

Please Consider Volunteering or Donating to help CESP!

Sounds of the Season
 Don't forget to check the December Music Schedule! See page 3

Please remember your **COMMITMENT CARDS!**

For it is in **GIVING** that we **RECEIVE**
 ~st. francis of assisi



the ASBURIAN

Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
 VOLUME 59, ISSUE 10 December 2016

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OFFICERS OF OUR CHURCH

- Calvin Peacock, Leadership Team Chair
- Dave Harris, Leadership Team Vice-Chair
- Kim Bradshaw, Staff-Parish Relations Chair
- John Marshall, Board Of Trustees Chair
- Pam Ollinger, Finance Committee Chair
- Sharon Dashiell, ACDC Board Chair
- Mick Roberts, Lay Leader
- Sara Lewis, UMW President
- Shelly Marshall, Chairman, BOD, Opportunity Shop
- Carlton Bradshaw, Chairman, BOD, ASP

Editor: Karen Corwin

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Acts 1:11

"Galileans, why are you standing here, looking toward heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you saw him go into heaven."

The word *advent* comes from the Latin word for *coming*. This Christian holiday anticipates the coming of Christ from two distinct perspectives. Firstly, in the season of Advent, Christians anticipate and commemorate Christ's birth. Secondly, Christians celebrate the anticipation of Christ's second coming. The tradition of celebrating Advent goes back to the very beginning of the Christian Church in the first century and here we sit, more than 2000 years later participating in an important part of our Christian calendar. You and I, in our celebration of Advent, continue this tradition of anticipation together as we worship with Advent themed preaching and teaching, music, Scripture readings, and liturgy.

The Christian calendar has a very important purpose for Christians. It enables Christians to remember together and reenact the history of our faith as we celebrate seasons like Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Christ the King Sunday, and many more. The colors of the paraments on our lectern, pulpit, and altars change in order to represent these different Christian seasons. In Advent at Asbury we use the color blue, a color representing the hope we have in Jesus Christ. The use of the color blue during the season of Advent goes all the way back to medieval times in the 8th century.

In order to further enhance our Advent experience this year may we embrace music and

songs that hail from the Advent tradition. This music is distinct from Christmas music and has a very important place in our faith as we live out the Christian year. As much as we want to get to the Christmas music that is so meaningful to us, let us also embrace the music that anticipates Christ's restoration and healing of all the world when he comes again. May we read Scriptures, light the Advent candles, participate in historic liturgies, and hear the preaching of the Word through the lens of anticipation and hope. Just as the Hebrew people believed and hoped that a messiah would someday come to save the world, so too, do Christians believe that the messiah will come again. It is the hope of Christians that Jesus will come and restore all things to the way God intends them to be and all suffering will end. However, in the meantime Christians believe that they can be God's hands and feet in order to partner with God in the healing of the world. Christians have faith, believe, and anticipate that the best is yet to come through Jesus Christ.

Eric Warner, Associate Pastor

The organ recital that I presented on November 11 was a joy to perform, was well attended and even recorded live by Delmarva Public Radio. The program featured a variety of works from J. S. Bach to music from Star Wars and beyond. A nice reception was given after the performance, where I was able to greet church members and guests from Salisbury and the Eastern Shore. I'm grateful for the outstanding support that I received.

A special thanks to all that made this event successful!

Dr. Michael Stefanek

DECEMBER MUSIC AT ASBURY:

<p>♦ Saturday, December 3rd at 4 p.m.</p>	<p><i>On This Very Christmas Night</i> Children & Youth Christmas Program</p>
<p>♦ Sunday, December 11th at 7 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Lessons and Carols by Candlelight</i> Featuring Chancel Choir anthems, readings, congregational singing, and other special music</p>
<p>♦ Saturday, December 24th at 4 p.m. <p style="text-align: right;">7 p.m. <p style="text-align: right;">10:30 p.m.</p> <p>All services include <i>Las Posadas</i> liturgy</p> </p></p>	<p><i>Christmas Eve</i> Kingdom Kids Ringers and Singers Jubilate Bells, musicians from CAYR, Dylan Gregg, soloist Chancel Choir, Celebrations Singers, Revelation Ringers, One Voice</p>
<p>♦ Sunday, December 25th at 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><i>Christmas Day Service</i> One service in the Sanctuary Music by Dr. Michael Stefanek</p>

Trunk R Treat

More than 300 people from Asbury and the local community showed up for Trunk R Treat 2016. Trunks featured themes ranging from Halloween to Christmas (Elf on a Shelf!), with special appearances by the characters from Scooby Doo, and the Wizard of Oz, and even George and Martha Washington! The Star Wars trunk, presented by the Romanowski family, took the top prize for decorations this year, followed closely by the Sullivan's giant gumball machine. All the entries were fantastic! Thank you to Asbury's Youth, who prepared and served dinner, the Puppets for Christ, who put on an amazing show, and all of the volunteers who decorated cars and passed out candy for this fun event!



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.

December 4

Amy Jones: Reconciling Ministry Network Update

December 11

Aaron Pulhamus: *A Story of Appalachian Roots* by J. D. Vance

December 18

Gerry Wood: Reflections of Advent

December 25

OPEN CHAT: CHRISTMAS

January 1

OPEN CHAT: NEW YEAR'S DAY

Bible 101 Study Class 10 a.m.

During the Advent Season we are studying *Down to Earth* by Mike Slaughter. There are four sessions devoted to: love, humility, lifestyle, and obedience. We will examine how obedience can be redefined, as saying a big "yes" to God. In January, we will begin a new study of the Book of Genesis.

United Methodist Women (UMW)

Circle Meetings

UMW Christmas Tea: Sunday, December 4, from 3-5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Dorcas: meeting on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 pm at the home of Susan Cropper

eCircle: meets by newsletter

Eve: meeting on Wednesday, December 21, at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Tracy Locke

Joanna does not meet in December.

Matthew 18:4-5

Those who humble themselves like this little child will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

Warmth in the Home

In my youth article last month I talked about how young people are looking for warmth in a church family more than anything else. This same truth applies to Christian households. I thought that since we are in the midst of the holiday season, thinking about how we can promote warmth in our families might be a good thing. The holidays can be very meaningful, full of memories, and about the coming together of families and friends. However, it can also be a season of stress, materialism, and mad rushes in order to get everything accomplished in our overfilled schedules. Kara Powell has some practical advice in how Christian families can promote warmth every day in order to be witnesses to their Christian faith to their children.

First we are called to be people who are careful with the words that we use and how we use them. The book of Ephesians says, *“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear”*. We communicate in many ways. The tone of our voice can communicate frustration or genuine care. The body language we use with eye rolls, sighs, or anxious tapping, can communicate volumes of information to young people about our willingness to take our time to care for them.

Technology can be a blessing that provides many hours of entertainment for our family members, but we can't allow all of our gadgets and devices to take away from meaningful conversation, time together, and discipleship within the home. It is essential that we share in our faith within our homes as we read Scripture, pray, and talk about our faith together.

As I reflect on myself, I know that my most common response when people ask me how I am doing is that I am busy. I have a feeling that many of you may feel the same way. I think many of us find ourselves in perpetual states of stress, frustration, and anxiety as we fill our schedules with so much in order to make sure we're happy. Wait a minute, you mean we schedule our children's days and weekends filled to capacity, schedule ourselves so much that we have to program reminder after reminder into our phones, and we do it all supposing it will make for a happier family or future? We are asking for broken marriages, damaged relationships with our children, individualistic ideals to be our foundation, and materialism to trump our faith. Let us intentionally schedule time for relaxation and rest with one another. That is where true relationships are built, growth together occurs, and stress is relieved. Warmth comes from real time set aside for those for whom we care about most, not in the mad rush to get from point A to point B. Real meaning and purpose is derived from living out our faith together.

May we promote warmth within our families this holiday season? Make it your breath prayers throughout your day as you interact with coworkers, friends, family members, and especially your children as you whisper to yourself and to God the word *warmth*. May your family learn and grow to know what it means to have genuine and healthy relationships and a genuine faith as you live warmly together.

Eric Warner, Associate Pastor

FINANCE

Finance 2016/Generosity 2017

- Our pledge commitments for this year (2016) were \$597,370. As of October we had received \$487,756 – representing 82%.
- Each year we usually receive 93%-97% of commitments. You can help us to continue this by fulfilling your pledge for 2016. If you are having difficulties in life as we all have experienced at one time or another and will not be able to complete your pledge, please notify Janice Wilkinson, Director of Finance & Building so that she can adjust your pledge and confidentially inquire how Asbury can help you.
- Have you been blessed with additional income/an unexpected gift? Would you consider an additional gift to the church? Remember you cannot out give God!
- Looking towards 2017 – we have received 211 pledges representing \$561,865.
- If you have not completed a pledge commitment for next year –it is not too late- each pledge really does make a difference! Our goal is to receive 245 pledges-and we still need additional funding to present the current proposed budget to Leadership.

2 Corinthians 9:8 *“And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”*

	Jan - Oct	Budget
Income & Expenses	16-Actual	2016
Pledge Contributions	\$514,625	\$669,247
Plate Contributions	\$25,156	\$40,520
Special Contributions	\$2,499	\$10,000
Endowment	\$10,884	\$10,884
Rentals	\$24,269	\$25,576
Interest-checking/mma/cd	\$176	\$5,108
Gain/loss on stock	\$0	-\$100
Total Income	\$577,609	\$761,235
Property Expenses	\$108,958	\$152,072
Ministry Expenses	\$210,266	\$276,028
Administrative Expenses	\$96,632	\$115,225
Apportionments	\$77,154	\$91,595
Employee Benefits	\$93,103	\$126,315
Total Expenses	\$586,113	\$761,235
Net	-\$8,503	\$0

GENEROSITY
 It isn't about the size
 or the amount of the
 giving, but more about
 the sacrifice and the
 spirit of the giver.

Where There is Hatred...

This past Sunday, I worshipped at a Methodist church where Dr. Ianther M. Mills is the distinguished pastor and a moral voice in the United States capital. Articulating the fears and anxieties aroused by those who touted hate and bigotry, she gave expression for so many who are now living with questions - Who can I trust? How am I to be on guard for where and when acts of terror and racism emerge? Who really are my friends? Offering Christ's love and solidarity to God's people, Dr. Mills encouraged the congregation not to hide Christ's light under a bushel but let it shine.

Reports of incidents of violence and abuse were received directly and indirectly to Church and Society this past week. Violence towards young women at gas stations, acts of hate against churches, schoolchildren terrorized and bullied in school cafeterias and bathrooms, Muslim brothers and sisters terrified for their own safety, anxiety of deportation, and the well-being of young people working here on Capitol Hill. The rhetoric that produced and allowed fear, racism, sexism, regionalism and classism to fester must be addressed. The fears are real and the wounds are deep.

Repentance must come for the sins of hate sowed in our country and the world. There are many good and faithful public servants at all levels of government. The power bestowed is the power of the people, for the people, by the people. It is for the people of every race, religion, national origin, class, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation.

For United Methodists, we are called to not only hear the fears and see the wounds, but to take action against fear and hate. Acts of hatred and violence that are being perpetrated are unacceptable and must be rejected in any and every form.

"The United Methodist Church must be proactive in resisting hate and teaching how to live in our diverse social world without passively accepting the rise of hate and bigotry. When we do nothing about hate language or horrifying atrocities, we participate in the social support of hate." (Resolution 3421, "Grieving and Repenting from Acts of Hate and Violence.")

As Christians we must be true to the promises made at baptism. To follow in the way that leads to love and freedom. We support active engagement in promoting diversity, support those who speak up when experiencing acts of hate, encourage the reporting of crimes of hate to officials and justice-minded advocacy groups, and support witnessing to those individuals who commit acts of hate to show them compassion and the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

May our prayer be "where there is hatred let me sow love."

From the Desk of Susan Henry-Crowe, Dean of the Chapel and Religious Life, Emory University in Atlanta

Safety Pins

You may be seeing people who are wearing safety pins on their lapels. This is part of a movement, started first in London, to assure people that the wearer stands against the rising tide of hate, racism, sexism, and violence in our world. He or she is a safe person for people of diverse backgrounds to sit with, walk with, or talk with. I wore my pin today when I picked up my car from the repair shop and was approached by two people who knew and appreciated its significance. We hope some of you will be moved to join this support for a more tolerant society.

Virginia Mayer, Church and Society Ministry

ASBURY NEWS

Puppets for Christ Spaghetti Dinner: New Date!

Puppets for Christ Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser will be Friday, January 20 at 6 p.m. More details will follow!

Last Chance to Lend a Hand to the Homeless

Cozy Cot and Happy Hygiene bags are due no later than December 31. Those of you who have already donated money or the bags, thank you!



CESP (Community Emergency Shelter Project)

In the frigid weather of winter, Asbury has provided a safe, warm place for many men during their stay with CESP over the years. If you would like to help us with CESP this year, 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

Kingdom City: Operation Christmas Child

We've had a busy month in Kingdom City. We've been working hard on our mission project "Operation Christmas Child". We have been collecting items such as toys, coloring books, stuffed animals, washcloths, toothbrushes, and tooth paste to be sent in a special box to children in another country. We are anxiously waiting to find out where our boxes will be going! We have also begun our puppet unit "Christmas Around the World". The children will present what they have learned at our puppet deliverable on December 18. All are welcome to attend!



Registration Now Open for 2017 Women's Retreat

All Ladies: It's time to reserve your place now for the 2017 annual Women's Retreat March 3-5 at Camp Pecometh in Centreville, MD. The cost for the three-day event has been maintained at \$199, which includes two nights in a beautiful hotel-like setting and five delicious meals in addition to spiritual study, fellowship, and fun. New this year will be our spiritual leader, Patsy Riley, who will be exploring John Ortberg's book, "God Is Closer than You Think". Please return the registration form as early as possible, since space is limited.

Your deposit (\$99 double occupancy; \$150 single occupancy) must accompany the registration form in order to secure your reservation. Some scholarship money is available by calling the church office. Registration forms are available in the Welcome Centers.

The fun theme for the 2017 retreat is By the Sea, so we will be celebrating the beach and summer in spite of the cold weather that we normally encounter in March.



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

SERVING OTHERS

Opportunity Shop

It's hard to believe that my term as Chairperson for the Opportunity Shop is coming to an end but as of December 31 I will pass the torch. This is my last Asburian article and I would like to thank everyone that has helped the shop to have another successful year. This past year we gained some new volunteers but we also lost some valued workers. Currently our volunteers range in age from 10 to 97 and we are blessed to have each one of them. It takes about 95 volunteer hours each week to sort, price, display and sell the items that are donated to the shop. This does not include the hours that some volunteers work at home on scheduling, researching items to determine appropriate pricing or a myriad of other duties. We will have our annual board meeting in December to distribute funds to the community organizations and church ministries that we support.

Thank you to everyone that donated, volunteered, or helped us in any way. I pray that you and your families have a blessed Advent season.

Shelly Marshall, Opportunity Shop Chairperson.

Asbury Service Project (ASP)

The Advent season is a time of joy and celebration, a season of hope. For the poor, this hope is often overshadowed by their situation. Ministries like the Asbury Service Project help bring hope to the hopeless through service and acts of Agape love. We thank you, the congregation of Asbury for your continued support that makes this ministry possible.

Please continue to support this ministry with your prayers, presence and finances. Those who are planning to go on the trip in June each need to raise \$350 and participate in group community service and fundraising activities. Pancake breakfast dates for your calendar are:

December 11 January 15 February 12 March 12

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

Our remaining Work Skills/Safety Training sessions are scheduled for:

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

We are coming upon the season of promise in which we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Like many Christians across the USA this November, I struggled with applying my faith and Christian values to the ballot in making a choice that would celebrate those values. Instead, I found a dearth of those values on the ballot. I worried about my country and family's future. A moment on Facebook took me where I should have been the whole time. An old high school friend posted a message from his pastor, Reverend Rebecca Mincieli, John Wesley UMC, Falmouth, MA., "As we awake to a new time for our country, and a new president, I know some of you will be pleased with the outcome of yesterday's election, and many others will be shocked and dismayed. And so I would like to share some thoughts with you. God can use whoever God wants for His purposes. Just some examples: Moses was a murderer – he killed an Egyptian and had to flee the country, but God used him to lead the Israelites to freedom. King David was an adulterer and murderer – had an affair with Bathsheba, then had her husband killed, but he was one of Israel's greatest kings, and God called him "a man after my own heart". Rahab was a prostitute – but God used her to save Israelite spies from capture, and she is an ancestor of Jesus. Paul persecuted the church and had Christians killed – but God used him to spread the Gospel among the Gentiles. So let us not assume that God's hands are tied by any one leader, or that God's will cannot be accomplished because of who does or doesn't hold office.

God is ultimately sovereign over all things, including over any political leader or institution. And remember, our final citizenship is in heaven. That is why when we look at Jesus Christ, we see that despite rampant political and social evils (the Roman occupation wasn't exactly a liberal Utopia), he remained manifestly apolitical. This principle stands out in Christ's words as he was standing as a prisoner before Pilate: 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But my kingdom is from another place.'

At the core level, humanity's problems are spiritual, not political. So many of today's problems are because people feel unloved, unaccepted, frightened, ashamed, lost, and lonely. These are problems that the government cannot solve. Only the church, and trust and faith in God can change people from the inside – from their heart. Again, looking at Jesus – he sought to change people, who in turn would change the institutions, not vice versa.

That is why regardless of the outcome of the election, our hope rests in God and God's power and God's Holy Spirit to be at work in ways we cannot now imagine. Two thousand years ago, the disciples and friends of Jesus felt they had lost all hope when he was taken down from the cross. But three days later, everything changed, and the world has not been the same since.

Let me share with you the words from my prayer on Sunday: Lord, may we remember that our ultimate authority is you, and that with you there is no red or blue, there is only the will for justice and goodness and kindness. May those who are elected hold their positions in the trust and respect in which it was given? May we together as a country accept what is decided, and be willing to move forward in unity and peace? Grant us wisdom, grant us hope, grant us the vision, and desire for a country that works for the common good of all your children. Amen."

As the season of "promise" is upon us, help us to realize the "promise" that God gave to us through the birth of his Son and work to lead others to Christ. God will handle the rest.

Calvin Peacock

Ephesians 3:6 (New International Version)

⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.



All of our children have been so busy creating, learning, and exploring over this past month. They have created so many fabulous projects and displays. They have continued to learn and grow each and every day! We are so very proud of our students here at ACDC!

Our school has also been very busy with so many events. Our Race for Education fundraiser was quite a success!! We hit our secret goal of \$13,000. A big thank you to everyone that donated. Our children thoroughly enjoyed their Thanksgiving feasts and are preparing for the upcoming holidays. As always, we are busy, busy, busy! Please join us on December 13 at Barnes & Noble Gift Wrapping fundraiser. Do some Christmas shopping and then have your gifts wrapped by one of your ACDC parents/staff for a donation.

We are currently collecting items for Salisbury Urban Ministries. We are collecting non-perishable foods and new, unwrapped toys for the less fortunate. Our food and toy drive runs until December 9th. Our families are so, very generous during the holiday season. We are thankful and grateful to have such wonderful and supportive families.

Our school hopes that you all have a wonderful holiday season and enjoy time with your families and friends. Merry Christmas and Happy 2016!
Casey Taylor

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMORIALS

Ann Brown

Vernon Wilkins
Avery W. Hall Insurance Agency, Inc.
Ryan & Angela McLaughlin
Louise Smith
Jeffrey & Sarah Neall
Paul Ward & Rebecca Hopkins
June Dashiell

David Hughes

Bill & Marlene Rinnier

Marilyn Strait

John Strait and Family

DEATHS

Thomas Roe, Sr.,
9/28/2016
David Howard Hughes,
10/6/2016
Rev. Dr. Lawrence Stookey,
10/16/2016
Ann Fisher Brown,
10/20/2016

NEW MEMBERS

Brian Gicking,
11/20/2016
Jessie & Benjamin O'Shield,
11/20/2016
Wendy Waller,
11/20/2016

BAPTISMS

all 11/20/2016
Bejamin O'Shield
Aidan James O'Shield
Jordan LaRue O'Shield
Charlotte Elizan O'Shield
Asher Lloyd Alton O'Shield



Merry Christmas from the
Asbury Staff!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Maintenance: Warren Carter and Complete
Cleaning, Inc.

ACDC: Director: Casey Taylor

Asst. Director: Danna Abbott



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