

The Acmar Soul Miner

*Searching for wisdom
As for hidden treasures...
For the Lord gives wisdom*



Acmar United Methodist Church March 2025 Vol. 27 Issue 3 Acmar Post Office

Fast and Feast

“From dust you came and to dust you shall return; so repent, and believe the gospel. Amen,” says the pastor or priest.

As the words of Genesis 3:19 remind we humans that we are dust and the gospel message of Jesus reminds us of our hope, the sign of a cross is placed upon the forehead. Ashes from burnt palm branches are used.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. It is a season of forty days not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. This year it begins March 5 and ends April 19, 2025.

Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” The season is a preparation for the Easter celebration. Easter or Resurrection Sunday follows the 1st full moon of the spring equinox on March 20. Easter is April 20, 2025.

Early Christians observed with devotion the days of Christ’s passion and resurrection. Around 325, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts. Over time, it became a time of penance and renewal of faith for all Christians.

It is forty days for self-examination and repentance. It is days for prayer, fasting, and self-denial. It is days for reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word. It is days for seeking God and renewing one’s faith in the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

Kathleen Vermillion Price of Williamsburg, Virginia offers a reflection on “Fasting and Feasting” for the Society of St. Andrew Lenten Devotions entitled “Hope Springs Eternal.”

Lent is a season to fast but is also a season for feasting. Fast and feast at the same time!

Fast from destructive attitudes & closed minds
Feast on openness

Fast from complaining and criticizing
Feast on praise

Fast from bad temper and impatience
Feast on gentleness

Fast from self-pity
Feast on joy

Fast from resentment
Feast on contentment

Fast from jealousy
Feast on compassion

Fast from pride
Feast on humility

Fast from piety
Feast on holiness

Fast from selfishness
Feast on serving others

Fast from doubt
Feast on faith

Fast from fear
Feast on hope

Fast from hate
Feast on love ¹

***Is this not the fast that I have chosen:
to lose the bonds of wickedness ...
to share your bread with the hungry ...
to cover the naked ...
(Isaiah 6:6-7)***

¹ Price, Kathleen Vermillion. “Fasting and Feasting.” Wed. Feb. 21, 2024. Society of St. Andrew Lenten Devotions. *Hope Springs Eternal*.

Children's Camp



Puzzle 88

In each row, draw a ○ around the pictures that begin with the same sound as the letter.

Bb				
Cc				
Ff				
Ss				
Tt				

The wisdom of God.
We see it in verses but sometimes we have to dig to uncover the meaning.

Look Here:
God has been good to me. (Genesis 33:11)

Digging In:
God loves us and cares for us.
God gives us people to love us.
God gives us what we need.



We can be thankful for what God gives to us.
We can share what we have with others.

The Acmar Community Quilt

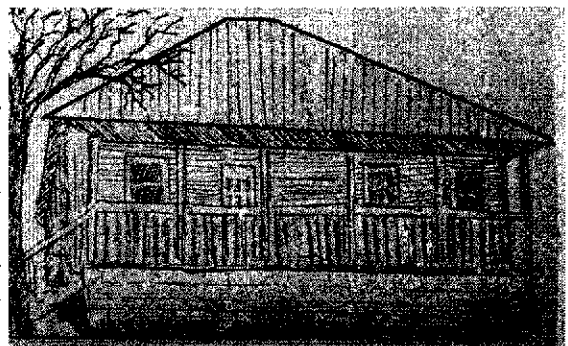
Developing a mining operation in a rural area away from cities and towns presented an important problem. To mine the coal meant bringing in miners and that meant housing for those workers. Many typical mining camps provided the least expensive housing they could get by with and miners knew it would be bare-bones facilities. In many camps, the houses were generally small, cheaply built, and poorly maintained.

This was not the case in Acmar. The lure of a decent house available for miners to bring their families to was an important consideration for miners. Most of the houses built by the Alabama-Fuel & Iron Company followed the same design with just a few with variations, like the addition of a dining room with French doors in houses occupied by foremen or supervisors. One former miner once said they used to call those houses on the road to the commissary "Silk Stocking Row" since they had that extra feature.














Most of the company houses were built in such a way that they could be divided in half, with three large rooms on one side and three large rooms on the other half, and often with two front doors. This way some houses could be rented as duplexes while others rented the whole house. The kitchens in the company were generally small. There was always a large front porch and back porch that covered the full width of the house. There were no bathroom facilities beyond the typical "out houses" to begin with. When the Colgate Power Plant was built, the houses in Acmar had electricity before many other places in the general area, although that usually consisted of a one bulb light fixture in the middle of a room. There were very few electrical outlets in the houses at that time, some rooms did not even have any. With all of our appliances and devices today, it's hard to imagine, but the houses in use today have addressed that issue. As time progressed, many of the houses were adapted to have bathrooms by closing in the back porch. This meant that Acmar had indoor plumbing before many others in nearby areas.

A grandmother who grew up in Acmar was driving around to show her grandchildren different aspects of what the old what the houses were like when she moved there with her family. She said many of the original houses that had been well maintained were still in use today. And there was an easy way to spot many of them. Most of the company houses were built in a square with a roof much like the grandkids would have drawn on a picture of a house. But there was one noticeable difference. Instead of coming to a point at the top, the tip top of the roof was flat. As they drove around, it became almost like a game for the kids to see if they could spot a mining company house. Of course, there are company houses that have been modified over the years that are still in use, but are not as easy to spot if their roof has been changed over the last century.

So, the next time you find yourself out for a drive on a sunny afternoon, be on the lookout for company houses! Ride around the Acmar circle, Washer Camp, Whites Chapel, Markeeta, and Moody and you'll see some of those company houses that are still in use today. If you extend your drive to Margaret you can see more examples of this basic company house.



March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Website www.acmarumc.org	Audio Sermon Podcasts On Website	<i>Soul Miner</i> on the Website in Gallery			1
2 CHURCH 9  Emily Sims	3	4  Dava Walker	5 MCA 3-5 White's Chapel ASH WED. WORSHIP 6	6	7	8
9 CHURCH 9 DAYLIGHT TIME / Clock Forward 1 hr	10	11	12	13  Moody Sr. BINGO 10 a	14  Ron Smith Dennis Griffin	15
16  CHURCH 9 a	17  ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19  MCA 3-5 White's Chapel	20  FIRST DAY OF SPRING	21  Chloe Byrd	22  Kristopher Ray Walker
23 CHURCH 9  Melody June Lamphear Debra Love	24	25	26	27	28  Steven Lamphear	29  Michael Wilson Debbie Bosworth
30 CHURCH 9 a Special Off. MCA	31					

Soul Food for March

Mon., February 24 Exodus 34:29-35
 Tue., February 25 Psalm 99
 Wed., February 26 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2
 Thur., February 27 Luke 9:28-36
 Fri., February 28 Matthew 6:25-34
 Sat., March 1 James 1:13-18

Mon., March 3 Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Tue., March 4 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
 Wed., March 5 Romans 10:8-13
 Thur., March 6 Luke 4:1-13
 Fri., March 7 1 Samuel 30:1-8
 Sat., March 8 Matthew 14:22-33

Mon., March 10 Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
 Tue., March 11 Psalm 27
 Wed., March 12 Philippians 3:17 – 4:1
 Thur., March 13 Luke 13:31-35
 Fri., March 14 1 Peter 1:1-9
 Sat., March 15 Matthew 25:31-40

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Acmar Website: www.acmarumc.org
 Moody Crossroads / Intersection Hwy. 411/Cty. Rd. 10
 Take County Rd. 10 W. (Park Ave.) toward Trussville;
 Travel 1 mile; Turn right on Acmar Rd.; travel 2 miles;
 Left onto Old Acton Rd., Church is on the left



Food for the Soul

Mon., March 17 Isaiah 55:1-9
 Tue., March 18 Psalm 63:1-8
 Wed., March 19 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Thur., March 20 Luke 13:1-9
 Fri., March 21 Matthew 7:13-14
 Sat., March 22 Romans 5:1-5

Mon., March 24 Joshua 5:9-12
 Tue., March 25 Psalm 32
 Wed., March 26 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Thur., March 27 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
 Fri., / Sat. Mar. 29 1 John 2:15-17 / Phil. 4:4-7
 Mon., March 31 Isaiah 43:16-21