

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  
November 2008  
Newsletter Editors: Kim Berkey and Merle Ciesielski

# NOVEMBER



**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*

## Church Members and Friends Invited to Soar



Your Stewardship Team is pleased to invite you to share in a new and wonderful stewardship plan to help our church and its many ministries move forward. Please read the description very carefully.

On Sunday, November 2 (Inspiration Sunday) you will receive a brochure and personal guide for giving. The brochure will describe and invite you in ways to soar. Rev. Donachie and the Stewardship chairpersons will also make presentations. Persons not attending church will receive their inspiration packet in the mail.

On Sunday, November 9 (Gratitude Sunday) you will receive your offering cards and be asked to make your pledge/estimate of giving during the worship service. Your giving for 2009 will be made by a Forward Step or a Step of Faith. A Forward Step is a "bite-sized" step in giving that puts growth in reach for nearly every member, yet collectively represents a giant step in giving to God's work.

A Step of Faith uses familiar "tithing levels", but incorporates distinctive features not found in other tithing guides.

Members not making a pledge/estimate of giving will be asked to do so by mail. Everyone can give something that will help their church move forward in ministry.

On Sunday, November 16(Consecration Sunday) members and friends will continue to return their giving cards. All the cards received to date will be consecrated.

On Sunday, November 23 (Celebration Sunday) we will celebrate the faithfulness of God's people. Hopefully all giving cards will have been returned by each and every member.

We hope and pray that you will soar, just like an eagle. To soar, an eagle must maintain forward motion. The same is true with us. Without forward momentum and hope in the future, our spirit falls.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

*(Church Members and Friends Invited to Soar...continued from page 1.)*

**Please consider these three ways to soar:**

**1. Take a 60 second break and think of your blessings.**

*(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

**2. Live the golden rule.**

*(Luke 6:31)*

**3. Share your blessings.**

*(Acts 20:35)*

**Please take note:** This stewardship plan will NOT include any giving or pledges for the Fellowship Hall mortgage. A separate and new 5 year funding plan will be introduced in February, 2009.

### **New Church Policy Adopted by Administrative Council**

In order to prevent confusion and some frustration with building usage, meeting dates and room assignment, ALL church meetings, gatherings and functions MUST be placed on the church calendar. Simply phone our Administrative Assistant, Betty Ann Short (328-5649) with the following information:

- 1. the name of the organization**
- 2. the date of the event/meeting**
- 3. the time and duration**
- 4. the location.**

Please do not ASSUME that your organization which has been meeting in the same room on the same day forever will automatically be placed on the church calendar. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **Disaster Relief Upcoming Events**

Mark your calendars! Proceeds go toward our Scholarship Fund. Our funds are drained from giving two, well-deserved scholarships last year, so we hope you will help support us in each of our fund-raising events.

#### **Sundays in November – CD Sale!**

Watch your bulletins for details

#### **Sunday, December 7 – Cookie and Fudge Sale**



No pre-orders this year; just stop by the nurse's office between services and buy some delicious cookies and fudge for the holidays. We hope to have a few handmade Christmas items, too!

#### **Saturday, February 14 – Heart –to–Heart Dinner Dance**

Plan to bring your Sweetheart and/or special friends for a Valentine's Day evening of good fun, fellowship, and dancing. Music will be provided by DJ George Ferguson. Watch for details.

#### **NEW EVENT: Easter Sale**

The week before Easter we'll be selling homemade Easter eggs and chocolates. No pre-orders. Watch for details.

#### **Saturday, May 9 – Mothers' Luncheon**

We've already chosen our special Guest-of-Honor for this year, but it's a secret. (We'll let you know more later.)

### **Financial Summary as of September 30, 2008**

#### **Income:**

**Year to Date Budgeted: \$229,037**

**Year to Date Received: \$201,267**

**Difference: -\$27,769**

(Note: the greatest percentage of the deficit comes from unpaid pledges.

How are you doing with your faithful financial support of your church and its ministries?)

#### **Expenses:**

**Year to Date Budgeted: \$229,037**

**Year to Date Spent: \$220,226**

**Difference: +\$8,770**

**Endowment Funds: \$303,350**

**Church Indebtedness: \$55,489**

(Asbury Church Fellowship Hall)

#### **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@verizon.net](mailto:pastortomdonnachie@verizon.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***

### **November Worship Includes Advent Beginnings**

#### **Sunday, November 2:**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion;  
"What's So Amazing About Grace?"  
"SOAR" 8:45, 10 & 11:15 a.m.

#### **Wednesday, November 5:**

Renewed Renew!  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion;  
"SOAR" 6:30-7:20 p.m.

#### **Sunday, November 9:**

"What's So Amazing About Grace?"  
Veteran's Remembrance  
"SOAR" 8:45, 10 & 11:15 a.m.

#### **Wednesday, November 12:**

Renewed Renew!  
"SOAR" 6:30 p.m.-7:20 p.m.

#### **Sunday, November 16:**

"What's So Amazing About Grace?"  
"SOAR" 8:45, 10 & 11:15 a.m.

#### **Wednesday, November 19:**

Renewed Renew!  
"SOAR" 6:30-7:20 p.m.

#### **Sunday, November 23:**

"What's So Amazing About Grace?"  
"SOAR" 8:45, 10 & 11:15 a.m.

#### **Monday, November 24:**

Community Thanksgiving Service at Our Lady of Fatima Church 7 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, November 26:**

Thanksgiving Eve, **NO Renew**

#### **Sunday, November 30:**

First Sunday of Advent  
8:45, 10 & 11:15 a.m.

**FROM THE NURSE****“Why Can’t I Get a Flu Shot?”**

The following question was presented to me: “How come the Senior Centers aren’t doing flu shots this year?” I went on a fact-finding journey to give you the best answer available. As many of you know calling Delaware Health and Social Services can be an adventure. After several unsuccessful calls, I turned to the DHSS website. On the page titled “Flu Shots” it says: **“Please see your healthcare provider for a flu shot. The Public Health flu clinics are for those who have no healthcare provider or whose insurance does not cover this service.”** Easy answer!

I have posted on my bulletin board the clinics that are giving out the flu shots in New Castle and Kent Counties for those who could fit the above criteria. If you have a principal physician and insurance (including Medicare Part B) you will have to contact your doctor for the flu shot.

**Who should consider getting a flu shot:?**

Children age 6-59 months  
 Adults 50 yrs. and older  
 People with chronic medical conditions  
 Household contacts of out-of-home caregivers of children <6 mo. Old Residents of long term care facilities  
 Healthcare workers in direct patient contact

I know that scheduling an appointment for a flu shot may be inconvenient, but it is a small task compared to being with me in Medical Intensive Care on a

breathing machine because the flu developed into full blown pneumonia. Please take the time to get vaccinated if you are in the risk group. ...At least talk with your physician to see if you should get vaccinated.

Already got mine,  
 Beverly Barker

**Election Day, November 4**  
**Church Office Closed**

Tuesday, November 4 may be one of the most important days in our country’s history. We, as United States citizens have the privilege of helping to select our national and local leaders.

In order to give our church staff time to vote, the church office will be closed on Election Day.

Please take time to vote and encourage others to vote also. Your nation depends upon your vote.

**Veterans Day**

World War I ended on November 11, 1918. On that same date, three years later, an unknown soldier from that war was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Veterans Day continues to this day to be observed on November 11. The observance of Veteran’s Day is a celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. Please stop by the Military Ministry’s bulletin board and remember to pray for our veterans and for those in active service.

**Thanksgiving Service with Our Lady of Fatima RCC**

On Monday evening, November 24, the congregations of Asbury UMC and Our Lady of Fatima RCC will gather at Fatima for a time of thanksgiving, worship and fellowship. The service will begin at 7 p.m. Following our worship, the congregations will fellowship together in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served. Please consider bringing a friend or neighbor to this time of worship.

**Advent Begins with Blessing of the Nativities**

On Sunday evening, November 30 (the first Sunday in Advent) you and your family and friends are invited to a special time to help us begin the Advent Season.

Beginning at 5 p.m. there will be a covered dish “pot luck” dinner. Please bring a meat, vegetable or salad dish to share with others. Beverages and desserts will be provided.

In addition to bringing yourself and food, you are also invited to bring along one or two of your favorite nativity sets.

Tables will be set up where you can display your nativity set(s).

Following dinner, we’ll take some time to hear about some of the history surrounding our nativity sets. Then, in conclusion of the evening, we’ll gather around the nativity sets and Rev. Donnachie will share a special blessing and prayer.

**Plans to Renew Renew!**

In the very near future, the Wednesday evening Renew! Worship service will take on a new look. In addition to the praise songs and singing, different speakers, such as chaplains, pastors’ wives, authors, teachers and alike from around the area will bring the evening messages. Our own very well qualified lay speakers will also bring some of the messages. Also, some Wednesday evenings will feature Christian comedians bringing powerful messages (via DVD and our big screen). The first Wednesday of the month will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. While some other Wednesday evenings will be patterned after a healing service with the anointing of oil. Look in the local newspapers, bulletins and monthly newsletters for a listing of the services and the featured speakers.

**Daylight Savings Time Ends**

***On Sunday, Nov. 2 at 2 a.m. in the morning you are invited to turn your clocks back one hour. Or set them back one hour before going to bed. Remember, Spring forward; Fall backwards.***

## **Mission Opportunities** **from Our Conference Office**

Please be in prayer for our brothers and sisters in the Gulf. There are many ways you can support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Information can be found on their website: <http://new.gbgm-umd.org/umcor> or by calling their toll-free number: 899-554-8583. Flood buckets and other kits are needed at the Sager Brown Center. For flood bucket preparations, check out the website at <http://new.gbgmumc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/flood-bucket>. Monetary donations are being accepted for UMCOR Advance No. 3019695 "Hurricanes 2008, Hurricane Gustav."

You can also assist UMCOR's work through the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Program. Please contact Rev. Amy Yarnell, 410-885-5641; or [pastor@trinitytownpoint.com](mailto:pastor@trinitytownpoint.com).

### **Gifts that Serve a Double Purpose**

October was "Pastors' Appreciation Month" and Asbury's Staff/Parish Relations Committee chose to show our appreciation to Pastor Tom and his wife, Judy, by sending a gift to UMCOR in their honor. Giving money to UMCOR (or a mission of your choice) in honor of someone is one way to recognize someone who would rather help those in distress than to receive something they really don't need.. Why not consider those "double purpose gifts" when you think about your Christmas gift giving?



### **Invitation Extended to Singers**

Do you love to hear Christmas music? Do you enjoy singing along? Gary Hostetler, our Chancel Choir Director has extended an invitation to the congregation to join with the choir in singing this year's Christmas cantata. Rehearsals are **Thursday's at 7** in the evening. If you have ever thought about singing with the choir but were afraid of making a long-term commitment, this is just the opportunity you need. If you sing the cantata and decide you don't want to sing any more, that's okay. Just give it a try – you might really enjoy singing with the choir!

### **The Asbury Vision**

1. **Jesus is proclaimed and followed as Lord.**
2. **The Bible is the centerpiece for all preaching, teaching and living.**
3. **Worship touches the heart of worshipers and goes to the heart of God.**
4. **We will be a warm, welcoming, reaching congregation**
5. **Ministries will reach all ages and races.**
6. **All members are in ministry.**
7. **Believers are built up to live out their discipleship in ways that astound the world.**

### **Thanks from the Military Ministry**

The Military Ministry would like to thank all of you who donated treats to send to the troops. We were astounded by your response. We were able to stuff **100** of the 9x7 fabric bags!

On behalf of Adopt-a-Platoon: "Your contribution to troop morale and welfare adds significant weight to the entire Adopt-a-Platoon mission and our troops cannot thank you enough for your generosity and hard work serving them and for being a force multiplier supporting our nation's heroes. Thank you for being a part of the Adapt-a-Platoon team. We pray that God will bless every kindness you send to our deployed troops. Thank you!"



### **Asbury United Methodist Women** **Plan Covered Dish Luncheon**

The UMW are planning to have a covered dish luncheon on November 2 at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish or dessert. This will be your November meeting. We will have our pledge service at this time for the upcoming year. All women of the church are invited. Please plan to attend.



### **Asbury's Christmas bazaar**

The United Methodist Women of Asbury Church will present their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 22, 2008 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be a Cookie and Bake Table, Silent Auction, Attic Treasures, Children's Room, and beautiful crafts and homemade vegetable and chicken soup for sale. Santa will visit from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Lunch will be the ever-popular hot dogs and homemade soup.

Please continue to bring those gently used items in for the children's room, Silent Auction and Attic Treasures on or before November 2, 2008. Please put a note on them that says they are for the bazaar and leave them in Room 5. Thank you for your help.

Georgiann Miller, 328-7654

### **Thanksgiving Holiday – Church Office Closed**

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving. Pastor Donnachie will also be away those days but may be reached in case of a pastoral emergency at 302-650-4231.

