

 <p>HAPPY LABOR DAY</p> <p>Church Office will be Closed Monday, September 4</p>	 <p>Fall Services Begin Sept. 10</p>	<p>Join Us on Rally Day! September 10!</p> 	 <p>Office Hours</p> <p>Church Office will be Closed Fridays until September 1</p>
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the ASBURIAN

Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
VOLUME 60, ISSUE 6 August 2017



*Fall is Just Around the
Corner...*

*with Many Great Things
Happening at Asbury!*

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OFFICERS OF OUR CHURCH

Calvin Peacock, Leadership Team Chair
 Dale Cropper, Leadership Team Vice-Chair
 Kim Bradshaw, Staff-Parish Relations Chair
 Carol Walston, Board Of Trustees Chair
 Sara Lewis, Finance Committee Chair
 Sharon Dashiell, ACDC Board Chair
 Mick Roberts, Lay Leader
 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

Loving Out of Our Comfort Zone

Sometimes it is really difficult to love people similar to ourselves let alone those who are different from us. We are called daily to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. If the truth be known, we often find ourselves trying to justify our actions by asking as the 'experts in the law did', "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)

I recently read a devotion that spoke to this called *Awkward Love* by Logan Wolfram. *Logan was talking about learning to love people who are different from ourselves and how that is often uncomfortable and may keep us from trying to build relationships at all. If we are serious about living out our relationship in Christ, in community, we have to learn to build bridges. She tells us we need to take the initiative, we need to take the first steps in relationship building rather than waiting for someone else.*

She says, "If you really want to build a bridge, you have to take the first step to know if it will hold or not. When we are divided by different worlds, the gap won't close until we make a move to close it." I found this to be true when the church I grew up in found itself in a transient neighborhood rather than the stable working family neighborhood it used to be. People in the church did not have a relationship with those who would move in and out at any given time. This unfamiliar environment eventually established a community of fear within the church. Church doors were locked for the first time in years and people started talking about moving the church to a safer place. The ministry field was rich, but fear rather than outreach became the model. When it was suggested that we visit those who lived around our

church, however transient, many people in the church gave a resounding no. It just wasn't safe. Logan suggests:

"If we want to love people well, we must learn how to do so at the expense of our own comfort...it's so much easier to talk about bridging gaps than it is to actually do it. Engaging the awkward, out of place, not-knowing-what-to-say moments in which we step across our own discomfort and into love, those are the times that make a life. And when we start seeing people instead of their differences, I'm convinced we will see God more than we ever could have before."



Eventually a group in the church who wanted to try to love their neighbors began to visit residents around the church on a regular basis. Turns out they were not so different at all and many of them eventually became comfortable joining us for worship.

Whether it is someone from a different race, culture, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion and/or mindset in general, it is worth beginning the bridge building process. Bell Hooks tells us, "The moment we choose to love we begin to move against domination, against oppression. The moment we choose to love we begin to move towards freedom, to act in ways that liberate ourselves and others." Are you willing to put your faith into action and step out of your comfort zone? Is there someone you can think of that you can develop a relationship with that you may not normally consider? Reach out and allow God to forge relationships and you will find yourself changing – for the better!

Benita Harris

Dear Church Family,

In mid July, I attended a wonderful choral conducting workshop led by Rod Eichenberger in Alexandria, VA. This professional development opportunity not only enhanced my skills, but equipped me with new ideas, repertoire, and approaches to lead Asbury's choral program. I also met wonderful musicians from around the country with various backgrounds in music.

Our fall music programs at Asbury will all be back in session in September. The chancel choir is getting an early start with having a potluck dinner party on Thursday, August 24 at 6 p.m. and the first rehearsal will be on Thursday, August 31 at 7 p.m. The choir sings a diverse range of repertoire at the 11 a.m. Sunday services, special services, and additional programs during the season. There is no audition required. Ability to read music is a plus. If you're interested in joining or know someone that would like to sing, please contact Michael Stefanek at michael@asburyweb.org. We would love to have you!

Our adult handbell choirs are directed by Sharon Birch. Jubilate Bells will begin rehearsing on Thursday, September 7 at 5:30 p.m. and Chiming Belles will begin practice on Wednesday, September 20 at 5:15 p.m. in the bell room. Revelation Ringers, grades 6-12, is directed by Carol Waltson. The bells play at the 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, special services, and additional programs during the year. If you have a young person interested in singing we have a spot in our Celebration Singers directed by Melissa Graham. Rehearsals start on Tuesdays in September.

We are also blessed with a wonderful woodwinds ensemble, directed by Alan Selser. They practice as needed and perform occasionally during the year.

If you're interested in joining any of the above music ensembles, please contact Michael Stefanek, Director of Music Ministries at michael@asburyweb.org. For children's music please see article below by Heather Harman.

Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with timbrel and dance; Praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

~Psalm 150: 3-6

In Christ,
Dr. Michael Stefanek

Registration is Open for All of Our Children's Choirs!

Choirs will begin rehearsing in early September.

- *Asbury's Little Mozarts: Preschoolers ages 3-5
- *Asbury's Cherub Choir: K-2nd Grade
- *Kingdom Kids Singers and Ringers: 3rd-5th Grade

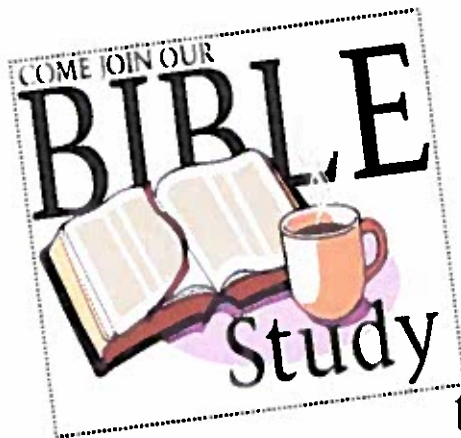
Register online at www.asburyweb.org, or contact Heather at 410-749-2131 or by email: heather@asburyweb.org for more information!



**Wired Word Has a New Name: The B.A.S.I.C. Class
Brothers and Sisters in Christ**

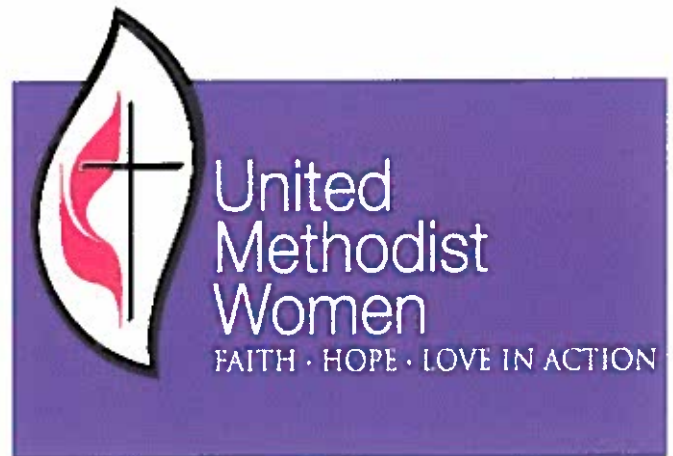
The Sunday School Class formerly called the Wired Word is changing formats and will now be The B.A.S.I.C. Class (Brothers and Sisters in Christ). We will begin this fall with a 6-week study of Adam Hamilton's book *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why*. During this study we will consider the beliefs expressed in the Apostles Creed and begin a conversation about what Christians believe, why they believe it and why it matters. The class, held in the Catley library, will begin with a 10-15 minute video followed by discussion led by members of the class. There is a book that can be purchased for those that wish to do some advanced preparation but not absolutely necessary.

**Adult and Children's Sunday School will resume in the fall.
Enjoy the rest of your summer!**



this fall!

UMW Dinner: Save the date: The Asbury UMW will host its annual fall dinner and program on Wednesday, September 27 beginning at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be Jill Fears from Athletes Serving Athletes. Athletes Serving Athletes, whose motto is "Together we Finish", is a volunteer organization supporting athletes with disabilities. All women of Asbury are invited to attend.



Dear Asbury Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ! I am one of the new staff members here as Director of Adult Spiritual Formation and Membership. Even though I only began July 3, I have already been incredibly blessed by your hospitality, care, grace, and help many times over—Thank you! I thank God for you! I am happy to be here and am looking forward to exploring all of the fantastic things that God has in store, as we live into God’s future, together.

A little bit about me: I grew up wanting to be a veterinarian, but God had other plans. Some of the hardest times in my life have led me to the path I am walking today, and I am grateful for God’s constant guiding hand—even if I didn’t like it at the time! My husband, Bob, and I have been married for 15 years and our family resided in the northeast corner of PA, near Lake Wallenpaupack (Scranton area). Bob and I have two children, Jackson, 12, and Gabby (Gabrielle), 7. Currently we are living close to the church on Somerset Ave while we familiarize ourselves with the area. Jackson will be going into 7th grade and Gabby into 2nd. We also have some furry family members: our dog, whose official name is King but he has acquired the nickname “Lumpy”, and our two geriatric cats, Rocky and Rosie (they are 17).

Interesting tid-bits: I love anything yellow, no one in our household likes coconut, Bob and I have moved 9 times in our 15 year marriage, we have lived in the state of Wyoming and several places in PA and OH. We moved to WY when we were first married for me to take a job as a Llama Ranch Manager on a 200 acre farm with 100 llamas. My last name is hyphenated (“Wall-Love”), joining my maiden name and married name. However, everyone else’s last name in the family is “Love.” We are the ‘Love Family’.

I am an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church and was a pastor of a local congregation in Port Trevorton (about 40 miles north of Harrisburg) for the last 5 years. To be clear: I am not taking on a pastoral role at Asbury, but this is an integral part of my experience and has deeply impacted who I am and how I understand God’s continually evolving call.

As the Director of Adult Spiritual Formation and Membership, I will be organizing and teaching membership classes while working alongside the membership committee. We will actively invite, nurture, and guide those who are considering membership at Asbury. This leads to the second focus of my position: spiritual formation. This is where my passion lies. The simplest definition of spiritual formation is: a *journey* of deepening our relationship with God (and others) in becoming more like Christ and growing in our faith in a way that is evidenced in our living. M. Robert Mulholland states it eloquently, “[Spiritual formation is] the process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others.” This endeavor is not merely about information but *transformation* (by Christ).

There is so much more to come! I am elated to have the opportunity to walk with you on this journey! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the church at 410-749-2131 or by email at kristen@asburyweb.org—I’m happy to help.

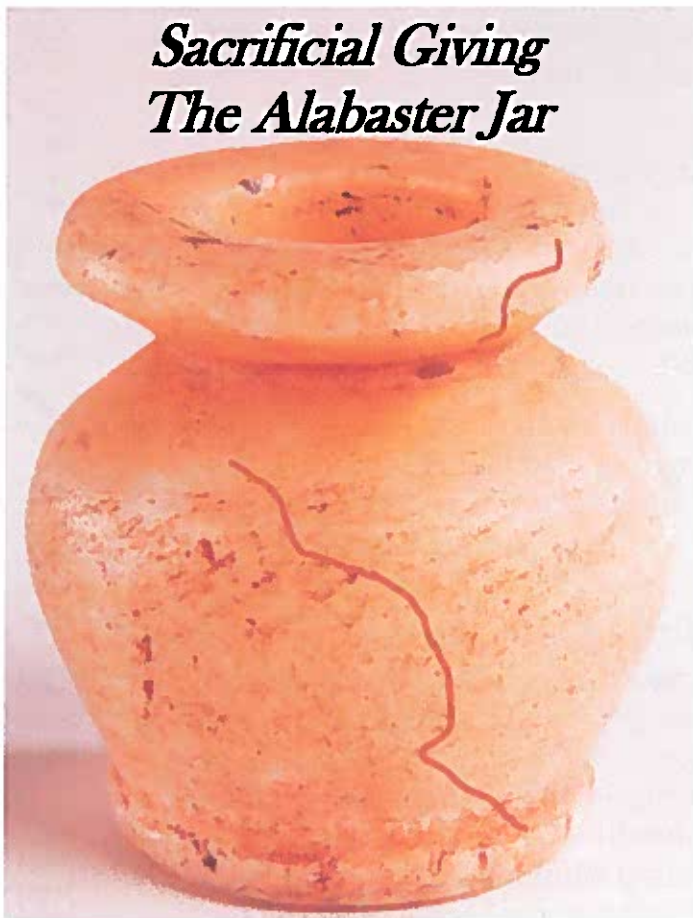
Your co-worker in Christ,

Kristen Wall-Love

The Alabaster Jar

For most of us the first image that comes to mind on thinking of the alabaster jar is the woman in Mark 14:3 who poured all of her costly perfume on Jesus. She gave with humility and total surrender to Christ. The annual Generosity Campaign will begin soon, and you will be seeing and hearing more about the meaning of the alabaster jar. As I read more about the significance of the story in Mark 14, I was challenged to think about my own pattern of giving. Do I pour out sparingly from my alabaster jar thinking there might not be enough? Am I holding back gifts of time, talent, and resources, which if given more freely could be used by God to bless others? I invite you to join me in praying about how God might be calling you to pour out the gifts in your alabaster jar as we approach the annual Generosity Campaign.

Sara Lewis



	Jan - June	Budget
	17- Actual	2017
Pledge Contributions	\$336,963	\$668,399
Plate Contributions	\$15,689	\$35,000
Special Contributions	\$5,144	\$9,700
Endowment	\$10,309	\$10,309
Rentals	\$16,010	\$26,876
Interest-checking/mma/cd	\$446	\$607
Gain/loss on stock	(\$504)	-\$100
Total Income	\$384,057	\$750,791
Property Expenses	\$73,931	\$141,330
Ministry Expenses	\$133,146	\$292,901
Administrative Expenses	\$61,972	\$123,335
Apportionments	\$50,976	\$93,923
Employee Benefits	\$55,244	\$121,366
Total Expenses	\$375,269	\$772,855
Net	\$8,787	-\$22,064

ASBURY NEWS

WELCOME

Help to Welcome Our New Staff Members!

Kristen Wall-Love, Director of Adult Spiritual Formation and Membership

SPRC has announced that we have hired Kristen Wall-Love to fill this position. Kristen has come to us from Pennsylvania with her husband Bob and two children – Jackson (12) and Gabby (6). She is a Pastor who feels the calling to pursue something more specialized – spiritual formation. So while she is coming in as a pastor, that is not the capacity in which she will be serving. Kristen will have the primary responsibility for developing, educating and implementation of small group ministries at Asbury so that Christian disciples are nurtured. She will also be responsible for following up with all visitors including membership classes, etc. She officially became part of our church family July 3rd.

Craig Brown, Custodial/Maintenance Worker

SPRC is excited to announce that the position of Custodial/Maintenance Worker for Asbury has been filled by Craig Brown. Craig is married to Frances and they have two children – Katie and Kyle. Craig has more than 17 years' experience in maintenance and repair work in both residential and commercial markets. He is new to the area coming from Hampton, Virginia and living in Laurel, Delaware.

Welcome Kristen and Craig!

Kim Bradshaw, SPRC Chairperson

LIGHT—Our New Version of the Rainbows Program

Children and teens grieve too, and they do not distinguish between the grief from the loss of a loved one due to death, divorce or separation, deployment, incarceration, etc. It's important for them to know that they are not alone in their feelings. We are excited to announce an update to our support program for grieving children and youth in our community. Still based in part on the well-known Rainbows program, we will launch in October as LIGHT (Living in Grief, Healing Together). The first 6-week session will begin on October 3. LIGHT is for children ages 5 (kindergarten) through 18 (12th grade). Brochures are available in both welcome centers. Contact Heather at 410-749-2131 or by email: heather@asburyweb.org for more information.



VBS-HERO Central!

Another Awesome Success!

We would like to extend our thanks to all of the volunteers who made Hero Central VBS a HUGE success! You are truly superheroes in the lives of the kids who attended. Do good, seek peace, and *GO AFTER IT!*

ASBURY NEWS cont'd

WORLD

Save the Date



World Communion Sunday: October 1, 2017

One Service at 10:30 a.m. followed by Fellowship Lunch and Annual Meeting.

More information will be provided as the date gets closer.

COMMUNION

Financial Peace University Course

Wanting to plan for future life events like children, education expenses, weddings, home ownership, retirement and also protect you and your family from those unexpected emergencies? Searching for some direction to get your finances in order so that your worry decreases? Seeking prevention strategies to avoid burdensome debt and financial conflicts? You do not have to be a member of Asbury to participate in this class. The number of participants is limited to 20, so register as quickly as you can. Register online and receive your materials directly from FPU. *Married couples plus those that are engaged only need to purchase one membership.* Join like-minded persons beginning September 18 at Asbury to take Dave Ramsay's Financial Peace University class. The class has nine two-hour sessions beginning at 6:30 p.m. Child care is available during that time for children 7 and under (please call church office to reserve a spot for your child and older children must bring something to keep them busy). Sign up today at: <https://www.fpucentral.com/1044928>



Puppets Looking for a Few Good Arms!

Have you longed for the thrill of the stage and excitement of performing? 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 28, at 7 p.m. in the Puppet room (Rm. 223). Our first puppet practice will begin on Monday, September 11 from 6:15-7:30 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 Amy at 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 4. Hope to see you there!

Pine Bluff Monthly Speakers Needed

Pine Bluff Village Assisted Living has many residents who are unable to easily attend regular church services offsite. Asbury provides a speaker to lead a monthly church service the first Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. If you are interested in speaking and leading a service, please call Karen in the office or email at karen@asburyweb.org. Most speakers do two Sundays, but with more volunteers, most speakers will only have to do one Sunday in a year.

The Opportunity Shop

158 W. Market Street Salisbury, MD 21801 410-749-9777

Store Hours: Thursday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Donations can be dropped off Monday and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon

SERVING OTHERS

Asbury Service Project Update

Your Asbury Service Project team, having completed another wonderfully successful year in which 41 youth and adults traveled to Logan County, WV to repair homes for impoverished families, is preparing for yet another awesome year. None of this is possible without the prayerful support of you, our beloved church family. Your prayers sustained us throughout the week, and your generous financial support resulted in donations exceeding \$10,000 for much needed work that ASP could not cover. These donations:

- Funded a room addition for Joe and his family that will allow their children to remain in their home.
- Provided necessary funding to complete the repair of Judy's roof, after our work crew had discovered more extensive damage than what ASP had anticipated.
- Covered termite extermination for Priscilla, allowing ASP to continue the work it had started in her home.
- Covered costs that exceeded ASP's budget for April and her family's room additions.
- And much more!

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.

Of course, this ministry of hope is active locally as well. Each year, in partnership with Chesapeake Housing Mission, we build four wheelchair ramps for needy families in our community. We also provide dinners once a month, October through May, for the guests at the Christian Shelter on Barclay Street in Salisbury. These dinners cost about \$100 each, and we are in need of financial support to continue. Anyone interested in making a donation to help offset that cost can do so through Asbury, by marking the donation for ASP Christian Shelter Dinners.

Our first organizational meeting for the coming year will be held on September 17 at 1 pm. All families of high school aged youth are invited to attend, even if you are not sure whether you want to participate. Come check it out, and bring friends! In the meantime, if you have any questions do not hesitate to call me at 410-896-2776.

In His Service,
Carlton Bradshaw

ASP
Appalachia
SERVICE PROJECT[®]

GOD WORKING THROUGH US

The days of summer may be hazy, but at Asbury, they're definitely not lazy. Despite pastoral, staff and congregation vacations, there's a lot of activity going on at 1401 Camden Avenue between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Here are just some of the projects that committees, staff and volunteers are working on throughout the summer:

- The position of Director of Adult Spiritual Formation and Membership has been filled and Kristen has already moved into her new office.
- The Custodial/Maintenance Worker position has been offered and accepted by Craig Brown.
- The Parking Lot Repaving and Steeple Committees under the guidance of the Trustees have all but completed their cost estimates to turn over to the Capital Campaign Committee.
- Director of Children and Care Ministries, Heather Harman, had 120 children who attended Vacation Bible School.
- Our Pastors Benita Harris and Bill Sterling, and our Director of Music Michael Stefanek, have been working on the fall and spring worship programs.

Apart from doing the work of the church, each committee, staff and volunteer have at least one thing in common: They go about their commitments with prayers for discernment, wisdom, and most of all, that God is working through them to further His Kingdom here on earth.

John 14:12 (English Standard Version)

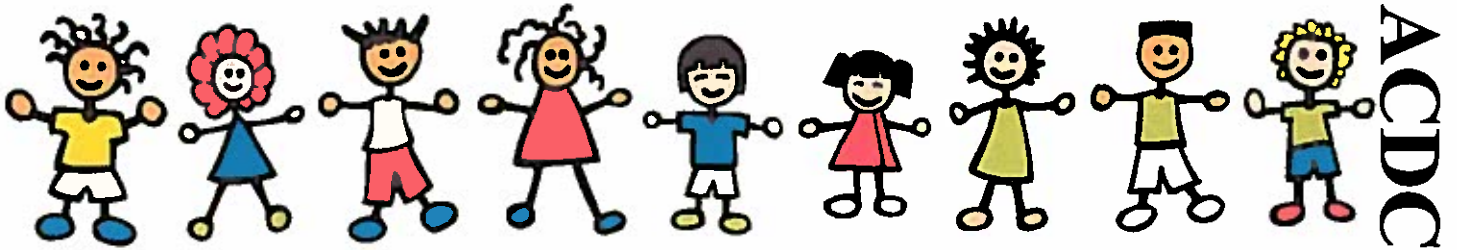
Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

Calvin Peacock, Leadership Chair

Volunteers Needed For Church Office

The church office is in need of occasional volunteer coverage: answering phones, directing visitors, unlocking security door. We also need volunteers for preparing special mailings like the Asburian and the Generosity Campaign. It is often just for a couple hours with a fun group of other volunteers and you will be given easy instructions to follow, usually stuffing & labeling letters and sealing them. If you think this would be something you would like to help with, please contact Karen in the office: Stop by and say "Hi", call 410-749-2131 or email at karen@asburyweb.org. Thank you!





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 T/TH 2's program, M-F PM 4's. We would love to show you our fabulous school, just call 410-742-7058 or come in for a tour today!

Casey Taylor, Director ACDC

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

- 5/27/17
Frances Moultrie
- 6/8/2017
Jim Stone
- 6/28/17
Mary Holt
- 7/23/17
Vernon Wilkins, Sr.

Frances Moultrie

- Tom & Lisa Shelton
- Charles & Jenny Hastings
- Mr. & Mrs. Wade Insley, III
- John & Mildred Payne
- June Athey
- Mr. & Mrs. George R. Zaiser, II
- Charlotte Causey
- John & Gail Singleton

BAPTISMS

- 6/04/2017
Evan Thomas Cawthern

Sue Olds

- Gordon & Nancy Kissner

John & Marilyn Strait

- Al & Linda Prestileo

NEW MEMBERS

- 6/04/2017
Thomas & Misty Cawthern
David & Susan Taylor

Del Thomas

- Vic & Jean Laws, III
- Roberta Parsons
- Bill & Carol Brence
- Bob & Barbara Kambarn
- Gordon & Nancy Kissner

MEMORIALS

- Jim Morton**
Danna Abbott



*****September Meeting Schedule*****

SPRC	Wednesday September 6	7 p.m.
Board of Trustees	Tuesday September 12	Noon
Leadership Team	Wednesday September 13	7 p.m.
Finance	Thursday September 14	5:30 p.m.
Nominations	Wednesday September 20	7 p.m.
Altar Guild	Tuesday September 26	10 a.m.

(meetings are subject to change, please check with church office for verification of date and time).

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Pastor: Rev. Benita Harris
 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
 Director of Adult Spiritual Formation and
 Membership:
 Kristen Wall-Love
 Director of Youth & Family Ministries:
 TBA
 Custodial/Maintenance Worker:
 Craig Brown
 ACDC: Director: Casey Taylor
 ACDC Asst. Director: Danna Abbott

**Fall Services Begin
 Sunday September 10**



Asbury United Methodist Church
 1401 Camden Avenue
 Salisbury, Maryland 21801
 Phone: 410-749-2131
 Fax: 410-749-2914
 Email: asbury@asburyweb.org
 Website: www.asburyweb.org



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