



# The Asbury Journal

April 2015

## Message from the Pastor

Do you remember going to the circus? As a young boy I remember when we would marvel even at the arrival of the circus train as it came into town with all those wild animals and the people in fantastic costumes doing what seemed impossible for a human being to accomplish! At the circus performers would spit fire, fly through the air, and command even lions and elephants to do all sorts of unbelievable things. The flying trapeze artists mystified me more than anything though. It was amazing how their timing was so precise and how just when I thought the flyer would fall fifty feet into the net below he would be caught by the catcher on another swinging trapeze in what seemed to my young mind to be nothing short of a miracle.



I was surprised to learn this week that the flyer has to do the unthinkable to make the catcher able to grab onto him—the flyer has to not try to “catch” the catcher but has to remain perfectly still until the catcher grabs hold! If the flyer tries to catch the catcher then both the flyer and catcher will plummet into the net below. It is only when the flyer is able to hang in midair and put his complete trust in the catcher and simply hold his arms out and allow the catcher to do the miraculous that he can be caught safely and wow the onlookers.

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The great Catholic writer Henri Nouwen in reflecting on the flying trapeze act in the circus makes the wonderful association that this is a perfect metaphor for the Christian life of faith. Oftentimes we who follow Christ and serve his Church feel as though we are hanging in midair and that there is precious little to catch us from falling where there may not even be a net below. It is *human* nature to flail our arms violently and to try to grab onto whatever we can find in those moments. But, it is *Christian* nature to be hanging in midair, and with faith in the divine Catcher, to simply extend our arms and allow ourselves to be caught.

In the end it all comes down to a matter of control. Faith is voluntarily giving up control to the One who ultimately is in control of it all. When you begin to feel like you are falling, simply reach out your arms and allow God to catch you. “Our steps are made firm by the Lord, when he delights in our way; though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong, for the Lord holds us by the hand” (Psalm 37:23-24). Who knows, perhaps even we might astonish a few onlookers in the process! May the peace of Christ be with you this Easter season. Curtis+

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PASTOR

I cannot imagine a one of us who is not deeply touched when we hear the classic hymn of faith, “Amazing Grace.” It stirs within us a question of how God can give his grace to such undeserving people. When he was newly elected, Pope Francis called for “tenderness.” “We need Christians who make God’s mercy and tenderness visible for everyone.” Then he wrote. “The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged.” I would hope that this is exactly what we have done and yet can we really say that we have followed that mandate in our own lives and in our own churches?

As a police officer when I stopping someone who was speeding quite a bit over the limit, I made up my mind in advance to issue a citation. I am sure that the person being stopped was expecting to receive a citation. Apologies and the promise to never speed again would not have swayed my writing of the citation. I am sure that the speeder had no hope of getting a break and that fines and increased insurance rates were in the near future. Grace in this example would be to give a smile, tell them to be careful and send them on their way. That’s exactly what God’s grace looks like. However, grace on our part is not always the easiest thing to practice. We are humans and humans often to respond to others without extending the love that God has given us. It is not impossible to give grace to others when we remind ourselves that God first gave us unmerited grace.

God’s grace occurs when we hear the words that all is forgiven, the fine has been paid—now go make a positive difference in the world. Grace, when practiced by us, heals old wounds, ends revenge and makes us welcoming people. The world we live in is hurting, broken and in need of the hope that somebody really cares. I invite you to be a bearer of grace. Start with yourself, then your family, your neighbors and to all that you encounter. May you be blessed by these words!

-Pastor David Warren



## News from the Youth and Children

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all who supported the children and the youth in the fundraiser for summer programs.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** - All Children are invited to come join the hunt Easter Sunday morning, bring your Easter Basket. Meet in the Fellowship Hall where we will begin with the Easter Story at 9:45 AM. Donations of Easter Candy or Easter trinkets are welcome and can be delivered up through 9:30 AM Easter morning.

### YOUTH MISSION TRIP

There is still space available for anyone who would like to join the youth in Santee South Carolina the week of July 11 - 18. This adventure is part of the South Carolina Conference Salkehatchie Mission weeks. This location is coordinated by the Rev. Joe Long and holds 100 campers (youth and adults) for this opportunity in learning new skills, reaching out to those who need a helping hand, working as a team and growing in your faith. Speak to Sallyanne if you would like to know more.

### DAY CAMP AT TEKOA

Camp Tekoa is the Western North Carolina Conference Camp of the United Methodist Church. There are many connections between Asbury and Camp Tekoa. Merritt and Madeline Moseley's eldest daughter, Eleanor is married to Greg Trollinger, the Camps Maintenance Director since 1995. He is responsible for keeping the buildings and grounds beautiful and efficient. Caitlin McVay, Jeff and Sallyanne's eldest daughter is returning to Camp Tekoa as a Family Group Leader / Summer Counselor. This will be Caitlin's 17th summer at Tekoa as she started going when she was 4. This summer Asbury will again provide transportation to the Day Camp for one week, July 20-24. There are still spaces available for children 5-11 years of age. Chaperones are needed to ride the van. If you have never been to Tekoa and would like a tour, think about keeping as Safe Sanctuary approved and volunteer to ride the van to camp one day.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's Choir will begin rehearsing Sunday April 12 at 9:40 AM in the Godly Play Younger Children's Classroom on the third floor. The children will also rehearse on Wednesday, April 29 and May 6 - dinner at 5:30 PM. followed by rehearsal from 6:00-7:00 PM. Their next singing date is Sunday, May 10 Mother's Day.

### CHURCH HIKE

The next Asbury sponsored Church Hike will be Sunday, April 19 on the grounds of Givens Estates, United Methodist Retirement Community in South Asheville. Bring a picnic lunch to eat with your fellow hikers near the Greenhouse and playground on the Givens campus. After lunch you may choose the easier campus Treasure Map Hike or the more strenuous Treasure Trail Hike. Each hike will have a map and clues leading you to the 'Treasure'! Hmmm I wonder what the treasure will be? Come and find out

## News from the North Asheville Preschool

Our Spring Break is March 30<sup>th</sup> -April 3<sup>rd</sup> and we are all looking forward to a sunny, pleasant holiday. After our return, we'll only have a short time to squeeze all of our activities in before the end of the school year. We completed our registration process and are set for a full house in the summer and fall.

-Madeline Moseley

# Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church

## Church Calendar for April 2015

\*Be sure to check our website calendar for any changes to the calendar.  
 Any meetings that change the time, location, or date  
 will also be communicated by a recorded phone message to those who are involved.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			<b>3:00 pm-6:00 pm-</b> Church Office Hours  <b>5:45 pm-</b> Al-Anon Meeting [BC]  <b>6:00 pm-</b> Handbell Rehearsal [S]  <b>7:00 pm-</b> Choir Rehearsal [CR]  <b>8:00 pm-</b> Narcotics Anonymous [FH]  <i>PRESCHOOL CLOSED</i>  <i>BULLETIN DEADLINE</i>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>  <b>3:00 pm-6:00 pm-</b> Church Office Hours  <b>7:00 pm-</b> Maundy Thursday Service [S]	<i>Good Friday</i>  <b>7:00 pm-</b> Good Friday Service [S]  <b>8:00 pm-</b> Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Easter</i>  <b>7:00 am-</b> Sunrise Service [Church Grounds] followed by Covered Dish Breakfast [FH]  <b>9:45 am-</b> Sunday School  <b>9:45 am-</b> Easter Egg Hunt [Church Grounds]  <b>11:00 am-</b> Worship [S]  <b>11:00 am-</b> Holy Communion [S]  <b>8:00 pm-</b> Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]	<b>7:00 am-</b> Emmaus Group [YR]  <b>9:00 am-1:00 pm-</b> Preschool [EB]  <b>3:00 pm-6:00 pm-</b> Church Office Hours  <b>7:00 pm-</b> Trustees Meeting [BC]	<b>9:00 am-1:00 pm-</b> Preschool [EB]          <i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	<b>9:00 am-1:00 pm-</b> Preschool [EB]  <b>3:00 pm-6:00 pm-</b> Church Office Hours  <b>5:45 pm-</b> Al-Anon Meeting [BC]  <b>6:00 pm-</b> Handbell Rehearsal [S]  <b>7:00 pm-</b> Choir Rehearsal [CR]  <b>8:00 pm-</b> Narcotics Anonymous [FH]   <i>BULLETIN DEADLINE</i>	<b>9:00 am-1:00 pm-</b> Preschool [EB]  <b>3:00 pm-6:00 pm-</b> Church Office Hours	<b>9:00 am-1:00 pm-</b> Preschool [EB]  <b>8:00 pm-</b> Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]	<i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>9:45 am-</b> Sunday School  <b>11:00 am-</b> Worship [S]  <b>8:00 pm-</b> Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]	<b>7:00 am-</b> Emmaus Group [YR]  <b>9:00 am-1:00 pm-</b> Preschool [EB]  <b>12:00 pm-</b> Staff Meeting [GE]  <b>3:00 pm-6:00 pm-</b> Church Office Hours	<b>9:00 am-1:00 pm-</b> Preschool [EB]          <i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	<b>9:00 am-1:00 pm-</b> Preschool [EB]  <b>3:00 pm-6:00 pm-</b> Church Office Hours  <b>5:45 pm-</b> Al-Anon Meeting [BC]  <b>6:00 pm-</b> Handbell Rehearsal [S]  <b>7:00 pm-</b> Choir Rehearsal [CR]  <b>8:00 pm-</b> Narcotics Anonymous [FH]	<b>9:00 am-1:00 pm-</b> Preschool [EB]  <b>3:00 pm-6:00 pm-</b> Church Office Hours	<b>9:00 am-1:00 pm-</b> Preschool [EB]  <b>8:00 pm-</b> Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]	<i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>



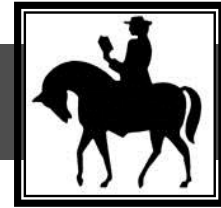


Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church Volunteer Schedule April 2015						
Date	Communion Servers	Lock-Up Volunteer	Counting Team	Ushers	Greeters	Sanctuary Stewards
4.5.2015 <i>Easter</i>	Curtis Goforth Judy Rich Sallyanne McVay Doug Tallent	Merritt Moseley (primary) Julie Niwinski (secondary)	Kelli Conover Jane Hite	Bud Allison Geri Allison Mary Loomis Molloy Steve Rich	Laurel Bishop Margaret Tickle	Steve Rich Judy Rich
4.12.2015	NA	Merritt Moseley (primary) Julie Niwinski (secondary)	Elaine Poovey Claire Bailey	Don Jackson Jessica Jackson Gary Tweed Toni Tweed	Nan Montague Madeline Moseley	Arlee Banks Ellen Banks
4.19.2015	NA	Merritt Moseley (primary) Julie Niwinski (secondary)	Steve Rich Julie Niwinski	Don McGeary Kitty Schaller Robert Wiltshire Debbie Wiltshire	Sam Rich Elaine Rich	Derick Tickle Margaret Tickle
4.26.2015	NA	Merritt Moseley (primary) Julie Niwinski (secondary)	Tim Bailey Scott Glenn	Mike Rice Sherry Rice Jerry Stubblefield Julie Niwinski	Arlee Banks Elaine Price	Gordon Jones Joan Jones

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church Volunteer Schedule April 2015					
Date	Acolyte(s)	Nursery Volunteers	Children's Church	Children's Message	Lector
4.5.2015 <i>Easter</i>	Cora Goforth Lylah Goforth	PAID WORKERS EASTER SUNDAY	Megan Shook	Curtis Goforth	Curtis Goforth
4.12.2015	Haley Phillips	Davie Jackson Don Jackson	Mardy Murphy	Sallyanne McVay	Corey McVay
4.19.2015	Harper Shook	Judy Rich Jennifer Goforth	Jessica Jackson	Sallyanne McVay	Ellen Banks
4.26.2015	Chloe Jackson Eliza Jackson	Cynthia Stewart Martha Tallent	Judi Harvin	Curtis Goforth	Rachel Tucker

**Volunteer Coordinators:**

<b>Counting Team:</b>	Sue Lane Muesing	slmue@aol.com	H: (828) 255-8547
<b>Lock-Up Team:</b>	Curtis Goforth	curtis@asburymethodist.org	H: (828) 484-8540
<b>Ushers:</b>	Gary Hutchins	NA	H: (828) 683-1948
<b>Greeters:</b>	Cynthia Stewart	crameystew@hotmail.com	H: (828) 251-9210
<b>Sanctuary Stewards:</b>	Margaret Tickle	margarettickle@aol.com	H: (828) 252-9887
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Sallyanne McVay	sallyanne@asburymethodist.org	C: (828) 230-4065
<b>Nursery Workers:</b>	Davie Jackson	daviejackson@hotmail.com	H: (828) 645-2928
<b>Children's Church:</b>	Sallyanne McVay	sallyanne@asburymethodist.org	C: (828) 230-4065
<b>Children's Sermon:</b>	Sallyanne McVay	sallyanne@asburymethodist.org	C: (828) 230-4065
<b>Communion Servers:</b>	Curtis Goforth	curtis@asburymethodist.org	H: (828) 484-8540
<b>Scripture Readers:</b>	Curtis Goforth	curtis@asburymethodist.org	H: (828) 484-8540



## News from the Missions Committee

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity dedicated two Methodist/Presbyterian houses which many of our congregation helped to make possible. In the announcement of this unusual two-house dedication, the following was included:

*Thank you, Presbyterian and United Methodist congregations, for your longstanding partnership with Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity. Your prayers, donations, and volunteer hours are making a tremendous difference in our community - just ask Carol and Elsa, or Josh and Bess, or any of the other three Partner Families for whom homeownership is now a reality.*

The April Bread Tin collections will go to support the Amani Children's Foundation, which supports New Life Homes for orphaned children in Kenya. Jane and Chad Stephens, of Winston-Salem, set up the Amani Foundation and their son John Stephens, a UNC Asheville alumnus, works there now. Jane Stephens reports that in ten years, the Amani Foundation has supported 1000 children, relying entirely on gifts. These children are later adopted by African families taking a stand against the traditional taboo of adoption. Jane Stephens reports:

*Amani celebrated its tenth year of work last year and John and the UNCA group that began while he was there were among the forces that made us think it was all possible. He would show up every few months with gallon ziplock bags of quarters and dollars they collected and they taught us so much about the breadth and depth of compassion available to these kids. Since that time, over 1000 babies have arrived at New Life Home and most of them have been adopted by Kenyan families. Your church's gift will go to care for one of these children during their first vulnerable year of life. Because our art program covers all our overhead, 100% of all gifts go directly to Kenya.*

Please give generously to help give these vulnerable children a chance for a better life.

Camp Tekoa needs our help. Camp Tekoa has been blessed to host "Camp Blue Tent", a camp for foster children for the past three years and will host it again this year beginning on August 9, 2015. Blue Tent is a non-profit organization in Greenville, SC that works with 150-200 foster children, giving them the opportunity to see God through a summer camp environment at no cost to them or their current foster parents. These children arrive at Camp Tekoa on a rented bus, with little clothing or supplies for their week. The majority of them get off of the bus with their clothing in a black plastic garbage bag. Many of those bags lack swimsuits, towels and many are without sneakers. We are asking for your help in getting these children the things they need for not only their camp experience but to have as their own after the camp experience. We are looking to collect new and or gently used luggage with wheels, (without mold or dirt), swim suits both male and female (1 piece) for ages 6-13 years old, sneakers, sleeping bags and beach towels. Our reasons for desiring to give these children new and or gently used items are to show them that they are worth nice things in our eyes and even worth far more in the eyes of their Heavenly Father. Any and all contributions will be greatly appreciated and used to further the Kingdom of God in the hearts and lives of the least of these. Please contact Merritt or Madeline Moseley (madeline.moseley@att.net; moseley@unca.edu) with your donations.

Thank you for giving generously! The February Bread Tin offering collected \$349.66 for bus passes for the Room In The Inn ladies. Also Asbury gave \$647.00 to UMCOR in One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for supporting our community both locally and world-wide.

# News from the Finance Committee

The bad news is that we spent \$5,800 more than we received for January and February 2015. The GOOD NEWS is that we anticipated (i.e., budgeted) having an even greater deficit. It's kind of like going to dentist anticipating a root canal and coming out with only a filling!! Thank you for your support of the ministries of our church.

	<b><u>For the Two Months Ended February 28, 2015</u></b>		
	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Favorable/(Unfavorable) Variance</u></b>
<b>Operating Funds:</b>			
Receipts	\$24,510	\$29,425	\$ (4,915)
Expenditures	<u>30,327</u>	<u>38,168</u>	<u>7,841</u>
Receipts Over/(Under) Expenditures	<u>\$ (5,817)</u>	<u>\$ (8,743)</u>	<u>\$ 2,926</u>
<b>Special Giving*</b>	<u>\$2,023</u>		
*Includes Souper Bowl, ABCCM, Manna Food Bank, Memorials, Disaster Relief, Youth Missions/Activities, Bread Tin, Special offerings			



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