

**Confirmation
Sunday,
May 14
at 11 a.m.
Service**



**Children & Youth
Concert and
Dinner
Tuesday 5/16
See page 3**

VBS



**July 9-13
See page 3**



**Church Office will
be Closed Fridays
Starting June 2**



the ASBURIAN

Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
VOLUME 60, ISSUE 4 May 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WORSHIP

Pastor's Column	2
Music	3

EXPLORE

Sunday Schools	4
----------------	---

CARE

Asbury News	8
-------------	---

SERVE

UMW	4
Asbury Service Project (ASP)	9
Opportunity Shop	9

FINANCE	6
---------	---

RECONCILING COMMUNITY	7
-----------------------	---

LEADERSHIP	10
------------	----

ACDC	11
------	----

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS	11
----------------------	----



H E I S
R I S E N

C E L E B R A T E T H E S A V I O R



OFFICERS OF OUR CHURCH

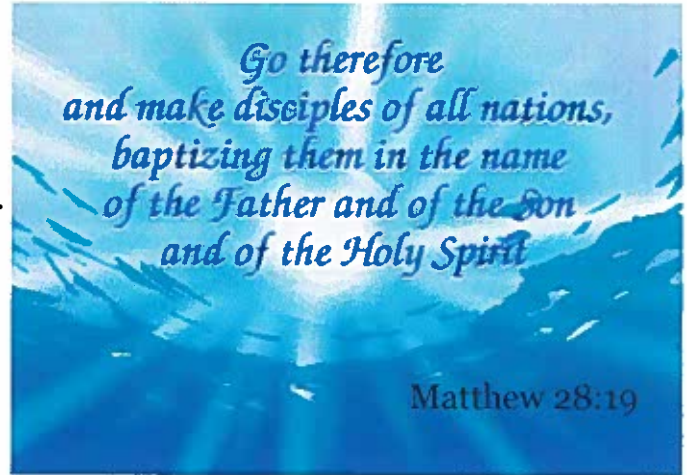
Calvin Peacock, Leadership Team Chair
Dale Cropper, Leadership Team Vice-Chair
Kim Bradshaw, Staff-Parish Relations Chair
Carol Walston, Board Of Trustees Chair
Sara Lewis, Finance Committee Chair
Sharon Dashiell, ACDC Board Chair
Mick Roberts, Lay Leader
Sara Lewis, UMW President
Suzanne Press, Co-Chairman,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

Editor: Karen Corwin

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

It Makes All the Difference

Benita challenged us in her Easter sermon to consider what difference the resurrection makes for our lives. I think a part of our duty to God is to oftentimes consider such a question, because in the Bible we have a clear example from the early church of how the resurrection changed the lives of Jesus followers. The disciples went from thinking all hope was lost, hiding behind locked doors and fearing for their lives, to boldly proclaiming the Gospel to the people of the Roman Empire and beyond. Rag tag groups of believers became doers as they organized the church and began living out Jesus's commands despite the looming threat of persecution. Generally, people inspired by Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit rose to the occasion and Christianity spread like a wildfire that would eventually impact the emperor of Rome himself. Whether or not Emperor Constantine had a genuine conversion experience or converted for political purposes is hotly debated but no matter, Christianity did eventually become the state religion of Rome. That was the breadth of its influence and the legacy of a people who began to put their faith into action.



Gleaning from such a dramatic shift in the religious makeup of an empire and eventually the world, one can see that indeed, Christ's resurrection changed the face of the globe. In today's day and age as the church continues to lose its influence and secularizing forces diminish the impact of Christianity in the western world, we must take stock and look inwardly at ourselves. We must ask ourselves whether or not the resurrection still has meaning to our lives. If we believe it does then we must begin living as though we are God's people on a mission to live out the Gospel.

Rod Dreher writes in his book, *The Benedict Option*, a compelling quote about the state of Christianity today. He says, "The long journey from a medieval world wracked with suffering but pregnant with meaning has delivered us to a place of once unimaginable comfort but emptied of significance and connection. The West has lost the golden thread that binds us to God, Creation, and each other. Unless we find it again, there is no hope of halting our dissolution. Indeed, it is unlikely that the West will see this lifeline for a very long time. It is not looking for it and may no longer have the capability of seeing it. We have been loosed, but we do not know how to bind." Might we learn to bind ourselves to God and one another as we live according to the hope we find in Christ's resurrection and become a people who transform the world.

Rev. Eric Warner, Associate Pastor

Dear Church Family,

We have had so many wonderful things happen in our music ministry. During Lent we started Lenten organ recitals that took place on Wednesdays over the lunch hour. These short programs featured a different organist every week. This season's performers were Taylor Harvey, Veronica Tomanek, Susan Zimmer, and myself. The music shared was very meaningful and reflective in nature. All the recitals were well attended and brought new people to Asbury. Due to its success, we will have more Lenten recitals next year that will feature the organ and other instruments. On Saturday, April 8 Jubilate Bells, Chiming Belles & Beau, Revelation Ringers and Kingdom Kids Ringers gave a fine concert that was entertaining and informative. This multi-generational event was very inspiring for the players and gave them the unique opportunity to hear each other play. On April 9, the Palm Sunday Cantata, "Amazing Love" by Lloyd Larson & Joel Raney, was presented by our Chancel Choir accompanied by Orchestra. Pastors Benita Harris and Eric Warner gave dramatic narrations in between the songs. I'm so proud of everybody that worked very hard to make this day memorable, and for the support we received from the congregation. Easter Sunday was filled with festive music celebrating the Resurrection of Christ.

In May the children and youth will be leading worship through scripture reading and service music on Mother's Day. That same week, please plan to attend their end of the year Spring Music Program on Tuesday, May 16, at 5:30 p.m.

As I approach my one year anniversary at Asbury, words can't express how grateful I am to have been given the opportunity to be Director of Music Ministries here. I have learned so many great things this year, met tons of wonderful people, built relationships, and have been able to share my unique gifts with the congregation. I thank you so much for your support. I look forward to the future at Asbury leading our music ministry and growing together.

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

Children and Youth End-of-Year Concert and Dinner

All of Asbury's Children and Youth Choirs will gather on Tuesday, May 16, at 5:30 p.m. to present a concert to conclude the 2016-17 season. This concert will include Little Mozarts, Cherubs, Kingdom Kids Singers and Ringers, Celebration Singers and Revelation Ringers. Concert is free and open to the public.

Registration is now OPEN for Asbury's Little Mozarts for Fall 2017 for current Little Mozarts, Asbury and ACDC Families!

Little Mozarts is a Christian-based preschool music class based, in part, on the Musikgarten "God's Children Sing" curriculum. We are a part of Asbury UMC's music ministries, so **there is no charge!** Little Mozarts is for Children ages 3 & 4 (must be 3 by September 1). 30-minute classes are held at Asbury UMC on Tuesday nights at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m., September-May. To register or for questions, contact Heather Harman at 410-749-2131 or heather@asburyweb.org



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.

May 7

Don Taylor:

Book: "The Great Spiritual Migration" Part I

May 14

Don Taylor:

Book: "The Great Spiritual Migration" Part II

May 21

Frankie Shipper:

Curriculum Planning for Fall

May 28

Jerry Hillman: Reflections on Father's Day

Bible 101 Study Class 10 a.m.

We have resumed 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 May Meetings

Dorcias: Tuesday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mackey Room with Sylvia Bullion as hostess

eCircle: online monthly newsletter; also, there will be a dinner and social on Wednesday, May 17, at 6 p.m. at Agave Azul (Mexican/Southwestern cuisine), which is at 934 S. Salisbury Blvd., Salisbury. Please RSVP to Brenda Potts via email at markpotts210@comcast.net or 410-603-7420.

Eve: Wednesday, May 17, at 7:15 p.m., location TBD with Angela Roberts as hostess

Joanna: Monday, May 8, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Carol Bisker



Lounge Class Sponsor

The Lounge Class sponsors a child in Uganda, 10-year old Grace Birungi via Covenant Mercies. We correspond with her at least quarterly through the organization. To that end, for the letter we're sending this month, we had this photo taken.



Dumbing it Down Doesn't Work

Luke 10:26-28

Jesus replied, "What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?" He responded, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself". Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live."

The trends in the church and especially in youth ministry over the past several decades have been to attempt to make the church appealing by becoming like our culture. The argument is that if we make the church fun and exciting, and if we make scripture more applicable and simple, surely we can stave off the decline in the church by being more appealing and appetizing. However, this grand experiment in the church has failed. Younger generations see through the ruse and think, "Well, if the Bible doesn't have anything interesting to say on its own and if it has to be dumbed down, then maybe it's not really meaningful to me after all." Instead of teaching young people the depth and breadth of our Christian faith and the deep commitment of our duty to God, we have offered vaguely biblical messages that leave much to be desired. If the aim of the church is to keep up with the culture and keep young people entertained, it is always going to be a losing battle.

So what's the answer to the dilemma of young people fleeing the church? Evidence shows now that many millennials and people of younger generations are finding meaning in the historic traditions of the church that have stood the test of time. They are turning to liturgy, creeds, and sacred music. They are highly interested in defending the faith and seeking the deep theological writings of ancient church fathers and preaching that dives deep into the essential doctrines of Christianity. These trends have started in major metropolitan centers but are now spreading. Maybe the church doesn't need to try so hard to be relevant. Maybe the individualistic culture and materialism of our world will drive people who are seeking so much more to the true source of life; to the things that are eternal; to the church alive with community, depth, service, and conviction.

Rev. Eric Warner, Associate Pastor

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Calling all heroes...Hero Central VBS is coming to Asbury! It will be held Sunday-Thursday, July 9-13. Registration will open once we have all of our volunteers in place. We are looking for lots of leaders! There are openings on the Games team, Music team, Crafts team, and Decorating team, and we can always use extra classroom helpers too! Contact Heather at the church office or heather@asburyweb.org for more information or to volunteer!



February 2017 Good \$ense Newsletter: Prime Storage

[Excerpt from Brooke Bartlow, Good \$ense Movement]

Early last month, my husband, two little girls and I moved into our new home. In our nine years of marriage this was our 4th move and first move with two kids 3 and under. With each move (two being across the country) we purge, reduce, reconcile why we need to keep something. So while packing, purging and donating I kept asking how did we acquire so much stuff? We have two household rules that try to keep all the stuff to a minimum. Feel free to borrow, use and share these rules with those in your ministry.

First, if we get something new – maybe a toy, a book, clothes, a kitchen pan or furniture – the old one is given to a friend or donated to someone in need. This includes when we receive gifts during birthdays and holidays. Harsh? Actually, it works really well. Great habit and teachable moments for our girls.

Second, we don't put anything on the floor in the garage and hang only the necessary tools for yard work or handy work on the walls. Our storage option in the lower Midwest, in a home without a basement, is the garage or attic. On purpose we chose to not purchase a home with more garages than we had cars. We don't put anything in our attic minus holiday decorations.

As friends were coming over to help unpack boxes we heard the same questions over and over: This is all of your Tupperware? Where are your extra blankets? Why do you not have boxes of seasonal clothes? How are you already able to park your cars in the garage, don't you need your garage for storage? It really breaks my heart how much time, how much money and how much effort goes into keeping up with our stuff. Is that really stewardship? Is that really wise? When I was a kid, I didn't care to keep up with the Joneses, I was just happy that they lived next door. Isn't this the foundation of stewardship ministry, to just be happy that the Joneses live next door not worry about keeping up with them? Stuff is not bad. Having nice things is not bad.

I shared with my recent class of Raising Financially Freed Up Kids about Treasures in Heaven. How do we keep that childlike innocence about being happy about the Joneses next door? How do we impart scripture to our kids, students, those in our ministries?

Given my focus on stuff, I wonder what if we, especially those here in the United States, drilled home the verses of Matthew 6:19-21? *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* May we only store our treasures up in heaven and be happy that the Joneses live next door.

Please see www.goodsensemovement.org for more information.

	January - March
	17- Actual
Pledge Contributions	\$175,826
Unpledged Giving	\$11,665
Plate Contributions	\$6,668
Special Contributions	\$257
Endowment	\$10,309
Rentals	\$10,668
Interest-checking/mma/cd	\$61
Gain/loss on stock	(\$504)
Total Income	\$214,950
Property Expenses	\$49,320
Ministry Expenses	\$67,939
Administrative Expenses	\$31,302
Apportionments	\$28,823
Employee Benefits	\$27,628
Total Expenses	\$205,011
Net	\$9,939

Reconciling Community Becomes a Ministry at Asbury

On February 8, 2017, Asbury UMC's Leadership Team underscored Asbury's tradition of hospitality and reiterated our church's commitment to the Methodist motto "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" by voting to approve a new ministry group called the Reconciling Community. For the past two years, this group within Asbury has been studying issues related to the LGBTQ community and the United Methodist Book of Discipline. Many conversations and discussions have been held with many members of our congregation who are supportive of this approach.

Reconciling Communities within UMC congregations are affiliated with the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN), a national Methodist organization. Their vision is "to renew a vibrant Wesleyan movement that is biblically and theologically centered. As committed disciples of Jesus Christ, the Reconciling Ministries Network strives to transform the world by living out **the Gospel's teachings of grace, love, justice, and inclusion for all of God's children.**" In doing so, reconciling the Church's words and deeds means restoring harmony to the Church and its people. To become affiliated with the RMN network, our Reconciling Community has adopted the following mission statement:

*We declare our members to be a **Reconciling Community within Asbury United Methodist Church.** We affirm and celebrate that all people are created in God's image and each person has sacred worth. We welcome all with radical hospitality, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, or gender identity, and we invite other members of Asbury to join our ministry. We acknowledge our differences and seek not to erase them, but to use them as a source of strength and power as we humbly serve our God and journey together toward greater understanding, mutual respect, and love for each other.*

We are called to provide a safe haven for LGBTQ individuals and others who feel marginalized, and we are guided by the values of openness, respect, tolerance, and the radical hospitality our Fellowship Hall banner reminds us to offer.

To live out these values, the Reconciling Community's goals are to:

- ◆ Welcome all.
- ◆ Dialogue with all.
- ◆ Aim to live and grow in faith while encouraging others to do the same.
- ◆ Affirm people's faith journey and commitment to serving Christ with action.
- ◆ Advocate for UMC policy changes at the Annual and General Conference levels.



We welcome all who want to engage with us or become members of our Reconciling Community.

Respectfully,

Jake Culp, Virginia Decker, Barbara & Charles Emery, Holly & Steve Hearne, Amy & Jim Jones, Jean & Vic Laws, Linda & Lee May, Virginia Mayer, Ed Moore, Nancy Rubenson, Frankie & Frank Shipper, Robert Williams, Joanne Doyle.

ASBURY NEWS



Taco-Chili-Baked Potato Dinner

Please join the Asbury Service Project (ASP) team on May 12 at 6:00pm for the Taco-Chili-Baked Potato Dinner fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 per person, \$5 for 4-12 year olds and 3 and under eat free. Desserts will also be available for an extra fee. Tickets will be on sale in the Welcome Centers each Sunday through May 7. This is our final event for the year and a chance to raise some extra funds in order to help the people in Logan County, West Virginia. The Asbury Church congregation has been so generous in the past, and it is through this generosity that we have been able to help ASP provide families with items that their normal operating budget does not allow. Giving a family clean water, anchoring a mobile home and building a wheelchair ramp for a disabled child are just a few of the projects that would not have happened were it not for the extra funds that we are able to provide. So please help us be the hands and feet of Christ in Appalachia!

IPPS Mentoring Program

In February 2016, IPPS (Involved Parents Productive Students) Mentoring Program entered a five-year contractual agreement with the State of Maryland to implement a Mentoring Program for the incarcerated at the Poplar Hill Pre-Release Unit (PHPRU), located in Quantico, MD.

Management officials at the PHPRU facility in conjunction with the Mentoring Program worked jointly to develop an announcement of the Mentoring Program to inmates. Inmates with at least one year remaining on their sentence, along with other requirements, could apply. Six inmates were interested in obtaining a mentor and after the completion of a match review process to assign a suitable mentor with a mentee (inmate), each mentee was assigned a mentor.

After six months of meetings and training that consisted of such subjects as: Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Training, Active Parenting Training, etc., the first phase of the Mentoring Program was completed and resulted in very positive outcomes. The program works toward decreasing the on-going problem of recidivism and providing the structure and guidance needed towards ensuring individuals prior to their release will have the proper tools and attitude to succeed.

The success of the program has led us to need more male Mentors! If you would like to speak with someone from Asbury who has experienced the mentoring process, feel free to contact the following individuals who participated in this first phase of the Mentoring Program and ask them about their experience as a mentor.

James Lavrich – Asbury United Methodist Church – 410-603-9202

Robert J. Williams – Asbury United Methodist Church – 410-505-8707

Lou Rimbach – Asbury United Methodist Church – 410-370-6561

“The class changed my life, kept me more motivated. It can change many more lives, it’s what I needed.”-One mentee wrote in his final report prior to his release.

Robert J. Williams, IPPS President and Executive Director



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

Asbury Service Project Update – May 2017

Your Asbury Service Project team has been working hard preparing for our 44th mission trip to Appalachia in June. Once again, we will be serving in West Virginia. Thank you for your prayers, presence and financial support of this ministry!

Of course, this mission serves 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.

Asbury Service Project has a long history of participation by youth from beyond the walls of Asbury United Methodist Church. This year continues that tradition, with nearly half of our participants coming from outside our congregation. Additionally, a group of youth and adults from St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Delmar, DE has joined us this year. If you are aware of any groups or individuals outside Asbury who might be interested in this mission, please let me know; I would love to meet with them.

Our final fundraiser for the year will be a Taco-Chili-Baked Potato Dinner on Friday, May 12. Mark your calendar, ASP will have your dinner covered that day.

To date, in collaboration with Chesapeake Housing Mission, we have constructed three wheelchair ramps for needy families in our local community this year. Our final Work Skills/Safety Training (wheelchair ramp) session is scheduled for May 20. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me at 410-896-2776.

In His Service,
Carlton Bradshaw



Job Opening for Custodial/Maintenance Position

We are looking for a responsible custodial/maintenance person to maintain our facilities and prepare meeting spaces for our ministries and rentals. It is important for our Custodial/Maintenance worker to be careful and thorough in working, cleaning and tidying the premises. The ideal candidate will be experienced in a custodial/maintenance role focused on building upkeep. They will need to have a great physical endurance to cover a large space. A keen eye for detail and diligence is also imperative in this position. Please pick up an application and job description in the church office or in either Welcome Center.



Sign of the Times

Much has been said and written over the past couple of years about the Asbury congregational survey and the follow-up temporary Bucket List Committees. More recently, we communicated about goals and action items that resulted from these groups. I thought I would take a moment and share some recent comments relating to a couple of these action items.

When Shirley Cropper, chair of the permanent Membership Committee, delivered her report at the most recent Leadership Team, she offered a couple of interesting insights. One was about our new Connection Cards which are distributed with the bulletins each Sunday. Over the past few months, the Connection Cards have shown to be a much-improved way for the Membership Committee to identify, contact and follow-up on visitors to Asbury. Shirley went on to say that there has been a noticeable uptick in the number of first-time visitors who are returning to Asbury's worship services, as well as visitors who are choosing to become members. The Connection Cards are a direct result of the Membership Bucket List Committee.

Signage is one of multiple action items on the Facilities Bucket List Committee that had been passed on to the Trustees. The Trustees had been working on the exterior signage issue in parallel with the Facilities Bucket List Committee. This has been most evident in the recent conversion of the Camden Avenue brick sign to an electronic format and the new signage around the outside of the church directing people to the church departments. God blessed Asbury with an anonymous donor to make this conversion possible. Both Shirley Cropper and Benita shared with the Leadership Team that a number of first-time visitors have commented that they were attracted to worship at Asbury after driving by the new electronic sign with its colorful, rotating messages.

God gives us signs all the time. All we have to do is be in tune with Him so that we know what to look for and follow His signs.

1 Samuel 10:7 (New International Version)

7 Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

Calvin Peacock, Leadership Team Chair



Our school year has truly flown by here at Asbury Child Development Center! We have learned and grown so very much since September. Our students have truly flourished over the course of these nine months and we are so proud of their accomplishments. The dedicated teachers and staff have worked tremendously hard and it has paid off in so many ways.

We would like to thank all of our ACDC families for the continuous support each and every family provides to our school. We could not be who we are without supportive, dedicated parents and families.

We would like to announce that our school has several openings for our 2017-2018 school year. We have openings in our 3's classes and a few spots still open in our 4's afternoon program. Please feel free to call our school office at 410-742-7058 to set up a tour to come and see our wonderful school! Thank you all!

Casey Taylor, Director of ACDC

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

John Strait
4/07/2017

BAPTISMS

Mason Ella Outten,
daughter of Kelsy & Jared
Outten, granddaughter of
Carolyn & Werner Gruber
4/9/2017

Molly Anne Godfrey,
daughter of Beth & Kevin
Godfrey, granddaughter of
Hugh & Sally Livingston
4/16/2017

MEMORIALS

Margaret Day
Jacqueline & Robert Paul
Dick & Judy Webb
Lexine Lowe & Frederick Pomeroy

John Strait

David & Diann Hines
Doris Emehiser
Henry & Mary Louisa Rutledge
Lois Connolly
Charlotte Padish, Gail Padish
Clarín & Michael, James & Gay
Padish & Family, William & Beatriz
Padish & Family
Donald & Sandra Sorrenti
Maxine Harden
Don & Lynn Taylor
Linda Ruhl
Bob & Barbara Kambarn

John & Marilyn Strait
Pat Cooper

Loma Murray
Bob & Barbara Kambarn

Brian Loy
Mark & Vera Street

Sue Olds
This n That Homemakers
c/o Nadine Wimbrow
John & Barbara Culver, Jr.
Jeff & Dottie Turner

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

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

**Church Office Closed
Fridays, Starting
June 2**



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



the ASBURIAN

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Salisbury, Maryland
Permit No. 29