

# ALCOVY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014



## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Lil McD has shared with us an old story which is a favorite of mine. I believe I first heard it as a comedy piece by Andy Griffin. But Lil has added a moral to the story for us that illustrates the need for spiritual development including a strong foundation of biblical study. In this newsletter you will see two main themes— one is a wealth of opportunities for learning and growing in faith and the other is a celebration of the missions/evangelism that so naturally grows from such spiritual growth. So I invite you to listen to Lil (and Andy!):  
Your servant in Christ, *Teresa*

An older preacher told the story of a young minister interviewing for his first pastorate. The Pulpit Committee had invited him to come over to their church for the interview. The committee chairman asked, "Son, do you know the Bible pretty good?"

The young minister said, "Yes, pretty good." The chairman asked, "Which part do you know best?" He responded saying, "I know the New Testament best." "Which part of the New Testament do you know best?" asked the chairman. The young minister said, "Several parts." The chairman said, "Well, why don't you tell us the story of the Prodigal Son?" The young man said, "Fine."

"There was a man of the Pharisees name Nicodemus, who went down to Jericho by night and he fell upon stony ground and the thorns choked him half to death.

"The next morning Solomon and his wife, Gomorrah, came by, and carried him down to the ark for Moses to take care of. But, as he was going through the Eastern Gate into the Ark, he caught his hair in a limb and he hung there forty days and forty nights and he afterwards did hunger. And, the ravens came and fed him.

"The next day, the three wise men came and carried him down to the boat dock and he caught a ship to Nineveh. And when he got there he found Delilah sitting on the wall. He said, "Chunk her down, boys, chunk her down." And, they said, "How many times shall we chunk her down, till seven time seven?" And he said, "Nay, but seventy times seven." And they chunked her down four hundred and ninety times.

"And, she burst asunder in their midst. And they picked up twelve baskets of the leftovers. And, in the resurrection whose wife shall she be?"

The Committee chairman suddenly interrupted the young minister and said to the remainder of the committee, "Fellows, I think we ought to ask the church to call him as our minister.

He is awfully young, but he sure does know his Bible."

Moral of the story: If we don't read the Bible for ourselves, we will believe anything that is told to us.

## COMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY:

- *Choir practices - Please see enclosed calendar.*
- *"First Sunday" Breakfast at Bojangles on Sunday, Feb. 2nd at 9 AM*
- *Brown Bag Book Study on Sundays in February at 12:30 PM*
- *Lay Servant classes on Saturdays, Feb 8th and 15th form 10-4 at Inman Park UMC*
- *Priceless Antiques meet on Wed., February 12th at 11:00 AM*
- *Betty's Breakfast Bunch meets oat IHOP on Wed., Feb. 19th at 9:00 AM*
- *BBQ Fundraiser @ Alcovy Saturday, Feb 22nd from 10 AM - 1 PM*
- *Guest Preacher- Rev. Chuck Savage on Sunday, March 2nd*

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## PRICELESS ANTIQUES

**The Priceless Antiques** have some very special plans for our February get together on Wednesday, February 11th!!! We're going to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. to design and make Valentine cards for our shut ins! Along with those Valentine's cards, we will take them special treats to enjoy. We want them to know that they are loved and not forgotten. Our plan is to leave the Fellowship Hall around 11:30 - 11:45 a.m. and go to Social Circle to have lunch at one of the restaurants there....Hot Rod's has been mentioned. From there we will make our rounds to all our shut ins with Dorothy Parker at the Mew's in Social Circle being our first stop. From there we will go to Covington and visit our shut ins there. You are invited to join us anytime, but especially on this special day. PS: If you can't go with us, you are invited to bring Valentine's cards on the Sunday prior to our get together for our shut ins. This would be a great project (making Valentines for our shut ins) for our Children's Department.

## MISSIONS

Arlin Hodges Mission Chairman for our church had a dream. After our church was able to fill 32 large bags with supplies for the homeless in the latter part of 2013, he made a New Year's resolution to fill 100 more bags. Although it seemed like an impossible task so soon after the first delivery, our church got behind him and things began to happen. Only three weeks after his resolution, workers (whom Lil has nicknamed "Arlin's Alcovy Angels"\*) from our church met in the Fellowship Hall to fulfill his dream. They filled the 100 bags with tarps, blankets, sock caps, gloves, Bibles and food that could be easily eaten cold. And shortly before the delivery, the workers also made 100 fresh pimento cheese sandwiches to hand out as they went from place to place handing out the Bags of Blessings to the homeless in Atlanta. Arlin's dream was really God's mission: Tell the homeless that God has not forgotten them and that He cares!

Lil posted online before going to deliver bags: "It has not escaped me that we will be going to hand out the blessing bags on one of the coldest days we've had this year. In a few hours time, we will experience what they go through every day and night. We will get to go back to our warm cars, go home to warm homes with food in our refrigerators and cabinets, BUT maybe it will also help us to remember how blessed we are and pass those blessings on to those who are less fortunate than we. **Let us not forget.**"

Amazingly, the timing of the resolution, fulfilling the wish list for the bags, and the delivery on Friday, January 24th meant that one hundred of our homeless brothers and sisters had some additional supplies during the week of snow and ice. What Providential timing! And we give God thanks and praise for all He has allowed us to do in service to the Lord.

We are also grateful that this mission trip received the attention of the Covington News which wrote a second article on our mission activities in 6 weeks. This time the article mentioned the church's address and phone number as well as referenced our FaceBook and web address. Hopefully, people in the community who don't normally go to church may be interested to come help with our mission to help others. There can be no better evangelism than to help others experience the love of God put into action. Perhaps we may even see some new faces in worship as well.

*Also please note the following:*

We have had an amazing year of service in 2013. If you have any photos from our mission projects please bring them to the church, because we would like to make a copy to put on our mission poster for 2013. Working together, we can create a more complete picture of what our small church was able to do towards reaching others with the love of God... "We love because He first loved us." Alcovy UMC has submitted an application for Church of Excellence in Outreach for 2013. The review committee will let us know by March 31st if we have been selected to receive the award again this year.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**Lay Servant classes-** We celebrate the graduation of Christina Pittman, Chris Schaal, and Montana Hamby who spent four Saturday mornings taking the Advanced Lay Servant class on Accountable Discipleship in January. Another set of classes ( Basic and Advanced) will be offered by the Atlanta Emory District at Inman Park UMC meeting for only two sessions on Saturdays, Feb 8th and 15th from 10 AM to 4 PM. Carpooling is recommended. For more information contact one of our Lay Leaders, Roger Cato or Christina Pittman or Pastor Teresa as soon as possible. You must attend both sessions to graduate.

**Brown Bag Book Study** A group of 8-12 people will be reading and discussing "Recapturing the Wesleys' Vision: An Introduction to the Faith of John and Charles Wesley." The group, led by Pastor Teresa, will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 on Sundays, bringing a bag lunch to munch during class. While the first session will be on February 2nd, only the preface and introduction will be discussed, so others can easily join on the 9th for the start of Part One. (This book is a favorite of Pastor Teresa's so we do expect it to be taught again this year if you cannot join us in February.) We anticipate the book taking 4-6 weeks to cover, depending on how the group wishes to cover the material. Again please see our Lay Leaders or Pastor Teresa for information.

**The Disciple Study Group** continues their studies on Monday, January 6, 2014@ Donna McDaniel's home, 12710 Alcovy Road, Covington, GA. 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

We were delighted to have such a large group attend on the **District Training** on January 12th this year. Together we attended classes on committees such as Ad Council, Trustees, and SPRC as well as classes on Mission/Evangelism, John Wesley, and spiritual growth. The worship service alone was worth the drive with powerful choir music, two sacred dance interpretations, and an invigorating sermon by the esteemed Rev. Walter Kimbrough.

**Coming in March:** The Spring Session of the 2014 Lay Servant Classes will be held on Saturdays, for four weeks during the month of March (8, 15, 22, 29). The classes will be held from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM at Stone Mountain First United Methodist Church, and will include a Basic and two advanced classes: "Lay Servants Lead Small Groups" and "Lay Servants Lead Prayer." The service of dedication will be held on the last Saturday (29<sup>th</sup>) at 11:30. Participants will need to attend all four class sessions to graduate.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**Bette's Breakfast Bunch** All are invited to attend Betty's Breakfast Bunch at IHOP on Wednesday, February 18, 2014, at 9 a.m. for delicious food and a time of sharing and enjoying being together. A special devotion will be led by Donna McDaniel. BBB is open to all who wish to attend.

**Special Guest Preacher-** On Sunday, March 2nd, the Rec. Chuck Savage will be preaching for us and will also consecrate Holy Communion which he and Pastor Teresa will serve together. We are blessed by this opportunity to have Rev. Savage worship with us, so please invite friends and family to attend. Many on the Ad Hoc Endowment committee already know Rev. Savage who is currently appointed to serve as the President /CEO of the Georgia United Methodist Foundation.

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT ALCOVY'S WEB SITE LATELY???



ALCOVY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

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FIND US ONLINE AT  
[WWW.ALCOVYUMC.COM](http://WWW.ALCOVYUMC.COM)

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## BBQ FUNDRAISER FOR RELAY FOR LIFE ON FEB. 22ND!

Alcovy United Methodist Church is inviting you to join us in our first ever Backdoor BBQ on February 22, 2014! We will be selling trays and tickets for \$7. Our meals include a BBQ sandwich, Cole slaw, baked beans, and desserts! We will be stationed at Alcovy UMC from 10:00-1:00 on Saturday the 22nd for pick ups, but if you need a delivery let us know the address and we will deliver it right to you!! If you would like to sit down and enjoy your meal while it is warm, we are offering you the comfort of our fellowship hall in the back to have a seat and eat! We are literally serving at the backdoor!

All the proceeds will contribute our Relay for Life team and go directly to the American Cancer Society. For all of you check-writers out there, we ask that you write your check to Alcovy United Methodist Church and designate on the memo line to Relay For Life. Last year our relay team raised well over our goal, and we even brought home the Spirit of Relay award for our excitement, enthusiasm, and heart throughout the night. We know that with your support we can go above and beyond our goal this year. We know that we can continue the fight against cancer. this year our Team Motto comes from 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

It is our mission to keep our faith as we continue fighting for those have lost their battles and for those who are still fighting their own. Alcovy United Methodist Church says that you are never alone in your own fight!!! We cannot continue fighting without faith in the Lord, we cannot cease fighting until the race has been completed!

Questions ?? Wish to purchase advance tickets?? Feel free to contact any member of Alcovy UMC that you know, or you can directly contact our Relay for life Team Captain Montana Hamby at [hambymontana@gmail.com](mailto:hambymontana@gmail.com) or [770-633-3140](tel:770-633-3140). Please share this information with as many people and businesses as possible. Let's fight the good fight ... and eat the good BBQ while we do!