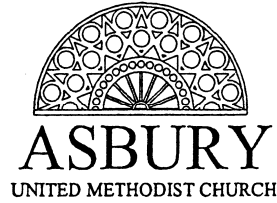


The Messenger

February 2012



Lent: A season to grow closer to God

Watch the weekly bulletin for details about the following:

Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Grow closer to God through worship.

In-Home Communion

Grow closer to God through the sacraments.

Forty Days of Prayer for Five People

Grow closer to God and others through prayer.

Lenten Study led by Dr. Roy Reed

Confirmation Class for youth in grades 7 and older.

Grow closer to God and the church through learning.

Still a Good Deal @ 45 cents!

By Philip Wilden

By the time you read this, the cost of mailing a one-ounce letter will have increased by a penny. For some reason, people tend to get outraged about this. Never mind that most people spend much more on cell phone plans. Never mind that the increase for one-hundred postage stamps will be less than the cost of a cup of coffee. Never mind that a ticket to watch the Buckeyes makes a roll of stamps look like a minor purchase. People still get mad every time postage goes up, as if it's the only thing that goes up.



I'm not mad. In fact, if that's the worst thing that happens to me this year, I'll consider myself very fortunate. I think 45 cents still buys a lot when attached to a letter or card.

In spite of all the modern ways to communicate (e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, Skype, cell phones, etc.), nothing has ever taken the place of an old fashioned letter. A letter, whether written on fancy note paper or a piece of notebook paper, conveys something more than information. It's the gift of time. The sender took the time not only to write a message, but also to address and stamp the envelope, seal it, and walk it to the mailbox.

I grew up in a small town where we got our mail at the post office. Walking to the post office was a daily ritual. It combined exercise, fresh air, and the opportunity to see a neighbor. After I entered Junior High, the school bus dropped us off at the post office, and my brother and I would pick up the mail on our way home. Often, it was still being placed in the boxes, and we would stand around and wait with the older men—Roy Welker, Chester Gray, and Myron Derr. Although we did not “chat” with them very much, it was fun to overhear their conversation, and it provided an intergenerational moment that was in complete contrast to our hours with peers at school.

But the best part of getting the mail was seeing the postmaster, Vernon Addy, who always had a smile on his face. In fact, for the first eighteen years of my life, I thought everybody who worked in a post office was friendly because Vernon was the only one I knew who worked in a post office. I have since learned that's not always the case.

Still, I try to give the workers at the counter a break. They no doubt hear people complain all day long about the cost of postage, something over which they have no control. It would put me in a bad mood, too.

Delaware is the first “big town” I've lived in, and so now I have the opportunity to observe mail carriers on foot. I have to admire them. On those humid, 90-degree July days when I'm working in an air conditioned office, they are carrying heavy mail bags all afternoon. In the winter when I'm driving in a warm car, they are trudging through the wind, ice and snow to bring our mail to our door. When I was arriving at the church for the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, Adam Lefevre, who delivers mail in the church neighborhood, was still on the job. Most everybody else was already celebrating Christmas.

Sometimes when I get homesick for a small town, I drive up to the Radnor Post Office. I'm afraid they are going to close the post offices in small towns (Magnetic Springs is losing theirs), so I try to give them my business. I bought our Christmas stamps in Radnor. The next Saturday, I mailed some packages. Two older men were standing around, catching up on the local news. The man at the counter said, "So, you came back." I felt like I was back home.

A final observation: Those of you who send cards to shut-ins and persons with health problems and people who are recovering from surgery are doing a greater ministry than you think you are. When I visit a member in the hospital and see the cards on the bed stand, or when I call in the nursing home and see cards on the bulletin board, I know you have expressed concern and prayers in a tangible way. And people are grateful that they are remembered, even if they forget to tell you. It may very well be the brightest part of their day.

So the next time you hear someone complain about the cost of postage, think about all the good things that come about because we have a mail service. People say they want the creation of jobs, but they expect somebody else to do the creating. Every time I send a letter in the mail, I know that several people will handle it until it reaches its destination. That means jobs for them. It means joy for me, the sender, and maybe joy for the person on the receiving end. And, if they write back, the gift returns!

CROP Walk Total

The 2011 CROP Walk raised \$9,284.04 for the work of Church World Service and People-In-Need. Hungry people near and far are being blessed by the efforts of walkers and their sponsors. Our thanks to Laura Bump for serving as Asbury's recruiter.

Newsletter Correction

In a recent issue of The Messenger, we omitted a letter from the website of the Mulungwishi Mission. The correct address is:

<http://umccongo.blogspot.com>

You can find Asbury on:



“How Did I Get Here?”

By Susan Zimmerman, Lay Leader



I was surprised last October to be asked by the Lay Committee to serve as Lay Leader for the next three years. My first thought was, “Me? Really? Why would anyone think of me for that role?” Before agreeing to accept the position, I spent some time thinking about how it is that I became involved with Asbury Church. It didn’t take me long to realize that several key people were the catalyst for what has become my journey at Asbury.

Thirteen years ago, Bill and I moved to Delaware from Dublin. We had the good fortune to find a house on Elmwood Drive right next door to Rev. Jim and Betty Leslie. In the first few months we were in our new home, we had the pleasure of sharing many conversations with Rev. Leslie and Betty. We came to admire greatly their intellect, commitment, and compassion. Both Betty and Rev. Leslie talked of their involvement at Asbury and how much they loved their church home. Often Rev. Leslie would say, “Why don’t you come to Asbury? Give it a try. I think you’d like it there.”

Eventually it became less and less convenient to attend what had been our church home in Dublin. We took Rev. Leslie’s advice and gave Asbury a try. On our first visit, we tried to sneak in and out of the service without being noticed. That’s impossible at a church like Asbury where the congregants are so observant and friendly. We sat in a pew behind Emma and Larry Dixon. Emma greeted us with a gigantic smile and twinkling eyes. We felt welcomed from the very first moment we sat down in the pew. After the service, Mona Ray approached us and introduced herself. As Bill and I made our way home, we concurred that indeed the folks at Asbury were friendly.

We were still finding it difficult to leave our church in Dublin so over the next few months we continued to try to balance attending both churches depending upon our weekly schedule. We enjoyed Rev. Campbell-Gaston’s sermons and were enthralled with the music presentations each week at Asbury. After attending Asbury a few times, we were surprised when Charlotte Gallant rang our doorbell. With eyes as blue and crystal clear as water, Charlotte invited herself into our home, introduced herself, handed us a few papers and said, “My records show you folks have been to Asbury for three consecutive weeks. Fill out these papers so you can become members.” Charlotte left almost as quickly as she came. As I closed the door, Bill said, “She’s not the kind of lady you can say ‘no’ to. I guess we’re joining Asbury.” I smiled because it was the most unique invitation I’d ever been extended to join a church, but it also worked. We couldn’t say no to a life force like Charlotte.

Over the years it has become more and more clear that I was destined to be a member of Asbury. When I had the good fortune to meet Shirley Vining, I discovered that her late husband Rev. Merlin Vining had baptized me in my childhood church in Ashland, Ohio. Rev. Tom Snyder, who presented me with my Bible in third grade at that same church, served at Asbury after leaving Ashland.

More than these coincidences, I have found it to be inevitable that Asbury became my church home. When Rev. Rollins came soon after Bill and I joined Asbury, it didn't take long for us to be "sitting close like sticky rice" and answering to "Can I hear an 'amen?'" We met more people and left church each week buoyed by the friendship extended to us. It was in those first few years of our membership that we had the blessing of bringing our children to their first services in car carriers. Through the years, the ways in which our children were accepted and encouraged at Asbury through Sunday School, Bible School, Children's Moments and Choir cemented my commitment to Asbury. If a place could be this good to my kids, how could it not be the right place for me? When Rev. Wilden arrived as Asbury's minister, Bill and I both were committed to our life at Asbury. Rev. Wilden's sermons challenged, comforted and inspired us in more ways than we ever dreamed was possible. For us, his compassionate and trustworthy leadership emboldened us to become more involved in the life of the church. The fellowship and encouragement that my family has received at Asbury from the ministry staff and fellow congregants has confirmed that what started as a tentative entry to a new place to what is now a firm commitment to a place I love.

As Lay Leader, I don't plan to write in this space monthly. I intend to leave plenty of room in The Messenger for those like Rev. Wilden and Rev. McCartney who have much more experience and expertise than I have in addressing the congregation. At twelve and ten, Charlie and Mary Beth would probably prefer their mom not to publically write about the spiritual life of our family. I feel it necessary for me to honor that. Nevertheless, I may check in here from time-to-time. One thing I've learned about my spiritual journey at Asbury is that it's just that: a journey. I'll see where it leads me during these next three years as Lay Leader.

I am humbled and honored to accept the role of Lay Leader. I look forward to serving and getting to know more members of the place I've come to treasure, Asbury United Methodist Church.

February *First Thursday* recital welcomes Joshua Brodbeck, organist





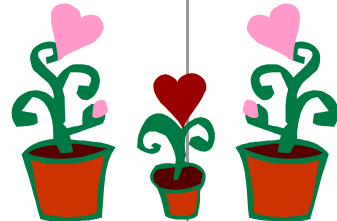
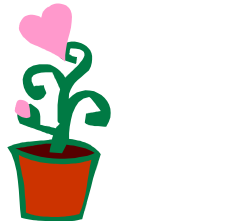


Plan now to attend our February organ recital on Thursday, February 2, from 12:15 to 12:45. Joshua Brodbeck, organist at Methodist Theological School and Director of Music at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Upper Arlington, will be our soloist.

Many of you had the opportunity to hear Josh when he played the Klais organ in Gray Chapel during the Central Ohio Symphony Christmas concerts. Josh is an exciting performer and is probably the youngest organist in Columbus to serve as Director of Music of a good sized congregation. A recent graduate of Capital University, Joshua has studied with Steve Jacoby and Todd Wilson. In 2007 he won the Indianapolis American Guild of Organists Young Artist Competition. In 2009 he was the second place winner of the American Guild of Organists Young Artist Competition in Detroit.

As always, coffee and tea will be ready for you and tables set for those who wish to enjoy lunch during the recital. - Sally Casto

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedne
<p>Sunday School 9:30a Worship 10:45 a February Trustee: Erik English</p>			<p>1-UMW Board Mtg Day Out Club 10a Alleluia & Junior C MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:45p Bell Choir 6p /Ad Journey Youth 7p Trustees Mtg. 8p</p>
<p>5 Willow Brook Service 2p EYG 7p</p>	<p>6 Boy Scouts 7p</p> 	<p>7 Care Network 10a Ad Council 7p</p>	<p>8-Day Out Club 1 Alleluia & Junior C 2nd Wednesday MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:45p Bell Choir 6p /Ad Journey Youth 7p</p>
<p>12-Scout Sunday & Noisy Coin BP Screening 12p Weavings Group 7p EYG 7p</p>	<p>13 Boy Scouts 7p</p> 	<p>14</p> 	<p>15-Day Out Club Alleluia & Junior C MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:45p Bell Choir 6p /Ad Journey Youth 7p</p>
<p>19 EYG 7p</p>	<p>20 Boy Scouts 7p</p> 	<p>21 CFHS Consortium 11:30a Alzheimer's Support Care Group 1p</p>	<p>22-Day Out Club Alleluia & Junior C MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:45p Bell Choir 6p /Ad Journey Youth 7p Ash Wednesday</p>
<p>26 Art Series Concert 4p EYG 7p</p>	<p>27 Boy Scouts 7p</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29-Day Out Club Alleluia & Junior C MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:45p Bell Choir 6p /Ad Journey Youth 7p</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>10a Mtg. 10a Senior Choir 4:15p Adult Choir 7p Youth 7p Children 8p</p>	<p>2-Noontime Organ Recital 12:15 p Mission & Outreach 7p</p>	<p>3-Prayer Group 8a </p>	<p>4 MAP/Journey Sub Making 10a</p>
<p>10a Mtg. 10a Senior Choir 4:15p Day Italian Dinner 4:15p Adult Choir 7p Youth 7p</p>	<p>9 DCP Board Mtg. 6:30p Finance Comm. Mtg. 7p Northwest Neighborhood Association 7:30p</p>	<p>10-Prayer Group 8a Chocolate Fare Set-up 10a-6p </p>	<p>11 Chocolate Fare 10a-2p</p>
<p>10a Mtg. 10a Senior Choir 4:15p Adult Choir 7p Youth 7p</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17-Prayer Group 8a </p>	<p>18 Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8a Can drop-off 9a-12p</p>
<p>10a Mtg. 10a Senior Choir 4:15p Adult Choir 7p Youth 7p Day Service 7:30p</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24-Prayer Group 8a </p>	<p>25 Art Series Rehearsal 8:30a-12:00p</p>
<p>10a Mtg. 10a Senior Choir 4:15p Adult Choir 7p Youth 7p</p>			

Celebrating the Algoe Family

By Bill McCartney



This month's spotlight is on the Algoe Family, but perhaps it also shines on Asbury Church. That the Algoe's are a part of Asbury is a reflection of some fundamental qualities that identify our congregation.

Eric grew up mostly in nearby Plain City. After his bachelor's degree from OSU, he received an MBA from Franklin University. Kim grew up in Wadsworth near Akron and attended Ohio University, later receiving a Master's degree in counseling from the University of Dayton. Eric's career has been in business leadership. Recently he served as Chief Operating Officer of the Ohio State Schools for the Deaf and Blind. Since August, 2008 he's been Vice President for Finance and Administration at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Kim has her own career in state agencies, but takes special pride in her 10 years working with children and families through the Juvenile Court. She currently works as a (licensed) substitute teacher in the Delaware Schools. This part-time work means she can spend more time with their daughters.

The parents celebrate the children's academic strengths - plus their interesting variety of activities. Hailey, a 7th grader at Dempsey, is in Sally Casto's Asbury Organ Academy and enjoys art. Isabel, a 4th grader at Conger, is their "soccer child" and a math whiz. Ella, a 3rd grader at Conger, is an accomplished swimmer and the family "ham."

Asbury celebrates what Eric and Kim have brought to our church. In spite of heavy responsibilities at OWU, Eric has found time to serve our Trustees, including a year as Chair. Kim's involvements are many: Teaching Sunday School; working on the PIN Garden Committee; recruiting persons for the weekly Hospitality Time, plus others. She's especially proud to have teamed with other persons to bring the Delaware Cooperative Pre-school to Asbury.

Of significance is what brought the Algoe's to Asbury. Kim said they wanted a community of God-loving people and found it here. Equally important are the things they continue to appreciate about our church: openness, friendliness, inclusion of ALL people.

Yes, we celebrate having the Algoe family in our midst - and we're grateful for the Asbury qualities that they celebrate.

Inviting the Men of Asbury

All men of the church are invited to a breakfast meeting at 8:00 on Saturday, February 18. This exploratory meeting will discuss a men's group that will provide: 1) fellowship; 2) varying aspects of study (Bible and/or other); and 3) and the creation of work teams to benefit the church, church members, and the community. Such groups have been a vital part of other congregations, so let's develop such an asset at Asbury. As the old army recruiting posters said, "WE WANT YOU!" Please see Bill McCartney with questions.





UMW Events

The Chocolate Fare will be on February 11, from 10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m.

The United Methodist Women are looking forward to this event. There will be all kinds of chocolates, truffles, buckeyes, cakes, candies, pies, brownies, cookies, and more. You may wish to come and have a treat at the cozy cafe. You buy your treat; coffee or hot chocolate is furnished. This Valentine's Day, remember that 'sweet' someone.

UMW News

Asbury's UMW had a great year due to the generosity of its members and the church family. Do you wonder where the money goes? First, we meet our pledge to the district. This money goes on to Women's Division. The mission moments in the Messenger each month give a sampling of how that money is spent. Second, the extra money we have is spent at our discretion. This year the extra was divided this way: \$200.00 to Family Promise in honor of our pastor, \$500.00 to Asbury's youth, \$300.00 to PIN, \$300.00 to Liberty Community Center, and \$300.00 to Mulungwishi Women's School. This is part of the seminary in the Congo where Kim Wisecup visited. Wow! The Asbury community did a great job.

UMW Mission Moment

Fatima Mohammed walked 32 days from her drought-ravaged farm in Somalia to a Dadaab refugee settlement in Kenya. She spoke of those days; of how the children were so thirsty they could not walk. The journey along what some have dubbed the "Road from Hell" was very frightening. No water meant they had to move on. More than 13 million people urgently require food aid in the Horn of Africa. The United Methodist Women are in these refugee camps through the money we send and the missionaries we support.

Mission & Outreach and the UMW Need Your Donations for Undie Sundays

The homeless do not own washers and dryers. Folks with a "roof over their heads" still may not own washers and dryers and may have no transportation to get them and their dirty laundry to a public laundry facility. Those living on minimum wage earnings may own a washer or dryer but not have enough money in their budgets to purchase both groceries and laundry detergent. With these thoughts in mind, the Mission and Outreach Committee and the United Methodist Women (UMW) are combining efforts to collect **new** undergarments and socks for people of all ages and sizes in our Delaware community to be donated to the **Common Ground Free Store**. We hope that you will think about how good it feels to put on a clean pair of socks, an undershirt, and other personal items, and remember that many of our local brothers and sisters are challenged to have clean laundry or to own sufficient personal items. Children too need clean, warm undergarments and socks. Please donate before February 5. A bin is located in the foyer area. Thank you for supporting our "love in action" initiatives.

“2nd Wednesday Italian Night”

By John Lindeboom, Scoutmaster

A huge success and lots of fun! Those are the comments from the Scouts. We have two dinners under our belts, and look forward to hosting many more. December’s date brought out 75 people during their busy schedules. January brought 101. We have had great feedback and suggestions.

One of the goals with hosting this dinner is to get the Boy Scouts familiar with the many faces of Asbury, and also for Asbury to get to know the Scouts. We currently have 31 boys registered in our Troop. The proceeds from the dinners will go to assist the eight boys selected to go to Philmont in July (a cost of \$1,200.00 per Scout) and also for the week long summer camp for 21 boys in June (a cost of \$300.00 per Scout).

Each month the menu will change slightly, but keeping in the Italian theme. Pasta, Spaghetti, Lasagna, stuffed shells etc. Each meal includes salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverages. Donations only! Please plan to attend Wednesday, February 8 from 5-7 p.m. Take-out is available. Coffee will be available. Thank you for your support. Tell a friend or neighbor!



Bird Houses available

Local Restore Volunteer Pete O’Flaherty will be leading a Habitat for Humanity mission trip May 19-27 to Guatemala. As his service project to raise funds for the trip, he will be constructing birdhouses that are available at Asbury and also at the Restore on Curtis St. Please feel free to take a birdhouse with you from Asbury. Checks can be given to Frances O’Flaherty or you can email Pete at peteroflaherty@yahoo.com or call at 740 363 6210 about a web link to donate directly to Habitat for Humanity for your birdhouse. A brief informational meeting about going on or supporting this mission trip will be held after worship on February 19th.



Taize services

By Pam Spence

I am exploring the possibility of Asbury hosting Taize services once more during the upcoming year, perhaps every few months. The meditative services, originally created by an order of Monastic brothers, comprised of chant, prayer and Gospel reading. Suitable for ages 16 and above. Lasting typically one hour. I am willing to take responsibility for organizing these services and would like to invite anyone else who would like to be involved to contact me at pammy.spence@gmail.com. We will plan a time to meet after church in the upcoming weeks to get this project underway.

A note from the Andrews House

Dear Asbury,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the many clients we serve we would like to send you heartfelt thanks for your donation of \$250.00 to support the programs and services of Andrews House. Your gift puts you shoulder-to-shoulder with us and with literally hundreds of volunteers who make Andrews House services work.

Sincerely yours,
Donald G. Chenoweth
Executive Director



Dear Asbury,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$391.92 from your Noisy Coin offerings. Your gift will help us continue our mission of providing emergency assistance to families and individuals throughout Delaware County. We value the trust you have placed in us as stewards of your support.

Serving those in need,
Randy Bournique
Development Director, People In Need



“Giving Tree” Thank you.....

On behalf of the three “Giving Tree” families, let me say a big thank you! The looks on the faces of the parents when they saw how generous you were, were ones of awe, relief, and joy! You brought Christmas to nine children and their families. “Yes, Virginia! There is a Santa Claus!” And you are all it!

Di Huston



Directory Update

Proofing, more proofing and still more proofing. We are really close to finishing this big task! Look for the new directories sometime in the month of March.



Committee Chairs

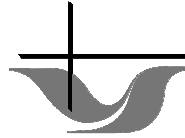
As soon as you have your 2012 meeting schedules, please stop in the office and fill out a calendar request form. This will assure your meeting space and have it listed in the weekly bulletin announcements.



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
55 West Lincoln Avenue
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Delaware, Ohio
Permit No. 43

Return Service Requested



Pastor: Reverend Philip Wilden
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Tues—Fri.
Phone: (740) 363-3611/Fax: (740) 368-8405
Website: www.asburyohio.org
E-mail : church@asburyohio.org

February 2012 Church Newsletter

