

<p>EMA Time has Changed to 8:15 a.m.</p> 	<p>Welcome</p>  <p>Membership Classes Begin in October (See page 5)</p>	<p>Fall Services Begin September 10 on Rally Day!</p> 	 <p>World Communion October 1</p>
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the ASBURIAN

Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS 11

Welcome

Back!



Looking Forward to a Wonderful Fall at Asbury!

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



A Note from Rev. Bill Sterling on the Care Ministries

Several months ago, I wrote an article describing how all of us are part of the pastoral care ministry of Asbury. Each of you play two key roles. First, and foremost, you pray. Prayer is a powerful, life changing partnership with God that blesses so many people. Second, you communicate pastoral needs to the church office as soon as you hear of them. Your prayers and updates are invaluable to me and Benita, as we seek to provide pastoral and caring ministry. I want to thank you, on behalf of Benita and myself, for your partnership in caring, and to refresh your memories about the scope of our caring ministries.

Benita, the staff and I regularly send cards to persons for special occasions, get well, encouragement, sympathy, and special days. These cards are hand made by members of the congregation. We distribute prayer blankets to people in the hospital or in crisis. These are made by members of our congregation, and they are blessed during a worship service prior to being distributed. We tell people, that when they wrap up in them, they can remember that they are wrapped in the prayers of the faith family at Asbury. Recently, I gave one to a new born who was critically ill. She latched on to it, and kept it close. Her grandmother sent me a picture. Needless to say, it was an emotional moment. Another recipient continually wraps it around her legs or shoulders daily.

For persons coming home from the hospital or rehab, our A la Carte Ministry cooks, prepares and delivers meals. Each Wednesday, a prayer group meets at the church, and prays for each person or need on our extensive prayer list. Public prayers are part of our Sunday worship. At times, people request prayer for private concerns and the pastors and prayer team honor that confidentiality.

On the second Sunday of each month, we offer prayers for healing at the Sanctuary services. People are invited to come to the altar during a hymn and either Benita or a lay person will pray with them. Both Benita and I work with families in planning funerals, as well as providing grief and problem solving counseling.

In addition to visitation in hospitals, homes, rehabilitation facilities and nursing homes, I take Communion to those who request it.

The Caring Ministries of Asbury are a team effort between Benita, myself, the staff and you the congregation. Together, we bring the presence and love of Christ to people who are facing chronic illness, struggling with life issues, and who are unable to come to church. We go to them.

Thanks again,
Bill

Dear Church Family,



MUSIC

Our fall music programs are back in session. After a joyous potluck dinner the Chancel Choir commenced its Thursday rehearsals the end of August. If you're interested in joining or know someone who would like to sing, please contact Michael Stefanek at michael@asburyweb.org. We would love to have you! 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.

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 Walston. They practice on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. The bells play at the 8:45 and 11 a.m. services, special services, and additional programs during the year. If you know of any young people interested in singing, we have a spot available for them in our Celebration Singers directed by Melissa Graham. They practice on Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m.

If you're interested in joining any of the above music ensembles or have any questions, please contact Michael Stefanek, Director of Music Ministries at michael@asburyweb.org.

- For children's music (grades K-2) please contact Heather Harman at heather@asburyweb.org.
- For Kingdom Kids (grades 3-5) singers and ringers please contact Pam Ollinger at pollinger@comcast.net.
- Additional information about Asbury's music ministry program and its ensembles can be found on our church website asburyweb.org/music and music ministry brochures available at church.

We will be having special music on World Communion Sunday, October 1 at 10:30 a.m. featuring the Chancel Choir, Praise Band, Steel Pans, Kingdom Kids Singers, Celebration Singers, and Cherub Choir.

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!

**The B.A.S.I.C. Class
(formerly the Wired Word)
10 a.m.**

The B.A.S.I.C. Class (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) 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 it is not absolutely necessary.

**Open Hearts, Open Minds
(formerly The Lounge Class)
9:50 to 10:45 a.m.**

The Open Hearts, Open Minds 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.

September 10

Barbara Emery

Spiritual Pathways: How Do You Come Closer to God?

September 17

Virginia Mayer

FaithLink: Poverty

September 24

Kristen Wall-Love

FaithLink: Spiritual Formation

[See article on page 7 about our new class!]

Bible 101

The Bible 101 Class that meets in the Fox room will begin on September 10 at 10 a.m. We are still in the midst of selecting our study material. We are considering 1 and 2 Peter and the Letters of Jude and John, as well as the Books of Esther and Ruth. We are also previewing *Because of Bethlehem* and *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado for our Advent and Lenten studies. Everyone is welcome to come and grow spiritually with us! This is a discussion Class! We need your ideas!

UMW Circle Meetings in September

eCircle: online monthly newsletter

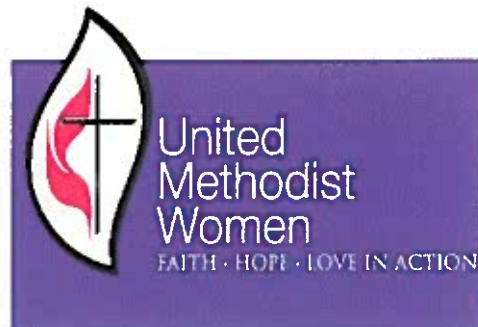
Eve Circle: Wednesday, September 20 at 7:15 pm in the Mackey Room at Asbury with Allison Canada as hostess

Dorcias: Tuesday, September 12 at 7:30pm in the Mackey room with Connie Boccia as hostess

Joanna: Monday, September 11 at 10 am at the home of Carol Bisker. We will be working on cards for church. We made 80 cards for Heather to send to her kids.

**UMW Women's Dinner: Save the Date:
Wednesday, September 27 !**

See page 8 for more details.



Greetings, Asbury friends,

It's been wonderful getting to meet so many of you in the past two months—thank you for continuing to remind me of your name when I see you!

As the Director of Adult Spiritual Formation and Membership, I have been given the opportunity to engage in these two specific areas. Some of you have asked me, “what exactly will you be doing at Asbury?” In the space allotted, this is my best answer:

1) **Membership**: We have a dedicated Membership team here. Their love for God and for Asbury is evident. I am grateful for their enthusiastic work and am glad to have them as companions on the journey. With this team’s help, one of my roles is to connect with guests by plugging them into the community. You could say that I am a “connection consultant.” Obviously I am new, so it will take me a little while to get acclimated to what goes on and how things work here, but that will come. In addition, I will be teaching membership classes. The next offering will be 4 sessions on Sundays in October on the 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 12:30-2:30 p.m. or Thursdays on October 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. If you are interested in becoming a member or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The Connection Cards that are filled out and turned in during the Sunday worship services are a crucial part of this process—their name says it all! Please complete your connection card every week and prayerfully consider the information on them. Not only do we desire to keep *you* connected, but when guests see everyone around them filling out the Connection Cards, they are more likely to fill them out, which increases our chances to form a relationship with them and them with Christ. Thanks for your help!

2) **Spiritual Formation**: I am charged with developing a strategy and structure for spiritual formation groups—small groups that focus on, for example, the practices of prayer, study, meditation, fasting, solitude, silence, service, confession, and worship. These practices strengthen our relationship with God, which will, in turn, strengthen our relationships with others. Additionally, participating in spiritual formation groups will help connect individuals to one another and to the community of faith. I will also be walking alongside existing small groups as needed.

In its simplest definition, spiritual formation is deepening our relationship with God. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, introduced 3 simple rules for our faith: Do no harm, Do good, and Stay in love with God. Spiritual formation is the “stay in love with God” part. I’ve always loved JW’s rules because they remind us that one of these things, or even two, is not enough. We need all three. It is not enough to simply abstain from sin (do no harm). We are called to actively do good as well—in Wesley’s words: Do all the good you can, in all the ways that you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can. Ultimately, what foundation do we have to undergird our efforts to ‘do no harm’ and ‘do good’ if we are not constantly growing in our relationship with God, i.e., engaging in spiritual formation? We can do nothing apart from God. Attending worship on Sundays is paramount, but alone, it is not enough.

I hope that these two paragraphs demonstrate how nuanced it can be when talking about spiritual formation. It’s not a quick or simplistic definition, but that goes along with the nature of spiritual formation itself. Stay tuned as we delve even further into spiritual formation next month!

Your co-worker in Christ,

Kristen Wall-Love

kristen@asburyweb.org 410-749-2131

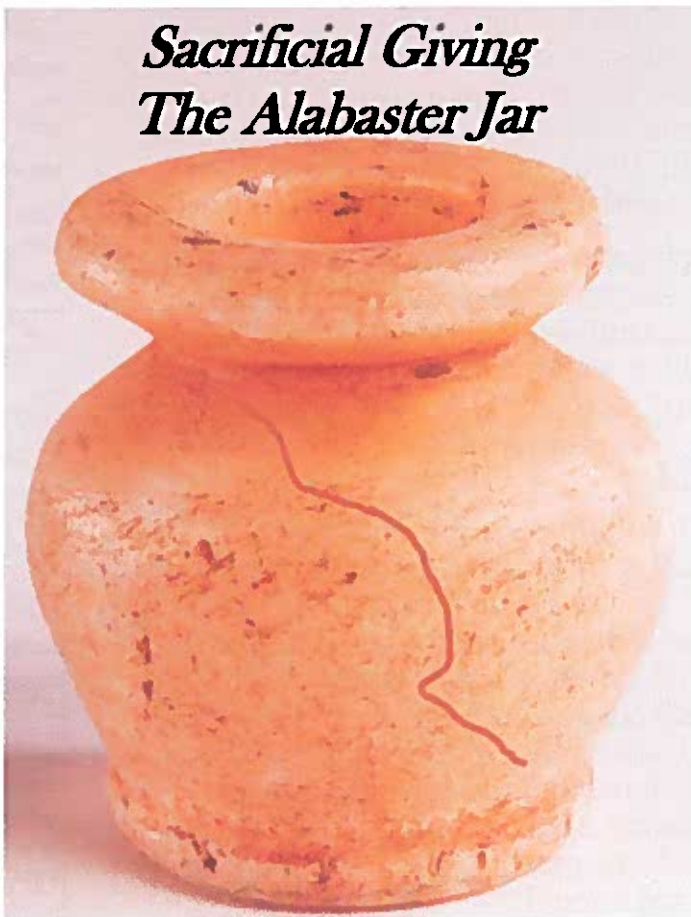
Giving What We Can from Our Alabaster Jar

The Bible tells us that the alabaster jar was used to keep something precious – and because it was precious, it was likely expensive. In Mark Chapter 14, Mary, not a wealthy woman, poured out precious oil on Jesus that she had probably been saving for a long time. Maybe it was her insurance for hard times, and thus it was especially precious to her.

Reading about this led me to this insight from *Thinking in Color*: “It’s not so much what you give to God that counts in his eyes. It is how much what you give means to you that matters. We tend to measure our gifts horizontally...that is we figure out how much is expected of us or how much we think is reasonable and fair and we give accordingly. We need to give our gifts to God on a vertical measure. Make it between you and God, not you and the world.”

Let’s give our precious gifts to God: our resources, our love, our time. Let’s give what we can, as Jesus says that Mary did.

Sharon Marshall,
Finance Committee Member



	Jan - July	Budget
	17- Actual	2017
Pledge Contributions	\$390,568	\$668,399
Plate Contributions	\$17,901	\$35,000
Special Contributions	\$5,143	\$9,700
Endowment	\$10,309	\$10,309
Rentals	\$17,423	\$26,876
Interest-checking/mma/cd	\$468	\$607
Gain/loss on stock	(\$504)	-\$100
Total Income	\$441,307	\$750,791
Property Expenses	\$80,699	\$141,330
Ministry Expenses	\$152,678	\$292,901
Administrative Expenses	\$71,663	\$123,335
Apportionments	\$58,176	\$93,923
Employee Benefits	\$64,578	\$121,366
Total Expenses	\$427,794	\$772,855
Net	\$13,513	-\$22,064

ASBURY NEWS

The Lounge Class Announces New Name and Curriculum



In 1971, a new adult class was formed to bring together those at different places on their spiritual journeys, seeking a more freestyle Sunday school curriculum than what was offered at the time. Because of its meeting location, it was eventually dubbed *The Lounge Class*, however this it not very descriptive of what we believe and try to exemplify.

In May, our class discussed its future and how better to pursue goals of faith investigation and action in our church and community, along with individual and

group spiritual development. We recognize the call of Jesus to invite everyone to the table. We respect the call to welcome diverse viewpoints. Hence, the overwhelming majority of class members voted to rename the class *The Open Hearts, Open Minds Class*. Inspired by the UMC tagline "*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*", we are a group of United Methodists who strive to live out that openness by embracing and engaging all in our class sessions as well as in our broader lives. To that end, we invite any and all adults to join in our Sunday school programs in the Mackey Room. We're using a combination of short series and individually developed programs that devote at least half of the time to guided discussion. Barbara Emery, Class Chair

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. Please contact Heather at 410-749-2131 or by email: heather@asburyweb.org for more information.



Kingdom City

The Kingdom City leaders met in August to plan out a great year of hands-on learning for the kids! They will begin the year with a unit on Daniel and the Lion's Den, which will feature story time, cooking, science, crafts, and games! They will finish off the unit with another fun Field Day, which was a HUGE hit last year! Kingdom City kids also put their faith into action with mission projects in our community, and we can't wait to tell them what their first mission will be. Kingdom City meets upstairs in the Sunday School building from 9:50-10:45 a.m. each Sunday. Join us on Rally Day, September 10, to find out more!

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? 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 who 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; older children must bring something to keep them busy). Sign up today at: <https://www.fpucentral.com/1044928>



Attention ALL 6-12 Graders!

Puppets for Christ will begin practice on Monday, September 11 from 6:15-7:30 p.m. If interested, but could not attend the puppet orientation meeting, please contact Amy Cropper at 410-726-2847 or puppetboss@comcast.net. All participants must be signed up by September 4!



UMW Women's Dinner

The Asbury United Methodist Women 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. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, September 20 and indicate the number of children, if any, needing childcare. If you are not in a UMW circle and wish to attend or have any questions about the event, please contact Sara Lewis at 410-251-4905 or sarawolff@yahoo.com. Circle members will have the opportunity to sign up for the event at their September meeting.

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

Asbury Service Project Update – September 2017

Attention all high school students and parents: If you are interested in making lifelong friends, earning up to 150 service hours, experiencing the joy of helping others and having fun in the process, then ASP might be for you! The overwhelming majority of youth who participate in the program and go on the trip have such a great experience that they come back the following year. Come check it out, and bring your friends, even if they do not attend Asbury.

Our first interest / organizational meeting will be Sunday, September 17 from 1-3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All youth in grades 9-12, their parents, alumni and adults interested in participating in the mission this year should plan to attend this meeting. We will talk about the work that we do throughout the year here in our own community, as well as the trip in June, what to expect and what will be required throughout the year. But first, a little fun... On Sunday, September 10 (weather permitting) we will have a family beach day at Assateague. This will be a combined ASP / UMYF event, so all middle and high school youth, their families, ASP alumni and friends who may be interested are invited. We will meet at the church in front of Fellowship Hall at 1 and carpool to Assateague. Bring a snack to share; drinks, hot dogs and marshmallows will be provided. We will plan to return to Asbury around 7.

We have some exciting events and experiences planned for this year, including service opportunities for the poor in our community, the popular dinner fundraisers, pancake breakfasts and social gatherings. Details on these opportunities will be shared at the September 17 meeting. Pancake breakfast dates for your calendar are:

November 12 December 11 January 14 February 11 March 11

Work Skills / Safety Training sessions are scheduled for:

October 28 March 24 April 21 May 12

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

Carlton Bradshaw



Director of Youth and Family Ministries Announcement!



The SPRC would like to announce that we have hired a new Director of Youth and Family Ministries! Her name is Leah Tatman and she comes to us from Pittsburgh, PA. Leah spent the last three years in the Philippines, working as a teacher the first two years and her last year working as a Youth Ministry Intern. Her official start date was August 28. Please join us in thanking God for helping us find Leah and pray for the youth and family program she will be leading. Kim Bradshaw, SPRC Chairperson

NEW EARLY MORNING ASBURY (EMA) TIME CHANGE

Over two years ago, Asbury's Leadership Team conducted a congregational survey to help determine how Asbury was meeting the spiritual and leadership needs of its congregation. The outgrowth of the survey identified several important ministry areas, including spiritual development, membership, youth and family ministries. This began the process of realigning Asbury's staff structure to meet these stated spiritual and leadership needs.

During the process of realignment, our associate pastor, Eric Warner, received God's call to a different ministry. This resulted in the new staff structure that would meet survey-identified ministry areas. Presently, Asbury has a Director of Youth and Family Ministries and Director of Spiritual Development and Membership.

Given these changes, the Leadership Team, after careful deliberation, made the decision to move the Early Morning Asbury (EMA) service from **8:45** am to **8:15** a.m. This will allow the pastor to lead in both of our early services. Thank you for helping us facilitate this time change.

NEW CHANGE IN TIME TAKES PLACE ON RALLY DAY, SEPTEMBER 10!

Isaiah 43:18-20

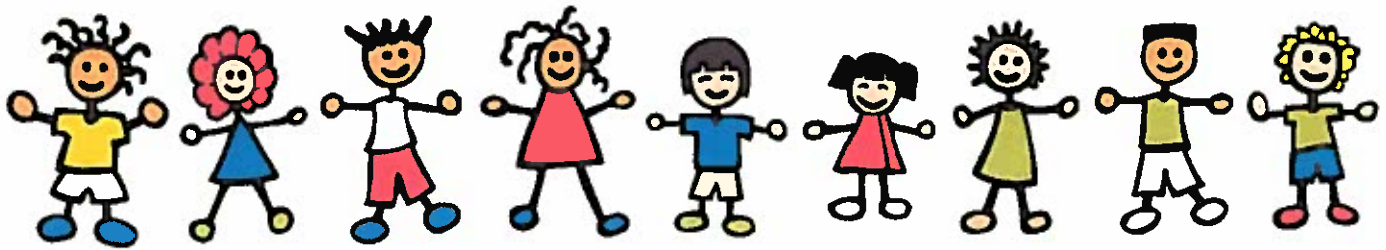
¹⁸“Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
²⁰ The wild animals honor me,
the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,



Save the Date: International Day of Peace Observed in Salisbury

Faith and community action groups will co-sponsor the 8th annual local observance of the United Nations International Day of Peace: "Peace in the Park". For those who want to stop violence, (here at home, overseas, or both), come to Salisbury City Park near the Peace Pole across from Ben's Red Swings on Saturday, September 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The theme is "Peace in Our Community, Peace In the World". The Peace Pole was installed in 2015, and features a message of peace in eight languages. This year's event features childrens' activities, speakers from activist organizations, churches, and the political arena, as well as live music, information tables and a collection of books about peace. All are invited to join in the festivities. Pack a picnic lunch, bring a canned good for the Maryland Food Bank, meet kindred spirits sharing ways to stop violence and increase peace. For more information contact Lou Rimbach at 410-370-6561 or use the following link: [Facebook.com/sbypeaceinthepark](https://www.facebook.com/sbypeaceinthepark).

Peace



We are super thrilled here at Asbury Child Development Center to continue yet another school year! All of our classrooms are decorated perfectly and have new activities and 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 program and would love to show you our fabulous school, call or come in for a tour today! 410-742-7058

Casey Taylor, Director ACDC

Rally Day!

Sunday School is back in session beginning on Rally Day, September 10 at 9:45 a.m.! We have Sunday School classes for children ages 3 and up, and Nursery for children under 3. Look for greeters at the doors to help direct you to your child's classroom, where you can meet their teachers and fill out a registration form.

Downstairs:

Preschool 3's and 4's: Rm. #120
 Kindergarten: Rm. #125
 1st Grade: Rm. #126

Upstairs:

2nd-5th Grade (Kingdom City): Scout Room
 Middle School: Rm. #220
 High School: Rm. #222



*****September Meeting**

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

DEATHS

8/16/17
 Catherine Carey

MEMORIALS

Frances Moultrie
 W. Ronald & Hope Morgan
 Ruth Beauchamp

Del Thomas

Ray & Klaudia Thompson
 Michael & Joanna Abercrombie

Vernon Wilkins

Charlie & Shirley Silvia
 Dennie & Betty Lou Bloodsworth
 Jim & Nadine Jackson
 The Edison Electric Institute,
 c/o Scott Aaronson & Coworkers

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:
Leah Tatman
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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