

The CIRCUIT-WRITER

Asbury United Methodist Church

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February 2012

Volume 33, No. 2

Growing In Faith

Sharing Christ

Two things that will help Asbury Succeed

Is anything impossible with God? That's the question the Lord asked Abraham after telling him that his 80 year old (give or take a few years) wife was going to bear a son. Can't you see Abraham under the Oak at Mamre respond, "Well, no nothing is impossible with God, BUT..." Well, a year later Sarah gave birth to Isaac.



The goals that are before us may seem as likely, difficult, or as farfetched as an 80 year old woman giving birth to her first child. What do you say that instead of dwelling on what seems impossible or unlikely for whatever reasons that we dwell on what is possible with God. Faith in God's ability will do more for helping Asbury to produce the fruit worthy of devoted disciples than anything else. Look at the goals again and note what seems unlikely to you and why? And then ask yourself, "Is any of this possible with God?" "Can we really do any of this through Christ Jesus?" (Philippians 4:13) We need to remember that nothing is impossible with God as we travel through the next year together.

Faith in God is critical to becoming a faithful and fruitful church. But there is a second item that when combined with the first will take us further faster more than anything else. And that is attitude. John Maxwell said, "One's attitude determines one's altitude." How high and far we go as a church this year will be determined in large part by the combined attitudes of God's people. A positive faith plus a positive attitude enables people to walk on water. Just ask Peter.

I believe this can be a banner year for Asbury and the people in the surrounding community, but we'll have trust in God and bring a positive attitude to the table. I am going to do this. Will you?

Next month the pastor will start a Circuit Writer series on "8 Things Churches do to Grow Smaller."

**Asbury United
Methodist Church**



**Call to Action Goals
2012-2015**

- To have over 500 people worshipping Christ every Sunday.
- To have 110 people make professions of faith in Christ Jesus.
- To grow the number of small groups from 48 to 62 and increase the total number of individuals who participate in them.
- To increase the number of individuals involved in "glocal" missions and outreach from 50 to 210.
- To faithfully contribute 100% or more to our Shared Ministries.

Community Wednesdays Beginning Soon



Community Wednesdays and Wednesday night children's programming will begin on Wednesday, February 1. Dinner will be at 5:45pm. Dinner is \$6/adults and \$3/child and programs will begin at 6:30 pm.

New Bible Studies offered will be:

- Heather Metzler, Beginning February 1, Women's Bible Study, Room 122
- Nathan Kilbourne, Beginning February 1, What Earthly Difference does Jesus Make?, Room 227
- Carol Grace, Beginning February 15, Three Simple Questions and Three Simple Rules, Room 123

February 22 is Ash Wednesday



In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays not included). Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. In ancient times ashes were used to express mourning. Dusting oneself with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sins and faults.

You are invited to Asbury's Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:30 p.m. March 9 in the sanctuary. The pastors will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers in observance of this spiritual occurrence.

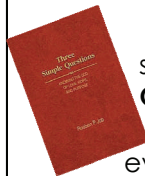
Vacation Bible School Informative Meeting on Sunday, February 12



It is that time!!!! We are getting a jump start on VBS 2012 to make it bigger and better!! **This year's VBS dates are: Sunday, June 24 - Thursday, June 28, 2012.** To get our gears going we are having a VBS **informational meeting on Sunday, February 12 at noon in the**

Large Conference Room. Come and hear about this year's plans and sign up for your area of interest. Do you have any questions? Please contact Elizabeth Waldrum at elizabethwaldrum@yahoo.com or Beth Oppenhuizen at cranbeston@sbcglobe.net. Need childcare? Contact Connie Wagner at connie.j.wagner@gmail.com.

New Bible Study Beginning February 15



Beginning 2/15/2012, we will begin a study of Reuben Job's **"Three Simple Questions"** and **"Three Simple Rules"**. The study will follow our Wednesday evening meal at 6:30.

Please contact Carol Grace at carol.grace.01@comcast.net or 501-223-6088 to sign up for this study.



Parents' Night Out February 17, 2012



Time:

6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Cost:

\$10/ per family

For reservations or questions, please contact

Laura Stinnett, Children's Director,

laura@asbury-lr.org or 501.225.9231.

LETTERS FROM LAURA

It is hard to believe that Christmas and New Year's has come and gone. Children's Ministry is going to be exciting in 2012 and I look forward to a great year.

There are some events that are happening in our district that I want you to be aware of...on **Friday, February 10, from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm**, our 5th graders have been invited to join with other churches for a MERGE event at Pulaski Heights UMC. Then on **Sunday, February 12, from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm** at Pulaski Heights UMC, our parents have been invited to "Keys to Safety" course about Online Safety and your children. This course will cover internet safety, cyber bullying and general child safety. There is no cost for this class. For more information, contact me at 255-9231 or email me.

Lastly, we have a few events going on here at Asbury that you need to get on your calendar. First, it is VBS time!!! We are getting ahead of the game for VBS this year. There will be an informational meeting, **Sunday, February 12 at noon** in the Large Conference Room. Also, Parents' Night Out is back. It will be on **Friday, February 17**. There are articles in this newsletter that have more information about these events.

I hope and pray that you will be able to be at these events...let me know if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Laura

Laura Stinnett,

laura@asbury-lr.org

Congratulations

Joe and Amber Hof on the birth of their daughter, Hannah Nicole, on January 9. Proud siblings are Rachel and Nathan.

Sympathies

To the family and friends of Kelle Ray on her death on January 3.

Don Davis and family on the death of his brother, Bobby Davis, of Hamburg, on January 6.

Tom Hesselbein and family on the death of his brother-in-law.

Mitzi Moore and family on the death of her grandmother

Judy Gee on the death of her sister, Sara Herrman of Grass Valley, CA.

Memorials/Honorariums

To Prison Ministry in Honor of JOE WILKERSON:

Shon & Connie Simpson

In Memory of KELLE RAY:

Fred & Nina Williams

To Permanent Endowment in Memory of VIRGINIA MYERS:

Elsie Adkins

Fred & Nina Williams

In Memory of ELEANOR ADAMS:

Elsie Adkins

Bob & Nell Wilson

Asbury Beautification Committee in Memory of JIMMY GREENFIELD:

Jim & Anita Curtis

Asbury Beautification Committee in Memory of BOBBY DAVIS:

Jim & Anita Curtis

In Memory of SARA HERRMAN:

Robert Moore Bible Class, Asbury UMC

In Memory of NORMAN FORD:

Robert Moore Bible Class, Asbury UMC

Nonperishable Items

Needed for Quapaw Food Pantry



Please bring non perishable food items (for example: canned goods, tooth brushes, toothpaste, deodorant, bath soap, etc) for the Quapaw Food Pantry.

You may place them in the tubs in the hallway beside the downstairs elevator.

**OUR BISHOPS:
LEADING. RESPONDING. NURTURING.**

"The mission is the focus – making disciples of Jesus Christ equipped to transform the world. The mission is not about how comfortable we are; it is about how faithful and fruitful we are. It is about local congregations identifying the local and worldwide mission fields which God – not tradition, not the past, not the latest social trend – is calling that congregation and its pastoral leadership to address. The mission is about taking a courageous step beyond the walls of our church to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ."

— Bishop Charles N. Crutchfield
Arkansas Area

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DECEMBER 2, 2011 | UNITED METHODIST REPORTER

KEENAGERS:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 AT NOON



It's time to get back into the swing of things with Keenagers, and I can't think of a better way than with a program on Roy Rogers and Dale Evans given by Asbury's own Charles Galloway. Charles has had a love of Roy Rogers since he was a kid and has a video and memorabilia that he will be showing us. It should bring back great memories of the past!

Our meal will be a good one too: Ranch Chicken, hash brown potato casserole, salad, green beans, and a wonderful 4 layer chocolate dessert!

The cost is still only \$6 and you will need to make reservations (225-9231) by noon on Friday, February 3rd.

Please start the new year out by bringing canned goods for the Quapaw Quarter UMC. Their stock has been depleted with the holidays

Hope you will all make an effort to come and bring a friend!



Happy Birthday 90's Club!

Wanda Hestes.....2/19



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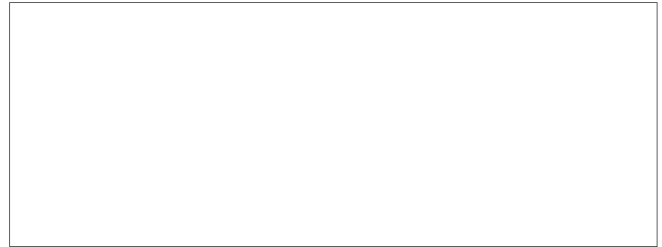


Flowers

Honor or remember someone with beautiful flowers used in worship services. Cost of the flowers is \$82.

Available Dates:

February 5, 19, 26



Asbury's local Boy Scout troop will be recognized on Sunday, February 12, in the 10:45 Contemporary Worship service. They will present the colors and lead in the pledges to our flags.

NEWS BRIEFS

Senior Game Day

Senior Game Day will be Thursday, February 16, beginning at 10:30 am in the Youth Lounge. Bring a sack lunch, drinks and dessert are provided. If you have any questions, please call Pat Parsons at 225-3080.

Thank you's

- To Don Mills for removing the Bradford Pear tree
- The ladies who volunteered in the church office during the holiday season
- To anonymous donor family for furnishing this year's coffee and donuts

Lay Speaking Classes Offered

Mt. Eagle will be hosting both Basic and Advanced Lay Speaking classes Friday, March 16 thru Saturday, March 17. Cost is \$65 (due March 1), which includes 3 meals, lodging and course materials. If you have questions, please call Mount Eagle, 501-723-4580, or email: Lu Harding, Mt. Eagle Director, at lu@mounteagle.org or email Fonda Kirkman, at: northcentralds@conwaycorp.net, or northdistrictds@yahoo.com.

40 Days of Prayer Begins February 22

In Matt. 4:1-11 Jesus was sent out to the wilderness for 40 days where He fasted, prayed, and was tempted before beginning his ministry. In solitude, Jesus spent time listening to His Father's will. He left all the distractions behind in order to listen. In the same vein, the Church enters the 40 day season of Lent, hoping to leave all distractions behind to spend time in prayer in order to listen to God.

During the Lenten season, we invite you to participate in our 40 days of Prayer as we did last year. An online calendar has been created, and we hope to fill every slot for 40 days with faithful prayers. A link will be emailed prior to Ash Wednesday so you can sign up for a slot. There will also be a station set up at the Welcome Center for you to sign up. We encourage you to pick a regular time each day or week for prayer either at home or in the prayer chapel. We hope that we can be intentional as a congregation about taking time to be in prayer and listening for God.

Contact Us

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