



The Asbury Journal

Message from the

December 2015

Pastor

Advent and Christmas Asbury Memorial UMC:

Children's Christmas Program

You will not want to miss out on our wonderful children performing a special musical presentation (in costumes) of the story of Christmas during the regular 11:00 am worship service on Sunday, December 13th. A special thanks to all the parents and volunteers for their hard work in making this amazing presentation happen!

Choral Christmas Cantata

Our Chancel Choir will be performing their Christmas Cantata this year on the Sunday following our Children's Program. Mark your calendars to join us for worship at 11:00 am on Sunday, December 20th as our choir performs a wonderful musical tribute to Christ's birth. There will be an informal holiday reception immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Historical 1800's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



This year we will again be celebrating our Historical recreation of what a Christmas Eve service might have looked like when our church was founded back in 1801! You'll want to arrive early on December 24th to ensure you get a seat as you will be treated to period music on the hammer dulcimer, the guitar, and the harp by the group "Primrose." We will also be featuring Dr. Vance Reese on our restored pump organ that will be heard in our church again for the first time in almost 100 years! The music starts at 5:00 pm followed by the service itself at about 5:30 pm. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this special service in the life of our church! If you have clothing from that time period, you are encouraged to wear it to the service. For more information, contact Rev. Goforth or Rick Morehead.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

The Advent Season is a time I love. Our church is decorated beautifully, the music and hymns are beginning to have a Christmas theme, and people just seem friendlier. Each Sunday as we light the candles in the Advent Wreath, we hear scripture that prepares our hearts for the birth of the baby Jesus born anew in our heart. Each year I look forward the Lectionary reading in Luke 2 especially verse 19. The words are so inspiring; *“But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart”*. The word ponder is rarely used anymore. I am not sure what we have replaced it with but nothing else has quite the ring of *ponder*.

Do you have special things that you ponder in your heart—certain people and times, seasons of the year or periods in your life? Since it is Advent Season, let’s focus on pondering for a while. The first Christmas we can remember with any detail usually begins happens around age four or five. So it may be easier to remember our first Christmas away from our birth family, or with a new spouse or a new child, maybe even our first Christmas with the loss of a loved one. These are times that we ponder in our hearts.

What makes those years so special? Probably those were the times we experienced pure joy or perhaps even deep sadness. My first and only Christmas away from home was 1966 and I was in South Vietnam. The wonderful traditions of a Christmas Eve candle light services and Christmas day dinner at my grandmother’s house did not happen for me that year. It was a season of deep sadness and the feeling of isolation from my family. There was no Christmas tree, lights or carol singing. In fact, it was just another work day. Even now, after 49 years, that time still brings a lump to my throat. That was then and this is now, so currently this time of year is a time of joy for me. I have family, friends and traditions that help me realize the importance of relationships. May each of you be blessed by a season of love, peace and joy giving thanks to God for the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. Merry Christmas

-Pastor David Warren

If you are interested in volunteering at Asbury (as Greeter or Sanctuary Steward or Usher, just to name a few), please contact the church office: Mandy@asburymethodist.org or 828-253-0765. Additionally there is a red notebook circulating during worship that provides a brief description of volunteer duties and a log of contact information. Thank you for giving generously of your time!

Thank you to Jim and Francis Morehead for donating the video camera located in the sanctuary. We will be recording special services and posting them on the church website (asburymethodist.org).



News from Children and Youth

Sunday, December 20th immediately following worship EVERYONE is invited to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy an informal holiday reception. Since we had big feasts in October and November, the N.O.W. Committee would like to try a *Lemonade on the Lawn* type fellowship/meal. Everyone is asked to PLEASE bring finger foods to share; veggies, olives, nuts, cheese, crackers, finger sandwiches, cookies, and other finger desserts. Tea, lemonade & coffee will be provided.

Children's Choir to present their CHRISTMAS MUSIC on Sunday, December 13th during worship. To prepare for this, Judi Harvin will hold Children's Choir practices at the following times and days: Sunday, Dec. 6th during Children's Church; Two Wednesday Rehearsals will be held on December 2nd and 9th at 5:45PM with dinner. We still need someone to provide spaghetti and a meat sauce for Dec. 2nd.

Would anyone like to support our own Maggie Harvin (stage crew) and the Asheville Community Theater in their production of **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**? Ticket Prices are \$12 for children, \$19 for seniors & students and \$22 for adults. We could get a group to go after the children's program on Dec. 13th; the play begins at 2:30PM. Let Rev. McVay know if you are interested.

Safe Sanctuaries Training will be held, Wednesday, Dec. 2nd at 5:45pm in the Upper Room Classroom (directly above Pastor Goforth's office). If you want to be a part of our Children/Youth Ministries, you must participate in a Safe Sanctuary Training. If you have already attended a training, please fill out an annual commitment sheet. These are available in the church office or from Rev. David Warren or Rev. Sallyanne McVay.

GODLY PLAY TRAINING will be held in Clover, South Carolina, Saturday January 23. This will be a great way to learn more about Godly Play and how to teach this curriculum. Newcomers are welcome. Attending this training does not commit you to teaching Godly Play. If you are interested in learning more, speak to Sallyanne about the details of this whole day event.

News from the North Asheville Preschool

The preschool is presenting its annual Christmas program on Monday, December 14th at noon in the sanctuary. The children and teachers have worked hard to pull this together, and somehow it always works on the day!

Our last day before the holidays is December 18th and we return January 4th.

Merry Christmas!

-Madeline Moseley

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church
Church Calendar for December 2015

**Be sure to check our website calendar for any changes to the calendar.*

Any meetings that change the time, location, or date will also be communicated by a recorded phone message to those who are involved.

[illegible]

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>20</p> <p>9:45 am-Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am-Worship/Choir Cantata and Handbells [S]</p> <p>12:00 pm-Informal Holiday Reception [FH]</p> <p>8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 am-Emmaus Group [YR]</p> <p><i>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</i></p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</i></p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:45 pm-Al-Anon Meeting [BC]</p> <p>6:00 pm-Handbell Rehearsal [S]</p> <p>7:00 pm-Choir Rehearsal [CR]</p> <p>8:00 pm-Narcotics Anonymous [FH]</p> <p><i>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</i></p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Christmas Eve</i></p> <p>5:00 pm-Historical Christmas Eve Service [S]</p> <p><i>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</i></p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Merry Christmas</i></p> <p><i>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</i></p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:45 am-Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am-Worship/Hymn Sing [S]</p> <p>8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 am-Emmaus Group [YR]</p> <p>3:00 pm- 6:00 pm-Church Office Hours</p> <p><i>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p><i>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</i></p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>3:00 pm-6:00 pm-Church Office Hours</p> <p><i>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>New Year's Eve</i></p> <p>3:00 pm-6:00 pm-Church Office Hours</p> <p><i>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</i></p>		
<p>FH=Fellowship Hall S=Sanctuary BC=Brown Chapel EB=Educational Building YR=Youth Room GE=Givens Estate PO=Pastor's Office CO=Church Office TBD=To Be Determined UR=Upper Room Sunday School Classroom</p>			<p><u>Important Dates in January</u> New Year's Day - January 1st Human Relations Sunday - January 17th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 18th</p>			
<p><u>December Birthdays</u> Steve Rich, December 1st Caitlin McVay, December 1st Chloe Jackson, December 9th Eliza Jackson, December 9th Bob Mair, December 9th Eve Bridger, December 9th</p>			<p><u>December Birthdays</u> David Benson, December 10th Mitchell Tucker, December 10th Kitty Schaller, December 15th Paul Benson, December 19th Hannah Milling, December 28th Day Ann Emory, December 29th</p>			



Volunteer Schedule

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Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church Volunteer Schedule December 2015						
Date	Communion Servers	Lock-Up Volunteer	Counting Team	Ushers	Greeters	Sanctuary Stewards
12.06.2015	Curtis Goforth Mary Loomis-Molloy Sallyanne McVay TBD	Larry Wilson (primary) Mark Smith (secondary)	Mark Smith Madeline Moseley	Don Jackson Jessica Jackson Gary Tweed Toni Tweed	Nan Montague Madeline Moseley	Madeline Moseley Cynthia Stewart
12.13.2015	NA	Larry Wilson (primary) Mark Smith (secondary)	Kelli Conover Jane Hite	Don McGeary John Stewart Robert Wiltshire Debbie Wiltshire	TBD TBD	Steve Rich Judy Rich
12.20.2015	NA	Larry Wilson (primary) Mark Smith (secondary)	Elaine Poovey Claire Bailey	Mike Rice Sherry Rice Julie Niwinski	Elaine Price TBD	Ellen Banks
12.27.2015	NA	Larry Wilson (primary) Mark Smith (secondary)	Steve Rich Julie Niwinski	William Withers Jessica Withers Bud Allison Geri Allison	Cynthia Stewart John Stewart	Derick Tickle Margaret Tickle

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church Volunteer Schedule December 2015					
Date	Acolyte(s)	Nursery Volunteers	Children's Church	Children's Message	Lector
12.06.2015	Alana Bridger	Jessica Withers John Stewart	Jennifer Goforth	Sallyanne McVay	Curtis Goforth
12.13.2015	Lylah Goforth	Margaret Tickle Derick Tickle	Jessica Jackson	Sallyanne McVay	Mitchell Tucker
12.20.2015	Haley Phillips	Children's Christmas Program	Judi Harvin	Sallyanne McVay	Corey McVay
12.27.2015	Harper Shook	Janie Wilson Laurel Bishop	TBD	Sallyanne McVay	Ellen Banks

Volunteer Coordinators:

Counting Team:

Sue Lane Muesing

slmue@aol.com

H: (828) 255-8547

Lock-Up Team:

Curtis Goforth

curtis@asburymethodist.org

H: (828) 484-8540

Ushers:

Gary Hutchins

NA

H: (828) 683-1948

Greeters:

Cynthia Stewart

crameystew@hotmail.com

H: (828) 251-9210

Sanctuary Stewards:

Margaret Tickle

margarettickle@aol.com

H: (828) 252-9887

Acolytes:

Sallyanne McVay

sallyanne@asburymethodist.org

C: (828) 230-4065

Nursery Workers:

Davie Jackson

daviejackson@hotmail.com

H: (828) 645-2928

Children's Church:

Sallyanne McVay

sallyanne@asburymethodist.org

C: (828) 230-4065

Children's Sermon:

Sallyanne McVay

sallyanne@asburymethodist.org

C: (828) 230-4065

Communion Servers:

Curtis Goforth

curtis@asburymethodist.org

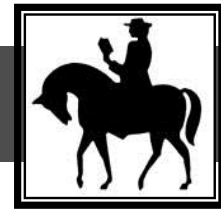
H: (828) 484-8540

Scripture Readers:

Curtis Goforth

curtis@asburymethodist.org

H: (828) 484-8540



News from the Missions Committee

The Christmas season is always a busy time for our committee. We will set up our MITTEN TREE and invite you to put hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, or blankets (anything warm!) that we will take to the Haywood Street Congregation to share with them.

We will also have the gift wishes from Jones School for you to take and fill. It will again be the BAG format (book, art supplies, game) that we did last year. Look for these on the big tree in the sanctuary. Remember to sign your name when you take a number.

Also at the same time, we are collecting boxes of non-perishable food to send home with the children to help them and their families during the time when schools are closed. Lists of suggested items will also be on the big tree.

On Christmas Eve, the offering taken up at the Historical Christmas Eve Service will again go to the ABCCM Fuel Fund, so please give generously.

The December Bread Tin collection, a loose offering, will go to support Red Bird Missionary Conference which is in ministry with Appalachian families who live in the coal region of southeastern Kentucky. Its goal is to minister to the whole person by addressing spiritual, physical, educational and economic needs. The Red Bird Conference helps ease the need and the isolation through its churches and mission institutions. This isolation is caused by the mountains in the region which make accessibility of various services virtually impossible and commuting to different service areas takes hours. Please give generously!

Thank you for giving generously on World Communion Sunday (10.25.15). The total collected was \$485.00. Also thank you to everyone who supported Trick-or-treat for UNICEF. Our total donation was \$185.32.

Thank you for your support of UM Student Sunday on November 29th. Our total collected was \$545.00.

We are closer to our goal for 2015 with MANNA FoodBank. Our current year-to-date total is \$1435.86 (including Souper Bowl contributions). Thank you for your support and please continue to add beef stew to your grocery list!

The Missions Committee is happy to announce that 2016's MANNA FoodBank collections will be focused on food, including formula, for babies. Please bring contributions, or money to be converted to contributions, starting in January so we can meet our target of 2016 pounds of food for Western North Carolina babies. Thanks!

We wish you all a blessed Christmas and thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

News from the Finance Committee

Finance Committee Update:

	<u>For Nine (10) Months Ended October 31, 2015</u>		
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Favorable/(Unfavorable)</u> <u>Variance</u>
Operating Funds:			
Income	\$148,463	\$161,129	\$(12,666)
Expenses	<u>156,525</u>	<u>169,175</u>	<u>12,650</u>
Net Income/ (Loss)	<u>(\$8,062)</u>	<u>(\$8,046)</u>	<u>(\$16)</u>
Special Giving*	<u>\$13,971</u>		
*Includes Souper Bowl, ABCCM, Manna Food Bank, Memorials, Disaster Relief, Youth Missions/ Activities, Bread Tin, Special offerings			



Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church
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