

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

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

Bishop Marcus Matthews, 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, Director of Music
Mr. Steve Banaszak, Custodian
Mrs. Angela Kirkley, Day Care Director

Three Sunday Worship Services

8:45 a.m., Traditional ~ 10 a.m., Contemporary ~ 11 a.m., Traditional

The Messenger

A Monthly Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
February, 2008
Newsletter Editors: Kim B. and Merle C.

Ash Wednesday Begins Lenten Season

The holy season of Lent for all Christians begins Wednesday, February 3. This year two worship services will be offered to help us prepare for the remainder of the Lenten season.

The first service on Ash Wednesday will take place at noon and will include a Lenten message, Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.

The evening service will begin at 7 p.m. and will also include a Lenten message, Holy Communion, the imposition of ashes and special music.

Both worship services will take place in the sanctuary.

The imposition of ashes (on the forehead or hand) is optional.

First Administrative Council Meeting Set

On Tuesday evening, February 26, Mr. Jackson will call to order the Administrative Council. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Friendship Lounge.

Sermon Series for Lent

During the five Sundays of Lent, Pastor Tom will share a series of sermons and responses entitled, "The Nails of the Cross." Those "nails" include the sins of pride, infidelity, envy, cruelty and hatred.



Following each sermon, parishioners will be given the opportunity to literally nail their sins into a large wooden cross. Those sins, written on small slips of paper will remain on the cross throughout the Lenten season reminding us of the sins that nailed Jesus to the cross.

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"Nerf" Balls Sought

Sgt. Baker has asked The Military Ministry to collect "Nerf" balls (light-weight footballs, basketballs, etc.) and send them to him. He will give them to the small children at a school in Iraq. A collection box will be put in the narthex.

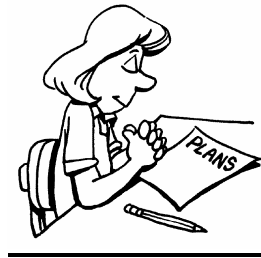
About the Season of Lent

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent spans 40 weekdays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self-examination, and repentance. This season of the year is

equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals an sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

Lent has traditionally been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Some churches today still observe a rigid schedule of fasting on certain days during Lent, especially the giving up of meat, alcohol, sweets, and other types of food. Other traditions do not place as great an emphasis on fasting, but focus on charitable deeds, especially helping those in physical need with food and clothing, or simply the giving of money to charities. Most Christian churches that observe Lent at all focus on it as a time of prayer, especially penance, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.



A comment on "The Shoe Man"

As you sit in church on Sunday, be aware of those around you, and don't be quick to judge someone by their appearance. Instead...Touch their soul (sole) with a smile and help them to feel welcome and loved.

Submitted by Janet J

February Ushers In Lenten Season

Sunday, February 3
Communion
8:45, 10 11 a.m.

Wednesday, February 6
Ash Wednesday
Noon & 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 10
1st Sunday in Lent
8:45, 10, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, February 13
Renew!
6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 17
2nd Sunday in Lent
8:45, 10, 11 a.m.

Wednesday, February 20
Renew!
6:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 24
3rd Sunday in Lent
8:45, 10 11 p.m.

Asbury Day Care Has Openings

Phone 328-5690 and ask to talk with Angela or Danielle. The Day Care is a ministry of the church and has proudly and faithfully served the New Castle community and beyond with excellent Christian teaching and values.

We're still looking for email addresses.

If you have an email address and it is not registered with us, or if your email address has changed, would you please share it with us by emailing Betty Ann Short at Asburymethodist@verizon.net.

To Contact Us:

NEW WEBSITE:

www.asburymcde.org

Church Office Hours:

9 a.m.–3 :30 p.m. Mon. – Fri.

Church phone: 302-328-5649

Church fax: 302-328-4175

E-mail address:

Asburymethodist@verizon.net

Rev. Donnachie:

pastortomdonnachie@verizon.net

tomdonnachie@hotmail.com

Rev. Fitzhugh

Office: 302-571-1471

Bishop Matthews

Office: 1-800-828-9093

Dial Daily Devotions

302-328-4141

My alarm went off; it was Sunday again.
I was sleepy and tired, my one day to sleep in.
But the guilt I would feel the rest of the day
Would have been too much,
so I decided to go to church today.

I showered and shaved, I adjusted my tie,
I got there and sat in a pew just in time.
Bowing my head in prayer as I closed my eyes,
I felt the shoe of the man next to me,
touching my own. I sighed.

With plenty of room on either side, I thought,
"Why must our soles touch?"
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine,
But it didn't seem to bother him much.

A prayer began: "Our Father..." I thought,
"This man with the shoes has no pride.
They're dusty, worn, and scratched;
Even worse, there are holes on the side!"

"Thank You for blessings,"
the prayer went on.
The shoe man said a quiet "Amen".
I tried to focus on the prayer,
but my thoughts were on his shoes again.

Aren't we supposed to look our best
when we walk through that door?
"Well, this certainly isn't it,"
I thought, glancing toward the floor.

The prayer ended and the songs of praise began.
The shoe man was certainly loud,
Sounding proud as he sang.
His voice lifted the rafters,
his hands were raised high,
The Lord could surely hear
the shoe man's voice from the sky.

It was time for the offering and
what I threw in was steep.
I watched as the shoe man
reached into his pockets so deep.

I saw what was pulled out, what the shoe man put
in,
Then I heard a soft "clink" as when silver hits tin.
The sermon bored me to tears, and that's no lie.
It was the same for the shoe man,
for tears fell from his eyes,

At the end of the service, as is the custom here,
We must greet new visitors and show them good
cheer.
But I felt moved somehow and wanted to meet the
shoe man. So after the closing prayer,
I reached over and shook his hand.

He was old, his skin was dark, and his hair was
truly
a mess. But I thanked him for coming, for being
our guest. He said, "My name is Charlie, I'm glad
to meet you, my friend." There were tears in his
eyes, but he had a large, wide grin.

"Let me explain," he said, wiping tears from his
eyes.
"I've been coming here for months,
And you're the first to say 'Hi!'"
"I know my appearance is not like all the rest,
But I really do try to always look my best,"
"I always clean and polish my shoes before my
very long walk, but by the time I get here,
they're dirty and dusty and covered with
chalk."

My heart filled with pain and I swallowed to
hide my tears, as he continued to apologize
for daring to sit so near.
He said, "I know I really must look a sight,
But I thought if I touched you,
Maybe our souls might unite."

I was silent for a moment, knowing whatever I said
would be pale in comparison,
Then I spoke from my heart, not my head;
"Oh, you've touched me," I said, "and taught me,
in part, that the best of any man is
what is found in his heart."

The rest, I thought, this man will never know...
like how thankful I really am
That his dirty old shoe touched my soul.

Author unknown

Facing Realities at Asbury Church

Listed below are eight "realities" that we
need to address now to insure that
Asbury will be "a spiritually healthy,
effective and vibrant church":

1. A change in staff configuration.
This means that additional lay
participation is needed for
visitation, teaching and worship.
2. A change in charge con-
figuration. We must try to keep a
relationship with Minquadale
UMC, such as a shared VBS.
3. Membership statistics. Over 300
names were removed from our
rolls. A membership audit had
been long overdue.
4. Worship attendance. In reality,
only 200 per week attend. (*What
are we going to do about that?!*)
5. Financial condition. Fewer than
20% of our members are
providing income for ministries.
6. The "Electronic Age". We have
been blessed with new
equipment which will help us
communicate in a more effective
and efficient way.
7. An aging building. Improve-
ments and updates cost money,
time and energy.
8. Long Range Planning Task
Force. Assignment: To discern
where God wants Asbury to be
in ministry in the next 3-5 years.

Confirmation Class Forming

All youth in grades 6 and above are
invited to share in this year's
Confirmation Class. The purpose of the
confirmation class is to prepare the
youth to become responsible and
participating members of the church.

This year Asbury will join with seven
other United Methodist Churches for a
joint Confirmation experience. Those
other churches include: Richardson
Park, Simpson, Peniel, Cedars, St.
Mark's, Marshallton and Christ.

The first meeting for confirmation youth
and their parents will soon take place.
Most of the classes will take place on
Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12
noon. There will be a visit to historic
Barratt's Chapel as the youth study
about United Methodist history. A joint
Confirmation Service will take place
sometime in May.

Persons interested in the Confirmation
Class are asked to phone the church
office with their name and phone
number.

"We're on the World Wide Web!!!"
Asbury Church is on the World Wide
Web! Our new address is
www.asburyumcde.org, check us out!!!
The site is still under some construction
but is updated with current events.
There are a few areas that we still need

*It is our hope and prayer that every able
member will support their church with
their prayers, presence (attendance),*

information for. If you can provide us with information, please email Becky D at asburyweb@gmail.com. Thank you!

Disaster Relief Scholarship Fund

The "Safe Haven" Disaster Relief Team has started a scholarship fund to assist young people and adults in our church and community who show a strong desire to further their education after graduating from high school or college. This year the Safe Haven Disaster Relief Team will proudly award a \$500 scholarship to a deserving student who meets the special guidelines and requirements set up by our committee. Applications will be available by May 1, 2008, and we'll begin accepting applications on June 1, 2008. All requirements must be met in order to qualify. A list of requirements and qualifications will be available soon.

We hope you will support us in our efforts by coming to our Heart-to Heart Dinner Dance on February 9th. Please help us make this world a better place!

Ten Things to Give Up for Lent

1. Taking those you love for granted.

2. Feeling sorry for yourself.
3. Worrying about things you cannot change or control.
4. Losing your temper.
5. Trying to be a perfectionist.
6. Patronizing people who work for or with you.
7. Complaining.
8. Carrying grudges.
9. Nagging.
10. Having to have the last word.

You are cordially invited..
To: a Heart-to-Heart Dinner Dance
Date: Sat. Feb. 9, 2008
Place: Asbury Fellowship Hall
Time: 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Cost: \$10 per person
Sponsor: Safe Haven Disaster Relief Team
For: Food, Fellowship, Fun and Fund-raising for a new scholarship fund.
Menu: Lasagna, salad, (w & w/o meat), beverages, desserts and, during the dance, snacks and refreshments
Music: Asbury's own D.J.... George Ferguson

There will be fun for everyone, even if you can't dance. Come and enjoy the meal, fellowship, music and prizes!

Buy tickets from any team member wearing a red heart on Sunday, February 3, between services. Try filling a table of 8 by inviting family members, friends and neighbors.



Many thanks to everyone who bought cookies and fudge from the Safe Haven

Cookie Sale. We appreciate your support and hope you all had a blessed Christmas and are ready for a wonderful new year together in 2008.

The Safe Haven Disaster Relief Team.

From The Nurse **New Year's Resolutions**

We still have most of 2008 ahead of us, so its time to make those resolutions to clean up your act and do all the things you said you'd do last year.

Did you know that New Year's has not always been on January 1st? Traditionally, the new year began with spring, the beginning of the season change, the growing season. In 46 B.C., Julius Ceasar developed a calendar that standardized the seasons and named the first month after Janus, the god of beginnings, who was depicted with two faces, one on the front of his head and one on the back. He was looking back at the old year and forward to the new year at the same time.

So, what are **the most frequent resolutions** according to a U.S. Government website?

- Spend more time with family and friends. Sounds easy enough, but you have to really try sometimes to make time.



- Get fit. Sounds easy enough, but often the first thing to be stopped because of conflicts in your busy day.
- Quit smoking. Sounds easy enough, but if you've tried and failed, it can be tough to try again. It's proven that it can take up to 4 times quitting before it really happens.

- Enjoy life more. Sounds easy enough, but with the extra stress we put on ourselves to be and do everything for everybody, enjoying life can take work.
- Quit drinking alcohol. Sounds easy enough, but cold-turkey can be a really bad experience. There many treatment programs and assistance for the individual and their families.
- Get out of debt. Sounds easy enough, but you have to learn how to say no and cut up those credit cards.
- Learn something new. Sounds easy enough, but this can mean stepping out of your comfort zone and trying something radically different.
- Help others. Sounds easy enough, but this can impact on #'s 1 and 4, so helping can be in the form of donating "stuff" you no longer need.

- Get organized. Sounds easy enough, but this one means you have to take the time to sort through your stuff, get rid of stuff you don't use anymore, and make sure you don't get more stuff to take the place of what you got rid of.

So, do you see any resolutions for your spiritual health this year? NO!!!! I would propose that you make a list of things you'd like to do in 2008 that would bring you closer to God and increase your understanding of His direction for your life.

~Buy a Bible you can understand~

~Join a Bible study~

~Read a daily devotion~

~Find a mentor that can help you discern God's word~

~Join a UMW Circle~

Happy New Year!!! Beverly Barker