Generosity
Sunday:
October 9



Please remember your PLEDGE CARDS! October 9 1st Annual Asbury Drive-In and Family Fun Night! October 14







the ASBURIAN

Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church VOLUME 59, ISSUE 8 October 2016

Sermon Series



Our God is Boundless!

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Editor: Karen Corwin

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36

Free People

When I was younger and struggling with my identity, I was blessed to have people in my life who pointed out the good they'll certainly start to believe it. This is things in me that I didn't see. All I could see was that I was small, not the best in sports, was nerdy, and wasn't the most attractive guy in school. That is how I pictured myself in my mind. We tend to see the negative in ourselves, the failures, the ugly parts, and it can be really hard for us to see ourselves as the individuals that God created us to be. Even Scripture seems to struggle with this. In one place it beloved. Free them to experience hope says we're God's masterpieces, and in another place it says no one is good. In yet beholden to their past. When we look at another place it says we're created a little less than God, but it also says none of us are worthy. The truth is that we are both: we are both God's beloved masterpieces and we are also broken people in need of God's healing. Thankfully, I had people in my life to help me see my God-given gifts and abilities. I was able to live into my calling and I was freed from my doubts.

We too, are called to see the gifts of others, peoples' God-given potential, and to speak hope into their lives. We tend to struggle with this as we judge people for their past mistakes. We imprison them with our expectations. We categorize groups of people and label them with negative attributes. We tend to create selffulfilling prophecies, as they then have to live with how they're treated. If you tell someone they're worthless long enough why Jesus said things like, "The poor will inherit the Kingdom of God". He knew that his words mattered and could heal.

So instead of imprisoning someone because of who they are today, free them. Free them so that they know they are beautiful, gifted, have a purpose, are forgiven, and have not been forgotten. Free them to see themselves as God's instead of believing that they are forever another human being, we should hope to be able to see them with loving kindness. We should want what's best for them. We should be people who strive to enable them with the knowledge of God's love. I don't know who I'd be today without parents, teachers, youth pastors, and so many others who freed me with their words and their love. Who is someone in your life who you can free today?

Eric Warner, Associate Pastor

Dear Church family,

We had a wonderful beginning to our music ministry program this year. Rally Day was a huge success and I'm grateful for all that made that possible. Our first full week of rehearsals on Tuesday and Thursday evenings went very well. We have an amazing number of children and youth in our program this year. The chancel choir is experiencing growth as well, with the addition of two new members, Bill Blockston and Stephanie Fernsler. We are also pleased to have returning members Jim Andrews, Leslie Zimmerman, and Diane Blizzard. There's plenty of room for additional singers, so if you're interested in joining the choir please feel free to contact me via email: michael@asburyweb.org or 410-749-2131.

The American Spiritual Ensemble gave a spectacular performance on Saturday, September 17. I'm so grateful for their interest in returning to Asbury during their tour and sharing their God-given talent with us. This was my first time hearing them and I was amazed. I hope that they will be able to return in the future. A big thanks to all that made the event possible.

I would like to invite you to an organ recital that I will be playing: Please mark your calendars and spread word around town! The recital will take place on Friday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church. The program will feature works by J.S. Bach, Louis Vierne, Barbara Dennerlein, John Williams, and more. Admission is free and all are welcome! I hope to see you there!

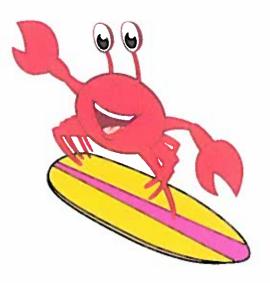
Michael Stefanek



Asbury's Little Mozarts!

There are still openings in all of our Little Mozarts classes! Contact Heather at 410-749-2131 or by email: heather@asburyweb.org for more information or to sign-up.

Thank you for yet another great VBS! Over 100 kids joined Snappy and his friends at the Surf Shack this summer!



EXPLORIN

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 the Catley Library at 10 a.m. for The Wired Word? Each week you will receive a lesson via email concerning current national or international ever 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 aren't falling Why don't you consider joining us in receive a lesson via email concerning a current national or international event or topic. The lessons contain thought behind. If you are interested in joining us, just send John and Shelly Marshall an email at mrsimarshall@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.

October 2

Nancy Rubenson: Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Times

October 9

Barbara Emery: John Ortberg: Soul Keeping

October 16

Nancy Rubenson/Casey Taylor: Challenges and Opportunities of Directing a Church-based Pre-K Center

October 23

Michael Stefanek: An Introduction to the King of Instruments

October 30

Robert Williams: Project O.U.T.

Bible 101 Study Class 10 a.m.

Having completed our Lenten Study, we are continuing our study of The Gospel of Luke, and we are learning about the life, teaching, deeds, suffering and death of Jesus the Christ. This is not a lecture type class, and we have very challenging discussions. All who are interested in reading and discussing The Scriptures are invited to join us in the Fox Room on Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Circle Meetings

Dorcas: at the home of Lou Elin Sheller on Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m.

eCircle: Dinner meeting and Social at Holloway Reception Hall at SU on Wednesday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m. Robin Holloway will be the hostess. \$6 pizza and salad. RSVP to Brenda Potts at markpotts210@comcast.net or call 410-603-7420.

Eve: at the home of Kristin West on Wednesday, October 19 at 7:15 p.m.

Joanna: at the home of Carol Bisker on Monday, October 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Hebrews 10:24-25: And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

Unplug: Why we should Sometimes Leave our Devices in the Other Room

A UCLA study shows that young people who are constantly "plugged in" struggle more than is considered healthy to recognize social cues. In the study, young people "unplugged" for five days and they showed measurable improvements in understanding other people's emotions and nonverbal cues. Constantly being connected to devices has shown in other studies to exhibit a lack of empathy and a decrease in the number of close friends. Jonathan McKee says that it's not that smart phones or devices are bad, but rather we just need to be smarter than our smart phone. These devices are amazing in many ways when it comes to connecting us to the broader world, for education, and for many other utilities. However, they do become a hindrance in our connection with people.

One suggestion is having regular media/device fasts. Just as food fasting is a spiritual discipline that brings us closer to God, media/device fasts can have a similar effect. Create device-free zones and times during the day when your family comes together at the table to eat, or when card games are being played. Certain events such as family get-togethers or reunions can be device-free events.

Studies show that even if a phone is sitting on the table during a conversation, the device has a distracting effect on the individuals who are present. It is the temptation of the phone being in sight that causes our minds to wander. It would be a good practice to teach and model keeping devices out of site as much as possible, especially when social interaction may be occurring.

Utilize the Do-Not-Disturb functions on a phone so only family members can reach you when it's activated. This is great during times when you still want to be able to reach loved ones in the event of an emergency but want to be "unplugged" from other distractions.

These are just a few of the many ways that might help your family to have healthy practices when it comes to our devices. It is important to remember that our faith as Christians is a community and social faith. It isn't a faith that is lived out in a vacuum. If we want to be the best we can be at loving people just as Christ loves us, we need to promote healthy interaction with others. We need to be able to put our interest in others first, and we cannot do that if we are more concerned about that message that has come through on our phone than the conversation we are currently having. So unplug for a moment and allow your time with others to be more meaningful.

Eric Warner, Associate Pastor

Whole Health Is Back! Thursday, October 13 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The Whole Health Ministry is a gathering devoted to paying good health forward and sharing in the fellowship of others in pursuit of good food and balanced health. We focus on eating real food, as in whole, minimally processed foods, and nourishing our bodies for a long, healthy life. It is difficult to be present in the lives of others without first being present in your own. Make your health a priority and join us in this friendly and fun gathering. There will be food and fellowship. We will discuss additional meeting topics and dates at this meeting. Connect with us on Facebook through the Whole Health at Asbury UMC page, or by contacting Lynn Matava at 443-783-2395 or lynn@countrytart.com

Once again we are enjoying the boundless beauty of God's creation all around us as the transition is made from summer to fall, and then from fall to winter. We live in such a beautiful part of the country as leaves fill the trees with brilliant colors. You can also notice the scurrying of the squirrels as they frantically search for chestnuts that have fallen to the ground. It's amazing that God has built such a sense of preparation into the animals that even they recognize the value of being ready for upcoming needs. God knows our needs, yet it is still important for us to do our part in making sure we are obedient and prepare for the future. Yet, in all that preparation God has made it clear that we are to put Him first in all we do, especially in our giving. As we do that, He has promised that He would take care of our needs! Matthew 6:33 shares this truth so powerfully; "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Below is a summarized timeline the Finance

Committee is using to create the 2017 budget:

August 18 – Budget requests from Ministry Teams due August 28-29 - 1st Generosity pick up/mailing with **Boundless Devotional**

August 31 - Boundless Devotional reading begins-40 days of Asburian devotions

September 4/6 – 2^{nd} Generosity pickup/mailing for 2nd annual Potluck Luncheon/annual meeting

September 15 – Finance meeting with first draft of expense side of 2017 budget

October 2- World Communion Sunday -one service @ 10:30 a.m. followed by our Potluck Luncheon and annual celebration of our ministries - at the luncheon you will be able to pick up your envelope which will contain your 2017 pledge card-those not able to attend will receive pledge card in mail.

October 9 - Generosity Sunday - opportunity to bring your pledge card to the altar to make your commitment of support to your church in 2017

October 13 – Finance Meeting

November 10- Finance meeting-will create 2017 budget **based on pledges received** –at this meeting if income (pledges) do not support proposed expenses, will have to look for cuts in operating/ministry expenses. If

	Jan - August	Budget
Income & Expenses	16-Actual	2016
Pledge Contributions	\$409,460	\$669,247
Plate Contributions	\$20,205	\$40,520
Special Contributions	\$2,499	\$10,000
Endowment	\$10,884	\$10,884
Rentals	\$17,584	\$25,576
Interest-checking/mma/ cd	\$165	\$5,108
Gain/loss on stock	\$0	-\$100
Total Income	\$460,797	\$761,235
Property Expenses	\$92,487	\$152,072
Ministry Expenses	\$164,774	\$276,028
Administrative Expenses	\$76,657	\$115,225
Apportionments	\$62,754	\$91,595
Employee Benefits	\$75,881	\$126,315
Total Expenses	\$472,552	\$761,235
Net	-\$11,755	\$0

income exceeds requested expenses we can add to our ministry budget-would really love to have this problem!!!

December 1 – Finance Meeting-vote on final 2017 proposed budget to be presented to Leadership at their December 8 meeting.

As you can see, there are months of work involved in creating the budget for Asbury. There are many hours spent in prayer and discernment to do God's work here. Thank you so much for continuing to remain faithful in the areas of giving and tithing. God has made it so simple, yet in a sense, so challenging! We are not a church that survives on fund-raisers to meet our needs, but we continue to thank God for generous supporters like you who simply give because it's the right thing to do, and reflects the nature of God who gave His son Jesus Christ, and Jesus who gave His life for us!

We are blessed to BE a blessing! We are all called to be givers! Janice Wilkinson, Director of Finance & Building

Boundless Giving!

Give and you feel full. Sacrifice and you feel even more satisfied.

Have you ever met an unhappy, generous person? Not likely. Have you ever regretted giving to ASP, Angel Tree, Community Emergency Shelter Project, Vacation Bible School, Peru Mission trips, the Operating Budget or a Capital Campaign? Again, not likely.

Mark 12:41-44 tells the story of the widow's offering—two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents, everything she had. Jesus points out the widow who gave sacrificially. There were many others who gave generously from their riches. But Jesus told his disciples about the widow. THIS was sacrificial giving. What does it feel like to give sacrificially? I'll bet it feels good. It shouts that there is more to life than having and attaining.

When you give, you are not just giving money to cover the expenses of Asbury. You help support the many missions and ministries that have eternal impact. Every penny given to this church is an investment. Your possessions will be lost in the end. But what the church does, changes lives.

The Finance Committee identified goals for 2016. Two of these goals were a 10% increase in the *NUMBER* of those pledging. To attain that goal, we would need 15 more new pledges. Could you be one of those? (I think we could attain more). Another goal was that 25% of those who pledged did so with Electronic Funds transfer, thus allowing consistent giving.

Think of what Asbury does through its ministries. Check out the past year on Facebook-look at the many pictures. Come to the luncheon after World Communion service, watch the year in review slide show, and hear what is in store for 2017. READ THE GENEROSITY DEVOTIONAL. Consider the widow and sacrificial giving. And join us on October 9th, to dedicate your gift to Asbury at the altar during the worship service.

Let's create a powerful force in 2017!

2017 Women's Retreat at Camp Pecometh

The next Women's Retreat will be held March 3-5, 2017 at Camp Pecometh in Centreville, MD. We are expecting this year's to be even better than last year's! "By the Sea" will be the theme and is "shore" to bring lots of comradery, faith-building and fun for all involved! Watch next month's Asburian for more details!



UMW & eCircle Ornament Fundraiser

UMW & eCircle will be selling ornaments for \$10.00 each. They are a depiction of one of our beautiful stained glass windows. They will be available for sale following worship services on Sundays: October 2, 9, November 20 and December 4 in the Welcome Center. Please consider purchasing one (or several) to support UMW. Proceeds benefit UMW's mission projects. For more information contact Brenda Potts at 410-603-7420 or email her at: markpotts210@comcast.net.

ASBURY NEWS

God's Kitchen

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, October 22nd from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Anyone who is interested in helping with this ministry should call Jill Abbott at 410-896-2141. Remember that in the book of Mark, 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.

Calling All Families to Pay it Forward to Help the Homeless

In October we are asking families to help those less fortunate by putting together a "Happy Hygiene" or "Cozy Cot" bag to make our CESP visitors more comfortable and feel



welcome. We suggest taking your children shopping with you or let them help collect gently used items from your homes to create these bags. If you would rather donate money for this project, please put your check in the offering plate or drop-off at the church office. The bags will include the following: "Happy Hygiene"= hand towel, washcloth, regular-size soap, regular-size deodorant (toothpaste/brushes to be added and all fit nicely in a jumbo Ziploc bag); "Cozy Cot"=2 FLAT twin sheets (NO fitted), blanket, pillow, pillowcase (tie all together with string). They will be collected first week of January, but we would appreciate you bringing them to the church office before then, if possible. Questions?

Please call Sharon Dashiell at 410-742-0076. On behalf of eCircle, we thank you in advance for paying it forward to help others in need!

CESP (Community Emergency Shelter Project)

The summer of 2016 was a very hot summer, with temperatures hovering in the 90's most of the season. The best way to get through the heat was to wear light colored clothing, drink plenty of cold water, stay in an air conditioned room or simply find a shaded area. Unfortunately, a few months from now we will be dealing with winter's bitterly cold temps and nasty weather. Winter is a different animal as it is much harder for those who don't have a place to call home to stay warm and dry. This is where I and others of the Asbury Family who are blessed to have a roof over our heads and food and warm clothing can help make a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate. I had the pleasure of participating in the CESP program last year, and it was a very rewarding feeling knowing that I was helping to make a difference in someone's life. CESP provides these men with a Safe Haven where they receive meals and a warm place to sleep. Work of this kind is something I always wanted to do, and I am thankful that Asbury has given me the opportunity to be involved in the CESP program. If you would like to help us with CESP, we would greatly appreciate your participation. If interested, please feel free to contact me at 301-357-7326 or by email: MikeCo327@netzero.com Thank You!

Michael Campbell

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 - October 2016

Our first organizational meeting for ASP 2016/2017 resulted in a large number of interested youth and adults; praise the Lord for stirring the hearts of so many to service!

We will start the year's activities off with a bang in October by preparing and serving food at Christian Shelter on the 2nd, Family Fun Night on the 14th, participating in the CAYR service on the 16th and building a wheelchair ramp for a needy family in our community on the 22nd. Pancake breakfast dates for your calendar are:

November 13 December 11 January 15 February 12 March 12

Last year, the taco and baked potato dinners proved to be a big hit, so we have scheduled one for April 14.

Work Skills / Safety Training sessions are scheduled for:

October 22 March 18 April 22 May 20

There will be a special adult meeting after the pancake breakfast on Sunday, December 11. This meeting is for all adults who plan to go on the trip in June. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me at 410-896-2776, or visit our web site www.asburyweb.org (ASP).

Carlton Bradshaw

It's Spaghetti Time Again!

Please come out to support Puppets for Christ's annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Friday, November 4. This year's show will be entitled "Glow in the Dark!" Entertainment will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner following. Ticket sales will be on Sunday, October 16, 23, and 30 at each service, which gives you 3 Sundays to buy your tickets! Ticket prices are \$8/adult, \$5/children (4-12) and children 3 and under are FREE. The ticket sale deadline will be



October 30. Tickets will not be sold after this date. No Exceptions! This year we are once again limiting the number of tickets to 200 and there will be no sales at the door! Also, reservations for parties of 6 or more can be made when you buy your tickets. There will be no assigned seating other than reserved tables of 6 or more. Won't you join us for a night filled with wonderful entertainment and delicious spaghetti? We hope to see you there!

LEADERSHIP

Faith in Action

"Faith in Action" has been a defining attribute of Asbury in one form or another for as long as Susan and I have attended Asbury. "Faith in Action" has not waivered at Asbury over the years and, if anything, has accelerated. That point was driven home at the most recent Leadership Team meeting.

Robert Williams continues to grow his Mentoring Program for incarcerated men and women to give them a chance to live healthy, productive and faith-fill lives both in and out of prison. Not wanting to rest on his laurels, Robert is working on establishing a program that will provide training for employment in water treatment/water treatment plants after release.

Earle Hatten came before the Leadership Team with two projects. The first is to set up a table at Third Friday in downtown Salisbury to showcase a different Asbury ministry each month. His second project is to help fund some of the ministries that will no longer receive funding due to the loss of revenue from Fall Festival. His project will accomplish this through the sale of hand-made pottery coffee mugs with "Asbury" and, you guessed it, "Faith in Action" embossed on the mug.

Dave Harris has partnered with other Asburians to present an exciting family friendly, fellowship fun filled celebration on the front brick patio of Asbury, complete with crisscrossing lighting for a spectacular evening. This is a time for the entire Asbury family to come out and fellowship with each other and their families.

ASBURY DRIVE-IN and FALL FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Date: October 14, 2016 Time: 4:30 to 8:00 PM

Activities: Classic Car Show, Food sponsored by ASP, Family games, Family

guided line dancing.

"But someone will say, You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

James 2:18

Calvin Peacock

TRUNK R TREAT and 1st Annual Chili Cook-off! October 30 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Plan to join us on Sunday, October 30 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for a fun evening in a safe, positive environment! Sign up to offer your vehicle as a place for kids of all ages to trick or treat in costume for goodies! *You do NOT have to decorate your car to pass out treats, but vehicles must be registered in advance!* The more cars we have, the more fun it is for the

kids! Puppets for Christ will delight us with a puppet show, and Asbury's Youth will serve hot dog dinners.

Do you have a prized Chili recipe you'd love to whip up and share? Watch for more details to come about how to sign up for the Chili Cook-off! Participating vehicles must be registered. Pick up a form at the Welcome Desk, or contact Heather at the church office: 410-749-2131 or heather@asburyweb.org.



It has truly been a busy start to our wonderful school year here at ACDC! Our students (and parents) are well adjusted to the routine of the school day and all that it entails. The children are learning, socializing, and engaging in so many wonderful curriculum-related crafts and projects.

On September 19 & 20 we "kicked off" a new and exciting fundraising event called "Race for Education." Students are asked to fill out a label sheet with the names and addresses of potential sponsors. Then we will be sending "sponsor mailers" to prospective donors throughout the United States. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to directly benefit our child's educational experience at our school. Our school's goal is to raise \$8,000.00.

During the month of October, we will participate in Fire Safety Week and have a visit from the Salisbury Fire Department to learn about fire safety and prevention. We will also have a Scholastic Book Fair on October 10 to 14. On October 26, we will be hosting a "Family Fun" night.

Currently, our kindergartners are working hard preparing for their fall play, where they are memorizing lines and using their best reading skills by reading a script!

Our teachers and staff members are working hard each and every day to provide the best education for our students. Their hard work and dedication is truly paying off! The improvements and steps to move forward are all heading in the right direction for ACDC. We are proud of all of our accomplishments thus far!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIALS

Howard Hayman Audrey Hayman

Sandra Helms

Joe & Pam Ollinger

Dr. O.H. Thompson, Jr.Barbara Kambarn
Bill & Marlene Rinnier

Kingdom City-Rally Day!

Rally Day was a success in Kingdom City! We welcomed 19 children in grades 2-3 and 14 children in grades 4-5. We will begin a unit on stewardship where the kids will learn that as children of God, we are called to practice good stewardship by giving generously of the God-given gifts of our talents, our time, and our money. Our volunteers have prepared lessons through storytelling, art, music, and cooking to help teach the children in a fun, yet informative way. We will finish up the unit with our very first Field Day on October 16th! We are off to a great start in Kingdom City and are looking forward to a great year!

Angela Roberts

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

Daylight Saving Time ends

November 6! Set your clocks back an hour!

the ASBURIAN

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