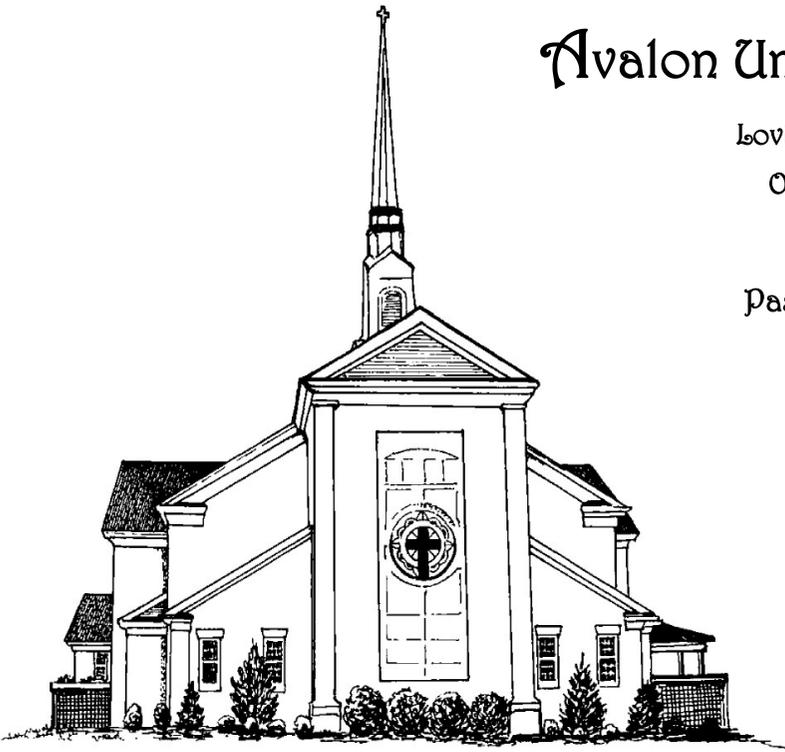


Avalon United Methodist Church

Loving God, Loving People
On Our Christian Journey

Pastor Debbie Cong

October 1, 2018



How's Your Heart?

“...God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7b.

Have you ever had a bad smell in your kitchen? The kind that you just smell occasionally at first but then it gets stronger as time goes on? Recently, I was putting away some dishes and I opened a cabinet and decided to straighten up a little while I was in there. My hand landed upon something that was disgusting! There it was...the source of the smell. Rotten potatoes. As I was cleaning it up I couldn't help but think of our hearts. Just like the kitchen, from all appearances it is clean. The outside looks so good and don't we spend lots of time on the outside...the part that will be seen by others. But as we see in this verse from 1 Samuel, that is not what the Lord goes by at all! He searches on the back corners of the cabinets...He looks in all the closets and drawers! He is much more concerned with what the inner most places look like and smell like than what the outside appears to be! We can fool many people by keeping everything shiny on the outside, but we will never fool the only one that matters. I pray today as we get ourselves ready for revival (Oct. 14-17) and God to do a work that you and I would allow Him to search out every hidden place in our hearts and lives. The smell that will eventually come from those secret things are not worth it! We can work our walls to the bone trying to impress others with the way everything appears to be, but the smell will always find us out. Let's rid our hearts of all the hidden things and make room for Him to have His way with us to revive us as individuals and a body.

Pastor Debbie Cong

THE STEWARDSHIP OF GODLY CONTENTMENT

Be wary of life's temptations! One of the biggest temptations is money. We want it and a lot of it, but we are never satisfied. The Word says, "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." It further states, "Flee these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." I Tim. 6:10-11. We are admonished to "not be high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in God, who giveth us, richly, all things to enjoy. I Tim 6:17-18.

We are to be content with the essentials of life: food, clothing, shelter. Being content is not a struggle if we remember the goodness of God. "He satisfies our desires with good things." Ps. 103:5. Paul wrote "I have learned in whatsoever state I am in therewith to be content." Phil. 4:11. Paul was in prison when he wrote this passage. Is that easy? No, not for a "baby" Christian, but the better we get to know the Lord and focus on Him the more natural it becomes. We remind ourselves of His promises to His own, "I will supply all your needs according to my riches in glory." We remember that not only does He own the cattle on a thousand hills, He also owns the hills. "For He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us." Eph 3:20.

Our Lord is a mighty God, who we can trust to provide all our needs. The power that works within us is His power provided by His Spirit, who lives in us and is given to help us. He is our "ever-present" help in time of trouble. He walks alongside us and even picks us up and carries us when we need it. He is our friend "who sticketh closer than a brother." Prov. 18:24. And "His mercy endureth forever." Ps. 136.

Paul also wrote, "Godliness with contentment is great gain." I Tim. 6:6. God gives His trusting, generous children "more than enough", wanting things to flow through us to help supply the needs of others. The more we give the more He gives. Luke 6:38.

Circumstances constantly change. We can be sitting on top of the world one day and down in a valley the next. But we can be content by trusting in Him, because He changes not. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Heb. 13:8. For the Believer it really doesn't matter how things are going, because confidence in the Lord transcends concern for circumstances. He is the Constant in a world of change. He enables us to have joy no matter the circumstance. Joy is a spiritual force, whereas happiness is a physical feeling. We can be happy because of joy.

Godly contentment is available through the empowerment of Jesus. This contentment is pleasing to Him and witnesses to the world of our love and commitment to Him. He has given us the weapons we need to be victorious in this world: His name, His Word, His Spirit, His entire suit of armor. Eph. 6:10-17. Wise stewards are content with what we have.

Jan Beard, Stewardship, Chair

UMW News

Five Avalon United Methodist Women members attended our Southwest District UMW Annual Meeting and Day Apart Service Saturday, September 22 2018 at Camilla UMC.

Thirty-one district members were remembered during the memorial service with Carolyn Rentz lighting the candles for Elizabeth Wall, Dot McClain and Evelyn Bruner.

Avalon UMW was recognized as follows: Mission Today Gold Unit; completed three Mission Studies; called by Name/Candle Burning; Special Mission Recognition; World Thank Offerings. Gift to Mission; Gift in Memory; Five Star Award; and Hall of Fame Award.

Rev. Debbie Cone participated in administering the Sacraments of Holy Communion.

All women of the church are invited/encouraged to attend our UMW meetings (published in our calendar). For info, please call Mona Faye Williams 432-1438

Mona Faye Williams

Shoebox Ministry Shoeboxes for children of Mexico or Navajo

Reservation. Use a clear plastic shoebox or a gallon ziplock bag. Do not wrap. Mark boxes as to sex & age. We also ask for \$1. donation per box or bag to help pay for trip. These boxes will be needed before Thanksgiving. It sounds like a long time away but before we know it the time will be here.

Suggested items to fill boxes: Soap, Washcloth, Toothbrush, Brush/Comb, Sox, Shampoo, Plastic Cup, Blanket, Shoes, Hat, Shirt, Jewelry, School Supplies, Pencils/Pens, Crayons, Color Book, Sticker Books, Games, Toys,

Wednesday Family Night Fellowship (FNF)

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS

October Menus **FNF Begins at 6PM**

Oct. 3 Sandwiches, Pasta salad, Toss salad, Cookies

Oct. 10 Meatloaf, Mashed potatoes, Black eyed peas, Cherry cobbler.

Oct. 17 No Meal tonight

Oct. 24—Roast beef, Rice & gravy, Butterbeans, Orange cake

Oct. 31—Baked chicken, Potato casserole, Green beans, Boston Cream pie

Server Rotation: Volunteers

Please be mindful that if your reservations are not cancelled by noon on Tuesday, you are responsible for payment.

Cost: Adults- - - - - \$6.50

Children under 12 years- - \$3.50

Notes from the Choir:

The days are getting shorter and the leaves are starting to turn their many colorful shades; fall is definitely in the air. Boiled peanuts and BBQ are also in the air (this is, after all, SEC football country), along with all the fun pop up markets and crafty events that resume when the outdoor temperature finally drops below 120 degrees. This is a wonderful time of year in South Georgia, and I encourage you to get out and enjoy it as much as possible! Take a walk outside, admire how God has even found a way to make those weeds in your neighbor's yard look beautiful for a couple of weeks.

There is a lot of big church activity coming up- World Communion Sunday, All Saint's Day, and the craziness of Advent. For us choristers, it is one of the busiest and most rewarding parts of the year, with upcoming Christmas programs, rehearsals, and being called on to lead your family's annual Christmas carol-a-long, because "you sound SOOOO good and nobody else here can carry a tune." With all of the busyness ahead, take the time to tune in to God and follow His plan for you. He wants you to come to the Revival (and bring a friend or two!), but more than that, He wants you to be the shining light for His kingdom that you are. Sometimes we forget to listen; we just get too caught up in our own plans. He has given you everything you need to serve His purpose, you only need to slow down, ask God, and trust in His answer.

And if He wants to do your shining from the choir loft, there's always a spot open.

In Christ,
Andrew Bode

Circle Of Concern:

Nikki Daniel, Gene & Laverne Hawkins, Dorothy Griffin, Rebecca Smith, Ursula Gaydosh, Mike Ling, Bobby Reese (friend of Barry & Tina Justice), Rebekah Griffin, Gail Mears, Hazel Sellars, Will Hammond (13 Yr. old Nashville GA.), Wendy McLeod, Beverly Reese (Bobby Bruner's daughter), , Martha Nicholson, Martha Darsey, David Michels (Brother of Cheryl Laughlin), Ginger Chamberlain (friend of Cheryl Laughlin), Doug Vargo (friend of Leon Perrett), Dewey Perrett (son of Leon Perrett), Fred English, family of Barbara English, Glenn Stanford, Son of Jan Beard, Jim Warner, Phyl Strawbridge, Jane Everett (sister of Debra Harris), Glenn Creech (Agnes McCorkle son in law).

If you know of anyone that needs to be added or removed please call the church office.

Home Bound – Please join us in this ministry to these members:

Barry & Nikki Daniel, Ann Dollar, Fred English, Ed & Nelle Ennis, Gene & Laverne Hawkins, Gay Sheffield, Rebecca Smith, Betsy Tatum, Joyce Waters, Kitty Tomlinson, Bill Coward, Cora Dasher, Lola Moreland, George Anderson. Eugenia Harrington, Nellie Ruth Kimbro.

49'ers Senior Luncheon Avalon UMC

Fellowship Hall

Next Luncheon:

October 23, 2018 11:30am

\$7.00 per person

Third Tuesday of each month. We meet in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch provided by Kaye Blalock, Southern Elegance Catering. Come bring a friend and enjoy making new friends who love the Lord! Everyone is invited. We continue to have wonderful meals and entertainment. Each month is different.

Southwest District Upcoming Events

Nov. 11, 2018—3pm Cluster Charge Conference Christ UMC

Apr. 27, 2019—Wesley Glen Ministries Fish Fry

Jan. 15-24, 2020—Holy Land (Call District Office)

From the Youth Minister's Desk:

As the weather (hopefully) cools down and the seasons change, we continue to keep our youth group active with both events and outreach.

First off, many thanks to those who helped support our students and their sponsorship of some underprivileged students over the Labor Day weekend. We took 8 students shopping for back-to-school shopping and then enjoyed a grill out for a time of socializing and fellowship.

We look to continue our relationship with these same students by enjoying a night at the movies, hosted by the Flint River-Quarium downtown. More details on this event to come.

On Saturday, October 27th, our students will be helping out at the church with our annual fall festival. This event starts at 5:30pm and will feature games, costumes, and candy! The whole church will be involved in this event and it will be open to the neighborhoods adjacent to the church. Feel free to join and to invite your friends!

Also coming up during the Christmas season is our annual progressive dinner. More details on that as they develop and if you are interested in helping volunteer via chaperoning or hosting students, please see Derek or contact the church office.

Derek Thornton

Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Zuern request the pleasure of your company at The marriage of their daughter Anna Lynn Zuern to Ivan Manuel Gabarri Blanco On Saturday, October 13th at 6pm Resora Plantation, 801 Old Pretoria Road, Albany, Ga Reception following ceremony.

Pastor—Rev. Debbie Cone
Music Director—Andrew Bode
Pianist/Oranist—

Youth Director— Derek Thornton
Secretary— Elaine Tarpley
Finance—

3018 Gillionville Rd., Albany, GA 31721-2908

Pastor's email: debbiedcc@att.net

Pastor's Home Number: 229- 432-2266

Church : Tel: 229-436-2056

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Email: avalonumc@gmail.com

Website: www.avalonumchurch.org

Regular Sunday Schedule:

9:45am Sunday School **11am** Morning Worship **6pm** Evening Worship

THOSE WHO SERVE

Offering Stewards Oct. 7 Bill Beard/Ellen Branch
Oct. 14 Wayne Barnette/Sheila Creel
Oct. 21—Katy Reed/Jennie Collins
Oct. 28—Carl/Ellis/Janet Beard

Ushers:

Oct. 7— Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Carl Ellis, Max Collins,
Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

Oct. 14— Avalon Youth

Oct. 21—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Carl Ellis, Max Collins,
Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

Oct. 28—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Carl Ellis, Max Collins,
Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

Prayer Room: Oct. 7—Homer Milliner Oct. 14—Jenni Bode
Oct. 21—Nola Bricker Sept. 23—Barry Justice

Nursery: Oct. 7—Dollie Dollar Oct. 21—Kim Glass
Oct. 14— Nancy Newman Oct. 28—Linda Stevens

Sound Technician: Bob Smith

Trustee of the Month of October : Gerald Collins

If Trustee is unable to be at an event your month it is your responsibility to get someone to fill in for you. Buildings need to be locked after an event.

**Homecoming Sunday, October 14 at 11am
Worship Service.**

Schedule for Revival Begins October 14

Day	Time	Where
Sunday night	7pm	Worship Avalon Sanctuary
Monday 15th	12pm	Lunch Avalon F'ship Hall
Monday 15th	7pm	Worship Avalon Sanctuary
Tue. Oct. 16th	12pm	Lunch Avalon F'ship Hall
Tue. Oct. 16th	7pm	Worship Avalon Sanctuary
Wed. Oct. 17th	12pm	Lunch Avalon F'ship Hall
Wed. Oct. 17th	7pm	Worship Avalon Sanctuary

Memorials

Richard Creel Ida Fowler

Missions

Jeanette Cosey Ladies Bible Class
Barbara English Mona Faye Williams

Worship

Richard Creel John & Sheila Creel