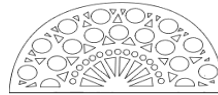




Asbury Messenger September 2011



**Sermon series:
School for Prayers**

What is prayer? Is it something we do when we're feeling "spiritual"? And where do we pray? Just at church? And what should a prayer sound like?

Beginning September 11, we will turn to various people in the Bible for answers to those questions. We will listen to prayers of Moses, Jonah, Hannah, and Elijah, as well as prayers from the Psalms. Some of those prayers are offered in the temple, but others are offered in such diverse places as a mountain, a cave, and the belly of a fish!

To help you prepare, the texts are listed below.

September 11
Read Psalm 137

September 18
Read I Samuel 1 and 2

September 25
Exodus 32

October 2
Jonah 2

Death by Comparison

By Pastor Phil



Although I am not a big sports fan, I enjoy sports editor Ray Stein's Sunday columns in *The Dispatch*. Each week he prints readers' letters followed by his responses.

In a recent column, two Ohio State football fans commented on the transition from Coach Tressel to Coach Fickell.

Commenting on their attire, one reader said, "Jim Tressel usually had a white shirt and red tie under the sweater vest. I hope Luke Fickell comes out dressed in the same manner."

Another reader, having watched Fickell's performance at the Big Ten media day, exclaimed, "His facial expressions were intense! He looked like he was ready to step on the field and play ball, or argue with an official, or urge his players with zeal! Did I mention that he looked intense? A *very, very* refreshing change!"

Obviously, both readers had expectations of how a coach should look and act. They judged Ohio State's former and current coaches by their expectations, rather than accepting them as unique individuals.

That raises several points. First, this is not uncommon for public figures. Principals, band directors, and pastors frequently experience this type of scrutiny. Comparisons are inevitably made to one's predecessor or to a predecessor many years before who has now been idolized. It can be annoying, but there's not much you can do about it. As they say, "It comes with the territory."

Second, for all the talk about churches being places of judgment, I hear at least as much judgmental talk outside the church. People who would never hit you over the head with a baseball bat can be just as brutal with their words.

Third, one of our lifelong tasks is to learn to be content with who we are, regardless of what others might think. How one person dresses or another person speaks should not determine what we do. Even more so when it comes to matters of character. As my preaching professor, Ernie Campbell, put it: "God is the only public that matters."

In that spirit, I find these thoughts from Joan Bakewell quite helpful:

"Happiness is not about future expectations but a deep satisfaction with the here and now, with yourself and your place in the world. It involves a world-view that sets petty preoccupations against a wider canvas. It calls for a certain resignation—an awareness that life is finite, that you finally know who you are and accept your limitations and disappointments. They are simply part of the pattern." (The Guardian, February 24, 2010)

Thanks again!



Last month I noted that a gift of \$280 had been made to Church World Service in my honor. I was touched, but I did not know who to thank. Since then I have learned that the gift was made by members of our Faith & Issues Sunday school class. They knew that my entire family has participated in our Delaware CROP Walks, and they wanted to do something that would express appreciation to us all. Thank you, again, for your kindness and generosity.



It Doesn't Hurt to Get Your Picture Taken

Soon it will be time to sign-up for our church photodirectory sessions. I'd really like to see 100% participation for this simple reason: A complete photodirectory is a wonderful thing to hand to a new member who is overwhelmed by all the unfamiliar faces.

For that matter, it's a helpful tool for the rest of us. Although our church is not large, there are enough people that it's hard to know everyone's name. This is one of the best ways.

It takes a little bit of time to make an appointment and select your portrait, but spread out over four years (the time from one directory to another), it's a small investment. Please sign up! Details are below.



A note from our Directory Coordinator, Cherie Kowalski

Thanks to all who participated in the August Olan Mills photo sessions. We had a great turnout with over 25 families participating. The remaining portraits will be taken during October. Photo session dates are 10/5 - 10/8. Sign-up sheets will be available starting Sunday, September 4th. Please be sure to sign up as this is the final session.

We are also looking for activity page photos. These will be presented as collages in the directory. If you have any recent photos (within the last 12 months) of Asbury activities, please submit to Cherie Kowalski in the box located on the foyer table. Size should be no larger than 4x6.

You can also e-mail me photos in jpg format to Cheriekowalski@yahoo.com.

We will also once again need Asbury Hosts/Hostesses for the photo sessions. If you are interested in lending a helping hand in October, please contact Cherie (740-363-7939). Thank you.

Bringing God along to college

By Dave Hejmanowski, Lay Leader

There's an old joke that asserts there will always be prayer in school as long as there are tests. Certainly prayers for exam related success carry along from high school to college. Hopefully, though, the occasional "Dear God, don't let me fail this exam" isn't the only role that religion plays in the lives of local college students. In pondering that question, I got to thinking about my own time at college.

I received my undergraduate degree from tiny Hiram College in Portage County, Ohio. Other than the college and the post office, the town's only non-residential buildings were a pizza place, a wood-working shop and a Disciples of Christ church (Hiram is loosely affiliated with that denomination). For anything else, we had to drive three miles to the bustling metropolis of Garrettsville. (Hiram now has a souvenir shop *and* a convenience store!)

Coming from a Catholic background I began my freshman year attending mass at Garrettsville's Catholic church. I even sang in the church choir for a short time. But even before arriving at school, I had already begun to have reservations about social, political and theological positions held by Catholicism. (Papal infallibility always seemed a bit odd to me.) College is, of course, a place for critical thinking and for challenging long-held beliefs and ideas. I didn't tell my parents, but about mid-year I stopped attending church all together, justifying that decision by the conclusion that I was busy with school work.

In the spring of that year, I went out on a first date with a brilliant and funny young woman whose father just happened to be the Lay Leader at a small Methodist church about 10 minutes away from school. In the Methodist tradition I found a level of comfort that I'd not felt for some time.

The following fall, that young lady matriculated to Ohio Wesleyan. On my frequent weekend visits to Delaware we found ourselves sampling the Methodist churches in town. By far, we felt most comfortable and most spiritually fulfilled at the beautiful stone church on Lincoln Avenue. The people were warm and welcoming, the music was unbelievably good and the pastor's sermons always left us with something to think about. Six years later we would be married in that church- in *this* church and we've never left.

Some of the faces at church are different than they were in 1994 but the people are still friendly, the music is still outstanding and the pastor's sermons still leave us with something to think about every week. The difference is that now we're the 'townies', the members of the church who try hard to be welcoming to college students who make the walk up from Ohio Wesleyan.

College students still use their four years of study as a time to think upon and challenge old beliefs. But whether they be students from another religious tradition who are seeking a spiritual home or students maintaining a Methodist tradition, Asbury is blessed to have a close relationship with Ohio Wesleyan and to have the opportunity to help college students continue their search to find the true meaning of God in their lives. May we, as members of the church, strive to help them in that process.

Brenda Lindeboom - Avocation
By Bill McCartney



This month's column seems to break a rule - but it doesn't. Each month, we spotlight some member for remarkable ways he/she serves Asbury or causes that make Asbury proud. Because staff members are paid for their good work, it seems awkward to single them out for that paid service.

But when some staff member ALSO serves the church well in ways quite apart from their paid position, we believe it's appropriate to shine our spotlight on these contributions to the joy and spirit of Asbury. Thus we laud Brenda Lindeboom for significant ways she enriches Asbury traditions and ministry by roles, activities and efforts quite distinct from her daily task as Asbury's Office Manager.

We're aware of this following this year's Vacation Bible School. Brenda was a key partner to Director, Jenny Edler, in the joy and vitality of the school. While Jenny worked on program, curriculum, songs, etc., Brenda's "member contribution" to the effort was to design the registration process (It was great!), create the costumes, designed the group rotation schedule, work the registration table, have the first-aid box with bandaids ready, and produced the color-coded name tags.

That kind of "behind the scenes" work seems second nature for Brenda. Her intense support for the Boy Scout Troop includes her being the "Charter Organization Rep," the liaison with the sponsoring organization -- Asbury Church. If there's a "theme" for this off hours involvement, it's a connection with food.

The many uses of our kitchen seem possible because of Brenda's quiet hand of support. She keeps the kitchen in order. She's a prime helper for most any food event. She's visible when Asbury hosts Family Promise and other events that may need a volunteer up in the Asbury kitchen. She especially enjoyed helping Kim Wisecup, our former Student Intern, as Kim hosted the congregation in a Seder Service to help enrich our understanding of the Lenten/Easter experience.








Of course food should be second nature to Brenda, since her husband, John, is the Executive Chef of the Willow Brook Christian Communities. Brenda is quick to say, however, that it doesn't mean he does the cooking at home. Actually they share the tasks, but Brenda says her specialty is baking.

Among other things that Brenda enjoys is cheering for son Jonathan's Lacrosse team, and anticipating the birth of their second grandchild in February.

We're glad that when Brenda's work day ends, her service to Asbury doesn't.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesd
		Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m.	
4 Willow Brook Worship Svc. 2p	5-Labor Day	6 Care Network 10a Nominating Committee 7p	7-UMW Board Mtg. Day Out Club 10a Alleluia & Junior Cf MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:45p Bell Choir 6p /Adult Journey Youth 7p Trustees 8p - SPF
11 Noisy Coin  BP Screening  Family Promise	12 Boy Scouts 7p  Family Promise	13 Family Promise	14-Day Out Club 1 Alleluia & Junior Cf MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:45p Bell Choir 6p /Adult Journey Youth 7p Family Promise
18 Messenger Deadline  EYG 7p Family Promise	19 Boy Scouts 7p  Trust Comm. Mtg. 7p	20 Alzheimer's Support Care Group 1p	21-Day Out Club 1 Alleluia & Junior Cf MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:45p Bell Choir 6p /Adult Journey Youth 7p
25 EYG 7p	26 Boy Scouts 7p 	27	28-Day Out Club 1 Alleluia & Junior Cf MAP Youth 5:15p Teen Choir 5:45p SPRC 6:30p Bell Choir 6p /Adult Journey Youth 7p

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 DCP Gen. Mtg. 6:30p Mission & Outreach 7p	2 Prayer Group 8a  Wedding Rehearsal 5p	3 Wedding 2p 
Mtg. 10a Prayer Choir 4:15p 5p 5p Adult Choir 7p 7p SPRC 7:00p	8 DCP Meeting 5p DCP Board Mtg. 6:30p Northwest Neighbor Association 7:30p	9 Prayer Group 8a 	10
Sub 10a Prayer Choir 4:15p 5p 5p Adult Choir 7p 7p Worship Service	15 Family Promise	16 Prayer Group 8a  Family Promise	17 Family Promise
Sub 10a Prayer Choir 4:15p 5p 5p Adult Choir 7p 7p	22 Messenger Mailing 9a	23 Prayer Group 8a 	24 UMW Book Sale 9a-3p 
Sub 10a Prayer Choir 4:15p 5p 5p Adult Choir 7p 7p	29	30 Prayer Group 8a 	Trustee of the month: Bob Kanitz

Choir Directors' Slogan for September: Renew, Refresh, Rehearse, & Rejoice!

We are so very anxious to begin preparing music with our Asbury music makers. We hope that you are excited as well, and we invite you to join one or more of our ensembles. Let's remind you of the details:

Just when does choir start???????

Alleluia Choir

for grades 1 and 2

***directed by Nancy Reed
accompanied by Elaine Morton***

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 7 from 4:15pm – 5:15 pm.
The choir meets in the downstairs Sunday School room at the south end of the building. The Alleluia Choir will be singing once a month.

Junior Choir

for grades 3-8

***directed by Sally Casto
accompanied by Anni Liu***

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, **September 7**, from 4:15-5:15 pm.
The choir meets in the Great Room. Singers will participate in worship about every six weeks, and they offer a musical on the last Sunday in April.

Teen Choir

for grades 8-12

directed by Jabez Co

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, **September 7**, at 5:30 pm and last until time for the Wed. evening youth supper. Singers rehearse in the Parlor, and they will sing for worship once a month.

Adult Choir for those beyond high school directed by Bob Nims

This choir rehearses twice a week: on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 pm and on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:25 am, beginning on **September 7**. Singers rehearse in the Great Room and sing for worship each Sunday unless another choir is performing. They also prepare music for some of our Arts Series concerts.

Bell Choir

***for young people and
adults who read music***

directed by Carol Brulotte

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, **September 7**, from 6-6:55 pm. This choir rehearses in the Great Room. Regular attendance is essential for this choir.
The choir rings for worship about every six weeks.

**We look forward to working with you in the coming year.
Nancy, Elaine, Sally, Anni, Jabez, Bob, and Carol.**



UMW News
By Mona Ray



Books! Books! Books!

On September 24, from 9:00 am-3:00pm the United Methodist Women will be having their book sale. Please come. There are already many books in the closet waiting for their exit out the door with you. There is still time to donate. Just bring the books in during the week or on Sunday as you come to worship. The box for books is in the entry way. Julia Foster and Laura Bump are willing and able to take care of them from there. Please no magazines or textbooks as these are not really sellable. The money raised goes to mission. So mark your calendar and tell your friends & neighbors.

Mission Moment

Property Makes Mission Possible. *What?* Property maintenance and improvement are examples of mundane work that make dramatic, life-changing things happen everyday. The United Methodist Women oversee Women's division-owned property, which includes 59 of the 98 national mission institutions. These are the buildings that house many of the mission projects that are enabling the work of mission to happen. How can one have an afternoon program without a space? How can counselors help if there is not place to meet? Property is tangible; we don't notice it until it no longer functions.

Mission giving by the UMW helps keep buildings working all over the world. Many of the institutions owned by Women's Division were founded by UMW more than 100 years ago. We all know what age does to a building. Here at Asbury, we have a beautiful building, one that has had some great work done on it. That work was done to better function as a place of worship in our community. Buildings are important. Needless to say, the buildings that we worship in and those housing many of the mission projects do cost money. Just as your home must be maintained, so too the spaces used for mission.

Cans For A Cure
By Jenny Edler

We would invite you to participate in our "Cans for a Cure" fundraising effort for Cystic Fibrosis. Simply save your cans, then drop them off to the Asbury parking lot from 9 am. to 12 noon:

Saturday dates are:

September 17
October 15
December 17



Summer Sunday School Highlights

By Jean Woods

Something different happened in Sunday School this summer. Children, youth, and adults studied many aspects of hunger and poverty. We learned that hunger is a bigger problem than we realized in our own country and throughout the world.

We studied the Bible to discover what Jesus said and did about hunger and what he told his followers to do. We learned more about local projects such as People in Need, Asbury's vegetable garden, and gifts of canned food. We learned about individuals, groups of people, and organizations who make major contributions to hungry people around the world.

The children and youth brought an offering every Sunday with the expectation that it would go to the organization of their choice. Their \$70.22 will go to Heifer International, which has for 65 years worked to end poverty and hunger in the world by giving animals to families to be used as sources of food, work, and money.

Many thanks to Kim Algoe, Kim Byerly, Bryan Davis, Judy Davis, Kellie Dawson, Lew Fikes, Sue MacLean, Tammey Wilden, and Jean Woods, for their gifts of teaching about hunger and poverty. Thanks also to Bill Daniels and Jim Dietz for leading two other classes for adults.



Vacation Bible School was Delicious!

By Jenny Edler, director

This year at Vacation Bible School our theme was "Shake it Up Cafe" , Where Kids Carry out God's Recipe. We had a blast learning about and praising God in many ways. Throughout the week, we had 55 participants, ages 4 to entering 4th grade. We had 33 volunteers assisting with VBS this year, which amounted to over 450 volunteer hours!

We learned four Bible stories, drank 20 gallons of juice, ate 140 cinnamon sticks dipped in icing, and played 10 different games. We ate 105 hot dogs, engaged in 12 science experiments, made four art projects and learned four songs and dances. We ate 80 sloppy-joes and 26 pizzas!!! We met one fun-loving raccoon, Scraps, who visited us each evening.

We spent about 10 hours together during a week full of fun, laughter and joy! We can't wait till next year!!

Thanks again to ALL who helped with VBS this year!



In case you have to miss church

Our services are recorded and made available on our church website at:

www.asburyohio.org.



CROP Walk News

By Laura Bump



CROP WALK began in 1947, under the wing of Church World Service, founded in 1946. Originally an acronym for Christian Rural Overseas Program, its primary mission was to help Midwest farm families to share their grain with hungry neighbors in post WWII Europe. CROP is no longer an acronym. It is the name given to community, interfaith hunger education and fund raising events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by some 22 CWS/CROP regional offices across the U.S. Church World Service is now serving 38 countries around the world.

Please save Sunday, October 2 as the date for the 2011 Delaware walk. Join with Asbury family & friends, along with other churches and community groups to support this vital cause. 25% of all proceeds will stay in our community to support the work of P.I.N. (People In Need).

Registration is at 1:30p at the Hamilton Williams Center on the campus of OWU

Walk begins at 2:00p



Thank you to Asbury's Mission & Outreach Committee

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the children of Delaware, thank you for the support in the amount of \$207.00 to support our summer lunch program. These funds were generated by a labor of love at the Buehlers event this past Spring.

We exceeded over 5,000 lunches which is over twice the figure from last summer.

We are blessed to have Asbury as a partner church and we truly joined in mission and outreach efforts.

Sincerely your,

Don Chenoweth, Executive Director, Andrews House



Dear Asbury Family,

On behalf of the family of Kint Philpott, we want to thank you for the prayers and thoughts during his illness and death.

May the Peace of God be with you.

Marvin & Shirley Philpott

College Students

Our college students either have left or will be leaving soon for school. We would like to keep in touch with them throughout the year by sending them the monthly newsletter and our wonderful College Care Packages.

Please let the church office know their current mailing addresses so we may stay in contact.

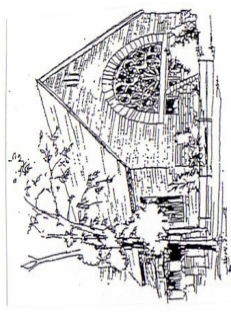


ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
55 West Lincoln Avenue
Delaware, Ohio 43015

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

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