

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

Return Service Requested

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

The Messenger

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

Church Prepares to Welcome Ghana Church

During the month of May you will be seeing some new faces around the church, especially on Sunday morning. Asbury Church has decided to welcome the Ghana Emmanuel Methodist Church to use our facilities until they are able to secure their own building.

This whole process began about two months ago when a number of Ghana church members called to inquire about using some of our facilities to start a new church. They heard we were a welcoming church. At that point their numbers included about 30 members. A small task force met with their leadership and pastor. After much discussion and prayer, the task force decided to take the matter to our Administrative Council, which voted to allow them to use the facilities. Specific details were then presented at the April 29 Ad. Council meeting.

“This truly is an act of Christian hospitality,” says Pastor Tom. “This is a way for Asbury Church to witness to the sign in front of the church: “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”

The Ghana Church will be considered a new church start and will be receiving some direction and guidance from the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. The church will be meeting in our Friendship Lounge on Sunday mornings for worship. Then, sometime in May, we will have an official welcoming time.



Important Dates for the United Methodist Church

**General Conference
April 23-May 2
Fort Worth, Texas**

Follow the news from the conference by going to www.UMC.org

Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference

**June 13-15
Princess Anne, Maryland**

Pastor Tom and our lay delegates will be attending this conference.

**Jurisdictional Conference
July 13-18
Harrisburg, PA**

Please keep these important times of conferencing in your prayers. Pray that God’s Wisdom may guide the times of discussion and decision making.

MAY



**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

Some Pastoral Changes in our District

Coming to the District:

Anne Pruett-Barnett to

Wilmington Grace UMC from
Georgetown Wesley

Russell Lehman, Pocomoke UMC
to New Castle UMC

Leaving our District:

Jonathan Baker, Aldersgate UMC
to Epworth UMC, Rehoboth

Jim Sipes, Kingswood UMC to Mt.
Olivet, Dover

Alex Slonin, New Castle UMC,
retiring

William Green, Richardson Park
UMC to Christ UMC, Salisbury

Boy Scout News... Troop 27



We are cordially invited to attend a Court of Honor ceremony on May 1st at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served for those in attendance.

A new supply shed has been placed in the rear of the church property for the storage of scout equipment.

The troop meets regularly every Thursday night in Asbury Fellowship Hall.

What Do You Think?

How about holding one or two of our summer Sunday morning worship services on our front lawn? What do you think? Let us know! Phone the church office to give your opinion and/or ideas to Betty Ann or Pastor Tom (328-5649).



Flowers for the Church Altar

Did you ever wonder how the flowers appear at the front of the church? **They are donated by various members and friends of the church in memory, honor or love of someone.**

But how can I donate flowers? **Simply pick a date and place your name on the sign up sheet on the back table of the sanctuary.**

What if I can't make it to church but would still like to donate flowers? **Phone the church office and talk to Betty Ann. She will help you make arrangements.**



May Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 4

Ascension Sunday
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Wednesday, May 7

Renew!
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, May 11

Mother's Day

Wednesday, May 14

Renew!

Sunday, May 18

Pentecost; New Members

Wednesday, May 21

Renew!

Sunday, May 25

Memorial Sunday

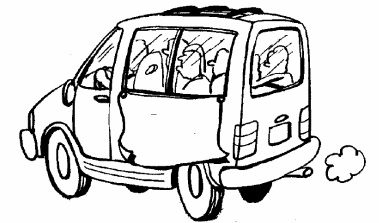
Wednesday, May 29

Renew!

Sundays: 8:45; 10; & 11 a.m.

Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.

What's missing in CH RCH?
Come, celebrate the living Lord!
Come, be refreshed by the
Holy Spirit!



To Contact us:

NEW WEBSITE:

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

E-mail address:

Asburymethodist@verizon.net

Rev. Donnachie:

Cell phone: 302-650-4231

Home: 302-328-2288

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

**Safety Awareness Fun Fair
Saturday, May 31, 2008
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

The Disaster Relief Team has exhibits, demonstrations, games and prizes planned for all ages. Scrubby Bear will be there to show kids the proper way to wash their hands to help them avoid getting sick from germs. Stop by and look inside a real ambulance and check out a real fire truck. We'll also be handing out Identi-Kid kits for parents to fingerprint and store a DNA sample of their children, which will be helpful to police in case the child is lost or abducted.

Hotdogs, beverages, chips and soft pretzels will be sold. Let's all have fun while learning how to BE SAFE AND BE PREPARED! Be sure to put the date on your calendar now.



**Important Dates from the
United Methodist Women**

June 5, 2008 5-7 p.m.

Strawberry Festival

September 13, 2008 Spa-Tea-Da

November 22, 2008

Christmas Bazaar



**First Quarter Financial Summary
...Improvement Over Last Year**

The good news is that at the end of March, 2008, we only had a deficit of \$13,895. Last year at this time we were \$28,590 in the red. Again, 20% of our congregation is providing 80% of our ministry income; while 80% of the membership is providing only 20% of our needed income.

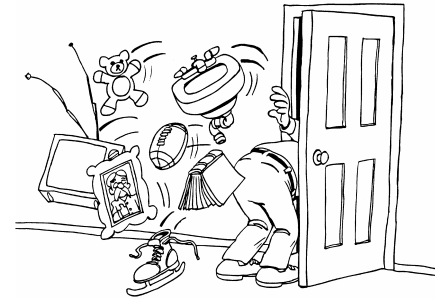
So, what makes up most of the deficit? The majority comes from lack of income with most coming from unpaid envelope pledges and unpledged income. The expense side shows that we are \$3,273 over budget with the largest portion being our utility expenses.

Our current endowment funds total \$346,862.

Our current indebtedness totals \$517,382.

FROM THE NURSE

“Spring Cleaning”



**Well, it's time to start cleaning up
stuff around the house or apartment.**

I remember my Mom making us go through all our winter stuff, to pack it away. We'd have to take down the winter curtains to put up the summer curtains. She would make us dust places that no one ever would look!

So, what is your routine for spring cleaning? Does it involve climbing on a ladder, reaching places that are really beyond your reach? We came home to find my mother-in-law sitting on the window ledge of our second floor bedroom so she could clean the outside of the window. She was almost 80. Some things can wait!!!

I'd like you to think before you strain your body in the pursuit of cleanliness. Any exercise program advises you to consult your doctor before starting. Spring cleaning can constitute an exercise program. Please pace yourself—everything doesn't have to be done in a day, or a week, or a month. Spring lasts till June, so there's lots of time.

If gardening is your thing, take precautions against the sun. Make sure your tools are appropriate for the task. There are lots of garden helpers that reduce the wear and tear on your back and knees.

And while you're doing this spring cleaning, pay attention to your spiritual spring cleaning. Read a Christian book you've been meaning to read. Download that Christian song on to your I-pod and take a walk, absorbing God's scenery as you go. Call a friend and go to the Christian book store and browse instead of the usual trip to the mall.

I wish you a safe and leisurely spring. I'll be listening to my I-pod. How about you?

...Beverly Barker

Strawberry Festival

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Asbury Fellowship Hall

5:00 p.m. –7:00 p.m.

**Tickets are \$8.00 for adults
& \$4.00 for children**

This year's menu will include sloppy joes, green beans, potato chips, ice tea, strawberries, cake and ice cream. The tickets will be sold before and after all three services, from May 4 until June 1. We hope everyone will come out for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Renie M. for Asbury UMW

Sunday School – Vacation Bible School News

We just finished our 13 week Bible study titled “Where’s God?” During the 13 weeks, the children learned about all the wonderful places and times in their lives where they can find God. They used a treasure map that “guided” their adventure. The treasure map was a great way to help the children remember past lessons. Our newest unit is titled “And the Winner Is...” This unit will finish out the school year. The last day for Sunday School for our children and youth will be Sunday, June 8. We are very thankful for the work of our Sunday School teachers, students, parents and church.

On Saturday, April 26, the Sunday School children had a sleepover at the church. This year we had a moon bounce, played volleyball, did crafts, watched a movie, had a short lesson, had lots of snacks and TONS OF FUN! Everyone had a great time!

Vacation Bible School will be held earlier than in previous years. The dates are the evenings of June 22 through June 26. This year’s theme: God’s Big Backyard. Registration information will be available soon.

If you would like to help in any way, please call Vickey or Amy via the church office at 302-328-5649.



The following is a list of supplies that are needed for VBS. If you can donate any of these items, please do so.

- 1 lb. empty butter containers
- empty cool whip containers
- flat marbles
- glass beads with holes
- small river stones
- marigold seeds
- potting soil
- paper towels
- juice boxes

Our annual “Back to School” service and supplies give-away will be held on Wednesday evening, August 13.

Sunday School will resume on September 7th.

Staff Positions Open for Camp Pecometh

Camp Pecometh is looking for persons to be a part of their summer camping ministry team. They’re looking for lifeguards, maintenance staff, kitchen staff, male counselors and Wesley Day Camp counselors. Interested? Go to the Summer Staff Link at www.pecometh.org What a great way to help young people grow as followers of Jesus!

**Mother’s
Luncheon
Saturday, May
10th
11 a.m. – 1
p.m.**

Once again, the Disaster Relief Team will be celebrating Mother’s Day with a Luncheon. Honor all the special ladies in your life, and show them how much you love and appreciate them, by treating them to a delicious lunch. Tickets are only \$5 per person and will be sold on Sunday, May 4th. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER MAY 4th. Come and join us for a wonderful time of honoring Moms of all ages with food, fun, and fellowship.



Special thanks to the members of the Disaster Relief Team for their Heart-to-Heart Dinner Dance!

The food, decorations, and music were all great. The D.J. played music for everybody. Let’s do it again soon!

...A Happy Dancer!

Page 5

FAMILY MINIATURE GOLF DAY TO HONOR DADS

Save **Sunday, June 8th** on your calendar and plan to spend the day having a good time with “dear old Dad”! The Disaster Relief Team is planning a “family miniature golf day”. (Also save Sunday, June 22nd, as the rain date.) Watch for more details about this event in upcoming newsletters and bulletins.



Family Faith Night With the Blue Rocks

Friday, June 27th, 2008, 7:05 p.m.

...a unique night that brings together area churches and faith groups for a night of fellowship and fun during a Blue Rocks home game.

Included with your ticket purchase is a special post-game concert by the Christian rock band “Sum of One”!

Family Faith Night will take place on Friday, June 27th and will feature player testimonials and faith-based music.

For more info call 302-888-2583 or visit www.bluerocks.com.