Music teacher A.J. Showalter of Hartsville, Alabama, finished his classes for the day and returned to his rooming house. There he found letters from two former students. Amazingly, they each told the story that they had lost their wives—both on the same day. Showalter began writing letters of sympathy to the men. As he wrote he recalled a scripture from Deuteronomy about the assurance of God’s ‘everlasting arms’ supporting us. A third letter he wrote to a hymnwriter in Pennsylvania, Elisha Hoffman. When Hoffman responded quickly with three stanzas, Showalter composed the music.

The organ pieces on this tune are from a set of variations by the 20th century composer, Jon Spong. Mr. Spong, who died in 2006, was the long-time (1964-1999) piano accompanist for opera great, Sherrill Milnes.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by
Louise Mylin
In Honor of Bill’s Birthday
Patty Martin
In Honor of Bill Martin’s Birthday

Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the “2014 Flower Reservation Chart” on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. Thank you to those providing flowers each week. In Honor/In Memory of someone or an anniversary/birthday!

Please Remember the Church in Your Will.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO...
Sunday, May 18th: Leslie Heycock, Bill Mylin, Mike Nigels
Monday, May 19th: Nancy Johnson, Bill Martin, Michele Nigels
Tuesday, May 20th: Nancy Johnson, Bill Martin, Michele Nigels
Wednesday, May 21st: Nancy Johnson, Bill Martin, Michele Nigels
Thursday, May 22nd: Nancy Johnson, Bill Martin, Michele Nigels
Friday, May 23rd: Nancy Johnson, Bill Martin, Michele Nigels
Saturday, May 24th: Nancy Johnson, Bill Martin, Michele Nigels

If you see someone whose birthday is listed and you haven’t seen them in church recently, give them a call!

EDUCATION MINISTRY FOR ALL AGES
8:15 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (13/14 School Year) Room 3, dismissed to the multi-age Sunday School class after the Children’s Message.
Teachers: Nathan Rodewald & Kelsey Probst

9:30 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds-Kindergarten (13/14 School Year) Room 3, dismissed to the multi-age Sunday School class after the Children’s Message.
Teachers: Hallie Pelham & Pat Cheek, Diane Musto

1st & 2nd Grades Room 16
Teachers: Mr. Bill Sutton & Tracey Birch

3rd-5th Grades Room 8
Students gather to worship at the beginning of the service with their teachers, in the front Sanctuary rows, closest to the band. After the Prayers of Joys & Concerns, they will move to room 8.
Teachers: Melissa Patel & Pam Jeffre

11:00 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (13/14 School Year) Room 3, dismissed to the multi-age Sunday School class after the Children’s Message.
Teachers: Barbara Englehart & Carissa Johnston

Please plan ahead and prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament of Communion on the first Sunday of the month. It is a prayerful time for giving thanks and confessing our sins, renewing our commitment to God, and hearing the Word proclaimed. Parents, if you wish for your children to receive communion please have them remain with you in the worship service on Communion Sundays. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact elder Jackie Koski (jackieandjerry@verizon.net), Chair of the Worship Team.

9:30 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
SERENDIPITY—Rooms 13 & 15
TODAY: Join us this Sunday as we review the wonderful experiences of the Disciples at Pentecost where the Holy Spirit gave them power to preach the message of Jesus Christ to hundreds of Jews from the known world. Doug Shirling will be our teacher. Please note: we will meet next Sunday, May 25th, for our last lesson until the Fall.

TCI (Today’s Christian Issues)—Rooms 9 & 11
TODAY: “In the beginning...” Data and images from space probes indicate a very high probability that there are hundreds of earth-like planets in the universe. Does this mean the creation stories in Genesis are wrong? Barbara Englehart will lead our exploration of some of the tensions between science and Scripture. This promises to be another lively discussion! Plan to participate while enjoying coffee and cookies.

NOTE: TCI will be on summer hiatus beginning May 25. Have a joyful summer and remember to check church publications in August for plans for the Fall semester. We look forward to welcoming you back on Sunday, September 7.

11:00 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
EXPERIENCING GOD – Rooms 13 & 15
TODAY: “Christian.” Ask 100 people to define what it means, and you’ll get 100 different answers. In this series, we will explore the truth and fiction behind one of the most famous brands in all of history. Led by Vicki Krueger.
LET THE COUNTDOWN BEGIN

PRAISE SONGS
“I Will Follow”
“Lift My Life Up”

MEET & GREET

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

WORSHIP CONTINUES
“Holy (Wedding Day)”

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS IN PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING
“Be Thou My Vision”  David Cherwien

*DIXOLOGY—#609  LAST UNS ERFEUEN
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (page 188)  Joshua 24:14-15 (NRSV)

HYMN #837  “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”  SHOWALTER

WE SHARE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER
“Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

WE UNITE IN PRAYER

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)
Almighty and loving Lord, when it comes to following you, our hearts are often divided, our resolve can be shaken, and our loyalty easily waxes and wanes—for we are a sinful people. In your mercy and grace, forgive our sins; cleanse our hearts, fill us with your Spirit, and restore to us the joy of our salvation, through Jesus Christ, the Fount of every blessing, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581  GLORIA PATRI
“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.”

ANTHEM
“Easter Joy”  Gordon Young

Christ is risen from the dead, sing alleluia, sing alleluia!
He is risen as he said, sing alleluia, sing alleluia!
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, sing alleluia, jubilo,
Alleluia, alleluia, sing alleluia, jubilo!

FAITH SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN
(Children age 3 (by 9/13) through fifth grade may go to Room 3 for Children’s Sunday School.)