

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

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
New Castle, DE
Permit No. 8

Return Service Requested

The Messenger
A Monthly Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
Mid-March through April, 2009, Edition
Newsletter Editors: Kim Berkey and Merle Ciesielski

Mid-March through April 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

Holy Week Services
...Plan to Attend

Palm-Passion Sunday
Sunday, April 5 10 a.m. only

This service through music, scripture, proclamation of the Word, and dramatic presentation will take us from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his death upon the cross.

Renew!
Wednesday, April 8 6:30 p.m.

A very quiet and solemn worship experience, preparing for Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

Holy Thursday
Thursday, April 9 7 p.m.

A very special service held in our Fellowship Hall where we will remember and recall Jesus' last supper. Child care will be provided.

Good Friday
Friday, April 10 Noon & 7 p.m.

"Way of the Cross Walk" Beginning at 12 noon in the sanctuary and walking through Penn Acres community, walkers bearing the cross will stop for brief meditations, remembering Jesus' walk to his execution. Rain or shine, we walk because He walked for us.

"Seven Last Words" Beginning at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, worshippers will hear brief meditations focusing on the final words of our Lord's life. The extinguishing of lights and stripping of the altar will be included.

Easter
Sunday, April 12 6:30 & 10 a.m.

"Sunrise Service" Beginning at 6:30 a.m. We will greet the dawning of a new day and the resurrection of our Lord. Dress comfortably; bring your own lawn chair if you need to sit.

"Celebration of Resurrection"
10 a.m. only. Worshippers will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord through special music by our Chancel Choir, Praise Team and Children's Choir. A special children's message will be shared by Rev. Donnachie. And, the cross once covered with our sins and concerns during the Lenten Season will be unveiled in a glorious and renewing way.



Church Also Experiencing Economic Woes. . .

But God is good! At the last finance Team meeting, the Team made it clear that they would carefully monitor the financial health of the church. Part of that monitoring includes keeping the church membership informed about the financial condition of the church.

In summary, the February Financial report:

At the end of February, \$51,442 was budgeted income; actual income totaled \$39,448—a shortfall of \$11,993. The majority of this deficit was due to the lack of giving in pledged envelopes --\$7,784.

On the expense side, \$51,442 was budgeted while we spent \$52740 – a shortfall of \$1,298. Of our major expenses, the utilities budget was over spent by \$5,179 (not unusual for this time of the year).

Bottom line, at the end of February our budget was overspent by \$13,291.

A full financial report will be presented at the March Administrative Council. Copies of the February budget may also be obtained by phoning the church office.



Church to Receive “Safe Sanctuaries” Report

At the March 31 Administrative Council meeting, a report by the “Safe Sanctuaries” Task force will be presented for adoption. This report will include a policy to insure the safety of our children and youth from abuse. It will also include a procedure plan in the case of any reported abuse.

Some of the items presented in the policy include:

- ▶ All volunteers working with children or youth must complete a thorough application.
- ▶ All volunteers working with children and youth must undergo a criminal background check.
- ▶ Persons wanting to work with our children and youth must attend the church for at least 6 months.
- ▶ Two adults must be in attendance at any event involving children or youth.

The church staff, the Board of Trustees, the SPRC and other church teams are being advised and informed regarding this very important issue. A presentation will also be shared with our worshipping congregations.

Final Alpha Sermons on Tap

Rev. Donnachie will conclude his Alpha sermon series during the next few weeks. The topics include: “Why and How Should We Tell Others?” – March 15; “Does God Heal Today?” –March 22; and, “What About the Church?” – March 29.

Worship Schedule...April, 2009

- April 5 Sunday
Palm-Passion Sunday
10 a.m. only~ Distribution of Palm
Passion Narrative
- April 8 Wednesday Renew!
6:30 p.m. Holy Communion
- April 12 Sunday Easter Sunday
6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
10 a.m. Easter Celebration ~
Special Music~Children’s Sermon
- April 15 Wednesday Renew!
6:30 p.m.
- April 19 Sunday
“Living as Easter People”
8:45, 10, 11:15 a.m.
- April 22 Wednesday Renew!
6:30 p.m. Christian Comedy Night
- April 26 Sunday
“Living as Easter People”
8:45, 10 and 11:15 a.m.
- April 29 Wednesday Renew!
6:30 p.m. Faith & Healing Service



To Contact Us:

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

Rev. Donnachie:

Cell Phone: 302-650-4231

pastortomdonnachie@verizon.net

tomdonnachie@hotmail.com

Rev. Fitzhugh

Office: 302-571-1471

Bishop Johnson

Office: 1-800-828-9093

Dial Daily Devotions

302-328-4141

Worship Schedule...March, 2009

- March 15 Sunday
Third Sunday of Lent
- March 18 Wednesday Renew!
- March 22 Sunday
Fourth Sunday of Lent
- March 25 Wednesday Renew!
- March 29 Sunday
Fifth Sunday of Lent
- Sunday Services:
8:45 & 11:15 a.m. – Traditional
10 a.m. – Contemporary
- Wednesday Services:
6:30 p.m. -- Blended

Pastor Presents Lenten Challenge to Active Members

On Sunday morning, March 1, at each worship service Pastor Tom asked the congregation for a personal privilege. He asked the congregation to look around; he asked them, "Who's missing?" The answers: family, friends, neighbors, church members who haven't attended in months, even years.

Pastor Tom then stated that the real reason for their absence was due to their personal relationship with God. "It has nothing to do with me, or you (the congregation) or Asbury Church." He then requested that every worshiper begin making a list of 2-3 persons who have been absent from church for an extended period of time and begin praying for those persons. Then, he urged the congregation to phone or visit those persons and welcome them back to the church family.

Now, as your pastor, I take the membership vows very seriously. If these vows cannot be fulfilled, I will request that long term absent members be personally contacted and asked if they wish to retain their membership at Asbury. And if they respond "yes" they will be asked how and when they plan to fulfill those vows.

Church Talent Show Set

On Sunday evening, May 17, Asbury Fellowship Hall will give witness to the many talents of members and friends. The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with a superb covered dish dinner. Please bring a salad, vegetable or meat dish to feed about 6 persons. Following dinner, about 6 p.m. the show will begin with our emcee, Mr. Del Burns, introducing the talent.

If you would like to share in the show, please phone Mr. Burns at 328-6195 or Pastor Tom at 328-5649. Please don't wait; space is limited.

Report on Fellowship Hall Fund Drive

As of March 9, the Fund Drive has received 42 pledges totaling \$24,632 per year. Of these 42, 18 were new pledges and 24 were from previous pledgers who either recommitted their pledge or increased it.

The mortgage on our Fellowship Hall totals nearly \$500,000 with the monthly payment of \$4,200. If you have not made your commitment (any amount will be greatly appreciated) please complete a pledge card at your earliest convenience. If you need a pledge card, please phone the church office (328-5649). We'll be glad to mail one to you.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Where we are going and what we are doing...

Women of Faith Conference:

Asbury UMW wants to know if you are interested in attending the Women of Faith Conference in Philadelphia on Friday evening, September 18th and Saturday, September 19th. We need a minimum of 25 ladies in order to get special pricing. We will be contacting other area churches to see if they are interested in making this a joint event.

This is not a fundraiser for UMW; it is merely an opportunity for you to attend one of the most exciting, exhilarating, uplifting, and spiritual times of your life.

We estimate the cost to be approximately \$100 per person, which includes Friday evening session, all day Saturday session with box lunch, transportation to and from both days. We are asking for at least a \$25 deposit to reserve your seat, which is non-refundable.

If you are interested (no deposit required at this time), please sign the sheet in the back of the sanctuary. We need to know your interest as soon as possible.

Information about the speakers and conference are on the UMW bulletin board.

Conference at Ogletown Baptist:

Ogletown Baptist Church is holding a Women's Conference on Friday evening, May 1st and Saturday, May 2nd. There is no minimum or maximum group requirement for the event.

Again, this is not a fundraiser for UMW; it is another opportunity for you to attend a wonderful weekend of worship and learning.

Calling Levi is returning and will lead us in powerful praise and worship music with their dynamic voices. The speaker this year is Fern Nicols, President and founder of *Moms in Touch International*.

The cost is \$40, and includes a box lunch if your registration is received before Wednesday, April 22nd.

Last year more than 20 different churches in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware were represented at this conference.

If you are interested in attending this conference, there are registration forms on the UMW bulletin board, or see UMW President, Cindy Hahn.

FROM THE NURSE
I Saw It on the Internet...
So It Must Be True!

Many of us today have access to a computer and the internet. Google and "Ask Jeeves" are readily available to one and all. Kids are shown in their grade 3 school computer classes how to access web sites to get information and references. The bulletin board information I share at church often comes from the internet.

I would ask you to be careful when you look for information on the internet. There are thousands of health related websites available. Most are reliable, trustworthy sites. Some, however, are not. You also have to be aware of how current the data is that the website is quoting.

An excellent source of reliable, up-to-date online health information is the National Institutes of Health (www.nih.gov). Within that site, there are subdivisions that have info about managing heart disease (www.nhlbi.nih.gov), taking care of a loved one with Alzheimer's disease (www.alzheimers.nia.nih.gov).

The National Library of Medicine (www.medlineplus.gov) offers info on 700+ health-related topics.

The site www.nihseniorhealoth.gov.

is designed specifically for older adults.

So, once you get to a website, how do you filter out the info that's questionable? The address for the website indicates who is paying for the site. Example: *gov* identifies a government agency, *edu* identifies an educational institution, *org* identifies professional organizations, *com* identifies commercial websites. Some of the information on a commercial site could be questionable if the group that sponsored the research will be benefitting from public use of the product being promoted.

Check to see the date of the article you are reading. Check the date of the last update for the website. Old information is not useless, but when looking up health topics, you want the most recent data available.

Finally, please, do not take internet information as totally accurate. Check multiple sources. Do not make any decisions before you talk with your physician. And do not use Wikipedia as your source – it can be changed by anyone without any reference check or proof of authenticity.

Googling,
Beverly Barker

First Time Visitors Welcomed
By Visitation Minister

Persons visiting our church for the first time will be receiving a special welcome by our new part-part-time Minister of Visitation, Mr. Walter Turoczy. Walter and his wife, Margie live in Wilmington Manor. Walt is retired and brings with him a wonderful background in pastoral care and experience as he served in the Catholic Church as a Deacon.

Walt began his life in Wilmington at the Harrison Street Methodist Church. He and his wife have 3 grown children and several grandchildren.

In addition to his visits to first time visitors, Walter will assist Pastor Tom with emergency visits to the hospital and in times of family crisis, and occasional visits to absentee members.

Please welcome Walt and Margie. To meet them personally, please come to any Sunday 10 a.m. worship service or Wednesday evening Renew! Service.

Please note: Sunday Breakfast Mission has asked Asbury Church to help with the "HOPE TOTE" again this year. If you would like to help, please pick up an envelope with instructions for the HOPE TOTE. Due at Asbury on or before Sunday, April 5th.

Asbury United Methodist Church
Day at
Arner's Restaurant

Wednesday, March 25, 2009
3:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Come and bring your family, friends and neighbors for good food and fellowship. Asbury Church will receive 5% of the total sales during that time period. If you have any questions, please call Betty Ann at the church office 302-328-5649.

~~~~~

**Health Kits for Migrant Workers**

Every year Asbury UMW collects items and makes health kits for migrant workers. It's that time again.

Items needed for the kits include: a regular bath towel and washcloth, toothpaste, toothbrush, bar of soap, deodorant, shampoo, comb, and boot shoelaces.

We are accepting donations of the above items, or already completed kits, throughout March. There is a box in the Narthex marked "Health Kits", for your convenience.

Asbury United Methodist Women thank you and appreciate your donations.