

# ALCOVY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010



## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Over the last few weeks of forced rest, I have had a great deal of time to reflect on the odd manner in which changes are made in our lives. Changes have a rhythm similar to the bright sudden flash of lightning followed by the slower rumble of thunder. One specific example of change was my own personal health. My cancer was removed with the sudden change of surgery, a single day of intense focused activity. But the restoration of my health, or rather my ability to experience fully the health restored by the surgery, will take a long slow period of gradually regaining my strength and energy. Physical health and wellbeing requires both the sudden and the slow changes working together.

Other parts of our lives mirror this need for both sudden and slow growth. As exciting and powerfully life-redefining as a wedding day can be, it is partnered by the slow and steady changes a couple makes as they adjust themselves to a new life together. The birth of a baby instantly creates new identities as parents or grandparents, but it is the gradual succession of days and years that builds relationships.

Our spiritual lives are also patterned with sudden changes and gradual changes. As individual Christians, we may be so moved by a sermon or a Bible study that our faith goes to a new level, but it takes slow and deliberate intent on our part to incorporate that new level of faith into our daily walk with Jesus Christ. As a worshipping body of believers, Alcovy has been through sudden changes that then required a continued willingness to respond positively to the change. One such change was accepting a woman pastor, first by the sudden experience of seeing one in Alcovy's pulpit and then by gradually building a relationship of mutual trust and respect. A more recent change for Alcovy is the sudden gift of new United Methodist hymnals. One worship service was all that was needed to consecrate the hymnals and put them into the pews, but bringing the hymnals into our lives and into our hearts will take a longer, slower process.

As we journey through this month of February together, we will continue to see evidences of change, both sudden and gradual. We will have opportunities to experience change in the sudden shift in the church year as Ash Wednesday abruptly opens the season of Lent. Lent, in turn, invites us to slow down and reflect, offering us six weeks in which to explore ways to deepen our faith and our connectedness to God and to each other in His service. What areas of your spiritual life might need either restoration to health or a renewed commitment to your relationship to God? What can Alcovy United Methodist Church do to become even more deeply committed to being a reflection of Christ to one another and to the community around us? How might our church reach out the hope of Jesus Christ to a world that so desperately needs the change that Christ offers?

Your servant in Christ,

*Teresa*

## COMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY:

- *Youth Breakfast*  
Sunday, February 7th  
at 9:00 AM at  
Bojangles
- *Priceless Antiques*  
Tuesday, Feb. 9th  
at 11:00 AM
- *Men's Fellowship*  
dinner on Tuesday,  
Feb. 9th at 7:00 PM  
at Stalvey's
- *Ladies' Morning Out*  
on Tuesday, Feb. 16th  
at 9:00 AM at  
Buckeye's in Jersey
- *Ash Wednesday*  
Worship at 7:00 AM  
and 7:00 PM on  
Wednesday, Feb. 17th

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THANK YOU	2
YOUTH	2
WAYS TO SERVE	2
LENTEN OFFERINGS	3
CHURCH NEWS	3
LENT AND EASTER	4

## THANK YOU...

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, support, and kindness during my surgery for cancer and my recovery. The outpouring of cards and well wishes touched my heart and gladdened my spirit during this difficult time. I was also deeply grateful for the peace of mind that stemmed from knowing that Alcovy folks would pitch together to keep things running smoothly while I was not able to be here physically. I knew that worship would be in excellent hands, especially those of Danny Martin and Lil McDaniel. I trusted that each of the guest preachers would be warmly welcomed and assisted in any need. I appreciate the behind the scenes work of those who kept me informed of needs within the church community and those who continued the nuts and bolts of meetings and other on-going work of the church. It was good to know that while I was out of sight, I was not out of mind. Their emails and phone calls allowed me to remain useful while I recovered and kept me from going stir-crazy during my time of resting and recuperating. I am very blessed to have such a caring and supportive church family, and I look forward to getting back into full swing.

Thanking God for all of you,

*Pastor Teresa*

## YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Alcovy's Youth and Young Adults had a great time ice skating as a fellowship activity in December. They also served as volunteers for Alcovy's first annual Greatest Gifts program in which they assisted children in creating and wrapping presents for the children to give to their families at Christmas. Alcovy was also blessed to have the Youth and Young Adults assist in worship with placing the new hymnals into the pews in January. We hope to see the Youth and Young Adults continue to participate in worship on a regular basis in addition to their mission/ service projects and fellowship activities. In February, they will be collecting donations for "Souper Bowl Sunday" to help feed the hungry.

## WAYS TO SERVE...

There are many ways to serve Christ through serving the church. How we serve will change as our interests, abilities, and availabilities change over time. There are always ways to serve, but we have several needs immediately. Contact Pastor Teresa for more info.

Nursery Coordinator: able to schedule and communicate with volunteers for the nursery.

We have volunteers but need someone to create a schedule and handle reminders.

Teachers:

-one or more persons to team teach the Fellowship Sunday School Class -

-someone to assist and/or substitute for Sandra H. with the Children's class

Photographer / Scanner: someone who enjoys working with photos on a computer to work on the new church directory. Needs to be able to send and receive files by email or thumbdrive, crop and resize photos as well as scan photos and take photos.

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

SEE ALL THE LATEST PHOTOS AND READ THE UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL ONLINE AT

**WWW.ALCOVYUMC.COM**

## LENT

Three Simple Rules a Lenten study offered for the whole church family

---

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

- ◆ **Looking Ahead...**
  
- ◆ **Our sympathies...**  
Donna McDaniel and family on the loss of her beloved “Uncle Doc”
  
- ◆ **Free Money for Alcovy!** Keep bringing those used ink printer cartridges and toners to the church for recycling! Each cartridge earns the church \$3.00 in merchandise at Staples Office Supply Store. In December, we purchased \$30 worth of children’s arts and crafts materials for our Greatest Gifts program.
  
- ◆ **Women’s Retreat opportunity...**



ALCOVY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

12521 Alcovy Road  
Covington, GA 30014

---

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

---

Rev. Teresa Lilja, pastor  
Email: [alcovyumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:alcovyumc@bellsouth.net)  
Phone: 770-786-0610

---

JOURNEY TOWARDS EASTER

**The Season of Lent:**

Ash Wednesday Worship on February 17th at 7:00 PM

Special Six-week Lenten Study offered during Sunday School Classes

**Holy Week Services:**

Palm Sunday, March 28th at 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, April 1st at 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service of Nails, April 2nd at 7:00 PM

**Easter Sunday, April 4th:**

Worship Services at Sunrise and 11:00 AM

(Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall following Sunrise Service)