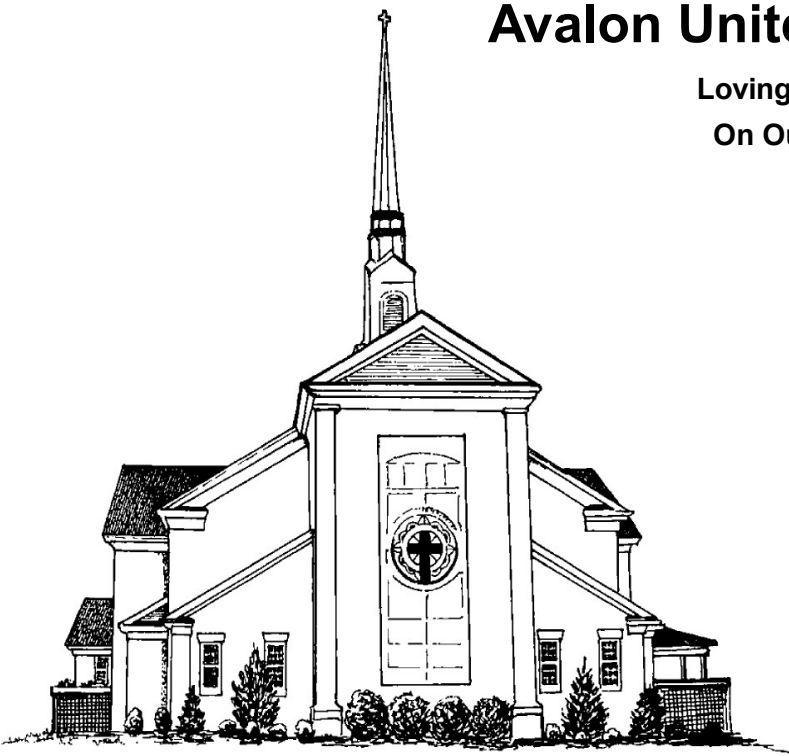


Avalon United Methodist Church

Loving God, Loving People
On Our Christian Journey

Pastor Debbie Cone

May 1, 2018



What's Next?

Now that we have celebrated the death and resurrection of Christ, what is next? Well, I'm glad you asked. Philippians 2:8 tells us that Christ humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death on the cross. Then verse 9 says, "Therefore (because of His humility and obedience) God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name." God exalted Him through His resurrection, His ascension, and through seating Him at the right hand of the Father. His ascension was His coronation, if you will. It was the declaration of Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He was going to a throne. And as He ascended God gave Him a name - Lord! (verse 11). He was declared by the Father- LORD! Jesus is the BOSS! He has ALL authority.

Romans 10:9 says "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." It is not enough to take Him as your Savior, you must submit to Him as your Lord! We have no real joy, peace or freedom except in submission to Jesus!

The ascended Christ is our help and our hope if He is our Lord. He is interceding for us, He is supporting us, and going before us. May we approach His throne with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need. (Heb. 4:16).

How often are you going to the Lord for help? How are you inviting Him in and giving Him permission to truly be Lord over every area of your life? Are you pointing others to Him by the way you conduct yourself in all areas of your life? He died for you! He is seated at the right hand of the Father interceding for you! Look to Jesus. It's the only life worth living!

Pastor Debbie Cone

Meeting the Needs of the Body

The Church is described many ways in scripture: It is called a flock, a temple, a body, a family, a bride, a building, a vineyard. But most specifically it is called the Body of Christ. We belong to Him and to each other in a special union. We, the members of Christ's spiritual body, like the members of a physical body, serve diverse purposes and fill many roles. No matter how small a member of the body may seem, each one plays an important role. 1 Cor. 12:12

There is no place for jealousy of any member. "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor." 1 Cor 12:21-23 Through meeting others' needs we meet our own.

Acts, chapter two, describes how the first Christians cared for each other: "All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need." This was communion, not communism, meeting needs and giving generously, as they met the needs of each day, exercising their gifts for benefit of the body. They were giving and taking mutually.

Spiritual gifts are very important in Christ's body. Without using them we cannot function properly as the body. The source of each gift is God Himself with each gift to be used for Christian service. It is not a talent, for talents have to do with natural abilities, although those come from Him and can certainly be used for His glory. Talents instruct, inspire or entertain on a natural level, while spiritual gifts are for service, ministry, and edification of the body. The actual giving of spiritual gifts is determined by God alone.

Christian stewardship is not just an individual responsibility, for we belong to each other, not just ourselves. We must maintain an upward and outward attitude, not an inward focus. This children's song says it simply and beautifully:

Jesus and Others and You,

What a wonderful way to spell JOY

Jesus and Others and You,

In the life of each girl and boy.

J is for Jesus, who died in our place;

O is for Others we know face to face;

Y is for you and whatever you do.

Put yourself last to spell JOY.

This is the way we find real joy (a spiritual force) through serving the Lord and caring for others as faithful stewards. When we put this principle to work we see what God will do.

Giving monetary gifts is important, needful, and necessary, but using ministry gifts in service for Christ is vital. We must know our gifts and use them for God's glory. We are to look constantly for "Body-building" opportunities, always being in ministry to one another. We are to forbear one another, forgive one another, submit to one another, comfort one another, admonish one another and exhort one another. Then we grow spiritually stronger and healthier.

Jan Beard, Stewardship

<u>Memorials</u>					
<u>Missions</u>		Harold Smith	Betty & Lloyd Mears	Dot McClain	James & Carolyn Ivey
Harold Smith	Rentz & Roberts Family		Karen Eby		Mary Frances Anderson
	Mona Faye Williams		Carol Noble	<u>Youth</u>	
	Aubrey McClain (Vashti)		Moody Oliver, Jr.	Harold Smith	Mary & Floyd Herman
	John & Sheila Creel		Arthur Allyn	<u>Benevolence</u>	
Tammy Mills	Mona Faye Williams		Tri County EMC	Harold Smith	Mary Frances Anderson
Helen Tanner	Mona Faye Williams		Kathleen Bloodsworth	<u>Student Ministry</u>	
Ginny Hayman	Mona Faye Williams		Laverne Mauney	Harold Smith	Mary & Floyd Herman
Nathan Bundrick	John & Sheila Creel	Evelyn Bruner	Hollis Neal	<u>Sound System</u>	
	Mona Faye Williams		Rev. Debbie Cone	Tammy Mills	James & Carolyn Ivey
Evelyn Bruner	Mona Faye Williams	Mae Rose Newsom	D E & Judith Strassenberg	<u>Honor</u>	
Jan Coward	Mona Faye Williams	Dot McClain	Stone Virginia Newsom	<u>Youth</u>	
Daryle Singletary	Mona Faye Williams		Mr & Mrs Jessie Way Jr	Margaret Bruner	Mary & Floyd Herman
Dot McClain	Carolyn Luttrell		Mr & Mrs Henry Lancaster	<u>Worship</u>	
	Ladies Bible Class		Norma Smith	Jenni Bode	John & Sheila Creel
	Rev. Debbie Cone		Pauline Worthy	<u>Missions</u>	
	Carolyn Rentz		John & Sherry Tracy	Bill & Jan Beard	John & Sheila Creel
	Mona Faye Williams	<u>Capital Fund</u>	Bill & Jan Beard	JVS Associates (Cirone)	John & Sheila Creel
<u>Memorials</u>		Tammy Mills		<u>Homebound</u>	
Tammy Mills	Bill & Jan Beard	Evelyn Bruner	Mary Frances Anderson	Debbie Cone	Katy Reed
	Norma Smith		Katy Reed	<u>Capital Fund</u>	
	John & Sherry Tracy		Bill & Jan Beard	Mark & Sheila Daniel	Mary & Floyd Herman
Harold Smith	Rev. Debbie Cone	Harold Smith	Margaret Bruner		
	Patricia Jones		Bill & Jan Beard		
	John & Sherry Tracy		James & Carolyn Ivey		
	Jean & Gordon Kennedy		Margaret Bruner		
			Katy Reed		

Thank you To the Avalon Church Fellowship Our family would like to express sincerest gratitude for the generous acts of kindness and compassion that were shone while meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs during Dorothy McClain's illness and subsequent death... You each exemplify the LOVE of True family.... Delicious food fed our bodies while Prayer and encouragement strengthened our hearts.... Special heartfelt thanks to Debbie Cone the truest example of a Pastor..... We Love each of you. The family of Dot and Aubrey McClain.

At District Conference meeting April 15th at First United Methodist Church, Bishop Lawson Bryan asked all members to prepare for a report from the Commission on a Way Forward expected in May. The Commission was formed to comprise proposals regarding the church's ministry with LGBTQ Community. Three proposals are being offered.

In May the Council of Bishops will publish their response to these proposals. That response will be reported at Annual conference, June 3—5. The next step will be consideration of this response at a Called General Conference Session in February, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. You may access more information at: www.sgaumc.org/wayforward OR In printed form in church office. Sheila Creel

Beginning May 13 through June 17, Avalon members are asked to consider the sanctity of all human life. This year we will again have an opportunity to support another local ministry. Alpha Pregnancy Center of Albany. Baby bottles will be available for your contributions if you choose, or items such as diapers (all sizes) and personal care products such as baby wash, baby shampoo, lotion, baby wipes. They also ask for board books for toddlers and New Testament Bibles.

Thank you, Sheila Creel

Vacation Bible School July 9th to 20th

49'ers Senior Luncheon Avalon UMC

Fellowship Hall

Next Luncheon:
May 15, 2018 11:30am
\$7.00 per person

Third Tuesday of each month 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.

The UMW will be honoring the Avalon graduating seniors and also College graduates on Wednesday, May 16th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall along with FNF. Please send or call the reservations to the church office 435-2056 by May 2nd, or complete attached form and place in offering plate. The family of the graduating seniors are invited to attend.

Names

Number of Guest

JOYFUL NOTES FROM THE CHOIR



The month of May brings some exciting new things to Avalon! We welcome Andrew Bode as our Interim Director of Music Ministry. We celebrate Mother's Day, Ascension Sunday and Pentecost this month. Change and excitement can stir us up. There is such marvelous text in the words of many of our hymns. They lift up scripture and give us peace of mind. Samuel Trevor Francis wrote a hymn that vividly describes the vastness of God's love:

"...vast, unmeasured boundless free; rolling as a mighty ocean in it's fullness over me. Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love..." from "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus". Wow! That should give us peace of mind!

Romans 8: 38-39

"For I am persuaded that neither dear nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from our God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord".

Wishing you all the peace that passes understanding...

God be with you till we meet again!

Diana Boensel

Pastor—Rev. Debbie Cone
Music Director—Diana Boensel
Pianist/Oranist—Kathy Bantz

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

Fax: 229-436-2011

Email: avalonumc@gmail.com

Website: www.avalonumchurch.org

Regular Sunday Schedule:

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

Please Note New Email address : Avalonumc@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School July 9th to 20th

Nikki Daniel, Gene & Laverne Hawkins, family of Dot McClain, Dorothy Griffin, Rebecca Smith, Ursula Gaydosh, Elizabeth Wall, Faye & Charles Tallent, family of Tammy Mills (Elizabeth Wolfe daughter) , Mike Ling, Ava Spence, Jim Warner, Phyl Strawbridge, Ron & Elizabeth Wolfe, Meredyth Glass, Darsey Landoe, (granddaughter of Martha Darsey), Dewey Perrett, son of Leon Perrett.

If you know of anyone that needs to be added or removed please call the church office. Non- members names that have been on

this list over one month have been removed. If they need to be on here please call the office

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

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

THOSE WHO SERVE

Offering Stewards May 6—Carl Ellis/Jan Beard
 May 13—Aubrey McClain/Kim Glass
 May 20—Bill Beard/Ellen Branch
 May 27—Wayne Barnette/Sheila Creel

Ushers:

May 6—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Carl Ellis, Max Collins,
 Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond
May 13—Avalon Youth
May 20—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Carl Ellis, Max Collins,
 Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond
May 27—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Carl Ellis, Max Collins,
 Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

Prayer Room: May 6-Homer Milliner May 13—Jenni Bode
 May 20—Ida Fowler May 27—Sherry Tracy

Nursery: May 6—Kim Glass May 13—Linda Stevens
 May 20—Sheila Daniel May 27—Ann Owen

Sound Technician: Bob Smith
Trustee of the Month— Gerald Collins

Wednesday Family Night Fellowship (FNF)

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS

May Menus **FNF Begins at 6PM**

**May 2—Meatloaf, Mashed potatoes, White
 Acre peas, Key lime cake.**

**May 9—Pork loin, Broccoli casserole, Green
 Beans, Banana pudding.**

**May 16—Fried chicken, Potato casserole,
 Butterbeans, Chocolate delight.**

**May 23—Roast beef, Rice W/gravy, Zipper peas,
 Cobbler.**

**May 30—Chicken pot pie, Wild rice, Green
 beans, Strawberry cake.**

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

Take outs- - - - - \$.50 extra