

 <p>Maundy Thursday Service, April 13 at 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>Good Friday Come & Go Reflective Time w/ Communion April 14 11- 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Easter Services 8:45 & 11 a.m. April 16</p> 	<p>Easter Egg Hunt During Sunday School April 16</p> 
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the ASBURIAN

Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
VOLUME 60, ISSUE 3 April 2017



*The Tomb is Empty...
Join Us for Easter!*

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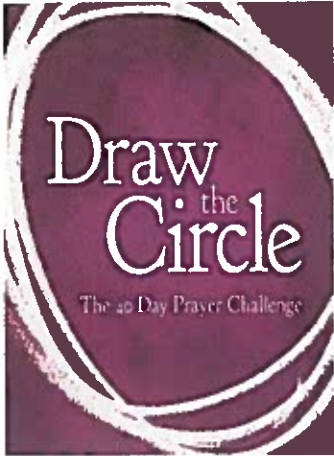
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OFFICERS OF OUR CHURCH

Calvin Peacock, Leadership Team Chair
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 Kim Bradshaw, Staff-Parish Relations Chair
 Carol Walston, Board Of Trustees Chair
 Sara Lewis, Finance Committee Chair
 Sharon Dashiell, ACDC Board Chair
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 Sara Lewis, UMW President
 Suzanne Press, Co-Chairman, BOD, Opportunity Shop
 Priscilla Basehart, Co-Chairman, BOD, Opportunity Shop
 Carlton Bradshaw, Chairman, BOD, ASP

Editor: Karen Corwin

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Draw the Circle: The 40 Day Prayer Challenge by Mark Batterson

I pray that you have been joining us by reading and contemplating on prayer as we continue our forty day Lenten series. Mark Batterson challenges us to pray in a different way and to pray with different motives. He reminds us that we often read the Bible and we may even pray regularly, but many times our reading and praying become routine, so routine that we learn how to do it but often forget why we are doing it. In other words, we are just going through the motions thinking that we are being faithful.

In my last graduate program, our instructors in spiritual formation challenged us not to use our favorite Bible for our courses. They stated, as Batterson does, that when we come across a familiar scripture we often don't read it well, because we believe we already know what it says. We were encouraged to read another version and not skim over scriptures we believed we knew, but to read this different version with fresh eyes. Batterson reminds us that God does not want us just to worship with our memories, but with our imaginations as well. He also cautions us about falling into prayer ruts, praying the same things over and over without really thinking about them. He goes on to say that "If we aren't careful, we pray without thinking and that is just as destructive as thinking without praying."

He shares on day 30 that we cannot do any of this unless we abide in and with God. The best way to do this is to be in the word of God in a way that captures us and brings us to the place where we can't get enough of what God has to say to us! Batterson reminds us that, "...the Bible wasn't meant to be read. It was meant to be memorized and meditated on. It was meant to be prayed and practiced. We have to abide in the Word of God and let the word of God abide in us... Reading without meditating is like eating without digesting." When we know God's word we can pray God's word. Batterson reminds us that when we pray God's word it does not come back empty. He also encourages us to be specific in our prayers so we can recognize when our prayers have been answered and to share this with others through our testimonies.

Prayers are a part of a Christian's DNA, and if we pray from our hearts because we love and want a deeper relationship with God, prayer will change us and others will notice. Pray for God's hand in the world, pray for the church, and pray for one another.

In Christ, Benita Harris, Senior Pastor



Dear Church Family,

On Saturday, April 8, at 4 p.m. there will be a Handbell Concert featuring Asbury's very own handbell ensembles: Jubilate Bells, Chiming Belles, Revelation Ringers, and Kingdom Kids Ringers.

On Palm Sunday, April 9, the Chancel Choir will be presenting a cantata entitled, "Amazing Love" by Lloyd Larson & Joel Raney at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. This powerful work combines narrations, scripture readings, and a diverse selection of dramatic songs. We will have a small orchestra with timpani to accompany our choir.

On Easter Sunday, April 16, festive music will be featured at all services to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ.

Dr. Michael Stefanek, Director of Music Ministry



Ms. Vera and Ms. Jessie's 1st Grade class showing their 'chain of thankfulness'.

Easter Treats Needed!

The high school Sunday School class is collecting treats to stuff Easter eggs for the annual Easter Egg hunt! They will be preparing about 500 eggs, so they need lots of goodies! Individually wrapped small candies, stickers and toys can be dropped off in the boxes at the Welcome Centers up until April 9.



The Wired Word Class 10 a.m.

Have you ever considered joining an adult Sunday school class, but don't feel like you have a lot of time for preparation?

Why don't you consider joining us in the Catley Library at 10 a.m. for *The Wired Word*? Each week you will receive a lesson via email concerning a current national or international event or topic. The lessons contain thought provoking questions and relevant scripture, which leads to interesting classroom discussions. There are no materials to purchase and the lessons are independent of one another, so if you miss a week you aren't falling behind. If you are interested in joining us, just send John and Shelly Marshall an email at mrsjmarshall@msn.com so they can add you to the list to receive your lesson.

The Lounge Class 9:50 to 10:45 a.m.

The Lounge Class, meeting in the Mackey Room, is designed to have the class members select and lead the weekly topic and encourage dynamic discussions using contemporary and traditional materials in the second half of the class.

April 2

Ray Thompson: "King Herod"

April 9

Celeste Savage: "HALO"
(Help and Life Outreach)

April 16

EASTER: Open Chat

April 23

Lou Rimbach, Virginia Mayer, Lynn Matava:
"Earth Day/Healthy Eating"

April 30

Jerry Hillman: "Reflections on Mother's Day"

Bible 101 Study Class 10 a.m.

The Bible 101 class is studying the Apostles Creed during the Lenten season. We are trying to learn who God wants us to be. After Easter, we will resume our study of the Book of Genesis. Everyone is welcome to attend this class that meets on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Fox room.

UMW Circle April Meetings

Dorcas: Tuesday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mackey Room hosted by Sue Hager & Brenda Corcoran

eCircle: online monthly newsletter

Eve: Wednesday, April 19 at 7:15 p.m. in the Mackey Room with Kim Hatton as the hostess

Joanna: Monday, April 10 at 10 a.m. at the home of Carol Bisker



John 17:20-21

I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me.

One in Youth Ministry

Asbury's partnership with other area United Methodist Churches for the purpose of doing youth ministry better continues to grow. Recently, the partnership had its second annual Locked-In event that included the Christian band named Breakfast, a magic show by a talented youth pastor, 3 hours at the Crown Skating Rink, 2 hours at Altitude Trampoline Park, and a wonderful breakfast prepared by Christ United Methodist Church volunteers. There were more than 85 youth who attended this year. Trinity United Methodist Church helped for the first time to plan the event because Trinity just recently became one of the covenant churches. The churches covenanting together to do youth ministry so far include Asbury, Christ, Bethesda, and Trinity United Methodist Churches.

The partnership has begun planning for the next big event coming up Sunday, May 7 called The Amazing Race. Youth will form teams to search Salisbury high and low for clues and challenges. The Amazing Race will run from 3-8 p.m. and is free.

Other future events on the horizon will include a 30 Hour Famine to bring awareness to the worldwide problem of hunger and a See-You-at-the-Pole Rally to organize group prayer for our schools at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. This partnership enables partnering churches to do wonderful events that help to reach many young people in our community – events that would otherwise not be possible.

Christ says that he wishes we would be one as he and God the Father are one. We continue our efforts to do ministry together because ministry together is better. Please pray for the partnership that we would be effective in our ministry in the community.

Associate Pastor, Eric Warner

The Gift that Grows!

In February we are still enjoying the income from the 2017 prepaid commitments, ending the month with a net of \$26,678. Included in our February income is the annual endowment income in the amount of \$10,309. Many of you may not be familiar with the church's endowments. Through an endowment fund, a donor can set aside funds today to generate income tomorrow. These funds can be used to support a specific purpose designated by the donor (a "restricted" fund), or to support general needs such as facility maintenance or our ministries (an "unrestricted" fund). Either way, it's up to the donor to designate how their endowment gift will be used. Currently, the church holds funds in 17 restricted funds in our endowment dedicated for a specific purpose. The three funds that benefit the operating budget were donated to the church in the 1900's and has grown over the years to create significant income. Our Church Trustees are responsible for managing the Endowment Fund and Investments and disbursing the funds.



How do I get started?
How can I learn more?

Prayerful consideration is a good way to get started. Think about the many blessings in your life. Read some of the familiar Biblical passages that describe events centered on giving and sharing. A spiritual process can help you discern how the gifts in your life today can be shared with the church tomorrow. Pick up an Endowment Brochure for more information, and when you're ready to explore the options available to you, make an appointment with our Senior Pastor to begin the conversation.

There is no greater gift to the work of a church than a permanent financial expression of joy and faithfulness. By establishing a new endowment fund – or by giving to an existing fund – you can nourish the future with your generosity. Many members who have gone before us experienced this blessing by leaving a lasting legacy gift to further the work of Asbury United Methodist Church.

Janice Wilkinson,
Director of Finance and Building

	January - February
	17- Actual
Pledge Contributions	\$144,842
Plate Contributions	\$3,604
Special Contributions	\$0
Endowment	\$10,309
Rentals	\$9,793
Interest-checking/mma/cd	\$42
Gain/loss on stock	(\$504)
Total Income	\$168,086
Property Expenses	\$39,751
Ministry Expenses	\$42,429
Administrative Expenses	\$19,872
Apportionments	\$20,923
Employee Benefits	\$18,433
Total Expenses	\$141,408
Net	\$26,678

SAVE THE DATE: INTERFAITH EARTH DAY EVENT

The Wicomico Interfaith Partners for Creation Stewardship (WIPCS), a project of the Wicomico Environmental Trust, and Asbury's Church and Society Group, invites you to join us Friday April 21, and Saturday, April 22 for two days of prayer, reflection, education and conversation about climate change, what it means for the Shore, and how people of faith can respond.

The events will be held in Salisbury at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in conjunction with 3rd Friday on Friday, April 21 starting at 6:30 p.m. and at Asbury United Methodist Church from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 22. Both events are free of charge and open to all. Saturday will also feature a special program for children ages 5-12. For more information, visit WIPCS's Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/2njAc6a> or visit

www.wicomicoenvironment.org.



Vitamins & Nutrients or Chemicals, Fat, & Filler?

On April 23, Lynn Matava will be answering that question concerning our food choices. Lynn is a nutrition educator, wellness & weight management consultant and board-certified holistic health practitioner....well qualified and experienced to lead us in the subject of healthy eating. Join the Lounge Class at 9:45 a.m. in the Mackey Room to learn how to best fuel this body of ours for the long haul.

Connection Cards Are Important

Don't forget your Connection card! Connection cards are just that: they let the church connect with you and help you on your faith journey. By providing:

- ◆ Changes in home address, email or phone numbers
- ◆ Prayers for a loved one
- ◆ Opportunities to participate in an activity or a church event
- ◆ A welcome to new visitors

Please help us with this new method of caring for and connecting with our church family and visitors. Thank you!

ASBURY NEWS



Easter Lilies-Order Now!

Easter lilies will be placed on the altar this year on Sunday, April 16. If you wish to give an Easter lily in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out form and return it with payment (\$8.00 each) to the church office by Wednesday, April 12. Forms are now available in the Welcome Centers and in the church office.

Women's Retreat 2017: Another Great Time!

Held annually at Camp Pecometh, this year's event attracted 21 women for a weekend of spiritual study, fellowship and fun.

Next year's retreat, which is open to all women, is already reserved for March 2-4, 2018. Come and join us!

Right: Ruth Pinkney and Beth Hershey model their "best beach attire" and "cheesiest sunglasses" at Asbury's Women's Retreat 2017.



God's Kitchen Helpers Needed

It is time once again for Asbury to serve at God's Kitchen. We will be preparing and serving lunch at Grace United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 22 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Anyone who is interested in helping with this ministry should call Jill Abbott at 410-896-2141. Remember that God has called each of us to "Love thy neighbor as yourself." This feeding ministry is the perfect way to answer this call and to provide nourishment and fellowship to those people in our community who are in need.



Eastern Shore Dental Mission of Mercy 2017: Another Great Success!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all of our fellow Asburians who supported our 2017 Eastern Shore Dental Mission of Mercy with your prayers, your financial support, and your volunteerism! You are amazing! And with God's grace, we were able to serve more than 1,100 of our brothers and sisters. We appreciate your commitment to such an important service. We will be repeating the effort again in April 2019 – please mark your calendars for April 5 – 6!! You are the best. Debra Welsh, Sharon Dashiell, Wendy Waller, Ruth Pinkney.



Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation will be held Sunday, May 14.

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

Asbury Service Project Update – April 2017

Mrs. F is in her mid-sixties and is the primary caregiver for her bed-ridden husband, physically disabled son and teenage grandson. Their home is situated along a long, rural road south of Princess Anne. It is a modest house, well-kept and filled with love. Prior to Saturday, March 18, it was difficult for her son, and impossible for her husband, to exit the house. Now, thanks to the work of The Lord through your ASP team, there is a 50' ramp to grant them egress.

This is one example of the service provided to our local community throughout the year, in addition to the service we do in Appalachia in June. This year we have served and continue to serve dinners at the Christian Shelter the first Sunday of each month, and we also served a pancake dinner to our homeless CESP guests. Once again, we are partnering with Chesapeake Housing Mission to build wheelchair ramps for four needy families in our community.

Our pancake breakfasts are finished for the season; thank you for your generous support, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

Our final fundraiser for the year will be a taco and baked potato dinner on Friday, May 12. Mark your calendar, ASP will have your dinner covered that day.

Our remaining Work Skills/Safety Training (wheelchair ramp) sessions are scheduled for:

April 22

May 20

If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me at 410-896-2776.

In His Service,
Carlton Bradshaw



SERVING OTHERS

The End Product of the Asbury Survey

It has been two years since the Asbury Survey Project began. During that time, there have been many hands in the project working to discern God's will through the congregation and many that have provided input. The greatest of these hands has been God's hand in the process. On Sunday, April 2, I will be presenting in a Ministry Moment (with a detailed bulletin insert), a summary of the findings of the committees' "actions and goals." When you look through each committee's action items and goals, also look for God in the process.

Six committees:

1. Spiritual Formation
2. Membership
3. Evangelism
4. Finance
5. Communications
6. Facilities

were formed as a result of the survey and subsequent tabulation of the survey results to develop goals and action items. After each of the committees completed their work, the goals and action items were transferred to the appropriate existing committees. Newly formed committees, i.e., Spiritual Formation, Membership, Communications received new chairpersons who formed their own committee membership and are moving forward on their goals and action items. All of the material was presented to the Leadership Team, voted on and approved. Each of the committees have a member on the Leadership Team and will be reporting the committee's progress on their respective goals and action items to the Leadership Team.

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Calvin Peacock,
Chair of Leadership Committee





ACDC is preparing for our 2nd annual Field Day on April 26th & 27th. The 2's, 3's, 4's and Kindergarteners will be participating in outdoor sports and athletic competition. ACDC students are excited that the weather is warming up so they can get outside and enjoy some fresh air.

Our St. Patrick's Day celebrations included 3's, 4's and Kindergarten students going on a hunt to find treasure that was left at the end of the rainbow. Upon the students return to the classroom they discovered how messy leprechauns can be. Those sneaky little leprechauns can really make a mess!

Our 2017-2018 school year planning has been going strong with enrollment. We still have several openings in our school and would love to have these spots filled by the end of May. We have openings in our 2's T/Th, 3's T/Th class and M-F PM 4's class.

Please call our office for more information or to schedule a tour 410-742-7058 or email our Director, Casey Taylor, at casey@asburyweb.org. We thank you in advance and appreciate your spreading the word about our wonderful little preschool and all of the authentic activities and unique events we have here at ACDC.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

Jean Harbach Stephens,
2/16/2017

Homer E. Graham,
2/24/2017

Richard Hall Wilson,
2/27/2017

BAPTISMS

Greta Charley
Hackenberger Thompson,
2/26/2017

BIRTHS

March 19
Evelyn Louise Sileo,
daughter of Laura Benedict
and Vincent Sileo and little
sister to Stella

MEMORIALS

Ann Brown
June Dashiell

Vic Laws, Sr.
Sharon Dashiell

Loma Murray
June Dashiell
Bill & Carole Brence
Jean & Vic Laws
Nancy Ashley
Dick & Lou Marshall

Sue Olds
June Dashiell
Keith & Holly Foster
Brian & Cindi Hildreth
Bill & Carole Brence
Sharon Dashiell

Robert & Bonnie Travis
Chip & Ruby Dashiell
Jean & Vic Laws
Dick & Lou Marshall

Jean Stephens
Jean & Vic Laws

Richard Wilson
Sheldon & Isabelle White

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

Easter Sunday, April 16



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