

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  
February, 2009  
Newsletter Editors: Kim Berkey and Merle Ciesielski

February 2009



**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  
Ms. Winnie Travers, Sound and Media Coordinator  
Ms. Gwen Keohane, 10 a.m. Worship Coordinator  
and Youth 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*

**As February Nears an End  
--- Lent Begins**

The Holy Season of Lent begins Wednesday, February 25. This day is known as Ash Wednesday.

In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).

Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers.

Not all Christian churches observe Ash Wednesday or Lent. They are mostly observed by the Lutherans, United Methodists, Presbyterian and Anglican denominations and also by Roman Catholics.



The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of Lent; however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8 and Daniel 9:3.

**Ash Wednesday Observed  
Twice at Asbury**

The Holy Season of Lent will begin on Wednesday, February 27 (Ash Wednesday). Asbury will offer two worship services on that day to its members and community.

The first worship event will be held from 12 noon to 1 p.m. in the sanctuary. Persons are invited into the sanctuary anytime during the hour and may stay as long as they like. While in the sanctuary the worshipers may silently read scripture and selected readings, pray and meditate, receive Holy Communion, and, if they so choose, have the pastor place ashes upon their foreheads.

("Ash Wednesday..." continued on page 2.)

The second opportunity for worship will begin at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary (NO Renew! Service). This worship service will include preaching, singing by the choir and congregation, the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the invitation to place ashes upon the worshipers foreheads.



### Administrative Council Plans First Meeting

The Administrative Council will hold its first regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 30, at 7 p.m. in the Friendship Lounge. It is very important for persons to check the updated membership list of the Council. The list is posted on the wall next to the Administrative Assistant's office. These names represent the only members with a vote.

Additional regularly scheduled meetings will take place on  
June 29,  
August 31,  
and November 30.  
Special meetings may be called by the chairperson, Betty Ann Short.

### Asbury Fellowship Hall

Asbury Fellowship Hall. . . what is it? What is it used for? Have you ever wondered these questions? Or, have you attended a function in Fellowship Hall? If you have, you should tell your fond memories to someone. The Fellowship Hall is an important part of Asbury United Methodist Church. On February 8<sup>th</sup> at the 8:45 a.m. service, Asbury Fellowship Hall and the new fundraising to help pay for its mortgage will be discussed. If you would like to share your fond memories, please contact Dennis Berkey at 836-8768. If you are still wondering about the hall and its history at Asbury, please come on the 8<sup>th</sup> and find out! Throughout this campaign to raise awareness and Fellowship Hall mortgage funds, please be in prayer to support this important initiative.



*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  
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†  
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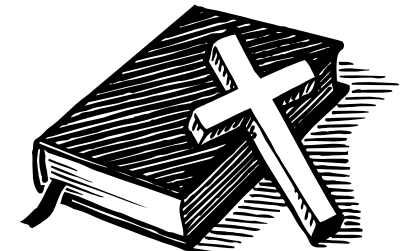
Rev. Fitzhugh  
Office: 302-571-1471  
Bishop Johnson  
Office: 1-800-828-9093

**Dial Daily Devotions**  
**302-328-4141**

### February 2009 Worship Schedule

- February 1**  
Sunday 8:45, 10 & 11:15 a.m.  
Sacrament of Holy Communion  
Sermon topic: Why Did Jesus Die?  
Souper Bowl canned goods offering
- February 4**  
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Renew!  
Sacrament of Holy Communion

- February 8**  
Sunday 8:45, 10 & 11:15 a.m.  
Scout Sunday  
Sermon topic: How Can We Have Faith?
- February 11**  
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Renew!  
Guest Speaker
- February 15**  
Sunday 8:45, 10 & 11:15 a.m.  
Sermon topic: Why and How Do I Pray?
- February 18**  
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Renew!  
Christian Comedy Night
- February 22**  
Sunday 8:45, 10 & 11:15 a.m.  
Sermon topic: Why and How Should I Read the Bible?



- February 25**  
Wednesday Ash Wednesday  
12 Noon – 1 p.m.  
Holy Communion~Imposition of Ashes\*  
  
7 p.m. Sermon~Holy Communion~  
Imposition of Ashes\*
- \* See accompanying article, page 1.

### **Worship Team Approves Combined Worship Services**

On Monday evening, January 26, the Worship team, under the direction of Mr. Charles Galloway, held its first meeting for the new year. On the agenda was the presentation of a list of dates for **combined Sunday morning worship**. The combined worship services would take place at **10 a.m.** Those services would include:

**~ Sunday, April 5 ~  
Palm/Passion Sunday  
Holy Communion**

**~ Sunday, April 12 ~  
Easter Sunday  
with Special Music**

**~ Sunday, July 5 ~  
Holy Communion  
and fellowship time**

**~ Sunday, August 2 ~  
Holy Communion  
and fellowship time**

**~ Sunday, September 6 ~  
Holy Communion  
and fellowship time**

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### **Membership Classes for Youth Ready to Begin**

On Sunday afternoon, February 15, all youth grades 6-12 who are not already members of the church are invited to gather at 3 p.m. along with their parents at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Stanton. Together with youth from other area United Methodist churches, the teens will make preparations for church membership.

For the next couple of months the youth will gather to learn about faith, the nature of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, the history of the United Methodist Church, the sacraments of the church and the meaning and responsibilities of church membership. The youth and parents will also take several field trips including a trip to Barrett's Chapel. They will also worship at a local Catholic church and a Jewish synagogue.



Youth and their parents who are planning to attend the February 15 meeting at St. Mark's are asked to phone Rev. Donnachie at 328-5649.

### FROM THE NURSE **With 4000 of My Closest Friends**

I thought I would share what I do during the first week of January every year for the past 5 years. I was asked back then by Kari Jones, a nurse who is also the pastor at Connection Community Church in Middletown, to help out in the "Nurse's Room" at the annual Peninsula-Delaware Youth Rally in Ocean City, MD. I do not like emergency nursing because there are a lot of things that could happen to people in an uncontrolled atmosphere. I agreed to help, but I was a little nervous that first year.

The initial hour of that first year greeted me with a youth that had to be sent to a hospital because we felt his appendix was rupturing. His parents let us know that his surgery went well and he was recovering. Great way to start!

Over the years, we have had colds, headaches, stomach viruses, too much pizza with too little sleep, earplugs stuffed too far in ears (this one had to go to a hospital for the removal), scrapes, bruises, nosebleeds, blood sugar and blood pressure checks.

There are periods of time when we in the "Room" have no customers.

At these times, I am able to watch all the people go by. I watch the interaction between the youth and their leaders and chaperones. I watch the interaction between our youth and each other, and their interaction with youth from other churches. It's great to see the spirit of cooperation and love from the youth to each other and to those they have never met before. A room full of screaming youth is really loud, but when they're screaming for a band that is singing about loving God and having faith, it is sweet. It is so satisfying to know that there are great kids out there, growing in their faith.

I am not sure how much longer I will do this mission, but I know that I will be standing in that doorway looking at our future leaders go by, whether in the church or in the community and the world.

I will continue to pray that they will truly hear the topics, speakers and bands at the rally and hear the message in their hearts. If one of our Asbury youth group asks you for support to attend this rally next year, please do what you can so he or she can attend. It's worth it – maybe even priceless.

In the Nurse's Room...  
Beverly Barker

### Church Leader Training Event

Asbury UMC will be hosting a training event for church leaders and committees on Saturday morning, February 28, from 9 a.m. until noon.

Several workshops will be conducted by church pastors and other district leadership to help people who want to know more about their duties and responsibilities.

Planned workshops are:

- Church Council
- Evangelism
- Finance
- Lay leadership
- Trustees
- Staff/Parish Relations
- Youth Ministries

If you have questions, please see Pastor Tom or John Jackson.

Pancake Breakfast  
and Bake Sale

February 8

10a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5 per person

(Fundraiser for Boy Scouts  
For Summer Camp)

### A Voice for the Lord

Do you want to step out of the box? ...out of your comfort zone? Want to try something you've never done before? Then I invite you to seize the opportunity to become a certified Lay Speaker. Classes will be offered in the month of April at both Elkton United Methodist Church and at Christ United Methodist Church in Elsmere. If you feel the spirit of the Lord leading you into this form of service, please contact me for more information and to sign up for the beginners' class.

For me, Lay Speaking has been a rewarding experience over the years. It is a privilege and an honor to assist Pastor Tom in leading the services on Sunday morning. Not only in reading the scripture, but in assisting with Communion and other aspects of the worship service.

Please feel free to contact me at any time at 322-9279.

God Bless!

Hal Barker  
Lay Leader



Boy Scout Sunday will be observed on February 8, 2009, at all three worship services.



### Valentine's Day Family Night

Bring your family and friends for...

#### Buffet Dinner Dancing/Fun/Prizes

Saturday, Feb. 14  
Fellowship Hall  
5~9 p.m.

\$8 adult/\$15 couple  
\$3 ages 3~12  
(under 3 free)

Menu includes ~ hot roast beef and hot turkey on club rolls, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes, salad bar, applesauce, assorted desserts iced tea, hot tea, coffee, milk, lemonade... and during the dance we'll also have pretzels and sodas.

Sponsored by ~ Disaster Relief

Tickets on sale each Sunday between services or call Janet Jackson, 366-1538 or Ethel Lewis, 328-4404.

### Feeding the Hungry

There's never a good time to be hungry, but Winter must be the worst time of all for those who stand in line waiting for a hot meal. We have heard about Asbury's need for more money to continue our mission with Emmanuel Dining Room. For years and years we have heard people ask for baked goods for desserts for EDR. We have gladly given them our leftovers after social events. The teams that do the cooking, twice every month, need more than cakes and cookies if they are going to continue now. They need money to buy the food to prepare the recipe for "stew" that has long been our offering to the needy people standing in line for food. We could say, "We have taken our turn. Let somebody else do it." Can you live with that? Can you live with the knowledge that someone right here in New Castle County may go hungry unless we dig into our pockets to help? Some of those people in the EDR lines are just kids. . . hungry kids.

You can give a gift to Asbury's Emmanuel Dining Room Mission in any amount, any day. Just put it in an envelope, mark it "For E.D.R." and put it in the offering or send it to the office.