

Asbury United Methodist Church  
300 East Basin Road  
New Castle, DE 19720

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# The Messenger

A Monthly Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church  
December, 2008  
Newsletter Editors: Kim Berkey and Merle Ciesielski

December, 2008



## Asbury United Methodist Church 300 East Basin Road, New Castle, DE 19720 302-328-5649

Bishop Peggy Johnson, Philadelphia Area Bishop  
Rev. Dr. William Fitzhugh, District Superintendent  
Rev. Dr. Thomas Donnachie, Pastor  
Mrs. Betty Ann Short, Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Evelyn Crispin, Finance Secretary  
Mr. Gary Hostetler, 8:45 Organist, Choir Director  
Mrs. Dale Ringler, 11:15 Organist  
Mr. Steve Banaszak, Custodian  
Mrs. Angela Kirkley, Day Care Director

*Three Sunday Worship Services*  
8:45 a.m., Traditional ~ 10 a.m., Contemporary ~ 11:15 a.m., Traditional

### Christmas Cantata December 21

The 25 member extended Chancel Choir is busy preparing for its annual Christmas Cantata entitled, "Come, Let Us Worship the King." The cantata will be presented at the combined 10 a.m. worship service. In addition, the Youth Choir under the direction of Gwen Keohane, will also share in the service.

### Christmas Fun and Fund Raiser

We're having a party and you, your family, friends and neighbors are invited. On Saturday evening, **December 13**, a Christmas "Beef and Root Beer" Christmas Dance will take place in Fellowship Hall. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and concludes by 10:30 p.m. The cost for the event is \$10 single; \$20 a couple; and children under 14 accompanied by their parents are free. There will be lots of food, music, dancing, a visit from a Christmas friend and much more. Proceeds from the event will be used to purchase a new sound system for the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are available from Nadine or George Ferguson, Gene or Connie Clere, and in the church office.

### A Word of Encouragement From Your Pastor

What kind of gift do you offer to God? Sounds kind of silly, doesn't it, a gift to God who has everything? But seriously, what do you sincerely and honestly think God wants from you?

I think God simply wants us to say "yes" to the invitation from his Son, Jesus, the invitation is in response to our Lord inviting us to follow Him. Yes, we may claim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our intentions are well intended. But when it actually comes to following Him to a church service, a ministry to help the homeless and hungry, to teach and lead our youth and children, to share in times of fellowship, to share our resources, we find ourselves standing still, not moving forward in faith and obedience.

I hope and pray that as we begin a new church year (Advent) each member will say "yes" and follow their Lord in times of worship, service, fellowship and charity.

So, what gift will you offer God?

Pastor Tom Donnachie

## Stewardship Campaign A Sign of Hope and Faith

This year the Finance-Stewardship Team was greatly concerned with the response of our members and friends to our 2009 Financial Pledge program. With the state of the economy, fears of unemployment, rising costs of fuel and almost everything else, their fears were somewhat justified.

But in faith, the Stewardship Team went forth with a brand new program called "Soar". We were reminded through mailings, scripture, messages and brochures that with "God all things are possible." We moved forward in faith that the ministries of the church would be blessed and supplied by the faithful members of the church. And for the most part, the members and friends of the church have said "yes" to Asbury being a vital ministry in the community.

To date we have received 116 pledges totaling \$160,566. We are very grateful and thankful for those persons who have said "yes". Of these 116 pledges, 41 are new pledges.

We are still anticipating additional pledges and financial support in the weeks ahead. A final report will be presented in the January newsletter.

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**Don't forget!** ALL church meetings, gatherings and functions **MUST** be placed on the church calendar. Please call the church office with appropriate information.

## FROM THE NURSE Have a Holy Holiday!

I wasn't sure what to share this month, so I prayed about it and God told me to just wish everyone a holy holiday. Sounds simple enough. Then I started to think about how the holidays are viewed by many people in our country. I'm sure you saw Christmas decorations before Halloween and heard Christmas songs before the first week of November. Retailers are pressing pre-pre-holiday sales because they are having a hard time in this economy. So, how do we all have a holy holiday? Try keeping Christ as the real reason for the season. Try signing up to serve a meal at Emmanuel Dining Room. Or talk with your children about donating the cost of a present to the Needy Family Fund. Or take the game boy or the Wii away and watch a Christian video with your family. My personal favorite movie for the holidays is "It's a Wonderful Life" because it shows you how many people you may touch over your lifespan, even when you think that everything is wrong and life isn't worth it anymore.

Wear a religious pin showing Christ's birth. Say "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays". Remember that Jesus really is the reason for the season. Celebrate that and keep Him centered in your heart and all the rest will be gravy on the holiday meal.

**Merry Christmas!**  
Beverly Barker

*To Contact Us:*

[www.asburyumcde.org](http://www.asburyumcde.org)

### Church Office Hours:

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Church phone: 302-328-5649

Church fax: 302-328-4175

Email address:

[Asburymethodist@verizon.net](mailto:Asburymethodist@verizon.net)

Rev. Donnachie:

Cell Phone: 302-650-4231

[pastortomdonnachie@verison.net](mailto:pastortomdonnachie@verison.net)

[tomdonnachie@hotmail.com](mailto:tomdonnachie@hotmail.com)

Rev. Fitzhugh

Office: 302-571-1471

Bishop Johnson

Office: 1-800-828-9093

**Dial Daily Devotions**

**302-328-4141**



### The UMW Ladies . . .

(all women of the church) are invited to Judy Donnachie's home for a Christmas party, Wednesday, December 10 at 7 p.m. Please bring your gifts for the Delaware Psychiatric Center at this time. (There will not be a collection box in the narthex this year.) Also, please bring non-perishable food items for our gift to the Delaware Food Bank. Come and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.

Regina Meeker

## Advent-Christmas Worship Services

**Wednesday, December 3:**

Renew!; 6:30 p.m.

**Holy Communion**

Preacher: Rev. Donnachie

**Sunday, December 7:**

8:45, 10 & 11:15 a.m.

**Holy Communion;**

**Advent Candle Lighting**

Preacher: Rev. Donnachie

**Wednesday, December 10:**

Renew! 6:30 p.m.

**Christian Laugh Night**

**Sunday, December 14:**

8:45, 10 & 11:15 a.m.

**Reception of New Members;**

**Advent Candle Lighting;**

Preacher; Rev. Donnachie

**Wednesday, December 17;**

Renew! 6:30 p.m.

**Christmas Song Service**

**Sunday, December 21**

10 a.m. only

**Christmas Cantata**

**Wednesdays 24 and 31**

**NO Renew!**

**Wednesday, December 24:**

4, 7, & 10 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Services**

**Sunday, December 28:**

8:45 & 11:15 a.m. ~ Youth Service

10 a.m. ~ Christmas Song Service

