

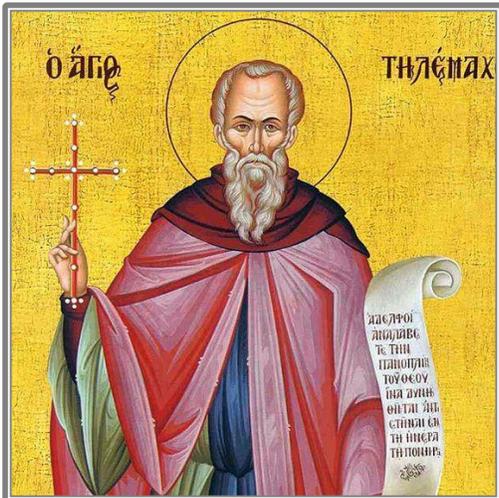


The Asbury Journal

Message from the Pastor

January 2017

New Year's Resolutions and St. Telemachus



In thinking about the new year that is upon us, one cannot help but give some thought to the topic of so-called “resolutions.” Perhaps one of the primary reasons that people like you and me so seldom keep these resolutions for more than a short period of time is due to the fact that they are simply referred to as “resolutions,” and a resolution is by its very nature centered in being more of a thought, idea, or principle than an action.

As I was pondering this notion of resolutions and the new year, I was impacted in a pretty major way by the story of the life and death of St. Telemachus. Telemachus was a Turkish monk who was martyred in Rome on New Year’s Day in the year 404 A.D. Upon his arrival in the city, he found himself amongst the crowd of people who were flocking to the gladiatorial games in the Colosseum where men would be pitted against other men and/or beasts in a fight to the death as a form of entertainment for the people of the supposed most civilized city in the world.

Theodoret, who was the bishop of the city of Cyrrus in modern Syria, tells of the saint’s actions on that New Year’s Day in his work *The Ecclesiastical History*:

“...when the abominable spectacle was being exhibited, [Telemachus] went himself into the stadium, and stepping down into the arena, endeavored to stop the men who were wielding their weapons against one another. The spectators of the slaughter were indignant, and inspired by the triad fury of the demon who delights in those bloody deeds, stoned the peacemaker to death. When the admirable emperor [Honorius] was informed of this he numbered Telemachus in the number of victorious martyrs, and put an end to that impious spectacle.”

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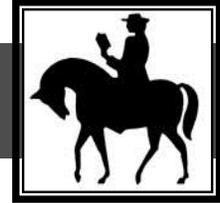
The emperor Constantine halfheartedly tried to stop the gladiatorial games in the Colosseum the century prior to Telemachus' actions in 325 A.D., but without success. It wasn't until a powerless and daring monk stood up to the senseless carnage and loss of life that was happening in the Colosseum that the practice was finally ended under the reign of the emperor Honorius that New Year's Day in 404 A.D.

So, if you believe that one person is not powerful enough to bring about an end to the evils of society, then I would lift up to you the example of St. Telemachus, who without lifting a sword, was able to end an evil practice that had been going on for centuries in the Roman Empire. Sadly, we need not look all the way back to Rome to find examples of society's ills, as they are ever before us even in our own city and state. It is my hope that you will be inspired by the example of Telemachus to work for justice and peace in our own time and place this new year. I also hope that this will not simply remain a thought or a resolution, but that our resolve to follow Jesus and to embody his teachings might be less of a resolution and more of an action.

May the peace of Christ our Lord be with you,
Curtis +

Sunday School Classes at Asbury Memorial UMC				
Class Name	Location	Teacher/ Contact Person	Time	Curriculum
The Upper Room Class	Room 301 <i>Upstairs in the Sanctuary building above Curtis' office</i>	Mardy Murphy	10:00 am	The Wired Word
The Faith Meets Life Class	Brown Chapel <i>Upstairs in the Educational Building to the left of the Nursery.</i>	Merritt Moseley	10:00 am	A variety of books, studies, lectures, and videos.
The Clarence Gilbert Class	Room 104 <i>The Clarence Gilbert Classroom-downstairs in the Educational Building</i>	Scott Glenn	10:00 am	The Wired Word
Godly Play	Room 303 <i>Upstairs in the Sanctuary building at the end of the hallway</i>	Rev. Sallyanne McVay and others	9:45 am	Godly Play

There are several opportunities for you to get involved this new year in one of our three Sunday School classes for adults: The Upper Room Class, The Clarence Gilbert Class, and The Faith Meets Life Class. We also offer a special program of Christian Education for our children called Godly Play. You'd be welcome in any of the Sunday School classes that we offer. If you have questions about the various classes that meet each Sunday (or if you are wondering which one might be right for you), Curtis and Sallyanne will be happy to give you more details. Start the New Year off right by getting involved in learning more about God's word here at Asbury Memorial UMC!



News from the Missions Committee:

The January Bread Tin offering, a loose change offering, will once again go to help provide school uniforms for students in Ghana. Please give generously; for about \$10 we can provide a uniform that may make the difference between going to school and getting an education or staying at home.

Thank you for contributing to the mitten tree. All of the warm gloves, hats, mittens, scarves, baby blankets, etc. have been shared with the Haywood Congregation and will help to keep people warm as winter arrives.

Thank you for filling the BAGS from Jones School again this year and donating non-perishable foods for the children to have during the school holiday when they do not have school meals to sustain them.

Christmas Eve Fuel Fund: The offering taken up during the Historical Christmas Eve totaled \$1664.55 for the ABCCM Fuel Fund that helps people in our community stay warm during the winter. Our total donation to ABCCM Fuel Fund in December was \$2,166.45. Thank you for giving generously!

Please continue to bring contributions of food for MANNA Foodbank, or money to be converted to contributions. In 2017, we will be collecting beans: a high-protein, relatively heavy food much in demand in a hungry world. Not green beans, but navy beans, black beans, red beans—that sort of thing. Dried beans are fine, too. Thank you as always for giving generously!

Many thanks to everyone who donated their time, prayers and food to the Room In The Inn ladies from January 1-8.

The December bread tin collected \$545.44 for Red Bird Mission in rural Kentucky. Thank you for giving generously.

In December, Asbury gave \$1,590.90 to MANNA FoodBank toward our goal of 2016 pounds of baby food. Each pound converts to one dollar. The hungry babies of WNC thank you!

The Christians for a United Community will sponsor a Book Club Discussion Series which begins on January 22, 2017. The group will meet on the fourth Sunday of each month through June 2017 from 2:00 pm-3:30 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Evangelical Church, 135 Merrimon Ave, Asheville. The book used will be "The Third Reconstruction" by Dr. William Barber. Participants are asked to supply their own copy of the book. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please register at cucasheville@bellsouth.net, at the CUC Facebook page or by calling 828-254-4884. The deadline for registration is January 15th.

*Merritt and Madeline Moseley are happy to announce
the marriage of their daughter, Madeline Elizabeth,
to David Hal Holmes, Jr.
on December 21, 2016 in Asheville.*

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church

Church Calendar for January 2017

*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	5	6	7
9:45 am-Sunday School 11:00 am-Worship/Holy Communion [S] 8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH] <i>Room In The Inn</i>	<i>New Year's Day (observed)</i> 2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours <i>Room In The Inn</i> <i>Preschool Closed</i>	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours <i>Room In The Inn</i>	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 5:45 pm-Al-Anon Meeting [BC] 6:00 pm-Handbell Practice [S] 7:00 pm-Choir Practice [CR] 8:00 pm-Narcotics Anonymous [FH] <i>Room In The Inn</i> BULLETIN DEADLINE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours <i>Room In The Inn</i>	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH] <i>Room In The Inn</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<i>Room In The Inn</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:45 am-Sunday School 11:00 am-Worship [S] 8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]	7:00 am-Emmaus Group [YR] 9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 12:00 pm-Staff Meeting [GE] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 5:45 pm-Al-Anon Meeting [BC] 6:00 pm-Handbell Practice [S] 7:00 pm-Choir Practice [CR] 8:00 pm-Narcotics Anonymous [FH] BULLETIN DEADLINE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours 7:00 pm-Trustees Meeting [CO]	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH] CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Human Relations Sunday 9:45 am-Sunday School 11:00 am-Worship [S] 8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]	Martin Luther King, Jr Day 7:00 am-Emmaus Group [YR] 9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 5:45 pm-Al-Anon Meeting [BC] 6:00 pm-Handbell Practice [S] 7:00 pm-Choir Rehearsal [CR] 8:00 pm-Narcotics Anonymous [FH] BULLETIN DEADLINE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours	9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB] 8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH] CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

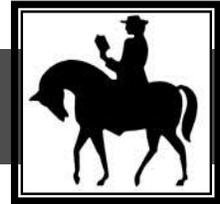


Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church Volunteer Schedule January 2017						
Date	Communion Servers	Lock-Up Volunteer	Counting Team	Ushers	Greeters	Sanctuary Stewards
1.1.2017	Curtis Goforth Rick Morehead Sallyanne McVay Mary Molloy		Mary Molloy John Harvin		Cynthia Stewart John Stewart	Mary Molloy Ellen Banks
1.8.2017	NA		Elaine Poovey Scott Glenn	Doug Tallent Martha Tallent Steve Rich Julie Niwinski	Geri Allison Jessica Withers	Madeline Moseley
1.15.2017	NA		Merritt Moseley Sue Lane Muesing	Bud Allison Geri Allison William Withers Jessica Withers	Claire Bailey Ann Young	Steve Rich Judy Rich
1.22.2017	NA		Rebecca Tucker Steve Rich	Mardy Murphy Don McGeary Keith Campbell Sharon Campbell	Toni Tweed Elaine Price	Gordon Jones Joan Jones
1.29.2017	NA		Mardy Murphy Diane Arnold	Don Jackson Jessica Jackson Gary Tweed Toni Tweed	Judy Rich Madeline Moseley	Bruce Kidder Elaine Price

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church Volunteer Schedule January 2017					
Date	Acolyte(s)	Nursery Volunteer	Children's Church	Children's Message	Lector
1.1.2017	Roan Bridger	Laurel Bishop	Madeline Moseley	Sallyanne McVay	Curtis Goforth
1.8.2017	Haley Phillips	Davie Jackson	Sallyanne McVay	Sallyanne McVay	Madeline Moseley
1.15.2017	Paul Shook	Day Ann Emory	Toni Tweed	Curtis Goforth	Merritt Moseley
1.22.2017	Alana Bridger	Jennifer Goforth	Lisa Pickett	Sallyanne McVay	Steve Rich
1.29.2017	Chloe Jackson Eliza Jackson	Cynthia Stewart	Mary Molloy	Curtis Goforth	Julie Niwinski

Volunteer Coordinators:

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



News from the Finance Committee:

	For the 10 Months Ended October 31, 2016		
	Actual	Budget	Favorable/(Unfavorable) Variance
Operating Funds:			
Income	\$161,310	\$153,034	\$8,276
Expenses	146,676	159,519	12,843
Net Income/(Loss)	<u>\$14,634</u>	<u>(\$6,485)</u>	<u>\$21,119</u>
Capital Campaign (net of expenditures)	<u>\$95,162</u>		
Special Giving*	<u>\$17,676</u>		
*Includes Souper Bowl, ABCCM, Manna Food Bank, Memorials, Disaster Relief, Youth Missions/Activities, Bread Tin, Special offerings			

News from the Building Committee:

The Building Committee continues to move forward in our work on Phase I of the construction. We have been meeting with contractors, engineers, and architects regarding the construction work and timeline for the improvements to the south side of the church building and property.

The image to the right is a rendering of the new covered and level entryway to the sanctuary at the choir room door (where the ramp is currently located)! This improvement mimics the look of the porch on the front of the sanctuary and will look like it was original to the church. Our next step is to select contractors to do the work once we have received their bids. We are anxiously awaiting this next step and we will complete it as soon as possible. Once this step is complete (and the weather cooperates) we will be able to start construction on the new driveway and parking area, the covered entryway, and the Memorial Garden. We will keep you posted as progress continues to be made.



News for Children and Youth:

A great big THANK YOU to all who have helped set-up, decorate, receive food, clear dishes, scrape dishes, wash dishes, dry and shelve dishes, put up tables and chairs and more for our variety of fall/winter meals. Your help is GREATLY appreciated.

Adults who live near the church are needed to help Sallyanne carry out a January event for the children of the church. All you need to do is be home to answer the doorbell. Date to be decided. Just let Sallyanne know that you are willing to help.

Midnight MANNA will take place again this year. It will be held on Saturday, February 4th from 9:00 pm until 12:30 am. Anyone who is high school age and above may participate. Please speak to Sallyanne if you are interested.

12/16/16

To my church family,

These past six months have been one of the most difficult transitions in my life. I lost my best friend, companion, and loving husband. Driving home from work on April 25, 2016 was a normal day until I topped the hill toward my house to find three police cars blocking my driveway. It was a sudden and tremendous shock to me and I miss him terribly every day. I was only allowed to be a part of his life for 16 years, but those years were the best years of my adult life. He was such a kind, loving, and wonderful man.

I do not profess to be as eloquent a writer as my dear husband, Robert, but I wanted to let everyone know how much I appreciated their cards, love, and support. Grief is not your friend and as a “silent griever”, it has been difficult for me to allow people to help me in that process. I truly did not have the energy to respond to each of you before now. It was easier to just come home from work and do nothing. Your care and concern has meant a great deal to me. I have just been trying to take it one day at a time and in that process, some days are better than others.

Robert and I were not always as involved in church activities as some of you, but our church family was very important to us. I wanted to let you know that I felt your support and appreciated you allowing me to grieve in my own way. Church has always been a big part of both our lives, which made it great to attend church together. It also makes it hard for me to attend church during this difficult transition period in my life. I can no longer put my arm around him during the hymns or hold his hand during the prayers.

Some of you chose to remember Robert with a gift to the capital campaign that he was leading at our church, Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church. That would have meant so much to Robert as he spent most of his fundraising career helping churches raise money for needed renovations or new buildings to support growth. Robert was an ordained minister, but he also believed that each person was a minister in their own chosen careers. I greatly appreciate your support of his ministry.

Thank you for your continued love and support,

Deborah “Debbie” Wiltshire

Loving Wife of Robert Andrew Wiltshire

The logo features a stylized red flame or torch on the left, with a vertical line extending upwards and a horizontal line extending to the right, forming a cross shape.

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church
171 Beaverdam Rd.
Asheville, NC 28804-2514