



We are the Ambassadors for Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:20

Asbury United Methodist Church
2492 Andover Road, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077-3511
Rev. John W. Doll, Pastor

“We exist to be part of the kingdom of God in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” We will be dedicated to personal growth through Jesus Christ and to reaching out to others in Christian love.

Christmas Worship Services



<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
Sunday	Dec 15	Christmas Remembrance Service 9:30 AM
Sunday	Dec 22	The Fourth Sunday in Advent
Sunday	Dec 22	Christmas Caroling – meet at Asbury 5:00 PM
Tuesday	Dec 24	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service 7:00 PM
Tuesday	Dec 24	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – Holy Communion 11:00 PM
Sunday	Dec 29	Worship 9:30 AM - Blessing of the Gifts; Hymn Sing; Special Fellowship Time



Sunday Worship
8:00 AM & 9:30 AM
Church Telephone:
(856) 829-3801
Fax: (856) 829-9060
Website: www.myasburyumc.com





A Note from Pastor John

Advent/Christmas 2013

Dear Members and Friends,

We are already into an exciting Advent study of *The Purpose of Christmas* by Rick Warren. The three themes are exciting and share with us that Christmas is a time for Celebration, a time for Salvation, and a time for Reconciliation. The first message – a time for Celebration is already up on our website (myasburyumc.com). Copies of the one hundred and thirty one page reader friendly book are available free in the Church parlor. Also, as shared in the pages of this Newsletter, we are studying this book (with an accompanying DVD study) in our Adult Sunday School class. All are welcome!

Now, as I write this to you on my computer, I do not consider myself computer savvy. It is through the grace of God and patient family and friends that I even use this magnificent machine! However, one thing I have learned through the years is the necessity of re-setting the computer. I have gotten out of a lot of difficulties just by doing the simple action of turning the computer off and then turning it on again, allowing it to re-set.

This Christmas, my prayer for each of us is simple. Jesus, help us to hit the re-set button in our lives and may we keep the main thing the main thing in Christmas. The main thing in Christmas is Jesus. In the book, *The Purpose of Christmas*, author Rick Warren offers the following prayer of commitment to his readers. . .

"Dear God, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, so I could get to know you. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for being with me all my life even when I didn't know it. I realize I need a savior to set me free from sin, from myself, and from all the habits, hurts, and hang-ups that mess up my life. I ask you to forgive me for my sins. I want to repent and live the way you created me to live. Be the Lord of my life, and save me by your grace. Save me from my sins, and save me for your purpose. I want to learn to love you, trust you, and become what you made me to be. Thank you for creating me and choosing me to be part of your family. Right now, by faith, I accept the Christmas gift of your son. Fill me with your peace and assurance so I can be a peacemaker, and help me share this message of peace with others. In your name I pray. Amen." (*The Purpose of Christmas*, 121 -122).

This is Christmas!

In His Amazing Grace,

Pastor John Doll



Congratulations

Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him. Psalm 127:3

Benjamin and Evan Peek born 10/3/13
Parents - Kim and Ian Peek, Aunt - Shelly Lewis, Grandparents – Arline and Ron Lewis

New Members

We welcome with Christian love and fellowship the following new members of Asbury:

Cathy Brickley 11/10/13
Matthew R. and Regina Pettola 9/28/13

May you receive from God a new spirit, one for today, here, right now!

If you are interested in becoming a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, please see Pastor John after one of the morning services.

2014 Church Giving Envelopes

I want to personally thank everyone who is supporting Asbury's envelope system of giving at this time; and to encourage others to begin 2014 with this decision. If you would like to support Asbury's giving program with your own "personalized" envelopes, please notify Nita Davies at (856) 461-7536 or by sending an email to bjdavies115@verizon.net. The envelopes will be ready for pick up at the Church on or after Sunday, December 15. Thank you, Nita Davies, Financial Secretary.

Mission News

God provides. When the food pantry was short on turkeys last month a call went out, lo and

behold prayers were answered, turkeys showed up and each family was able to receive one. Please continue to support the Bread of Life Food Pantry with your gifts of food. These families depend on our generosity to survive. Donations can be left downstairs in the fellowship hall.



Remember to purchase your dollar for dollar Shop Rite gift card from Don Ochs (before or after Sunday services) to help support Abba. Abba is a Palmyra based group that helps pregnant women and their infant children. Purchase extra for your Christmas shopping or stocking stuffers for your adult children or neighbors. We all like to eat and helping a charity makes it taste even sweeter.

Shoebboxes - Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through simple, gift-filled shoe boxes and evangelistic materials that tell the Good news of God's love. This year Asbury collected 270 shoe boxes. Thank you for being so generous.



"Your gift of love may be the door God uses to open a child's heart to Jesus Christ." - Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan Purse.

Read what one of our Asbury children wrote for school:

Shoes Boxes for Christmas

By Nick Parisi, 4th Grade

Does your family pack shoe boxes for Christmas? Mine does!

Every year my church, Asbury Methodist Church, gives out shoe boxes. We fill the shoe boxes for needy children. First, we have to fold the shoebox, because it is a piece of flat cardboard. Then we put a label on it that says, boy or girl, ages 0-2, 5-9, or 10-14. Next we fill it with toys and other things that are new or unused.

This year I went to Target to buy items for shoe boxes my sister and I filled. I bought a puppet, coloring book, toothbrush, toothpaste, crayons, markers, a puzzle, a red little toy train filled with hard candy, and a top for a boy ages 5-9.

Finally, we took the boxes to church. People from my church take it to an Operation Christmas Child distribution center. The center puts in a little Bible to let children around the world know about God. Then they send it all around the globe.

Maybe next year you will try it too!!!



Family Fun Nights

Have you enjoyed our events in the past?
Would you like to assist with the events in the

future? Contact Wyndee Davis or Susan Stonebeck for information.

Once a month, typically the last Friday of the month, our Asbury family gets together for an evening of fun (i.e., movies, games, crafts, snacks and fellowship). Check the Asbury calendar and stay tuned for upcoming events for the whole family to enjoy. All are welcome, young and old.

Grace

Thank you to Pastor John and Pam Gleason for all your work in teaching us about grace. The adult Bible study on grace with accompanying inspirational sermons has enlightened many to the grace we have unconditionally received from God. Please join us for our new Bible study during Advent.



Adult Advent Bible Study – December 1, 8, 15 at 11:15 am in the Church Parlor

Join us for *The Purpose of Christmas*, our Advent Bible Study. Come back to the heart of Christmas. We know the story. It started in a manger in Bethlehem, but since that night the history of the world and your life will never be the same. The birth of a peasant baby boy more than two thousand years ago still causes traffic jams every December in shopping malls across our country.

The night Jesus Christ was born in a stable, a small group of shepherds were quietly tending their flocks of sheep in a nearby field, looking up at the stars. Nothing seemed any different from a thousand other nights. But what was about to happen would not only transform their lives but billions of other lives as well. Meet with us and discover how Christmas is a time of celebration, salvation and reconciliation, and how you can accept the Gift of Christmas today!

United Methodist Men Bible Study – All men invited!

Asbury UMM is offering a monthly 1-hour men's bible study. Join us for this grace filled study for the entire 7-part series or just drop in for one or more sessions as your spirit leads you and busy life allows. Currently we are studying the amazing life of Paul which has brought out some amazing sharing of life experiences that connect and add deeper meaning to Paul's conversion to today's world for us as Christian men called to discipleship.

There is no prep or homework required to get benefit from this one hour of fellowship and prayerful reflection with men facing life's daily challenges together in Christ. Come and see for yourself, 8:30am on the second Saturday in the Fellowship Hall with bagels and coffee to start your weekend.

From His fullness we have all received grace, upon grace. – John 1:16

I Live in the Grace of God (taken from www.dailyword.com 11/22/13)

What must I do to earn the love of God?
Nothing! God's love is already mine. No one and nothing can limit or restrict it. I need only

open my heart and mind to receive this unconditional love and allow myself to experience God's grace.

Grace is demonstrated in the beauty of nature, in unexpected good, in feeling my oneness with Spirit. In God's grace, I am divinely guided, protected, and comforted.

Grace softens my struggles and takes me beyond my self-imposed limitations, filling my mind with divine ideas and my life with serendipity. As I appreciate the activity of God in my life, I learn to trust in its continuing expression, and I soar in God's grace.

Sunday after Christmas Morning Worship

The Sunday after Christmas, December 29, 2013 at 9:30 AM is always a special time at Asbury! There is a holiday hymn sing at the beginning of the service and a special Fellowship time afterward. Everyone is invited to bring a special plate of something from home to share. During the Children's message, the children are invited to bring their favorite gift for the "Blessing of the Gifts" which is always an exciting time in our worship celebration. There will be no early 8 AM service this Sunday.



Joy (www.dailyword.com 11/15/13)
I am filled with the joy of Spirit!

I spread joy by sharing a positive attitude, a smile, openness, and appreciation for all of life's blessings. I am blessed in so many ways, and I rejoice with the glow of Spirit.

If others are pessimistic or glum, I do not take on their mood, but rather hold a positive thought for them, knowing “this too shall pass.” Instead of finding fault or complaint, I look for the best in each person.

Goodness abounds as I open my eyes to witness it. The blessings of God I now see in my life fill my mind and heart with joy and thanksgiving. I give of my happiness freely; spreading the good I see and have. With energy and upliftment, I inspire those around me. Joy is contagious!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!—Psalm 95:2

Holy Hotlines (iBelieve.com)

Worry Hotline – 1 Peter 5:7

Fear Hotline – Isaiah 41:10

Temptation Hotline – 1 Corinthians 10:13

Doubt Hotline – Romans 10:17

Sickness Hotline – Isaiah 53:5

Depression Hotline – Psalm 34:18

Loneliness Hotline – Deuteronomy 31:8

Lines are Open 24/7

Parsonage Update

By the action of Asbury’s Church Council and at our recent Church Conference, it was affirmed that the Doll’s will be moving out of the parsonage for a period of time of up to one year. During this time, plans and solutions will be looked into to remediate the mold problem, make necessary improvements, and to address accessibility concerns. This may be accomplished through working with the existing house or seeking an option using modular housing on the present property. The Parsonage Building Committee will be thoroughly looking at both options and making

a recommendation to the Church Council and Congregation in the near future based on what is best and the costs involved. As of December 7th, the Doll’s will be moving to 331 Lisa Way in Cinnaminson Harbour to expedite and make room for the improvements that will ultimately be made. Due to the extensive amount of work to be undertaken, either option requires that the Doll’s move to this new location. Please pray for our Lord’s guidance (Psalm 32:8) in this process as well as prayers for the Doll’s, the Parsonage Committee, and the whole Church.

Though the project is not of the same scope as the Sanctuary expansion, it will take a similar financial commitment from the Congregation to accomplish this renovation. We will include in our estimate to be presented to the Council and Congregation the cost of re-locating the Doll family, rental and final renovation costs. It may be in the range of \$200,000 to complete this project.

In the upcoming weeks and months, regular updates will be given. We will also give the opportunity, really the necessity, to contribute financially to allow this project to move forward. By God’s grace and goodness, it will happen. We did it with God’s amazing grace with the Church expansion and we can do it with the same grace and commitment with the parsonage.

Please feel free to ask any questions to the Parsonage Committee Co-chairs J.C. Hoffmeier (786.1219) and Jim Hartshorne (235.5442). This is an exciting project that will benefit the Church for years to come and we need your prayers and involvement to make it work.

-The Parsonage Building Committee



In Christian Sympathy

May the souls of the faithful departed in Christ rest in peace and may light perpetually shine on them. We place our loved ones in the arms of Jesus and we celebrate fond memories of their lives.

*Walter Horn 10/20/13
Loving husband of Naomi Horn*



Merry Christmas from Heaven

I still hear the songs,
I still see the lights
I still feel your love on cold wintery nights

I still share your hopes and all of your cares
I'll even remind you to please say your prayers

I just want to tell you, you still make me proud
You stand head and shoulders above all the crowd

Keep trying each moment, to stay in His grace
I came here before you to help set your place

You don't have to be perfect all of the time
He forgives you the slip, if you continue the climb

To my family and friends,
Please be thankful today
I'm still close beside you,
In a new special way

I love you all dearly,
Now don't shed a tear
Cause I'm spending my
Christmas with Jesus this year.

By John Mooney, Jr.



Our apologies if any of the information in this newsletter is incorrect. Please inform Mary Soderholm (856-829-0035) of any corrections, additions, and/or deletions. Thank you.

The Ambassador is a periodic inspirational and informational publication of

Asbury United Methodist Church.

Coordinator: Mary Soderholm

Contributors: Asbury Congregation

Production: Tracy Foedisch



Caring Center

Members and friends of our church who especially need to be in our thoughts and prayers are listed below. Please take the time to stop by, send a note or say an extra prayer for our brothers and sisters who are in need at this time.

Jesus said, *“Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* - Mathew 11:28

Phil Anderson
235 Creek Road
Delran, NJ 08075

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408 Brigham Court
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Hulmeville, PA 19047

Ted Hansen
248 Hooker Avenue
Riverside, NJ 08075

Elsie Reed
Riverview Estates
303 Bank Ave.
Riverton, NJ 08077-3544

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Office Hours Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sunday.....Sunday Morning Altar Rail Prayer
(7:15 AM)
 Sunday.....Early Worship Service (8:00 AM)
 Sunday.....Sunday School Classes for children
 4 years old through 4th grade
 (during 9:30 service)
 Sunday.....Adult Sunday School Classes
 (11:15 AM)
 Tuesday.....Tuesday Prayer & Bible Study
 (11:00 AM)
 Alternate Wednesdays....Morning Praises (11:00AM)
 Alternate Wednesdays....Men's Fellowship Luncheon at the
 Nook, River Rd., Cinna. (12
 noon)
 3rd Thursday.....Service at the Baptist Home
 (9:00 AM)
 Thursday.....Choir Rehearsal (7:00 PM)
 2nd Saturday.....United Methodist Men's Bible Study
 Fellowship Hall (8:30 AM)
 4th Saturday.....United Methodist Men's Breakfast
 Jersey Diner, Cinna. (8:30 AM)

This Week

Sun 12/08 Second Sunday in Advent
 Advent Series-The Purpose of Christmas
 "A Time for Salvation"
 Tue 12/10 Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study (11:00 AM)
 Sat 12/14 United Methodist Men's Bible Study (8:30 AM)

 Sun 12/15 Third Sunday in Advent
 Advent Series-The Purpose of Christmas
 "A Time for Reconciliation"
 Sun 12/15 Christmas Remembrance Service (9:30 AM)
 Mon 12/16 Parsonage Building Committee Meeting (7:00 PM)
 Tue 12/17 Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study (11:00 AM)
 Wed 12/18 Morning Praises (11:00 AM)

Wed 12/18 Youth Group (4:30 PM)
CHRISTMASTIME
 Sun 12/22 Fourth Sunday in Advent
 Sun 12/22 Christmas Caroling-meet at Church (5:00 PM)
 Tue 12/24 Tuesday Prayer and Bible Study (11:00 AM)
Tue 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (7:00 PM)
Tue 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Holy Communion (11:00 PM)
 Sat 12/28 United Methodist Men's Breakfast @ Jersey
 Diner, Cinnaminson (8:30 AM)
 Sun 12/29 Worship-9:30 AM-Blessing of the Gifts, hymn sing,
 special fellowship time following the Worship
 Sun 12/29 Walk-a-Christmas Mile beginning at Christ Episcopal
 Church, 305 Main St., Riverton (6:00 PM)

2014

Mon 1/06 Parsonage Building Committee Meeting (7:00 PM)
 Sat 1/11 United Methodist Men's Bible Study
 (8:30 AM)
 Tue 1/21 Early Worship Service Meeting (7:30 PM)
 Mon 1/27 Trustee's Meeting (7:00 PM)
 Sat 2/08 United Methodist Men's Bible Study
 (8:30 AM)
 Sat 3/08 United Methodist Men's Bible Study
 (8:30 AM)
 Sat 4/12 United Methodist Men's Bible Study
 (8:30 AM)

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Christmas Caroling

We will be gathering at the Church Sunday Evening, December 22nd, at 5:00 PM to go Christmas Caroling. Do join us for what is always a fun and joy filled evening. Once again, we will be ending at the Whistler's Inn for a time of delicious refreshments and warm fellowship together.

Asbury United Methodist Church
2492 Andover Road
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077-3511
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Lord, we are thankful for...