

AVONDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2012

VOLUME 31 ISSUE 2

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

9:45a Adult Sunday School
11:00 a Worship Service
11:20 - 12:00n Children's Sun. School
4:00 - 5:30p Girl Scout Troop 350
1st and 3rd Sundays

MONDAY

8:30a - 2:30p Office open
10:00 KindermusiK - Minor Classroom
10:00a UMW Circles 1 & 2 (2nd Mon)
10:00a UMW Unit Meeting-FH (4th Mon)
3:00 - 4:45p STAIR
6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - gym

TUESDAY

8:30a - 2:30p Office open
9:00a-1:00p PDO Classes
6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - gym
7:00p UMW Jenkins Circle (5th Tu.)

WEDNESDAY

8:30a - 2:30p Office open
10:00 KindermusiK - Minor Classroom
1:00p Sermon Group - CCR
3:00 - 4:45p STAIR
7:30p Sanctuary Choir Practice

THURSDAY

8:30a - 2:30p Office open
9:00a-1:00p PDO Classes
8:30 - 10:6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise- gym

FRIDAY

8:30a - 2:30p Office open
9:00a 4th Friday Meal at
Church of the Reconciler
8:30 - 10:30a 5th Friday Meal at
Church of the Reconciler
9:00a-1:00p PDO Classes

SATURDAY

9:00-11:00a Jazzercise - gym

24 HOURS

If you had to think of the most important day in history, what would you choose? The day of the signing of the Declaration of Independence? VE Day? Perhaps a day even older, such as the day the printing press was invented or the day Europeans discovered North America? These are certainly monumental events in the course of history that had sweeping ramifications for the lives we live. But, there is another day that is even more important, more monumental: the day of the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth.

In the Bible, the gospels record the life of Jesus—a life which lasted about 33 years. The vast majority of the gospel offer vignettes of Jesus at various points during the last three years of his life. They report occurrences that lasted but moments: teachings, miracles, travels, and conversations. But, at the end of the gospel accounts, each author devotes an extraordinary amount of attention to a period of just 24 hours—24 hours that changed the world.

During Lent, we will be exploring this final day of Jesus life—the most important 24 hours in history—in worship, study, and personal devotion. We'll begin on the Thursday night before his death with his final meal he shared with his disciples. Then, we'll walk with Jesus through each difficult hour up to the point where he breathed his last.

This will be a multifaceted journey using a resource written by Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. Hamilton has devoted extensive research to the customs, events, and history surrounding the crucifixion and brings this research to bear in a way that helps us to understand why such a terrible day is good news. It is a journey that will deepen your faith and encourage you along the journey of discipleship.

Sunday Mornings: My sermons in worship, February 26 through April 4, will focus on the significant events of these final 24 hours.

Feb 26 – The Last Supper

Mar 4 – The Garden of Gethsemane

Mar 11 – Jesus' Trial before the High Council

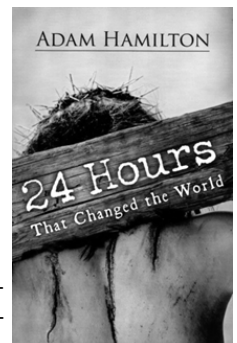
Mar 18 – Jesus' Trial before Pontius Pilate

Mar 25 – The Torture by the Roman Guards

Apr 1 – The Crucifixion

Sunday Afternoons: Ryan Jenkins will lead a small group, video-based study that will take us on a tour of the Holy Land sites connected with Jesus' death. – 4:30PM at the church; childcare provided.

Personal Devotion: The daily devotional companion to *24 Hours that Changed the World* will be available for purchase before and after worship beginning February 12. This guide contains short daily Scripture readings, prayers, and thoughts that will help you see Jesus' death with fresh eyes and ears. \$7.00 per copy, or available from Cokesbury.com or Amazon.com (ISBN 9781426700316).



Brandon



We offer our deepest sympathy to Ginger Branson and all her family on the death of her mother, Virginia Galloway, January 15, 2012. Mrs. Galloway was a member of our church from 1952 until 1964.

We offer our deepest sympathy to Ashley Morris on the death of her mother, Gloria Daniels, on January 26, 2012. Please keep the Ashley, Ava, Julia and all the family in your prayers.



BILL-BOARDS

Have you seen any great billboards around town? Snap a picture or let Pastor Brandon know. The Easter sermon series is called, *Billboards: Conversations with a City*. Billboards communicate messages to us, sometimes subtle, sometimes overt. In the series, Pastor Brandon will select several billboards that have actually appeared around Birmingham and explore what a Christian response might be. Send suggestions by February 29.

Transfiguration

Transfiguration Sunday
February 19, 2012

Learning from Peter's Mistakes

In Mark 9:2-10, Jesus takes three disciples up a mountain, where his clothes become dazzling white and Moses and Elijah speak with him. Terrified, Peter starts babbling. He offers to construct three "dwellings" — presumably, worship structures. But Peter makes two common mistakes.

First, he fails to treat Jesus as the unique object of worship. Just as Peter would have worshiped Moses and Elijah alongside Jesus, we sometimes act as though money,



Our Children's Ministry Team will meet on Sunday, February 19th, 9:45a, parlor, to plan our Lenten and Easter children's events. All members are encouraged to attend.

Be sure to buy your *Soup for Sunday School* ticket. The Jenkins Circle will sell Santa Fe soup (\$20 - 1 quart + 4 corn muffins) on Sunday, February 19th, immediately following the 11:00a worship service. All soup must be pre-ordered. Proceeds will benefit our Children's Ministry program.

Mark your calendar for VBS - June 4 - 8 as we reach for the **SKY!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR FEBRUARY

Date	Preschool	Early Elementary	Older Elementary
2/5	Tommie & Tina Peppers	Jennifer Harris	Ryan Jenkins
2/12	Sonya Pearson	Alison Jenkins	Ryan Jenkins
2/19	Alison Jenkins	Jolene Armstrong	Ryan Jenkins
2/26	Gabrielle Matese	Marni Utz	Ryan Jenkins

Mark Your Calendar ...

March 2nd - 4th

UMYF DISCOVERY WEEKEND

Youth from Avondale UMC, Highlands UMC and East Lake UMC will spend the first weekend in March DISCOVERING their relationship with God. There are many ways to support the group.

- One of the best ways we can offer support is through prayer. A prayer schedule is posted on the church bulletin board. Pick a 30-minute time slot (between 7:00p on Friday - March 2nd - and 10:00a on Sunday - March 4th) that works for you. Jolene Armstrong may call you to fill in blanks enabling us to blanket our youth with prayer.
- Another way you can help is to let the youth know that they are in your heart by sending them a note. Alison Jenkins will provide a list of the names of our participating young people. Simply write to each one or to one or two and let them know that you support them. Notes should be given to Alison for distribution during the weekend.
- Be sure to attend the worship service on Saturday evening, March 4th, in our sanctuary.
- Check the bulletin board list for other ways you can help ... provide snacks, help prepare and/or serve a meal on Sat-



Youth Discovery Weekend

work, another person or even church and Scripture are coequal with Christ. Obviously, family and friends are important, but Jesus is the only Son of God. The church and the Bible, though worthy of devotion, are only vehicles that bring us to Christ.

Second, Peter would have stayed on that mountain indefinitely. Spiritual highs are tempting that way. We resist going back "down" to daily life. Ecstatic glimpses of Jesus' glory are one way God strengthens us to continue serving in Christ's name.





President	Jeff Circle	Misenhimer Circle	Jenkins Circle
Linda Jones	Marie Jeff , Leader	Shirley Misenhimer , Leader	Alison Jenkins , Leader
Vice President Shirley Misenhimer	Cherry Bayless Marilyn Dickson Julia Hall	Ann Cayley Betty Copeland Inez Donahoo Joyce Fancher Charlotte Harrell Jackie Hogan	Gwenn Freeman Jennifer Harris Jennifer Hatchett Gabrielle Matese Sonya Pearson Emily Peterson Meredith Smith
Secretary Charlotte Harrell	Ann Johnson Linda Jones Deanie Lovell		
Treasurer Jackie Hogan			

On January 10th, the United Methodist Women elected officers for 2012 and used a random draw to select members for the 2012 circles.

The officers and circle rosters are:

The **Jenkins Circle** meets on the 5th Tuesday of each month (approx. 4 meetings per year). Their first meeting of 2012 was January 31st. The **Jeff Circle** meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. The first meeting of 2012 will be 10:00a on Monday, February 13th, 10:00a, at the home of Marie Jeff. The **Misenhimer Circle** also meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. The first meeting will be on Monday, February 13th, 10:00a, in the Fellowship Hall. The UMW unit meeting will be Monday, February 27th, also at 10:00a in the Fellowship Hall.



Pack Well

During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relation-

ship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

Thinking of "giving up" something for Lent ... Refocus instead ...

- Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry — trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred — return good for evil.
- Give up anger — be more patient.
- Give up pettiness — become mature.
- Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
- Give up sin — turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up — persevere.

—Author unknown

Happy Leap Year

Every four years the 'world' allows 'time' to catch up, and the catch-up year is called *leap year*. Why does the earth need an extra day every fourth year? What exactly is a leap day?

The calendar has 365 days in it, but in fact the earth revolves around the Sun in exactly 365 days and 6 hours. This means that the calendar is actually falling behind by 6 hours every year and over time, the seasons would get shifted so that (over a very long period of time) you would have Spring starting on February and so on.

To correct this, our calendar creates an extra day in February every four years. During a Leap Year, February has 29 days. Leap years almost always occur every four years, (i.e. in years that are divisible by 4). The only exceptions to this is that years that are evenly divisible by 100 are not leap years, unless they are also divisible by 400.

Know any "leapers"? (That is ... people born on Leap Day ... February 29th.) Only 4 million people living in the United States were born on Leap Day. The odds of a baby being born on Leap Day are 1 in 500. Even though it is considered unlucky in Scotland to be born on Leap Day, feeling sorry for people who only celebrate a birthday once every four years is unnecessary. For one thing, "according to leapers", they age slower than everyone else does and of course they do celebrate other years ... most throw a party on February 28th or March 1st. In the Republic of Ireland, babies born on Leap Day receive 70 pounds from the government. This year the Dublin government expects to gift approximately 160 babies with the money.

2012 is a leap year! Maybe it is the nudge you need to leap into something new. What risk will you take to change your life, your community or your world? Check out www.leapyearproject.org to see what others are doing.

St. Valentine's Sacrifice

Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But Valentine's Day has another meaning that's been lost.

First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it's good to celebrate love and marriage, let's also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to...

2/1	Harry Vickers	2/18	Tess Barton
2/4	Libba Ellison	2/18	Jennifer Harris
2/5	Julia Hall	2/18	Tommie Peppers
2/6	Vance McBride	2/18	David Sharp
2/7	Amelia Lewis	2/19	Bert Ferrell
2/10	Isabel Estes	2/21	Darius Hill
2/10	Virginia Estes	2/21	Michael Wilson
2/12	Jeff Smith	2/22	Tom Armstrong
2/15	Ron Berry	2/22	Meredith Smith
2/16	Esme Hill	2/24	Bill Copeland

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to
 2/14 Leigh & Justin Hadley
 2/25 Connie & Mike Maddox



February Activities

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Kindermusik - Minor classroom 1:00p Sermon Discussion Group 3:00 STAIR 7:30p Choir Practice	2 Groundhog Day 9:00a-1:00p PDO 6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM	3 9:00a-1:00p PDO	4 9:00 - 11:00a Jazzercise-Gym Panera Bread-Copeland
5 5th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:45 PDO Board - parlor	6 10:00a Kindermusik - Minor classroom 3:00 - 4:45p STAIR 6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM	7 9:00a-1:00p PDO 6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM	8 10:00 Kindermusik - Minor classroom 1:00p Sermon Discussion Group 3:00 - 4:45p STAIR 7:30p Choir Practice	9 9:00a-1:00p PDO 6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM	10 9:00a-1:00p PDO	11 9:00 - 11:00a Jazzercise - GYM Panera Bread - Darnall
12 6th Sunday after the Epiphany 4:00 - 5:30p Girl Scouts	13 10:00a Kindermusik - Minor classroom 10:00a UMW Circles - FH 3:00p STAIR 36:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM	14 9:00a-1:00p PDO 6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM 	15 10:00 Kindermusik - Minor classroom 1:00p Sermon Discussion Group 3:00 - 4:45p STAIR 7:30p Choir Practice	16 9:00a-1:00p PDO 6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM	17 9:00a-12:00p PDO	18 9:00 - 11:00a Jazzercise - GYM Panera Bread - Eberhardt
19 Last Sunday after the Epiphany Transfiguration of the Lord Soup for Sunday School - Jenkins Circle 9:45 Children's Ministry Team - parlor	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY 10:00a Kindermusik - Minor classroom No STAIR 6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM	21 9:00a-1:00p PDO 6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM	22 Ash Wednesday 10:00 Kindermusik - Minor classroom 1:00p Sermon Discussion Group 3:00 - 4:45p STAIR 6:00p Ash Wed Service 7:30p Choir Practice	23 9:00a-12:00p PDO 6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM	24 9:00a-12:00p PDO	25 :00 - 11:00a Jazzercise - GYM Panera Bread - Freeman
26 1th Sunday in Lent	27 10:00a Kindermusik - Minor classroom 10:00a UMW Unit Meeting - FH 3:00 - 4:45p STAIR 6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM	28 9:00a-1:00p PDO 6:15 - 7:15p Jazzercise - GYM	29 10:00 Kindermusik - Minor classroom 1:00p Sermon Discussion Group 3:00 - 4:45p STAIR 7:30p Choir Practice	March 1 10:00a Messenger Folding Team - CCR		March 3 PDO GARAGE SALE
			Leap YEAR		UMYF Discovery Weekend	



AVONDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

500 South 40th Street † Birmingham, Alabama 35222
Telephone: (205)592-3739 † Facsimile: (205)592-3745
avonumc@aol.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 2271
Birmingham, AL

Address Service Requested

STAFF

The Avondale Congregation.....	Ministers	Don Basenberg.....	Treasurer
Rev. Brandon Harris	Pastor	David Sharp.....	Assistant Treasurer
Frances Ferrell	Director - Music Ministry	Judith Sharp	Secretary
Margaret Williams.....	Organist	Darian Lyons & Markieta Harris	Nursery Attendants
Alison Jenkins.	Director - Children's Ministry	Alison Jenkins.....	Director - Parents Day Out
Anne Scogin.....	Bookkeeper	Alison Jenkins.....	STAIR Coordinator



- The PDO Board will meet Sunday, February 5th, at 9:45a (parlor). The Children's Ministry Team will meet Sunday, February 19th, at 9:45a (parlor).
- STAIR classes will not meet on Monday, February 13th, in observance of Presidents Day.
- The Current Events Discussion Group will meet on Wednesday, February 15th, 10:00a, (Cayley Conference room).
- The Jenkins' Circle (UMW) will sponsor their 2nd annual **Soup for Sunday School** event on February 19th. You must purchase a ticket ahead of time. Tickets are available from Alison Jenkins or from the church office. One ticket (\$20) provides 1 quart of yummy Sante Fe soup and 4 corn muffins. Proceeds will benefit the Children's Ministries of Avondale UMC.

- The PDO Garage Sale will be Saturday, March 3rd. We are now accepting your 'sell-able' discards. Please bring them to the gymnasium. This is a great opportunity to clean-out your house and/or basement **and** support our PDO program.
- Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. This day marks the beginning of Lent, a period of 40 days of preparation, prayer, and contrition leading up to Good Friday and Easter. Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary. During this service there will be time for prayer and meditation, and worshipers will have the opportunity to have the sign of the cross placed on their foreheads using ashes. Childcare will be provided for this service.

