

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
October 2009 Edition
Newsletter Editors: Kim Berkey and Merle Ciesielski

October 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
- Mrs. Dale Ringler, 10:30 Organist
- Mr. Steve Banaszak, Custodian
- Mrs. Angela Kirkley, Day Care Director

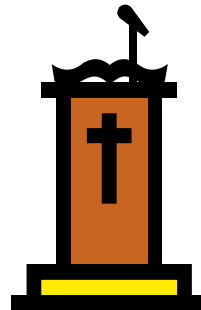
Two Sunday Worship Services
8:45 a.m., Traditional and 10:30 a.m. Contemporary
10 a.m., Fellowship Time with Refreshments

**Sunday Contribution Saves
80 Children's Lives**

On Sundays, September 20 and 27 the Asbury UMC worshipping congregations dug deep into their pockets and wallets and purses and gave **over \$800**. The reason for such extravagant generosity? ...the lives of little children in Africa who without mosquito nets would become victims of malaria. Every 20 seconds a child, age 5 and under, dies from malaria.

The United Methodist Church, along with some major charitable foundations, including the National Basketball Association (NBA) has undertaken a project to greatly reduce the spread of malaria to children age 5 and under. The project, "Nothing but Nets", has raised nearly \$20 million dollars in the United Methodist Church. It is part of the United Methodist Church's mission to help eliminate poverty in the world.

Thank you, Asbury United Methodist. **Yes, we can make a difference!**



**Laity Sunday Celebrated
With Pulpit Exchange**

Traditionally the third Sunday in October is observed as Laity Sunday in the United Methodist Church. It is a reminder of the important role that the laity have played in the mission and ministry of the Church.

This year Laity Sunday will be observed on October 18 with a pulpit exchange between Asbury UMC and Emmanuel Methodist Church. Mr. John Jackson will address Emmanuel beginning at 10 a.m. in the Friendship Lounge worship area. Mr. Albert Kittoe will address the 8:45 a.m. worship and Mr. Robert Aquaah will speak at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Mr. Kittoe and Mr. Aquaah have indicated heir desire to enter into Christian ministry.

Stewardship Campaign Focuses on Faithful Membership

When persons join the church they are asked if they will support the church with their “Prayers, presence, gifts and service.” Those promises are to be fulfilled in a number of ways; but they are to be faithfully fulfilled. With the faithful fulfillment of the membership vows the church will find its ministries and mission growing and making a positive influence on its community.

Thus, beginning Sunday, October 25th, and continuing through November 22, we will begin our 2010 stewardship campaign entitled, **“Yes, We Can!”** Through a series of letters to the church members, sermons by the pastor, personal testimonies by the members and pledges of prayers, presence, gifts and service, the church will be well prepared to carry out its mission and service in 2010 and beyond.

Churches Join to Celebrate World Communion and Luncheon

On **Sunday, October 4**, Asbury UMC and Ghana Emmanuel Methodist Church will gather together at the Lord’s Table. This will mark the second

year that Asbury and Emmanuel have shared in this joint worship experience.

The worship service is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and will feature music from the Emmanuel Choir and the Asbury Chancel Choir and Praise Team. In addition, the Rev. Dr. J. T. Seymour will be the guest preacher. Dr. Seymour has served churches throughout the Peninsula-Delaware Conference. He has also served as a District Superintendent and Conference Council Director.

A covered dish luncheon will follow the worship service. Last year we were treated to some of the native food from Ghana. Persons planning on attending the luncheon are asked to bring a meat, vegetable or salad dish enough to feed 8-10 persons. Beverages and desserts will be provided by the churches.

Don’t forget: only one worship service – 10 a.m. Invite your family and friends to share in this celebration.



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

October Worship Services

Sunday 4
World Communion Sunday –
10 a.m. only
Guest Speaker, Covered Dish
Luncheon

Sunday 11
Extravagant Generosity Sunday
8:45 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 18
Laity Sunday with Pulpit Exchange
8:45 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday 25
Stewardship Campaign,
“Yes, We Can”
8:45 & 10:30

Wednesday 7
Sacrament of Holy Communion
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 14
Christian Comedy Night
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 21
Guest Speaker
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 28
Prayer and Healing Service
6:30 p.m.

It is God who stirs in you a
desire to be in worship. God says:
“I want you to be in my presence
today with my people. Come to
worship.”



Annual Charge Conference Invitation

All church leaders and members are invited to our annual Charge Conference on Sunday afternoon, October 25, beginning at 1 p.m. in the

Friendship Lounge. During this meeting, our District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. William Fitzhugh, will hear about our various ministries and programs. New church leaders and new ministry programs will be presented and voted upon by those in attendance.



Asbury United Methodist Women's Annual Christmas Bazaar Saturday, November 21, 8 am - 2 pm!



Lunch will be available, Santa will visit and many beautiful crafts will be for sale. If you have any contributions for the Silent Auction, please call Georgiann Miller at 328-7654. Any donations should be in on or before November 7th.



FROM THE NURSE Pass the Kleenex, Please

Time to panic! Time to lock yourself in your house and not come out until March! It's flu season again. And now you have to worry about the H1N1 virus!

Okay, I was just kidding. It is true that the flu season is upon us again and the H1N1 virus is causing illness world wide. However, there is no need to panic or do anything different than you would have done any other year. Here are the recommendations from the Center for Disease Control:

1. Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough and throw the tissue away. (Don't use it over and over again.)
2. Wash your hands with soap and water. Alcohol based cleaners are also useful.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
4. If you get sick, stay at home at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, except to go to the doctor or to get absolute necessities. (For example, more chicken soup and more tissues.)

How long does the influenza virus remain viable on objects such as counters or doorknobs? Studies have shown that the virus can survive and infect a person for up to 2 to 8 hours after being deposited on a surface. The germ is spread from a cough or sneeze by droplets moving through the air. So don't use your sleeve to catch that sneeze – use a tissue and throw it away and wash your hands. Using utensils and linens shouldn't be any different, except you shouldn't share any eating utensils while eating. Linens are washed as usual, drying them on the hot setting.

I will have a handout from the CDC available this month on the back table. There is one with general info and one that is specifically for those with children. Please take one and share it with your family and neighbors. I will also post a list of flu vaccine clinics from the Delaware Department of Public Health on my bulletin board. I will try to keep it as up to date as possible. I strongly urge those who have a family physician to discuss the appropriateness of getting the vaccines for the seasonal flu and the H1N1 virus.

Taking stock in Kleenex,
Beverly Barker



Military Ministry

We have several people overseas at this time. Their addresses are on the bulletin board on paper you can just take with you. We made it easy as possible for you. They need our prayers, but they also need our cards and letters. Some of us have no problem writing to them, but some of us don't know what to say. Are you aware that you can just mail a thinking-of-you card? There are some places that have thinking-of-you cards especially for military people. Postage for cards for our military people is the normal postage of 44 cents. That is all it will cost. Please write to them, even if only once a month. Knowing we remember them lifts their spirits so much.

On July 5th the flowers on the altar (red, white and blue) were given by our ministry in honor of all the people who are presently in the military and all the people who have served in the military. We also gave out M & Ms with the label on them stating they were from the Military Ministry, hoping that when people see M & Ms they will think of the **Military Ministry**.

We are presently in need of financial donations. You can see me at church or contact me at 221-1211.

God bless all of you because you are the ones who support us and help us keep the Military Ministry going.

Deborah Moore



2009 Pledges Fall Further Behind

According to our Financial Secretary, Evelyn Crispin, at the end of August the church budget was \$14,013 overspent. In addition, we had only paid half of our ministry support to the Annual Conference (apportionments).

It is apparent that the majority of our shortfall can be seen in the amount of pledges promised to those actually paid. To date \$116,590 has been pledged but only \$92,078 has been contributed.

An appeal letter to the congregation resulted in a very meager response. The unstable economy, loss of jobs and other factors have contributed to many churches having to reduce staff salaries, staff positions and ministries.

Please try your best to be faithful to your estimated giving (pledge). Those persons who have pledged will receive a giving update in the very near future.





F.R.O.G.
(Fully Rely On God)

“Magnolias” Something to Think About. . .

I spent the week before my daughter’s June wedding running last-minute trips to the caterer, florist, tuxedo shop, and the church – about forty miles away.

As happy as I was that Patsy was marrying a good Christian young man, I felt laden with responsibilities as I watched my budget dwindle.

So many details, so many bills, and so little time. My son, Jack, was away at college, but he said he would be there to walk his younger sister down the aisle, taking the place of his dad who had died a few years before. He teased Patsy, saying he’d wanted to give her away since she was about three years old!

To save money, I gathered blossoms from several friends who had large magnolia trees. Their luscious, creamy-white blooms and slick green leaves would make beautiful arrangements against the rich dark wood inside the church.

After the rehearsal dinner, the night before the wedding, we banked the podium area and the choir loft with magnolias. As we left, just before midnight, I felt tired but satisfied. This would be the best wedding any bride had ever had! The music, the ceremony, the reception – and especially the flowers – would be remembered for years.



The big day arrived – the busiest day of my life – and while her bridesmaids helped Patsy to dress, her fiancé, Tim, walked with me to the sanctuary to do a final check. When we opened the door and felt a rush of hot air, I almost fainted; and then I saw them – all the beautiful white flowers were black. *Funeral black.* An electrical storm during the night had knocked out the air conditioning system, and on that hot summer day, the flowers had wilted and died.

I panicked, knowing I didn’t have time to drive back to our hometown, gather more flowers, and return in time for the wedding. Tim turned to me. “Can you get more flowers?” I’ll throw away these dead ones and put fresh flowers in these arrangements.”

I mumbled, “Sure.” As he be-bopped down the hall to put on his cuff links.

Alone in the large sanctuary, I looked up at the dark wooden beams in the arched ceiling. “Lord,” I prayed, “please help me. I don’t know anyone in this town. Help me find someone willing to give me flowers – in a hurry” I scurried out, praying for four things: the blessing of white magnolias, courage to find them in an unfamiliar yard, safety from any dog that may bite my leg, and a nice person who would not get out a shotgun when I asked to cut his tree to shreds.

As I left the church, I saw magnolia trees in the distance. I approached a house. No dog in sight. I knocked on the door and an older man answered. So far so good. When I stated my plea, the man beamed, “I’d be happy to!”

He climbed a stepladder and cut large boughs and handed them down to me. Minutes later, as I lifted the last armload into my car trunk, I said, “Sir, you’ve made the mother a bride happy today.”

“No, Ma’am,” he said. “You don’t understand what’s happening here.”

“What?” I asked.

“You see, my wife of sixty-seven years died on Monday. On Tuesday I received friends at the funeral home, and on Wednesday . . . (He paused) I saw tears welling up in his eyes. “On Wednesday, I buried her.” (He looked away.) On Thursday most of my out-of-town relatives went back home, and on Friday- yesterday – my children left.”

I nodded.

“This morning,” he continued, “I was sitting in my den crying out loud. I miss her so much. For the last sixteen years, as her health got worse, she needed me. But now nobody needs me. This morning I cried, “Who needs and eighty-six year old worn-out man? Nobody! I began to cry louder. ‘Nobody needs me!’ About that time, you knocked and said, “Sir, I need you...”

I stood with my mouth open.

He asked, “Are you an angel? The way the light shone around your head into my dark living room...”

I assured him I was no angel.

He smiled. “Do you know what I was thinking when I handed you those magnolias? I decided I *am* needed. My flowers are needed. Why, I might have a flower ministry! I could give them to everyone! Some caskets at the funeral home have no flowers. People need flowers at times like that and I have lots of them. They’re all over the backyard! I can give them to hospitals, churches – all sorts of places. You know what I’m going to do? I’m going to serve the Lord until the day He calls me home!”

I drove back to the church, filled with wonder. On Patsy’s wedding day, if anyone had asked me to encourage someone who was hurting, I would have said, “Forget it! It’s my only daughter’s wedding day! There is no way I can minister to anyone today.” *But God found a way. Through dead flowers.*

(Editor’s note. I do not know the author of this story. The story was given to me by a friend. I hope you have enjoyed it. I also hope it will inspire us to think about the ways in which each of us are needed. MEC)