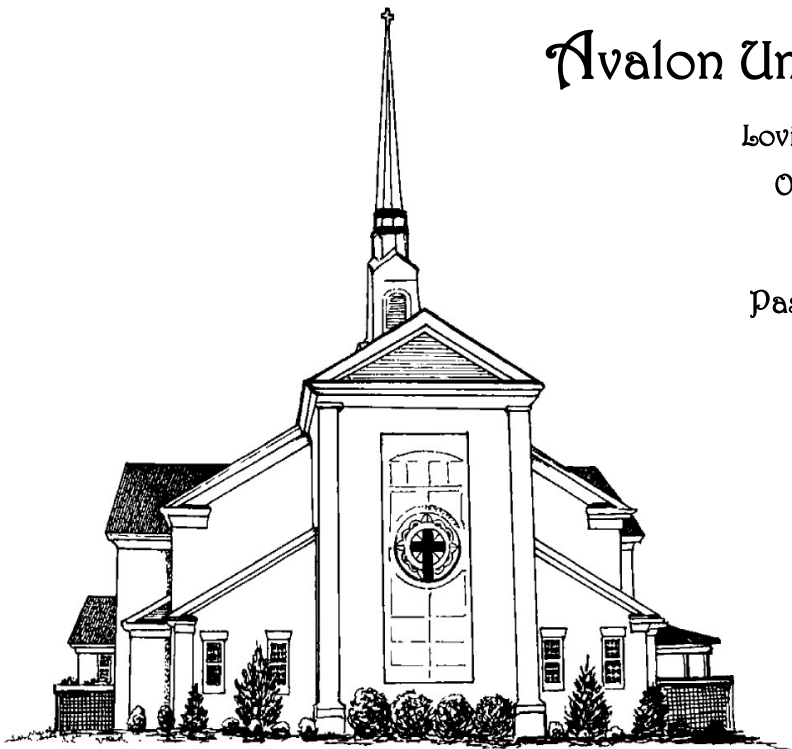


# Avalon United Methodist Church

Loving God, Loving People  
On Our Christian Journey

Pastor Debbie Cong

July 1, 2018



## Our Shepherd

I've been studying Psalm 23 again recently and it never gets old! However, it is very hard to move on past the truth of verse 1. "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

Great news! We have a Shepherd! The question is, who or what is yours? Everyone has a Shepherd, everyone builds their lives on something! If we make anything else or anyone else our Shepherd we will be let down! All other are fragile! If we tether our soul to THE Rock- The Lord, we shall not want! We will lack nothing!

There are many benefits to making Him our Shepherd, but let's look at 3.

1. Identity
2. Ownership
3. Contentment

In this Psalm, David is describing himself as a sheep because he knows the Shepherd! When we know who He is, we discover who we are. The Lord here means "I Am". The One who was, who is, and who is to come. He is whatever we say we don't have or lack.

Secondly, we are owned by Him! Sheep don't have a leader, they have an owner. We belong to Him. Actually, we are His twice! He made us and He bought us! What a God!

Lastly, I shall not want. It doesn't mean that we will always have what we want or want what we have. It literally means, "I shall not lack the expert care and management of My Master." And who our master is, well that's up to you and me. Keep in mind that this Psalm probably wouldn't have existed if David had gotten what he wanted. He wanted to be a soldier, but he got put out to pasture to do a job no one else wanted to do! David would have never become the king he was meant to be if he hadn't been the shepherd submitted to the will of the Father.

Let's all allow the Lord to bring us to the place of making Him our Shepherd and allowing Him to supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory! Build your life on The Rock!

Pastor Debbie Cong

# The Stewardship of Unity in the Body

Oneness of heart and mind brings greatness of power and witness. God's plan is that we work in spiritual partnership, not as sole proprietors, or "lone rangers." In the Book of Acts we read of the bold ministry of Peter and John and the price they paid for preaching the Gospel message. They would not keep quiet about their Lord. They remained united in their determination and commitment, like the effect of a spiritual laser cutting through the heart of a godless culture. Acts 4.

When Peter and John returned to their Christian friends and joined them in prayer and fellowship after their release from prison, they were all unified in the truths that God is sovereign and forever the Creator and that He never slumbers nor sleeps. He can create a thirst for Jesus in the hearts of those who once rejected the Gospel. He can create new circumstances to change current ones, because "with Him nothing is impossible." Luke 1:37

We can live by unified commitment in several ways: Think of other Christians as our partners. Paul was thankful to other Christians for their "partnership in the Gospel" as they united with him in prayer, in good works and in financial support. There is power in numbers as we strive to put out the Word of the Lord and His saving grace. Just as a "bundle of sticks" is stronger than one or two when you attempt to break them, so are many Christians who are united in a cause or purpose. Prayer works the same way as God listens to the prayers of His children who are in agreement.

Think of our church as a laser, not a light bulb. Unity in spirit and purpose turns a body of believers into a force for righteousness. And who would deny that our nation needs more of that! He has told us in His Word the solution to correct a sinful nation. "If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14.

Our gifts to the Lord's work are like contributions to a mutual fund. When thousands of individuals give, they share in the benefits of something larger than themselves. In the spiritual realm, all that we give for His work is an investment that pays rewards beyond what we can imagine. Mal 3:10, Eph 3:20, II Tim 4:8, I Cor 2:9.

Janet Beard, Stewardship Chairperson

## Circle Of Concern:

Nikki Daniel, Gene & Laverne Hawkins, family of Dot McClain, Dorothy Griffin, Rebecca Smith, Ursula Gaydosh, family of Elizabeth Wall, Mike Ling, Ava Spence, Jim Warner, Phyl Strawbridge, Elizabeth Wolfe, Dewey Perrett (Son of Leon Perrett), James Ivey, Bobby Reese (friend of Barry & Tina Justice), Rebekah Griffin, Gail Mears, Hazel Sellars, Will Hammond (13 Yr. old Nashville GA.), Jean Kennedy, Wendy McLeod.

***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 & Barbara English, Ed & Nelle Ennis, Gene & Laverne Hawkins, Gay Sheffield, Rebecca Smith, Betsy Tatum, Joyce Waters, Kitty Tomlinson, Jeannette Cosey, Bill Coward, Cora Dasher, Lola Moreland, George Anderson. Eugenia Harrington, Nellie Ruth Kimbro..

## Shoebox Ministry

Shoebboxes for children of Mexico or Navajo Reservation. Use a clear plastic shoebox or a gallon zip-lock 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		Dolls	Candy

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The choir is excited to share our annual Patriotic Cantata, which will be happening July 1st at 11:00am. We have been working very hard, so make sure to be there and support us! In honor of the 4th of July, and inspired by Mrs. Elizabeth Wolfe's recent hymn history Sunday service, I wanted to share the history behind the five armed service songs.

### **Anchors Aweigh**

Naval Academy bandmaster Charles A. Zimmerman composed a new march each year for the Academy's graduating classes. In 1907, his 20th year as bandmaster, he and student Alfred Hart Miles collaborated to produce "Anchors Aweigh." The march was played at that year's Army-Navy football game, where Navy won for the first time since 1900. The moment became a treasured part of Academy history and led to this becoming the official song of the U.S. Navy.

### **The Caissons Go Rolling Along**

It was a hot and humid night in the Philippines when First Lieutenant Edmund Gruber composed this tune. He plucked it out on the guitar while his fellow soldiers gathered in a thatch hut to listen. In 1917, John Philip Sousa took the melody and turned it into a march. In 1952, this song beat over 800 compositions to win the title of the official song of the U.S. Army. A caisson is a horse-drawn cart used in the battlefield.

### **The Marines' Hymn**

The oldest of the service hymns, the Marines hymn has a bit more muddled history than the rest. The author of the lyrics is unknown, but is believed to be from the mid-1800s. The music is believed to come from a Jacques Offenbach opera, "Geneviève de Brabant." The lyrics describe many famous battles in the Marines' history.

### **Semper Paratus**

Captain Francis Saltus Van Boskerck composed the lyrics to "Semper Paratus" while stationed in Savannah, GA! Captain Boskerck added the music five years later, while stationed in Unalaska, Alaska. The song was soon adapted as the official song of the Coast Guard, and the lyrics reflect incredible diversity of places the Coast Guard has been stationed throughout history.

### **Wild Blue Yonder**

In 1937, the U.S. Air Corps (later Air Force) decided to host a competition to find an official song. The winner, out of 737 songs, was this little gem written by Robert Crawford, a music teacher with no service experience of his own. He was dismissed from the Army Air Service during WWI, as he was underage, but learned to fly and eventually served in the Air Transport Command during WWII. This song was played in 1971 as Apollo 15 blasted into orbit, and Crawford's original manuscript made it all the way to moon!

Andrew Bode, Music Director

## **49'ers Senior Luncheon Avalon UMC**

### **Fellowship Hall**

**Next Luncheon:**

**July 24, 2018 11:30am**

**\$7.00 per person**

**Third Tuesday of each month except this 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.**

## **Vacation Bible School July 9th to 20th**

The kick off for VBS will be July 9th at 6pm. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers will be served. There will be games for the children. Starting Tuesday VBS will start at 9am to 1pm.

Volunteers are NEEDED. As many days as you are available to help. 1 day or 10 days. See Linda Stevens or Anna Zuern

## **Southwest District Upcoming Events**

Aug. 18, 2018—9am-1pm UM Men's Rally Albany UMC

Aug. 25, 2018—9:30am-4pm Pathways, Trinity UMC,

Warner Robbins

Nov. 11, 2018—3pm Cluster Charge Conference

Crist UMC

Apr. 27, 2019—Wesley Glen Ministries Fish Fry

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

Our July Communion offering will go to Vashti, a mission agency of United Methodist Women. The Vashti Center in Thomasville helped 350 children, including 35 in residence last year. Vashti provides children, youth and families with the resources necessary to grow physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Mona Faye Williams

Mission U at Epworth By the Sea, July 12<sup>th</sup>, Anyone interested call Mona Faye Williams.

The Memorial Committee approved funds for the purchase of a new Couch and Glider for the parsonage, an Office Chair for the Pastor, 2 CD Players for the homebound, and 32 Choir Robes with Stoles.

**Pastor—Rev. Debbie Cone**  
**Music Director—Andrew Bode**  
**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](mailto:avalonumc@gmail.com)

**THOSE WHO SERVE**

**Offering Stewards** July 1—Wayne Barnette/Sheila Creel  
July 8—Katy Reed/Jenny Collins  
July 15—Carl Ellis/Janet Beard  
July 22—Aubrey McClain/Kim Glass  
July 29—Bill Beard/Ellen Branch

**Ushers:**

July 1— Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Carl Ellis, Max Collins,  
Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

July 8—Avalon Youth

July 15—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Carl Ellis, Max Collins,  
Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

July 22—Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Carl Ellis, Max Collins,  
Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

July 29— Lloyd Mears, Ron Wolfe, Carl Ellis, Max Collins,  
Richard Griffin, Robbie Collins, Josh Hammond

**Prayer Room:** July 1—Jenni Bode                      July 8—Nola Bricker  
July 15—Jan Beard                                      July 22—Barry Justice  
July 29—Linda Stevens

**Nursery:** July 1—Kim Glass                              July 8—Linda Stevens  
July 15—Sheila Sizemore                              July 22—Ann Owen  
July 29— Tina Justice

**Sound Technician:** Bob Smith

**Trustee of the Month of July**—Ron Wolfe

**Memorials**

Dot McClain	M/M Don Strassenberg
Elizabeth Wall	M/M Don Strassenberg
	M/M J P Billingsley, Jr
	Bonnie Courtney
Tammy Mills	Sarah Simpson

**Missions**

Harold Smith	John & Lee Krolnik
	Rosalyn Forsyth
Dot McClain	John & Lee Krolnik
	Rosalyn Forsyth
Tammy Mills	John & Lee Krolnik
Elizabeth Wall	John & Lee Krolnik

**Music**

General Memorials	Ida Fowler
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**Honorarium**

**Music**

Bill & Jan Beard	John & Sheila Creel
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