources and help devise a plan that works for you. Talk with me. I am praying for you to be *Windswept*.

Peace,

*Alan*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

Nannie Sue Dawson	- June 5
John McDaniel	- June 8
Mae Overby	- June 12
Abby Barnes	- June 12
Tessie Bacon	- June 13
Chris Bacon	- June 13
Earl Callis	- June 15
Diane Overby	- June 20
Brenda Napier	- June 20
Zach Clary	- June 23



**News on the HOME front**

The first Wednesday of each month is Alan's time to lead a worship service at Pine View; however, he was on vacation when that date rolled around, so Wayne volunteered to lead the service for May.

Margaret Martin was there, so after Wayne led a brief worship service with prayer and scripture he and Margaret took musical requests from the residents to play and sing their favorite hymns. A significant amount of requests were given so the dining room at Pine View was ringing with the "old hymns". A couple of really good alto voices could be heard singing out along with the rest so there must be some "hidden" talent at Pine View.

Wayne went back to Pine View on Thursday, May 15 to entertain. His was a solo performance this time because Margaret was out of town and she was greatly missed.

There were a small number of residents in attendance so it was decided that 2:00 may be too early because it is probably still nap time for the residents. He thinks he will try 2:30 the next time. There is no date set for June yet, but we will try and keep everyone posted so you can join the residents and enjoy the music!

All are invited to come and worship on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Hope to see you there!

## Children's Church

Mark your calendars for Friday, June 27th for the first annual Antioch Church Lock-In!

Please have the children (ages 3 to 12) at the church at 6:30 PM. We will have dinner at church, no sodas. Please dress them in nothing but play clothes because we will have some "messy" fun. If they each have a tee-shirt that they can bring (to write on with markers) please throw that in their bag along with their PJ's. Any sleeping bags and pillows will be appreciated but not necessary. I will have a sign-up sheet for you to sign along with your phone number (in case you need a call). There will be at least three adults there at all times and pictures will be taken 😊. Please be at the church on Saturday morning no later than 8:30 to pick up your sleepy, happy, sweet children.

*Julie*

## Church Notes

### Kits, Cans and Collection!

It's Annual Conference time and it seems as though opportunities for mission are about as abundant as God's grace. There are "**Kits for Conference**" - health, school, birthing, etc. Kits go to UMCOR so as to be ready for distribution when and where needed. Last year we contributed 39 kits. Let's do 50 this year!

"**Cans For Conference**" is a great way to donate canned and dry goods to the food bank in the area of Conference; this year that's Hampton Roads. In 2013, we gave 120 #'s of food items.

This year's **Annual Conference Offering** will support eight project around the world, including Imagine No Malaria; Project Hope - the UM Churches of Haiti; and two programs targeting children in poverty here in Virginia. The Offering will be collected on Sunday, June 15. Can we contribute \$500 this year?!

## *Windswept*

### *The Bold Drama in (Three) Acts of the Apostles*

This summer, experience *Windswept*, a study and worship series based on the Biblical book, The Acts of the Apostles. Could it happen to us? Empowered by the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus promises? Being led by God to do things we never thought possible - in spiritual practices, mission and outreach, inviting and welcoming new people?

Come see for yourself - and experience being *Windswept*!

### Act I - Promise, Presence, Power

Inspired by the Holy Spirit; based on Acts 1:1-2:47.

Scene One: It Will Happen June 1  
Communion Sunday

Scene Two: Blowing in the Wind June 8  
Pentecost - Wear Red!  
Reception of New Members

Scene Three: All - in - Awe June 15  
Graduate Recognition  
Conference Offering and Blessing of Gifts

On Sunday, June 22, we will take an intermission from *Windswept* while Pastor Alan is at Annual Conference. Walt Moseley will be preaching and leading worship.

**Act II - "Being Bold"** begins on June 29.

### Serving in June

<u>Date</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
1	Julie	Shirley-Dee	Shirley
8	Trudy	Brenda-Abby	Dawn
15	Shirley		Earl
22	Kim	Julie-Gayle	Tessie
29	Sara	Dawn-Wanda	Julie

## UMW

### **Help us support Madeline's House!**

Let's help provide for the victims of domestic and sexual violence, who go to *Madeline's House* seeking a safe haven from their abusers. Your donation of any of the items listed below will help defray some of the cost, for providing basic needs for those women and children.

#### **Madeline's House Wish List**

*Madeline's House* (Southside Center for Violence Prevention) is in desperate need of Walmart gift cards. These cards are used to purchase household items, groceries, basic clothing, toiletries, and prescription medication for clients.

#### Also needed are Items for Routine Needs:

- Clorox wipes
- Bleach
- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Lysol
- Paper Plates, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Solo Cups

**Please place your donated items in the collection box at church by Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**Thank you for your support of Madeline's House!**

**Our next UMW Meeting is:** June 17, 2014 at the home of Susan Moseley – 234 Reedy Branch Road. Hope to see everyone there and please bring a guest who may want to join us !!

*All UMW meetings will be held at 7:30 PM.*

### **May by the Numbers:**

Average Weekly Attendance = 51

Average Weekly Giving = \$ 1,192

Needed each week = \$1,278

## **WOOHOO!**

To the Antioch community for raising \$857 in support of this year's Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors projects! With the balance from last year, the total contribution is \$1,838.

To the Lunenburg Charge for sending 23 "missionaries" to work construction and support services in this year's "Neighbors" program.

To Kenneth McDaniel for receiving the Linda Clark print of Antioch UMC!

### **Summer's here...**

...and many of you will be taking vacations in the weeks ahead. Here are some tips to encourage your faithfulness throughout the season:

When you pack for the trip – take your Bible. And read it. Each week's bulletin has the scriptures we will be discussing and worshipping with the following week. Even though you are not here physically, you can be here in spirit.

And – when you are not here physically, the church still relies upon your financial support. Give before you go for the week you are away.

If you are planning a day trip or activity on Sunday, you are invited to attend early service at Williams, where worship begins at 9:30, so you can be on the road by 10:30 and enjoy your day.

Last, odds are pretty good that wherever you are going on vacation, you'll find a church there. Yes, it will be different. But who knows – you might be blessed and find something really meaningful to bring back home; a souvenir from your faith-full vacation!

## The Joke at THE END



*The light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.*

*The tailgating woman was furious and honked her horn, screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the intersection, dropping her cell phone and makeup.*

*As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.*

*After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.*

*He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you and cussing a blue streak at him.*

*I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate holder, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car."*

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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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