

Rally Day
September 11!



Third Grade Bibles
September 25

World Communion
Sunday October 2



Generosity Sunday
October 9
Our God Is:

LIVING
LOVING
GRATITUDE
BOUNDLESS
FORGIVING
GIVING



the ASBURIAN

Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
VOLUME 59, ISSUE 6 August 2016

Fall into Asbury!



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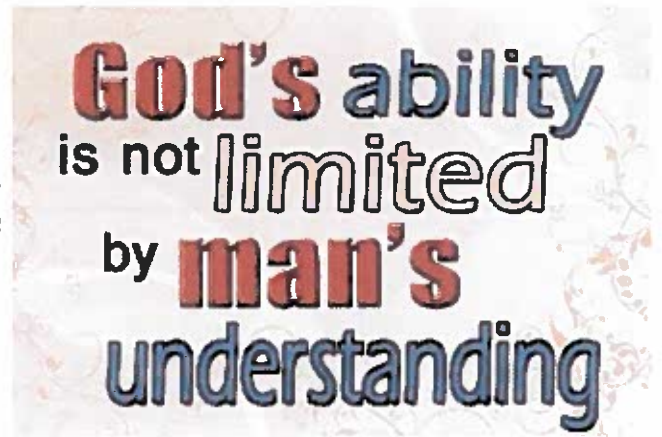
Editor: Karen Corwin

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear...

Being Formed in the Midst of Unrest

This past month, our nation was rocked by the video-recorded killings of two African American men by police officers and then by the subsequent revenge killings of 5 Dallas area police officers and 3 Baton Rouge officers. Tensions remain high, anger swells as we are further polarized because we see this racial and class tension differently from others. If we are honest with ourselves, we have biases that latch us to one side or the other. How we are formed by such tragedies can be ungodly, unholy, and altogether outside of God's will because of our biases and how they turn us against one another in ways that are not helpful.



There are inconvenient truths on both sides of the issue that we try to avoid with our political blinders so we can maintain our beliefs, forming ourselves into people who can close our eyes to problems that really exist...problems that greatly pain God. These truths include the facts that there is racial disparity in incarceration rates, there are major differences in violent crime rates among particular groups of people, and poverty is one of the biggest contributing factors to these problems. These issues are so complex, multifaceted, and layered that we can't truly see the whole picture, but we oftentimes act as if we do when we take our political stand. However, what we can know is that humbly and compassionately approaching these issues, trusting that godly love can drive out fear, and believing that Jesus-like compassion can overcome hate will likely bring us closer to God's desired path of healing for our communities and nation.

I believe that God wants us to be so formed by these recent events that we despair of being divided, so that we might link arms with communities from whom we are far removed, communities we may even fear. I believe that God wants to see our poverty stricken communities connected to the wealthy suburbs or be aided by communities that have been historically able to ignore poverty. God wants to see our hearts break for communities that are suffering so that we might be called to ease that suffering. I believe God is striving to form us into people who empathize instead of politicize, to be people who strive to understand rather than to take an impenetrably hard stand. Righteous anger has its place, but it must also be tempered and focused so that we

[Cont'd on next page]

[Pastor's Message Cont'd]

might not forget to love our neighbors. So let us be formed first in the loving and compassionate ways of Christ, so that our first concern might be to partner with God and our neighbors in the healing of our broken world and in the restoration of our souls.

Excerpts from the prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi - Lord, make me a channel of thy peace, that where there is hatred, I may bring love; that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness; that where there is discord, I may bring harmony ... that where there is despair, I may bring hope; that where there are shadows, I may bring light; that where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted; to understand, than to be understood; to love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life.

Eric Warner, Associate Pastor

Dear Church Family,

I hope your summer has been relaxing and fulfilling on the eastern shore. I am all settled in my new home here in Salisbury after relocating from Des Moines, Iowa. I feel like I know my way around town and church. As a newbie, I have been enjoying the beaches and surrounding areas. I look forward to exploring more in the coming months.

At Asbury we continue to provide inspiring worship by giving people of all ages opportunities to express their faith, explore their God-gifted talents and offer those gifts back to God. I'm grateful for those that have been enhancing our traditional and casual worship services not only through musical leadership but also by offering special music. All are welcome to participate in the music ministry at Asbury and there are a variety of opportunities available.

As the summer comes to a close, I'd like to encourage you to think about the fall and any musical "itches" you and/or anybody you know might want to develop. All

of our vocal and instrumental ensembles will be starting back up. If you have children that are returning or joining, please stay tuned for announcements that will be made by the children's choir directors in August, with details regarding practice and worship schedule. Please visit asburyweb.org/music to learn more about our music ministry program. We have a very exciting, new season ahead of us! In Christ,

Michael Stefanek
Director of Music Ministry

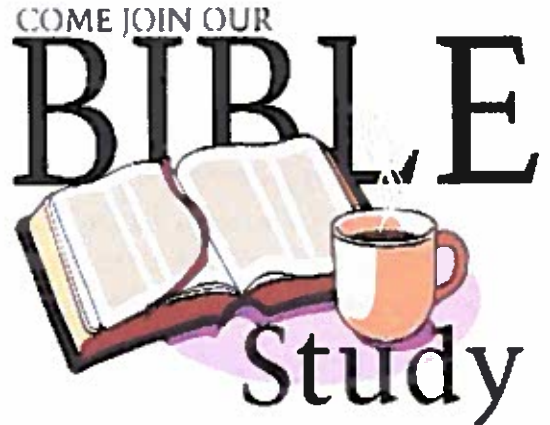
'Hello' from Ms. Heather!

I hope that you are all enjoying a fun and relaxing summer! While we do take a little break from weekly Sunday School and Choirs around here at Asbury during the Summer, it is still a SUPER busy time of planning for the exciting upcoming season! Don't forget to register your 3 and 4-year-olds for Asbury's Little Mozarts. We still have room in our classes! Contact me at (410)-749-2131 or heather@asburyweb.org for more information, or to register for any of our Children's Choirs.

MUSIC

Consider Joining a Sunday School Class this Fall!

They will resume in September.



The Lounge Class

The Lounge Class August social gathering will be a pot luck at the home of Lynn and Don Taylor on Sunday, August 14 late afternoon/early evening. Extended family and guests welcome. Details from Lynn Taylor will be e-mailed to class members.

Beginning September 11, the Lounge Class meets at 9:45 a.m. in the Mackey Room and is designed to have class members select and lead the weekly topic and encourage dynamic discussions using contemporary and traditional materials in the second half of the class hour.

September 11

Nancy Rubenson: "Getting To Know You-Better!"

September 18

Church & Society Ministry: "World Peace Day"

September 25

Eric Warner: "Tracing Wesley's Steps in England"

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Save the date: Wednesday, September 28

Annual Asbury UMW Fall Dinner and Program.

All women of Asbury are invited to attend. Details will be following in the September Asburian.



Bible 101 Study Class

The Bible 101 Class is completing a study of the Gospel of Luke, and will begin a new study of either the Book of James, Genesis, or Revelations when we resume study in September. We invite those interested to join us in the Fox Room on Sunday mornings in the fall.

YOUTH

Hebrews 6:10 - God isn't unjust so that he forgets your efforts and the love you have shown for his name's sake when you served and continue to serve God's holy people.

Warmer, Safer, Drier

At the end of June, the Asbury Service Project team traveled to West Virginia. The goal was to make homes warmer, safer, and drier, and to make lasting connections and experiences with the families we served. The youth and adults faced challenges, as severe flooding swept through the area in which we were working. One home on which we were working suffered severe damage, but we were able to raise monies to ensure that the work would continue on the home in the weeks to come. Counties north of us had it even worse, as one Appalachia Service Project center had to be evacuated and work teams were stranded for days at their job sites.

The families that we were helping, the tragedy of their situation, and the subsequent floods in West Virginia have continued to stir the hearts of the young people of Asbury. Besides the amazing work they accomplished in their week-long missions trip, they wish to further aid the region by providing flood buckets to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). These flood buckets are a vital part to the efforts of work crews to clean up those places affected worst by flooding. You see God moved in West Virginia and moved in the hearts of his beloved children.

I am inspired by the compassion of young people and adults within our congregation as they lead us in ministry beyond the walls of the church. It gives me hope that we might continue to connect with people outside of our experiences, increase our compassion and empathy, and be formed into the people God has called us to be. I am a firm believer that short-term missions projects can change the lives of people who are served, but also change the lives of those who are doing the serving. There are so many opportunities to serve, and if you are looking for such opportunities for service please contact the church.

Eric Warner, Associate Pastor



FINANCE

This year's Generosity Campaign for our 2017 pledges will be based on the word "Boundless". Our pastors will be preaching on characteristics that can be boundless in our lives loving, giving, gratitude, forgiving, and living. To start our campaign we will be providing you with a 40-day Generosity Devotional. We are excited to let you know that all articles are written by people from our Asburian Family. These families have shared their personal experiences, blessings, gifts, and inspirations through their writings. When we share our gifts and experiences with others in the Body of Christ, we draw closer to one another and to God.

	Jan - June	Budget
Income & Expenses	16-Actual	2016
Pledge Contributions	\$308,804	\$669,247
Plate Contributions	\$15,556	\$40,520
Special Contributions	\$2,499	\$10,000
Endowment	\$10,884	\$10,884
Rentals	\$14,758	\$25,576
Interest-checking/mma/cd	\$138	\$5,108
Gain/loss on stock	\$0	-\$100
Total Income	\$352,641	\$761,235
Property Expenses	\$73,956	\$152,072
Ministry Expenses	\$123,420	\$276,028
Administrative Expenses	\$57,888	\$115,225
Apportionments	\$48,354	\$91,595
Employee Benefits	\$55,295	\$126,315
Total Expenses	\$358,912	\$761,235
Net	-\$6,272	\$0

We expect to distribute the booklets to you on Sunday, August 28 so that they can be used in the 40 days prior to turning in 2017 pledge cards on Generosity Sunday, October 9, 2016. If you are not able to attend church on that day you will receive it by mail.

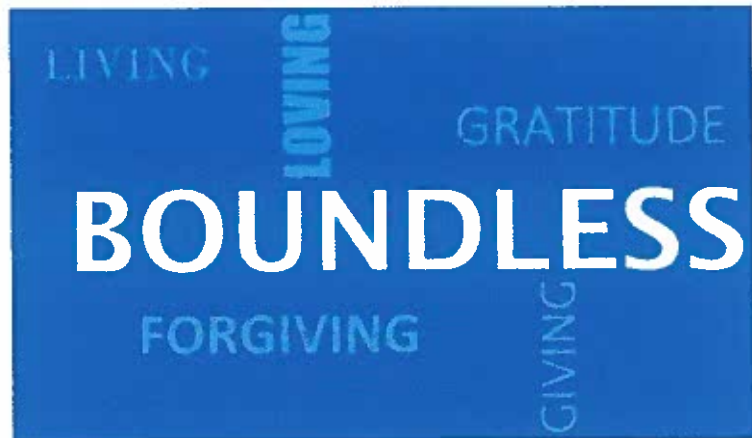
FALL SERMON SERIES

Sundays September 18 to October 16

Our God is Boundless

We often live in a world of scarcity when God's provisions are much greater. During October we will be looking at the boundless nature of God and how we can live a boundless life including:

- boundless loving
- boundless forgiving
- boundless gratitude
- boundless giving
- boundless living



We are invited to be a part of God's boundless ministry and God provides us the resources to accomplish this kingdom work.

Asbury United Methodist Women (UMW) ----- Join Us!!!

The UMW of Asbury United Methodist Church hopes that you have had a wonderful summer and will consider joining one of our four active circles this coming fall. Please feel free to “try out” a group that interests you once our meetings start up again in order to find the perfect “fit” for you. A brief description of each group is listed below:

eCircle: Great for women who have other obligations and are unable to attend regular meetings and allows women to participate with flexibility and share their talents and gifts in the church and the community through emails and monthly updates. Members not only aim to grow in their faith, but also hope to help others by improving the lives of women and children locally and worldwide through missions. Members range in age from 25 to 85. The contact member for this circle is Brenda Potts, 410-603-7420 or markpotts210@comcast.net.

Eve Circle: This circle is looking for women who are eager to be a part of a strong and vital organization, and who not only want to find friendship and social interaction but also want to grow stronger in their faith with the Lord. This group organizes various children’s events for the church and participates in several missions that serve both local and worldwide populations. Currently it has 19 members, who range in age from the early 30s to the early 50s, most of whom have young families. The circle meets at 7:15 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at different member’s homes or at Asbury, and also has an optional social time each month, either at a local restaurant or in a member’s home. Amy Cropper is the contact person for this circle, 410-548-2210 or email puppetboss@comcast.net.

Dorcas Circle: This is a diverse group of women who have varied interests and ages, but who are very active in the life of the church and in local and worldwide missions. It meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at a member’s home or at the church at 7:30 p.m. and usually has 12 to 16 in attendance. There is a light book study (no homework involved), devotion, discussion of UMW and church needs and activities, and social time. Shirley Cropper is the contact person for this group, 410-742-0961 or shirleycr@comcast.net.

Joanna Circle: This is an eclectic group of retired ladies who offer emotional and spiritual support to each other and who do various spiritual book studies, have thought-provoking discussions, and work on various craft projects for church-related purposes. It meets at 10 a.m. on the second Monday of each month, September through November and January through June at the home of Carol Bisker, who is also the contact person, 410-749-3563 or email her at carol.bisker@comcast.net.

SCHOLARSHIPS



2016 Hyde Scholarship Winners!

The Hyde scholarship is given to one or two graduates of a public high school in Wicomico County, who are members of Asbury United Methodist Church, and who are active in Sunday School, church-related activities, and the community. These recipients must also exhibit a better-than average academic record in high school, and have been accepted into a 2- or 4-year college or university. This year two exceptional students were the recipients of the Hyde scholarship:

Please congratulate Matthew Ryan and Hope Jones!

Ellegood Award

The Ellegood Award is a special Sunday School attendance award given in honor of James and Rosa Ellegood, by their daughter, Maria Louise Ellegood. Rosa was a Sunday School teacher and active worker of the church, and James served as the superintendent of Sunday School for 30 years. The Ellegood Award is presented each year to one or two High School students between the ages of 15-17 (Sophomore or Junior). These students must exhibit faithful, punctual attendance at Sunday School and be helpful during the year in building standards of Christian character in service to Asbury church. We are pleased to announce that this year's Ellegood Award recipient is Allison Foster. Congratulations, Allison!



The Opportunity Shop

158 W. Market Street Salisbury, Maryland 21801 410-749-9777
Store Hours: Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

***Donations can be dropped off Monday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon and also during store hours on Thursday and Saturday.

Asbury Service Project Update

Now it is time to play *Name That Ministry*. This mystery mission:

- Is entering its 45th consecutive year at Asbury
- Involves the entire congregation
- Brings in youth and adults from outside Asbury
- Has launched four similar ministries at area churches
- Provides service to the needy in our community
- Has inspired approximately 2,000 youth and adults to fund raise for nine months in order to allow them to leave home for a week, sleep on cots, take cold showers and perform work for strangers that they would not ordinarily do for themselves – and love it!

The answer, of course, is Asbury Service Project! Having completed another wonderfully successful year in which 46 youth and adults traveled to Wyoming County, WV to repair homes for impoverished families in McDowell and Wyoming Counties, we are preparing for yet another awesome year. None of this is possible without the prayerful support of you, our beloved church family.

The most impactful and enduring product of this ministry is not the physical work we do; nor is it anything we say or do. In fact, the most significant aspect of this ministry is hope. It is the hope that we bring to those we serve, and perhaps even greater the hope they give to us. It is the hope of Christ that, no matter what the world throws at us, regardless of any physical or financial limitations, together God's people can overcome. Long after the names are forgotten, long after whatever we built or repaired has disappeared, this hope will endure. It is the legacy of ASP.

Speaking of legacies, after 26 years of dedicated service to the mission, Don and Lynn Taylor have announced their transition to friends and supporters of ASP. Those of us who now carry the banner, as well as the hundreds of participants over those 26 years, owe a debt of gratitude to the Taylors for their work, love and yes, hope that has brought the ministry to where it is today. We thank God for these tireless, humble servants.

Our first organizational meeting for the coming year will be held on September 18 at 1 pm. In the meantime, if you have any questions do not hesitate to call me at 410-896-2776

In His Service, Carlton Bradshaw

SERVING OTHERS

Swimming pools, beaches, family vacations, boating, fishing, and quiet moments with beautiful sunrises and sunsets help make a wonderful Delmarva summer. We hope you are having a blessed summer.

Members of your Leadership Team have been spending a part of the summer working on the formation of five “Bucket List” Committees as a result of the March meeting (see April, 2016 Asburian) that grew out of the survey. The five Bucket List Committees are Spiritual Development, Finance, Membership, Facilities, and Communications. Their objective is to develop a list of immediate actions items and short-and long-term goals to present to the Leadership Team this fall for approval and implementation. Please keep the leaders and members of these committees in your prayers.

We are happy to announce that Michael Campbell will be the Key Volunteer for the Community Emergency Shelter Project (CESP) ministry going into the 2016-17 season. Michael is a retired police officer who has had experience with the homeless during his career. His unique perspective will give the CESP ministry additional depth. Michael will be working with some of the CESP volunteers this summer learning the “ropes”. Anyone interested in volunteering for CESP this winter can contact Michael at 301-357-7326. Enjoy the summer!!

Calvin Peacock

Psalm 62:1-2 *“My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.”*

Puppets Looking for a Few Good Arms!

Have you longed for the thrill of the stage? Yearned for the excitement of performing? Travel? The challenge of working with your hands while down on your knees? If so, Puppets for Christ would like to give you the opportunity to satisfy those longings and yearnings. A special puppeteer orientation night is scheduled for Monday, August 31, at 7:00 p.m. in the Puppet room (Rm. 223). Our first puppet practice will begin on Monday, September 14 from 6:30-7:45 p.m. in the puppet room. Middle and Senior High youth: don't let this opportunity pass you by! Beginning puppeteers must be in the sixth grade or higher. At least one parent must attend the orientation night with youth. You've always wanted to be a puppeteer, so what are you waiting for? Contact Amy Cropper at 410-726-2847 or email to puppetboss@comcast.net if you are interested. An RSVP is encouraged. If you are interested, but unable to attend, the leaders request you let Amy know by Monday, September 7. Hope to see you there!



We are super thrilled here at Asbury Child Development Center to continue yet another school year! All of our classrooms are taking shape with new activities and exciting learning tools. The teachers are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their new students. The school year is packed with many wonderful activities and events! We still have a few openings in our 2's program and would love to show you our fabulous school...call or come in for a tour today! 410-742-7058

*****Save the Date*****

**World Communion Sunday:
October 2, 2016 One Service at 10:30 a.m.
followed by Fellowship Lunch and Annual
Meeting. More information will be
provided as the date gets closer.**



MEMORIALS

**Peggy Cannon
Jim Sakers**

**Robert & Pam Loy
Mark, Vera & Marcus Street**

**Robert Loy
Sharon Dashiell**

**Russell Dashiell
Jim Sakers**

**Shirley Dashiell
Jim Sakers**

Financial Peace University This Fall – Don't Miss It

Asbury UMC will be offering Financial Peace University (FPU) this fall. FPU is a 9-week, money-management course taught by America's most trusted financial guru, Dave Ramsey. It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions, and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. Dave and his teaching team will walk you through the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, planning for the future and much more. The course begins on Monday, September 26, 2016 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will meet every Monday at this time through November 21, 2016. Nursery will be available for younger children. To sign up go to www.daveramsey.com (but don't order materials). To get your materials, sign-up for childcare or need help, please contact the church office. The cost of the course is \$93.00 per family.

Senior Pastor: Rev. Benita Harris
Associate Pastor: Rev. Eric Warner
Visitation Pastor: Rev. Bill Sterling

Administrative Office Manager: Karen Corwin
Administrative Assistant: Sheri Burchard

Director of Music Ministries: Michael Stefanek
Director Children and Care Ministries:
Heather Harman

Director Finance and Building:
Janice Wilkinson

ACDC: Director: Casey Taylor
Asst. Director: Danna Abbott



Return to Regular Worship Hours

Fall Services start September 11.
CAYR Service 8:45 a.m.
EMA 8:45 a.m.
Festive Worship 11 a.m.

Website: www.asburyweb.org
Email: asbury@asburyweb.org
Fax: 410-749-2914
Phone: 410-749-2131

Asbury United Methodist Church
1401 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Maryland 21801



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