# The Antioch UMC Epistle

July, 2014

## The Preachers' Part

Things are a bit gusty in the first month of being *Windswept*! I have experienced God's presence in worship, in groups gathered to pray or study the Bible, and in my personal prayer time. I've also experienced the Spirit of God in conversations with many of you.

Several of you have been bold enough to say, in one way or another, "I don't know how to pray." Some have commented, "I only know one way to pray." Your honesty and candor is Spirit-led.

The Holy Spirit is leading us to offer some times for learning how to pray. Maybe you need some fresh ideas to inspire your time with God, or some guidance on how to find an hour a day for God. Maybe your idea of prayer is praying for people in need; maybe you believe "that's what we pay the preacher to do" - to pray, so you don't have to.

On Sunday evenings at 6, we will meet in the fellowship room at Williams UMC (4869 Longview Road). On Monday evenings at 7, we will gather at Antioch UMC. Same topic, different locales. Two opportunities to explore and experience three different topics.

The first conversation will be July 13 / 14 as we discuss 'feeding the spirit is like feeding the body,' and other practical ways of structuring your prayer life.

The second conversation, on July 20 / 21 is entitled "Listening to Scripture." We will explore the practice of "divine reading" (lectio divina), which incorporates reading scripture, prayer and listening for God.

The third session, on July 27 / 28 is "Four Simple Prayers to Order Your Life." We will discuss specific ways and resources for your spiritual practices.

You are invited and encouraged to attend any or all.

On Sunday, August 3, I will be issuing an invitation to Covenant: to enter into the Covenant of Spiritual Disciplines with God devoting one hour a day to praying, reading scripture and other disciplines. A copy of this Covenant is again attached to this newsletter.

The Spirit of God is present and moving among us. I hope you will allow yourself to be swept toward a deeper relationship with God. I continue to pray that you will be *Windswept*.

Peace,

Æsan





#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

Mike Pearson June 11

Jenna Bacon June 13

Alex Hite June 17

These names were left out of the June Epistle and Julie is very sorry about that.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

Our **July** Birthday Folk

Ronnie Overby 1 Summer Jenkins 15 C. W. Dawson 17 Sarah Stallings 18 Marjorie Coleman 18 Barbara Callis 21 Alicia Clary 21 Lydia Pearson 21

Will Arthur

If there are errors in the birthday list or you are not seeing YOUR special day mentioned, please let Betsey or Julie know. Thanks

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#### News on the HOME front

Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> found Wayne at Pine View again for his monthly music session. There were approximately 18 residents gathered in the dining room to enjoy some music and laughter. Margaret Martin surprised us by stopping by to sing and play the piano (by ear and she's **amazing!**). It was a good time - a lot of singing along and a little bit of dancing.

There are some new faces among the residents and we do hope their stay at Pine View will be a long and happy one.

Guests are always welcome to drop in and visit, eat lunch, entertain or just sit and read/chat with one or more of the residents. These lovely people do not have the opportunity to come visit you, so please find a little time to stop by for a chat and catch up on what is going on in their lives at Pine View.

As always, prayers are very much appreciated there for the residents and the staff.

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**

"Let the children come to me," Jesus said (Mat 19:14). The dozen volunteers who welcome the children to **Children's Church**, providing Bible instruction and activities for our children are doing an awesome job! And they deserve a break. So Children's Church is taking the summer off!

Those volunteers and the parents of our children are invited to a conversation on the effectiveness of the children's ministry. We will gather at Antioch on Thursday, July 10 at 7 pm. Hope to see you there!

Please take a second to stop by the **picture wall** in the hallway and take a look at, a few of, the pictures displayed of the children's FIRST Antioch UMC Church Lock-In! Also ask them if they had a fun time. We had a total of 9 children from ages 3 to 12 – and they ALL stayed up until at least 2:30 AM. Robert Hite was the winner of the prize for staying awake the longest. There were tons of games, food, prizes and laughs. Thank you to all of the parents who let their children participate and thank you to all of the children for behaving so wonderfully.

# **Church Notes**

A big thank you to all who gave up their Saturday morning on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for our church/community clean-up day. There were enough willing workers that we could spread out and some could work at church, some could work at Dorothy's house and the rest at Audrey's. Dorothy and Audrey both got their siding pressure-washed along with weeding and pruning in their yards. The church yard looked

so nice already that we moved to the cemetery to dispose of old decorations, do some trimming and weeding, etc. Thanks to Brenda for bringing her hedge trimmer. The overgrown shrubs in the cemetery got a trim and look much better.

We plan to have another church/community clean-up day in the fall so keep watch for the date.

## Windswept

We are being *Windswept*! All summer, our study and worship series is based on the Biblical book, The Acts of the Apostles. Just as Jesus promised, we are being empowered by the Holy Spirit, led by God to do things we never thought possible – in spiritual practices, mission and outreach, inviting and welcoming new people!

#### Act II - Being Bold!

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, and based on Acts chapters 3 and 4.

Scene 1: Get Up! June 29

Recognition of Weekly Servants

Scene 2: Go and Tell! July 6
Communion Sunday

Scene 3: Power of Prayer! July 13

Recognition of Children's Church Volunteers

Scene 4: Extravagant Generosity! July 20
Baptism of Ruthie Bacon

On Sunday, July 27, we will take a little intermission from *Windswept* and have a joint service Hymn Sing. Worship will be at 10 am at Antioch!

Act III – "Uncharted Territory" begins on August 3.

**To do a job right**, you need the right equipment. Let's give the children of our community the tools they need to start the new school year! Here's a list of things they need at Kenbridge Elementary. We'll be collecting **School Supplies** through Sunday, August 3.

Pencil box – large Pencil box – small Pencil pouches

3-ring pencil pouch to fit in binder

Elmer's glue bottle Elmer's glue sticks Fiskar scissors

8-pack Crayola crayons24-pack Crayola crayons

1 inch vinyl binder

1 ½ inch binders w/pockets Binder dividers w/ labels Wet wipes/baby wipes

Headphones/earphones (not buds)

Sandwich or snack bags Quart Ziploc bags 1 gallon Ziploc bags

2 gallon Ziploc bags

Marble composition notebooks

#2 pencils
Colored pencils

Hand held pencil sharpener w/trap

Markers

Dry erase Expo markers (black)

Highlighters Erasers

Cap erasers Sleep mats

2-Pocket folders

Plastic pocket folders without prongs

Hand sanitizer Clipboards

Wide rule notebook paper

Spiral bound notebooks

Hole reinforcers

Large book bags w/out wheels

#### Serving in July

<u>Date</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
6	Jackie / Amber	Abby
13	Wanda / Jimmy	William
20	Jenna / Chris	Susan
27	Kim / William	Ginny

### June by the Numbers:

Average Weekly Attendance = 46

Average Weekly Giving = \$ Not Reported

Needed each week = \$1,278

July 1 marks the beginning of Alan's 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Pastor of the Lunenburg Charge. We are thankful that he and Julie are continuing to serve here. We are especially thankful for the commitment of the churches to a full-time pastoral ministry. Alan is off on Fridays.

#### **UMW**

**Our next UMW Meeting is:** July 22, 2014 at the home of Audrey Smith 417 Pine Lane, Kenbridge. Jackie Malone will present the program. Hope to see everyone there and please bring a guest who may want to join us!!

All UMW meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

#### Summer is here... Vacation Time!

Here are some tips to encourage your faithfulness throughout the vacation season:

**Pack 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!

#### WOOHOO!

**Walt Moseley** – Thank you for doing such a great job at both churches while Alan was away at Annual Conference.

Rev. Alan Layman – Congratulations on your recent commissioning and blessing from Bishop Young Jin Cho to the position of Provisional Elder in the United Methodist Church. We are very proud of you.

#### The Joke at THE END



As the boat was sinking, the skipper lifted his voice to ask:

"Does anybody know how to pray?"

One man spoke confidently in answer:

"Yes, Captain, I do."

The captain nodded.

"That's all right then," he declared.
"You go ahead and pray. The rest of us will put on life-belts. They're one short."

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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.

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