

# The Antioch UMC

## Epistle

August, 2014

### The Preachers' Part

#### **Help Wanted!**

As we embark upon "Uncharted Territory," the third and final Act of **Windswept**, one thing is evident: a growing church needs help!

Acts 6:1-7 tells of how the early church struggled with growing pains. Some of the essential ministry was less than effective because the leadership (i.e., the Apostles) was stretched too thin. Needs were not being met because those who were serving were trying to do too much.

The solution seemed simple enough. The leadership (wise with God's grace) said to the congregation, "Look among you. Find some folks who are gifted and willing to serve." And so they did. Volunteers came forward and friends helped others identify their talents.

The problem was solved, ministry needs were met, and balance was restored as a lot of people contributing to the work of the church proved to be very effective. Everyone was able to contribute! The church continued to grow as more and more people were drawn to the Good News of Christ.

**We at Antioch UMC are growing.** More people are coming to worship more often. "Guests" are returning to become part of the congregation. Reaching out to our community and being in mission beyond Lunenburg are at an all-time high. Nursery service and children's ministry are essential ministries, not just "for our own," but for the congregation that is yet to be.

So, "Look among you. Find some folks who are gifted and willing to serve."

Our church community wants teachers and helpers for Sunday School classes for children. We want to put to use your gifts for administrative / office work.

We want to encourage your creative side with photography, publicity and publications. We want to involve more people in worship leadership. We want you to use your passion for gardening. If you have an interest you would like to pursue, talk with me.

Most important, we want you to contribute to the continued growth of children, youth and adults of all ages as disciples of Jesus Christ - and that includes you!

Grace to you as we embark on this final leg of our summer trip, in preparation for the journey which lies beyond.

*Alan*

#### **Windswept! – Act III: "Uncharted Territory"**

The final stage of **Windswept – A BOLD drama in (3) Acts** takes us to places the church has never before experienced. We will travel with Philip along the way to Ethiopia (Aug 10), Saul on the road to Damascus (Aug 17), Peter from Joppa to Caesarea (Aug 24), before we rejoin Paul (aka Saul) in Athens.

At each stop, the Holy Spirit makes itself known by powers and gifts unique to each circumstance. In each place, the Gospel message is told to people thought to be outside the scope of Christianity. And in every case, the message is received as Good News and the people are blessed with the Holy Spirit.

Each story challenges us to boldly take down the walls we've constructed so that God's Holy Spirit can claim everyone for Jesus Christ.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

<b>Haynie Hite, III</b>	<b>August 4</b>
<b>David Arthur</b>	<b>August 11</b>
<b>Leigh Ann Bacon</b>	<b>August 12</b>
<b>Neil Barnes</b>	<b>August 13</b>
<b>Cale Poole</b>	<b>August 19</b>
<b>Addison McDaniel</b>	<b>August 23</b>
<b>Amber Waldrep</b>	<b>August 23</b>
<b>Jimmy Chumney</b>	<b>August 28</b>

***At The Movies:***

Hunter Fowler recently had a role as an extra in the movie, ITHACA, which is being filmed in Richmond. He is one of the students in a classroom scene. The film is being directed by Meg Ryan and will be in the theaters next year (2015). Hunter is active in the local theater at the old Colonial Theater in South Hill. He plays a Nazi soldier in the upcoming production of THE SOUND OF MUSIC. We wish him well.

***Like us on Facebook!***

Antioch UMC is now on Facebook at AntiochUMC.Lunenburg. Stay connected to the church between Sundays, follow us on Facebook.

**News on the HOME front**

You'll see above that Neil Barnes celebrates her birthday this month. She would appreciate your cards and notes. You can send birthday wishes to Neil at  
Heritage Hall, Room 308,  
900 South Main Street  
Blackstone, VA 23824

It was Standing Room Only (almost) at Wayne's session at Pine View on July 11. A good-sized crowd showed up to hear and enjoy Wayne and Margaret perform. Margaret on the piano, and Wayne playing the guitar and singing. There was no dancing this time but everyone present seemed to enjoy it and demonstrated by singing and keeping time with the music.

There are some lovely people residing at Pine View and they would love a visit or card from you whenever you can. At the very least, please keep the residents and staff of Pine View in your daily prayers. Pine View is located at 621 Academy Lane, South Hill, VA 23970

**Mark Your Calendar for...**

- Kenbridge UMC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, September 7 at 1:30 pm.
- Reaching New People seminar, September 27-28. Be in prayer for our team.
- Charge Conference is Saturday, November 8 from 10 am to noon, at Victoria UMC.
- District Conference is Saturday, November 22 from 10 am to noon, Journey UMC, Amelia.

**By the Numbers**

July Average Weekly Attendance	52
July Average Weekly Giving	\$1,182
Amount needed each week	\$1,278
Budget January thru June	- \$1,094

## Church Notes

### Every Life Save a Life

**Imagine if there were no malaria.** In the US, that doesn't require any imagination at all. Malaria is completely preventable and was eradicated here in the 1950's. Yet in parts of Africa, a person dies every **60 seconds** from malaria. Imagine that during the course of our one hour worship service... well, you get the picture. Nearly 90% of victims of this preventable disease are children under the age of five and women who are pregnant. In the last six years, deaths from malaria have decreased by 50%, down to some 600,000 annually.

United Methodist churches in Virginia are joining the effort to defeat malaria – to defeat death. Be on the lookout for opportunities to participate toward our goal of saving 100,000 lives. Every life, save a life.

### On a Mission!

Robyn Fowler, along with Tammy & Sydney Green from First Baptist Church in South Hill, will be in Honduras the first week of August as part of a medical team from the Friends of Barnabas mission organization based in Farmville. Please keep these ladies in your prayers as they travel and do the Lord's work in this foreign place.

If anyone is interested in their activities while they are in Honduras, they can receive daily email journals (contact [beth@fobf.org](mailto:beth@fobf.org)) or follow their travels and experiences on Facebook or [www.fobf.org](http://www.fobf.org) (Barnabas blog).

### Serving in August

<u>Date</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
3	Lori - Joyce	Shirley
10	Tessie - Sam	Dawn
17	Trudy - Julie	Earl
24	Wanda-Jimmy	Tessie
31	Kim - Williams	Julie

### *Back – to – School Blessing*

Sunday August 17 – don't miss the Back-to-School Blessing for students, families, teachers and staff. Everyone needs God's grace as a new school year begins!

### **Why?**

*"Why do the innocent suffer?"*

*"Why do my prayers go unanswered?"*

*"Why can't I see God's will for my life?"*

These are all good questions; ones many of us ask each day. We'll try to find answers during a four-week conversation this fall. "Making Sense of God's Will" is a study from Rev. Adam Hamilton. We will use video lessons taught by Pastor Adam to guide our discussion. A short book, available for \$8 is recommended but not required. An audio recording of the book is available for \$10.

Sessions will be Wednesday evenings from 7 to (no later than) 8:30, September 17 & 24; October 1 & 8. All sessions will be at Antioch. Contact Alan to reserve your space.

### **UMW**

The next meeting of United Methodist Women will be held on **Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** at **Antioch. (7:30 PM)** All ladies are welcome! ☺ Please come, if you can.

**Farmville District UMW Day** will be on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m., at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center. John Hatcher, Executive Director of Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth, will be the speaker. Please come and hear this interesting speaker. The theme for the day is "A Calling for this Time."

**A big THANK YOU to everyone at Antioch and Williams churches, who contributed to our recent project to help Madeline's House!** The donated household supplies were delivered, when they had their last Board meeting.

We are blessed to know two members of their Board: Tessie Bacon & Abby Barnes. May God bless each of the Board Members, as they continue to plan and provide services for individuals and families experiencing domestic and sexual abuse. We ask a special blessing upon the battered women and children that they serve.

### **Madeline's House Opens Satellite Offices**

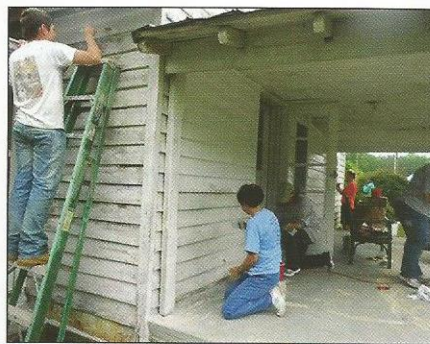
Madeline's House has established ten satellite offices throughout its 12 county service area. This outreach initiative will enable victims of domestic and sexual violence in this predominantly rural area to have easier access to critical services. Currently satellite offices are located in 6 strategically chosen counties; future plans are to have at least one satellite office in all 12 counties.

Among services offered at these satellite offices are: personal case management and individual supportive counseling, safety planning, victim / court advocacy, assistance with obtaining protective orders and document recovery, life skills assessment and training options, assistance with job and house searches, assistance in seeking appropriate legal and medical counsel, information and referral assistance, and arrangements for sheltering if needed. All services are free and no appointment is needed. Call 1.888.819.2926 for location and satellite office hours.

Madeline's House will continue serving victims of violence at its shelter location as it has done for 14 years. This new satellite office program is just one more way victims of abuse can reach out for help.

In addition to this new outreach effort, presentations and workshops remain available to community and professional groups. You can call our office at 434.292.1077 or 1.888.819.2926. Our professional staff are trained and certified in many areas related to domestic and sexual violence.

### **As seen in the Virginia Advocate...**



▲ **Kenbridge UMC, Richmond District**, – in cooperation and partnership with **Antioch UMC, Williams UMC, Perseverance Christian, The Episcopal Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew, Victoria UMC, Victoria Baptist, First Baptist of South Hill and Kenbridge Supply Co.** – held the Fourth Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors construction ministry day in May. More than 120 people came together over a two-day period to do painting, light construction and repair to seven homes in Lunenburg County. Some of the specific projects included yard clean-up, rebuilding handicap ramps, painting homes, replacing aluminum siding and gutters, repairing windows, stabilizing a porch, masonry work, repairing wood rot and replacing steps.

## The Joke at THE END



A bus carrying only ugly people crashes into an oncoming truck, and everyone inside dies. They then get to meet their maker, and because of the grief they have experienced; he decides to grant them one wish each, before they enter Paradise.

They're all lined up, and God asks the first one what the wish is. "I want to be gorgeous," and so God snaps His fingers, and it is done. The second one in line hears this and says "I want to be gorgeous too." Another snap of His fingers and the wish is granted.

This goes on for a while but when God is halfway down the line, the last guy in line starts laughing. When there are only ten people left, this guy is rolling on the floor, laughing his head off.

Finally, God reaches this guy and asks him what his wish will be. The guy calms down and says.....

"Make 'em all ugly again"

\* \* \*

### **Antioch United Methodist Church**

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[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

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