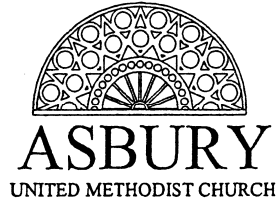


# The Messenger

## March 2012



### ***Worship Schedule***

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."  
John 3:16*

- March 4**    **Second Sunday in Lent**  
Scripture: Mark 8:31-38  
The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.
- March 11**    **Third Sunday in Lent**  
Scripture: John 2:13-22  
Baptism of Dex Markward.
- March 18**    **Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
Scripture: John 3:14-21  
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
- March 25**    **Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
Scripture: John 12:20-33



## ***Cleaning Out the Closets of the Mind*** ***By Pastor Phil***



It's the time of the year when we get serious about cleaning out the closet in which things have been accumulating for years. Not much to do outdoors, so why not do something useful inside? In that spirit, here are a few brief thoughts as I clean out the cluttered corners of my mind.

### ***So what do you think of Tressel?***

During the midst of the Ohio State football drama, I was occasionally asked what I thought of Coach Jim Tressel. I gave noncommittal answers, in part because I was not following the situation in great detail, but also because for many people, Jim Tressel is a god. In some quarters, to criticize him is like criticizing Mohammed. I did not want to become the next Salman Rushdie.

Now that the dust has begun to settle, I wonder if the bigger picture is not Tressel, but rather what happens when so much money is on the line and there is so much pressure to win. Does anybody else think that Division I football has just gotten out of control?

Last fall our family attended a football game at Ohio Northern University, where our daughter was playing in the marching band. Although we went to see Rebecca and the band, I enjoyed watching the football game as well. Tickets were not pricey. (They were actually free for parents.) Refreshments were reasonable. The coach was not making more money than the President of the United States, and the players were not headed for professional careers in football. They are preparing to be teachers and social workers and accountants and engineers.

The experience reminded me that sports can be fun, as long as it's kept in perspective. For a lot of Americans, and certainly for thousands of Ohio State fans, it has become a religion. Is there any wonder that we have problems?

### ***Connecting the Church and the Academy***



Only 12 cities in the country can claim a United Methodist seminary, and one of them is Delaware. The Methodist Theological School on Route 23 provides some unique opportunities for us. One of the most obvious is the presence of seminary interns in the congregation over the years.

Another example of the cross-fertilization between the church and the academic community occurred this winter in the Spiritual Journey Sunday school class, led by Jim Dietz. They have been studying the books of Colossians and I and II Thessalonians, using the Bible study guide written by Dr. Lisa Withrow, who teaches church leadership at the Methodist Theological School.

One of the chapters is titled "Life Is Hard, But Hope Is Real." Lisa writes, "One of the ways which the Christian community experiences hope is by listening to the good news of God's love presented over and over through Scriptures, through preaching and teaching, through conversation and witness."

Then she raises these questions for us to ponder: “Name ways that you may have felt hopeless in life. Did hope return? If so, how did it happen? How has your understanding of hope changed over time? What are the most hopeful people you know like? How do they sustain hope?”

Lisa says that the church exists to offer hope to the world. That causes us to take a look into the mirror and look for ways in which we are offering hope, as well as ways that we can do it more consistently.

### ***Going the Extra Mile***

I’ve gotten to the point where I no longer try to predict worship attendance. I often expect it to pick up in September and October, but sometimes those months have been below average. Then we have a full sanctuary in January and February, in spite of several members being in warmer climates. So who knows?

I do know that when the sanctuary is full, the parking lot is overflowing. I’ve said this before, but it’s worth repeating: If you are able, we encourage you to park on the street so that the parking lot might be available for those who have a more difficult time walking, as well as visitors who are not as familiar with parking options. We won’t ask you to go an extra mile, but a few extra steps are helpful. Thanks to those who do!



### ***As Another Lent Begins***

This phrase appears in one of the newer hymns, and it reminds me that Lent seems to roll around faster each year. Sometimes I think, “What more is there to say about the passion of Christ and his resurrection?” I feel like I’m repeating myself.

Yet, I also realize that the most important things in life are things we do repeatedly, by habit.

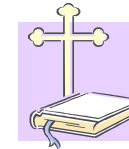
Kathleen Norris, in her book *Acedia & Me*, makes this helpful observation: “Can we regard repetition as a saving grace, one that keeps returning us to essential understandings that we can discover in no other way? It is by means of repeating ordinary rituals and routines that we enhance the relationships that nourish and sustain us.”

She cites a study that says a daily “peck on the cheek” is a sign of a marriage that is good and stable. “Let’s hear it for insincere, hurried kisses, and prayers made with a yawn,” she says. “Whatever you do repeatedly has the power to shape you, has the power to make you over into a different person—even if you’re not totally ‘engaged’ every minute.” (p. 188)

Perhaps the Christian Year, especially the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent, is exactly what we need to sustain our walk with Christ over a lifetime, in spite of the fact that we may encounter periods that seem dry and lifeless. Another Lent is upon us. Let us allow God to prepare our hearts for Easter.



**Lenten Study to be Led by Dr. Roy Reed**  
**Sundays at 7:00 p.m.**  
**March 11, 18, and 25**



During Lent, Dr. Reed will offer three classes relating Christian faith and the arts. The story of our faith has been told in many media, probably none so expressive and dramatic as in the arts.

The first class will hear and analyze Bach cantata no. 78: "Jesus, thou my wearied spirit." This is a drama of human struggle and the grace and faith of Jesus offered to our wearied spirits.

The second class will confront the dramatic images of the Greek/Spanish artist El Greco as he tells the faith story in his art.

The third class will survey the images of Jesus throughout Christian history as many artists seek to portray Jesus and the gospel story through artistic images.

If you would like to participate, please sign up on the table in the foyer.

**Lenten Home Communion Services**

A Lenten tradition at Asbury has been informal communion services hosted by various members in their homes. Four home communions have been scheduled for the month of March on the following dates:



**Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Jon and Susan Speer -Powers at 4:00pm

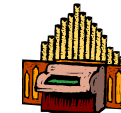
**Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Mark and Sara Stuntz at 7:00pm

**Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Roy and Nancy Reed at 7:00 pm

**Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Rock and Melissa Jones at 7:00 pm

This is an opportunity to get to know others in small group settings, as well as remembering the presence of Christ throughout both the season of Lent and all the seasons of life. Sign-up sheets are on the foyer table or contact the church office.

**Noontime Organ Recital Series presents John Schuder on March 1**



Once again, we have a splendid organ recital arranged for your listening enjoyment on March 1, from 12:15 – 12:45. Dr. John Schuder, who played for us in October, 2010, returns to offer music to brighten your day! Dr. Schuder is Director of Music and Organist at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grove City. For many years Dr. Schuder was an organ professor at the Manhattan School of Music in New York and Director of Music at the Scarsdale Presbyterian Church in Scarsdale, New Jersey. As always, tables will be set and coffee and tea prepared for those who wish to enjoy lunch during the recital.

## **A Talented and Active Couple**

**By Bill McCartney**



Our spotlight generally falls on persons to highlight their service at Asbury. For Elaine and Ken Morton, however, it also reveals their background that created and honed the skills they've brought to Asbury.

Elaine spent her early years in Marion County, but moved to Morrow County for high school where she met Ken who had been raised there. They married in 1955, lived for 46 years in the Marion area -- before moving here about 2005 and joining Asbury. Alas, that simple story doesn't tell it all.

It doesn't tell how Elaine learned piano playing as a youngster to play for the Waldo UMC. As a teenager she learned organ and played for 13 years at the Cardington UMC. She returned to Waldo to direct the choir. It doesn't tell that after her third child, she enrolled at OSU (Marion) earning an education degree in Social Studies and English. She taught several years at their five county Career Center. It doesn't tell of her social conscience that led her to the National Association for Women or her leadership in the struggle leading to the public admission of toxic dangers at Marion County's River Valley H.S. (Their daughter Melanie had two bouts with cancer as a student there.)

The above bio doesn't tell of Ken's time in the Navy, his years working for the Erie RR, or his business building houses, recognized as among the best.

The above bio doesn't tell of Ken and Elaine taking mission trips to Alaska and Biloxi, or of their work with the Waldo Church youth, or that Ken was a District Trustee, or that as Waldo Church Treasurer, Ken made sure the conference apportionments were paid first.

The above bio doesn't tell that the skills defining these two are basically self taught.

Now Asbury benefits from their commitment and skills. Elaine has participated with the United Methodist Women and sings in our Choir. Ken regularly teams with Larry Proper in countless needed home projects for members who might not otherwise be able to afford it. He's helping create Asbury's Men's Fellowship.










All this happens as Elaine fights an elusive disease that took over 2 years to diagnose and which Mayo Clinic (where they return annually) says she's but one of 28 such patients in the U.S. The disease's name is long, but simply put it's marked by benign tumors, lesions, and fibroids.

Yes, our spotlight must be broad to cover this history of service. It also needs to focus narrowly to appreciate the marvelous teamwork of these two. When this author went to interview them for this article, they were working as a team quilting.

We're grateful this team is a part of Asbury's team.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes
<p><b>Sunday School 9:30a</b>  <b>Worship</b>  <b>10:45 a</b>  <b>March Trustee:</b>  <b>Patrick Lingo</b></p>			
<p><b>4</b>  Willow Brook Service 2p  Weavings 7p  EYG 7p</p>	<p><b>5</b>  Boy Scouts 7p</p> 	<p><b>6</b>  Care Network 11a</p>	<p><b>7-Kiwanis Breakfas</b>  UMW Board Mtg. 1  Day Out Club 10a  Alleluia &amp; Junior Cf  MAP Youth 5:15p  Teen Choir 5:30p  Bell Choir 6p /Adult  Journey Youth 7p  Trustees Mtg. 8p</p>
<p><b>11-Daylight Savings</b>  Noisy Coin Collection  BP Screening 12p  Lenten Study 7p</p> 	<p><b>12</b>  Boy Scouts 7p  Educational  Ministries 7p</p> 	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14-UMW General M</b>  Day Out Club 10a  Alleluia &amp; Junior Cf  <b>"2nd Wed. Italian</b>  MAP Youth 5:15p  Teen Choir 5:30p  Bell Choir 6p /Adult  Journey Youth 7p</p>
<p><b>18-Family Promise</b>  Lenten Study 7p</p> <p><b>Messenger Deadline</b></p> 	<p><b>19-Family Promise</b>  Boy Scouts 7p</p> 	<p><b>20-Family Promise</b>  Alzheimers Support  Care Group 1p.</p>	<p><b>21-Family Promis</b>  Day Out Club 10a  Alleluia &amp; Junior Cf  MAP Youth 5:15p  Teen Choir 5:30p  Bell Choir 6p /Adult  Journey Youth 7p</p>
<p><b>25-Family Promise</b>  Lenten Study 7p  EYG 7p</p> <p>Last day to order  Easter flowers</p> 	<p><b>26</b>  Boy Scouts 7p</p> 	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28-Day Out Club 10</b>  Alleluia &amp; Junior Cf  MAP Youth 5:15p  Teen Choir 5:30p  Bell Choir 6p /Adult  Journey Youth 7p</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><b>1</b> Noontime Recital 12:15p Mission &amp; Outreach 7p</p> 	<p><b>2</b> Prayer Group 8a</p> 	<p><b>3</b> DCP Chili Cook-off 3p</p> 
<p>Breakfast 7a Mtg. 10a 10a Prayer Choir 4:15p 5p 6p Adult Choir 7p 7p 8p</p>	<p><b>8</b> DCP board Mtg. 6:30p North West Neighborhood 7:30p</p>	<p><b>9</b> Prayer Group 8a</p> 	<p><b>10</b></p>
<p>General Meeting 10a 10a Prayer Choir 4:15p <b>"Lillian Night" 5p</b> 5p 6p Adult Choir 7p 7p</p>	<p><b>15</b> Staff Parish 6:30p</p>	<p><b>16</b> Prayer Group 8a Agency Conference Group 12n</p> 	<p><b>17</b> "Cans for a Cure" Drop-off 9a-12n</p> 
<p><b>18-Family Promise</b> 10a Prayer Choir 4:15p 5p 6p Adult Choir 7p 7p</p>	<p><b>22-Family Promise</b> Messenger Mailing 9a</p> 	<p><b>23-Family Promise</b> Prayer Group 8a</p> 	<p><b>24-Family Promise</b></p>
<p>10a Prayer Choir 4:15p 5p 6p Adult Choir 7p 7p</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> Prayer Group 8a MAP Youth Overnight 4p</p> 	<p><b>31</b> MAP youth pick up 10a</p>

## Men's Fellowship is launched

By Bill McCartney



Seventeen (17) men of Asbury enjoyed the first full meeting of a new Men's Fellowship at a breakfast on Saturday, February 18. The idea has been discussed (and planned) for a couple of months, and the success of this recent event bodes well for the future of such a group.

The emerging format is for a regular (something like monthly) Saturday gathering of Asbury men with food and fellowship as dominant elements, but with the hope and expectation of some study elements -- and the eagerness to respond to church or community needs for the men to be serving others.

## UMW News & Events

**General Meeting:** March 14 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This is our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Meeting. Do we show our gratitude for all the good in our lives? That is what Prayer and Self-Denial is about. For 100 years the mission-minded women have prayed and given through this channel. Since its beginning women have led The United Methodist Church in cutting edge ministries by building schools, playgrounds and colleges from Alaska to Zimbabwe. Today the praying and giving continues. Our special offering this year will support the upkeep of these institutions. Come and join us for all or part of the time. You are welcome. Bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be furnished by Rebekah Circle.

**Project Health Kits:** The United Methodist Women hope you will help us make many Health Kits for UMCOR. These kits go where they are needed after a disaster in the United States and around the world. They were passed out in New Orleans after Katrina and in Haiti after the earthquake. Bring the kits to the church by April 11 and place them in the tub in the foyer so they may be delivered to the District meeting on April 15. The following is a list of the items needed to make a kit. Enclose the items in a clear plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel (15"x25" up to 17" x 27". No kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste.



**Mission Moment:** February's RESPONSE magazine listed all the spots in the world that is supported in part by the United Methodist Women through the Women's Division. There were 97 places listed in the US, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Seven of these places were in OHIO. One was the South Side Settlement in Columbus, OH.

## Meet Our New Members



*The following people were received into membership on December 11, 2011.*

**Karen & Keith Ansley** transfer their membership from St. Mark's Lutheran Church. They have two adult daughters, Dana and Megan. Dana is married to Parker Huston, the son of Di and John. Keith works for CSX Railroad. Karen teaches sixth grade social studies at Buckeye Valley Middle School. She enjoys reading and spending time with family. Keith enjoys working in the yard and growing vegetables.

**Lauren & Brendan Greisberger** were high school sweethearts at Worthington. Brendan grew up in the Roman Catholic Church. Lauren is the granddaughter of Nancy and Roy Reed and visited Asbury as a child. Lauren teaches first grade at Indian Springs Elementary. Brendan is program manager of Sports & Wellness Scholars at Ohio State University, where he is involved in service activities, such as the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics. Brendan likes to golf and bike. Lauren enjoys reading and discovering new children's books.

**Cathy & Azeez Okunlola** transfer their membership from Marysville United Methodist Church. Azeez was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and they met in Japan as students. Both speak Japanese. Azeez works with computers at Honda Research & Development. Cathy is a stay-at-home mom, caring for Ayo, age 3, and Lewa, age 1. In the Yoruba language, Ayo means "joy" and Lewa means "beautiful." Both Cathy and Azeez enjoy cooking, and Cathy likes to scrapbook.

**Nancy Prindle** transfers her membership from Old Stone Presbyterian Church. She and her husband Allen have two adult sons and two granddaughters. Nancy works for Delaware County Developmental Disabilities, where she coordinates programs for parents and children (age birth through age 3). Nancy is a member of the Faith & Issues Sunday school class. She enjoys swimming and sings with the Delaware Community Chorus.

**Ruth Ward** was baptized at Asbury and joins by profession of faith. She grew up in Fredericktown and served nine years in the Ohio Air National Guard. She has four children. Ruth cleans houses and takes care of people. She attends the Friday Morning Prayer Group, is a member of the Spiritual Journey Sunday school class, and recently started taking attendance for the Sunday school.

**Marianne Main** grew up in Delaware and lived much of her adult life in Atlanta. Her mother is Maxine Main. Marianne has moved back to Delaware and transfers her membership from Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church in Atlanta. She is a licensed professional counselor. She enjoys running and swimming and volunteers for Home Reach Hospice and Canine Companions.

**Pam Spence** has previously served at Asbury as Director of Comprehensive Ministries for Children and Families. She and her husband, Michael Allen, have five children and six grandchildren. Pam is the editor of the Ohio Jewish Chronicle, and she has been involved in arts outreach, particularly using puppetry, with populations at risk. She also keeps busy helping care for grandchildren.

## Spirituality of Stewardship

By Lisa Withrow



Twice each year, I send in my charitable donations to all of the organizations that address, in my mind, compelling concerns. I follow the organizations on social network sites to see what they do and I lend support as I can. Then I come to the church, which asks for money every week. Is the church any different than a charitable concern? I attend, I am active in some areas, I rely on the church for communion of Christians, I am vocationally a minister. Am I just supporting another charitable organization that happens to be part of my life-work? Sometimes I have felt that way and I would imagine many others do too, especially those who serve on other vocations. So, as an experiment to address my question, I changed some poor giving habits because I knew I could do better – and the change in habit actually changed my mind. The more I give, and the more regularly I give, the more I appreciate being part of Christian community. The less I give, the more I resent the foibles of Christian community. Sound backwards? Direct correlations? No idea, the experiment is new. But the observation is my spiritual issue at this time of my life – quite an interesting one. What's your spiritual issue regarding stewardship?

## Rev. Jean Woods' Retirement

For the past two years, Rev. Jean Woods has served our church in the area of Christian education. She has worked with children, youth, and adults and has filled in as a teacher in more than one Sunday school class.



Jean retired at the end of January. We thank her for her compassion for others and her commitment to helping us grow as disciples of Jesus.

## Summer Camp Opportunities

It's time to plan for summer church camp. East Ohio has three camps-- Wanake, Asbury, and Aldersgate-- which offer a variety of opportunities for fun activity outdoors and spiritual growth. Campers are in small groups with similar aged youth, ranging from early elementary through high school.



For more information, see the bulletin board by the educational wing entrance, or ask Pastor Phil for a flier. You can also visit the website at [www.EOCsummercamps.org](http://www.EOCsummercamps.org). To encourage campers, the church provides scholarships. Please contact Pastor Phil if you plan to attend.





# Easter Flowers



If you would like to purchase Easter flowers for the Asbury sanctuary, please complete the information and mail it to the church or drop it into the offering plate on Sunday.  
All flower orders must be accompanied by payment.

Deadline to order plants is *Sunday, March 25*

I/We (names) \_\_\_\_\_ wish to buy  
(please indicate how many of each flower you would like below)

\_\_\_\_\_ Tulips @ \$10.00 ea. = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinths @\$10.00 ea.= \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lilies @ \$10.00 ea. = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hydrangeas @ \$15.00 ea.= \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Azalea @ \$15.00ea. = \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of (please *print* clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

or

In honor of (please *print* clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to keep my plant(s) and will pick them up after the Easter Service.

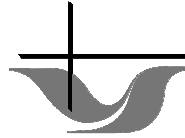
\_\_\_\_\_ Please give my plant(s) to one of our shut-ins.

*Thank you for your order to help beautify  
our sanctuary for Easter Eve and Easter morning.*

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

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March 2012 Church Newsletter

