

ALCOVY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2012



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. We make disciples as we:

- proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ;
- lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and the spirit and profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
- nurture persons in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines, and other means of grace, such as Wesley's Christian conferencing;
- send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being and becoming a compassionate, caring presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel; and
- continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ."

United Methodist *Book of Discipline* (Paragraphs 120, 122)

Here at Alcovy UMC we have been engaging lately in discussions about how best to be the church together, how best to serve in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Some of those discussions have been through programs such as Vital Congregations, the topic of this column in last month's newsletter. Other conversations have been held by those starting new ministries in mission and evangelism. Pastor Parish Relations committee has also been seriously examining where Alcovy UMC is headed in future and what type of leadership will be best suited to help guide the church along the way.

Whether you have been at Alcovy for decades or for a few visits, your voice is important. Please read over the questionnaire that is included with this newsletter. It is designed to help you reflect on your spiritual needs and hopes for a church. Such opinions are incredibly valuable in shaping how this church and this congregation do ministry. You are not limited to the questions listed; feel free to write, to email, to phone, or to speak in person to the chairperson of PPR, any member of PPR, or to Pastor Teresa directly. We'd like to hear for you soon, preferably by the 15th of February, so that we can share your views with the District Superintendent later in the month. All voices and views are valued; please share yours with us.

Your servant in Christ, *Teresa*

COMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY:

- *Youth Prayer Breakfast*
Sunday, February 5th
- *Choir practices at 6:00 PM*
on Wednesdays
- *Men's Fellowship dinner*
Wed., Feb. 8th at 7:00 PM
at Low Country Fish Camp
- "Second Sunday Soup & Salad" after worship on February 12th
- *Priceless Antiques meet on*
Tuesday, Feb 14h at
10:30 AM
- *Ladies' Morning Out meets*
for breakfast on Tuesday,
Feb. 21st at 9:00 AM at
Buckeye's in Jersey
- *Ash Wednesday worship on*
Feb. 22nd at 7:00 PM
- *An Evening with Dr. Grady*
Sat., March 3rd

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HELPING HANDS	2
MISSION/EVANGELISM	2
PRICELESS ANTIQUES	2
DR. GRADY	3
SERVING...	3
CHURCH NEWS	3
ASH WEDNESDAY	4

“HELPING HANDS” CHILDREN’S MISSION WORK

The children and youth of Alcovy UMC are offering a service of one hour of light yard work to Seniors in the church. The available dates are March 3, May 5, July 7, Sept. 8, Oct. 13 and Nov. 3. There are two time slots offered on each date (9:00 and 10:30 AM), so two yards may be scheduled per weekend. Contact Sandra or Arlin Hodges for questions or to sign up. There is also a sign-up sheet in the back hallway. Please help us offer the opportunity to our children and youth to serve others in Christ’s name as they mature in their spiritual growth.

MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM TEAMS

The new teams have met for their first informational meeting, and they are already excited. Several events are already shaping up on the calendar. Some of these events are to help educate and raise awareness in areas of mission and evangelism. Other events are direct outreach into our community and beyond. Upcoming events include:

Super Bowl Sunday Please bring Canned goods or cash donations to church on Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 5th) for the local food pantry.

Homeless Offering will continue to be collected through Feb. 26th. Funds are distributed to local ministries which serve the homeless throughout North Georgia.

Denman Evangelism “Spark 2012” This event is intended to help “spark” new ideas for evangelism. Four sessions ideal for Alcovy include Small Church, Laity, Youth, and Rural Church. Held at Northside UMC in Atlanta from 9:00 AM to noon on Saturday, February 11th. See Lil McDaniel to get registered.

Trip to SIFAT in Lineville, Alabama on Saturday, April 28th. SIFAT (Servants in Faith and Technology) offers a tour of their Global Village with examples of homes from seven different third-world countries. Adults, youth and children are invited to attend. We will caravan to Alabama together as a group. (more info in the March newsletter)

Yard Sale/Book Sale/ 5 K Walk-Run to be held at Alcovy UMC on Saturday, May 19th. Proceeds will benefit ServeHAITI, a non-profit faith-based organization. Start saving items for the yard sale and book sale now. Ask what else you can do to help this project be a success as we reach out to our local neighborhood and to the world around us as a church.

You are welcome to join either the mission or the evangelism team or both! We need your help, your enthusiasm, and your ideas. See Lil McD, Arlin H. or Roger C.

PRICELESS ANTIQUES

Due to an unexpected conflict, we have had to cancel our original plans for February, but we will reschedule them for another time. And we have a new exciting time planned for this month; special thanks to Sandy Oliver who has graciously invited us to her shop for a morning of fun. On Tuesday, February 14, 2012, we will meet at the church (or you can go on your own) @ 10:15 AM and leave no later than 10:30 AM to go to “Auntie’s Attic Gifts and More” (Sandy Oliver’s business) in Conyers. She is already planning things for us to do while there. She is very creative, so be prepared to have fun as I have seen many of the events she hosts in her workshops on her Facebook page. From there we will go out to eat and we will have many places to choose from. (We can decide while we are having fun at Auntie’s Attic.) You’ll want to leave the day free for plans afterwards. See you there!

AN EVENING WITH DR. GRADY

Dr. Michael Grady, who was on our long term prayer list along with his granddaughter for much of last year, will be our guest on Saturday, March 3rd at 6:00 PM as he shares with us the situations addressed by ServeHAITI in serve to the community of Grand-Bois, Haiti. Dr. Grady became involved with ServeHAITI in 2006 when he first traveled to Haiti as part of a medical delegation. Dr. Grady continues to travel on medical missions to Haiti, and he will be part of a team traveling the weekend following his visit with us. Dr. Grady also serves as the Chairperson of Executive Committee for ServeHAITI. Dr. Grady will be bringing a short film for us to watch as well as stories of his own experiences. ServeHAITI will be the beneficiary of our May Yard Sale/ 5 K Walk-Run, so this will provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about this mission. Please invite your friends, family and neighbors to what promises to be an interesting evening. Light refreshments will be served. We could use volunteers to help set up and prepare for this event. See Sandra Hodges to volunteer.

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO SERVE?...

There are many ways to serve at Alcovy UMC? Some tasks need to be done regularly and others are one-time deals. Some require a few people working together; others can be done solo. Some can even be done from home. Just a sample: refilling Children's Worship bags, gathering worship attendance sheets, working on a new church directory, editing the newsletter and/or calendar, setting up for worship, locking or unlocking the buildings on Sundays, helping to lead worship and/or to serve communion, contacting folks who have missed worship, sending cards or making calls to some of the people on our prayer list... See Roger C or Pastor Teresa.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

◆ **Men's Fellowship Dinner**

February's Men's Fellowship Dinner will be at Low Country Fish Camp in Covington on Wednesday, February 8th at 7:00 PM.

◆ **"Second Sunday Soup and Salad" after worship on February 12th**

This informal gathering provides a chance to talk with Pastor Teresa about matters of the church, Methodism, and faith. Do you have questions that you never seem to find time to discuss? This may be the chance you've been waiting for.

◆ **Ladies Morning Out**

Invites to join them form breakfast, fellowship and a devotional message on the third Tuesday (Feb. 21st) at 9:00 AM at Bojangles restaurant in Jersey.

◆ **Thank you...**

To all who attended the District training in January. We were able to bring the information from five different sessions back to Alcovy UMC.

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



ALCOVY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

12521 Alcovy Road
Covington, GA 30014

FIND US ONLINE AT
WWW.ALCOVYUMC.COM

Rev. Teresa Lilja, pastor
Email: revtlil@gmail.com
Phone: 404-668-4573

ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE SEASON OF LENT



“Ash Wednesday” marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a forty day period which ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. Lent was traditionally a time used to prepare new believers for baptism on Easter Sunday. Today, the season of Lent is used as a time of reflection and renewal through the use of spiritual disciplines such as fasting and prayer. Self-denial is especially associated with the season of Lent and leads to the often heard question: “What are you giving up for Lent?” But Lent is more than a time of giving up something; it is a time of adding to our spiritual life by spending more time focusing on God.

We invite you to begin your season of Lent by attending a worship service on Ash Wednesday. This informal service, which lasts about 30-45 minutes, will include having your forehead marked with ashes in the sign of a cross. The ashes are made from last year’s Palm Sunday palm fronds. The cross signifies your willingness to examine your life for ways that you can live more fully connected to God.

The worship service will be on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00 in the evening. We encourage anyone whose church does not offer an Ash Wednesday service to join us, so please invite family and friends. Please contact Pastor Teresa for more information.