

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
September, 2008

Newsletter Editors: Kim Berkey and Merle Ciesielski

SEPTEMBER



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, 8:45 Organist, Choir Director
Mrs. Dale Ringle, 11:15 Organist
Mr. Steve Banaszak, Custodian
Mrs. Angela Kirkley, Day Care Director

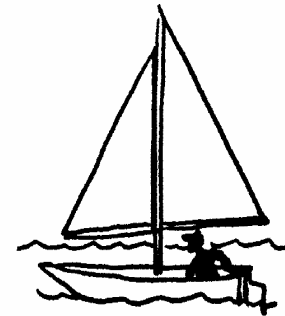
Three Sunday Worship Services
8:45 a.m., Traditional ~ 10 a.m., Contemporary ~ 11 a.m., Traditional

Church Prepares for 2009 and Beyond...

It's time to get into the boat and sail off into new ministries and adventures as the church seeks to make disciples for Christ.

During the summer, your church staff has been busy preparing a way to encourage church members to share in

the future of Asbury Church. With the help of Cheryl Johnson, pastoral assistant at Grace UMC, a course has been established and you are invited to go sailing (planning) with us.



Come on board beginning Sunday, September 14 at 4 p.m. in Asbury Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish (meat,

vegetable or salad) to share with others. This will begin our planning together and will conclude by 6 p.m. All Church members are invited to this gathering.

Then, on Sunday, September 28, we will sail into Wilmington, Grace UMC, to work on the action phase of our planning. This time our session will run from 2 to 4 p.m. Again, every church member is invited to help set the course for Asbury's future. There will be car pooling.

Church Wide Study-Worship On Amazing Grace

"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound" brings hope and joy into our lives. Yet do we truly understand and appreciate the depth of God's amazing grace? Where have I experienced God's grace? These and many other questions will be discussed during a church wide study and worship series entitled, "What's so Amazing About Grace?"

The 10 week study-worship series will begin on Sunday, Sept. 14, and includes Wednesday evening Renew! Services.

(Continued on page 2.)

(Continued from page 1.)

Then, on Tuesday evening, September 16, a church wide Bible study will get underway. The study will begin at 7 p.m. in the church sanctuary with a time of worship, opening review of the evening lesson and a video. From there, small discussion groups will scatter through the church to review the video, study scripture, and deal with everyday situations needing God's grace. Each evening will conclude at 9 p.m. with a summary and closing prayer concerns. The last study session will take place November 18.

Additional study sessions for "What's so Amazing About Grace?" will be held on Monday afternoons beginning at noon, and Wednesday evenings. Remember, It's not too late to register! See page 9 for the registration form.

Welcome New Bishop

The Northeast Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee made the announcement on July 18, that newly elected bishop, Rev. Peggy A. Johnson, will be assigned to the Philadelphia Area effective Sept. 1, 2008. We welcome Bishop Johnson and look forward to being in ministry with her.

Bishop Johnson is a graduate of Lebanon Valley College with a B.S. in Music Education, a M.Div. from Asbury Seminary and a D. Min. from Wesley Seminary. She is a member of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conf. and has served churches in the Washington-Baltimore area. Bishop Johnson has

been extremely involved with ministry to the deaf and is a member of the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf.

A reception is in the making for Bishop Johnson.

Special Services Planned... Mark your calendars!

Sunday, September 28

An out of doors worship service beginning at 10 a.m. on the front lawn of the church.

Music will be provided by the Chancel Choir, the Praise Team and Renew!!

Naturally, weather permitting; but still just one service.

Sunday, October 5

World Communion Sunday with a combined worship service (Asbury and Ghana Emmanuel Methodist) beginning at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The guest preacher will be the Wilmington District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. William Fitzhugh.

Music will be provided by the Chancel Choir, the Praise Team, Renew! And the Ghana Praise Team.

Following the service, everyone is invited to a luncheon in Asbury Fellowship Hall which will feature some food specialties from Ghana.

The Asbury Vision

Ever wonder what "drives" our church? Listed below are our "vision" statements.

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 that 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.



End of July Financial Report

Checking Account...\$2,857
 Fellowship Hall Mortgage...\$16,523
 Money Market...\$12,825
 Memorial Fund...\$864
 Endowment Funds...\$332,410
 Church Indebtedness...\$508,751

Income, Year to Date...\$145,869
 Disbursements, YTD...\$170,896
 Difference...\$24,896 (2008)
 Difference...\$45,913 (2007)

Please be faithful in your church offerings of tithes and gifts.

Worship Schedule for September

Sundays

8:45 a.m. Traditional
 10 a.m. Contemporary
 11:15 a.m. Traditional

Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. Renew!
 Praise 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
E-mail address:
Asburymethodist@verizon.net

Rev. Donnachie:
 Cell phone: 302-650-4231
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



Training for Church Leadership

There will be a district-wide event for church leadership held at Wesley United Methodist Church, 41 Justice Way, Elkton, MD, 21921, on Saturday, September 20 beginning at 9 a.m.

There will be workshops for:

SPRC: Presenter – Rev. Dr. William Fitzhugh

Finance Committee – William E. Westbrook, Conference. Treasurer

Youth Ministries – Shane Hinderfelter, Conference Youth Director

Lay Leadership – Rev. Donald Schuler

Schedule:

8:40 – 8:55	Information and Coffee
9:00 – 9:30	Opening Worship – Wesley’s Praise Team
9:30 – 10:30	Scheduled Presentation
10:30 – 11:30	Open Discussion

Also, information about Safe Sanctuaries will be available.

To register:

Contact: Charles Rossiter
 1-866-293-2177
 Charles.rossiter@comcast.net

FROM THE NURSE

September is “Talk About the Untalkable” Month

Most people do not speak out about their reproductive organs, but this month is time to get yourself screened or at least make an appointment with your doctor. There is no sex discrimination here – men and women are equally at risk for cancer in these organs. 1 in every 6 men will get prostate cancer with more than 180,000 new cases each year. Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer related death in women.

Prostate cancer tends to occur in the cells lining the prostate. Growth of the cancer is slow. There are no noticeable symptoms in the early stages. That is why it is so important to get screened. This includes a simple blood test that measures the level of protein called prostate-specific antigen (PSA). In combination with the [turn your head and cough] digital rectal exam, the accuracy of diagnosis is elevated by almost 100%.

Ovarian cancer also has no noticeable symptoms in its early stages. Often the symptoms that do develop are so vague that your physician may just miss the evidence. Unexplained changes in bowel habits, abdominal swelling and bloating, pelvic or abdominal discomfort are a few of the “vague” symptoms that

are often written off by the woman having them or the physician she goes

to for help. Risk factors include, but are not limited to, genetic disposition, personal or family history of breast, ovarian or colon cancer, increasing age and infertility. Screening for ovarian cancer can include a pelvic exam, an internal ultrasound, and a blood test called CA-125. A Pap test does not detect ovarian cancer. It is done during an exam but should not be used as the only diagnostic tool.

Treatment for both these cancers can include surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

Prevention plays a role in both diseases. For men, research shows that lowering your cholesterol, adding omega-3 fatty acids to your diet can help. Eating veggies, tomatoes, soy, mushrooms and fruit may also help. For women, there is not much you can do to prevent ovarian cancer except genetic testing if it is in your family. The most important thing to do is get your annual gynecological exam. Be persistent if you develop any of the “vague” symptoms – don’t tell yourself it’ll get better, wait for it to get better, or let your doctor off the hook.

Be assertive and demand testing – it could save your life.

Turn your head and cough,
Beverly Barker

Wilmington District UMW Events

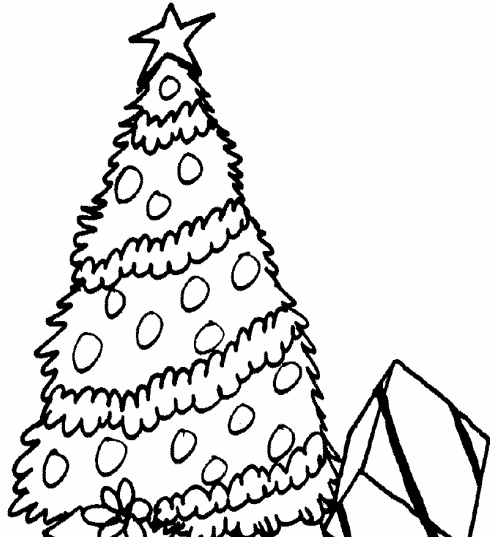
September 11 – Team meeting at Marshallton UMC, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

October 18 – Annual Meeting at Neighborhood House, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

November 13 – Team Meeting at Richardson Park UMC

December 11 – Wilmington District Team (meeting or celebration) at Aldersgate UMC.

The Christmas Bazaar this year will be Saturday, November 22. When you are clearing out your closets and/or attics, remember the bazaar. We may be able to use your unwanted items in good condition for our "Silent Auction" and/or "Attic Treasures". Please call Georgiann Miller, 328-7654.



Please note:

The military ministry/day care flea market will not take place on October 25.

Your support of asbury day care's annual pumpkin patch will be greatly appreciated.

Have YOU registered for "What's So Amazing About Grace?"

Here's how:

1. Fill out a registration form found in the weekly church bulletin, in this newsletter (below), or at the church or pastor's office; or
2. Call in your registration to Betty Ann at 328-5649 ext. 0; or
3. Drop an email to the church at www.asburyumcde.org.

If you are in need of child care, please note that on your registration form.

The cost for the study is \$10 and is payable the first night of class. This includes your study guide and the book, "What's So Amazing About Grace?" written by Philip Yancey, an award winning Christian writer.

"What's So Amazing About Grace?" – Registration Form

Yes, sign me up! I am _____

My phone: _____ My email _____

I will need child care _____
(Someone will call you regarding details.)

Remember: The first study is Tuesday, September 16, 7-9 p.m.
Additional sessions will be held on Monday afternoons, beginning at 12 noon, and Wednesday evenings.

For more information on this church wide study, see page 1.

MAP Walk Saturday, September 13, 2008 Theme: "For Our Children"

It's a 5K walk at the Riverfront and help is needed to run the walk and to participate. Contact Sandie Herensperger at the Methodist Action Program, 302-225-5627 for more information.

Moore's Chapel's Consecration Service for New Building 392 Blake Road, Elkton MD 21921 Sunday, September 28, 2008 4 p.m.

All are invited.
For more info, check out www.mooreschapel.org.

*“A bruised reed He will not break...
In faithfulness He will bring forth justice.”
Isaiah 42:3*

VOLUNTEER IN-PRISON TRAINING

This course equips volunteers with the knowledge, skills, and biblical foundation necessary to participate in a ministry to those who are incarcerated.

Topics include:

Biblical Foundations for an In-prison Ministry, Getting to Know the Criminal Justice Professionals, Introduction to the Prison Environment, Common Problem Areas for Prisoners’ Families, Do’s and Don’ts on Prison Grounds, Facilitating Small Groups, Learning to Listen, and Ministry Opportunities.

Matthew 25:34-36

God calls us to minister to those in prison as if we are ministering to Christ. Will you answer the call? If so, there will be training on

October:

Thursdays and Fridays 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Saturdays 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00

Place:

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

Contact: Michael or Antoinette Davis at 655-0598

Making Choices...

(Food for thought)

With prices rising all around us, will we wallow in discouragement, or will we look around and discover our choices?

It’s time to get out your sewing box and be reminded that we have choices!

The seam ripper is for taking apart things that can be made over. For example, you could carefully take apart a dirty old teddy bear and use the old “skin” pieces to make a pattern for a new toy. Consider recycled fabrics for the toy’s new “skin”. The seam ripper could also be helpful if you need to add a gusset here and there to make something larger. Of course, making things smaller is a possibility, too. Whether or not you actually rip seams apart with your seam ripper, keep it in a place where you will see it often. The seam ripper will remind you that change is possible, and we have choices.

The thread and needle will remind you that “a stitch in time saves nine”. If you have something that needs mended, the best time to do it is now. Your mending project might not be something tangible, it could be a relationship. If the needle and thread remind you to do something about it, then they have served their purpose.

Whatever you do, do it intentionally. Feel like a conqueror, rather than a victim. If you want to be happy, find your choices and use them!

Merle Ciesielski, Editor

Intercessory Prayer

There are Prayer Request slips in the pews that are put into the offering plate or prayer basket (usually in the back of the church or on the altar). The Intercessory Prayer Group puts the date on it so that everyone is prayed for that week (and, most of the times, longer). The Prayer Request slips have the name of the person that the request is for, the prayer request, and who requested the prayer. (Some parts of the form may be left blank, if chosen.)

The Intercessory Prayer is held in the church on Wednesdays from 11:30-12:00 and everyone is welcome to come and pray. If Wednesday or that time is not good for you, please stop by anytime. (A good time might be when you are already visiting the church for some reason.) Pick up the prayer basket and pray for any or all of the people that need a prayer that week.

If you have any questions about Intercessory Prayer, please don’t hesitate to call Joanne Fortner at 733-0348.



Support our Troops

The Military Ministry would like to thank everyone who has helped us support our troops throughout the years. We have been blessed with the safe return of all of our own soldiers, but there are still thousands of our country's troops still deployed, away from their families and friends, while serving and supporting our country. Please help us to continue to support our troops, even though all of our soldiers are home. The Military Ministry has joined the ranks of Adopt a Platoon, a national support effort, to help with their "Trick or Treat for the Troops" Campaign. Keep an eye out for more information on our bulletin board and in the church bulletin to find out how you can help us to continue to support our troops.

Sunday School News

We hope everyone enjoyed their summer! We had a very successful Vacation Bible School the week of June 22. This year 25 children, ages 3-12, learned how to serve their Family, Friends, Neighbors, Community and Jesus. Each night the children had a lesson, snack, recreation, craft and music time that revolved around the lesson point. Thanks to our many helpers! Without you we couldn't provide this wonderful ministry. Thanks, also, to the congregation for your donations for the craft and snack rooms. Check out the VBS Bulletin Board in the hallway.

Sunday School's first day will be September 7th for children age 4 through Sr. High. We will have 4 classes for children during the 8:45 a.m. service: Pre-School, Elementary (K-3) Elementary (4-6) and Sr. High (7-12). Children in Preschool, Early Elementary, and Sr. High will be using David C. Cook's curriculum to learn about God's love.

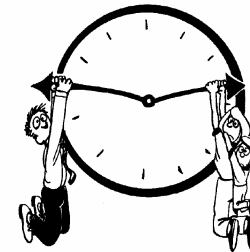
It's time for Bible Blitz! This fall all students from the 4th through 7th grades will be "Getting to Know God" as we get kids into the Bible and the Bible into our kids! We will be meeting in a new classroom and creating our own space as we bring the Bible to life! Through Group's "Bible Blitz!" curriculum, we will be exploring the Bible by doing science experiments and activities using their "Hands-On Bible". We will read, study, do fun activities and share with others what we learn. We will experience worship and praise and a special time devoted for prayer to talk with God one-on-one. We'll have handouts to take home and share with your families so you can apply the lessons we learn during the week. So plan on getting to know God this year by experiencing fun and living the truth as we grow in our relationship with Jesus!

We are always looking for substitutes to help out throughout the year. If you would be interested in helping, please contact Vickey Mohler or Amy Johns. We are looking forward to spending another wonderful year sharing God's word with your children!

New Adult Sunday School Class Begins

On Sunday, September 14, our Sunday School classes for all ages begin at 8:45 a.m., with one exception. A new Adult Bible Study class will begin at 10 a.m. in the Memorial Lounge, under the direction of Liz Cole. The new adult class will gather and together decide what book of the Bible they would like to study.

Liz is one of our newest members, is a graduate of Disciple II and is an outstanding teacher. All adults are welcome to attend this new class.



New Time Change for Worship

Effective Sunday, August 3, the 11:00 a.m. worship service now begins 15 minutes later. **The new time is 11:15 a.m.**

The decision was affirmed by both the Worship Team and the worshipping congregation. The time change will allow "a little breather" at the conclusion of the 10 a.m. service.

Spa Tea Da
Sept. 13, 2008, 10
a.m. - 3 p.m.
Registration: 9:45
a.m.

All ladies over 13 are welcome.

Tickets are \$3.00.

This year is about women and our lives. Includes crafts, meditation, Tai Chi, salad bar lunch. Learn about Happy Life Mission and enjoy afternoon tea.

DO YOU LOVE YOUR PAJAMAS? See how you can share your love!

We have recently learned that children in local homeless shelters sleep in their clothes. If you're thinking "Why do they sleep in their clothes?", it's simply because they do not have pajamas to sleep in like we do. The United Methodist Women of Asbury are excited to announce a new mission starting in October. *A Pajama Mission!* Starting Sunday, October 5th, you will see a collection box in the Narthex. We are collecting NEW pajamas in sizes infant through teen. The next time you are shopping, we pray that you think about our mission and head to the pajama department. All of the pajamas that we collect during the month of October will be donated to the Neighborhood House in Wilmington. Thanks for your support and prayers that we may have an abundance of PJ's for the children to sleep comfortably in!

