



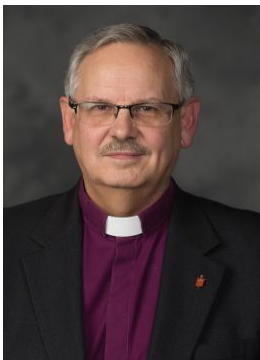
The Asbury Journal

Message from the Pastor

February 2017

A Message from Pastor

The Civil War was a very divisive time in our country’s history, and about the only thing that Democrats, Republicans, and Independents can agree on in the present time is that our country is still divided and polarized. During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln was purportedly asked if God was on his side. “Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side,” said the President, “my greatest concern is to be on God’s side, for God is always right.” I would echo Lincoln’s claim that our greatest concern should likewise be that we remain on God’s side—whatever the issue. But it is not always a simple, straightforward endeavor to discern where God’s side may be on every issue that arises in our country and in the world around us. Though it is not *always* simple to figure this out, there are nonetheless occasions when it is remarkably simple. Jesus never spoke a word that has been passed down to us in Scripture concerning modern issues like abortion and genetic modification, but he (and the prophets before him) had quite a bit to say about the treatment of people who have found themselves as immigrants. Even the often harsh laws in the Old Testament make clear that the people of God are to look out and care for the sojourner among them, because they were once sojourners themselves in the land of Egypt. It is not often that the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church issue a statement on a subject, but I wanted to share with you in our newsletter this month their statement reprinted below:



Bishop Bruce R. Ough, president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, issued a statement regarding President Trump’s executive order on immigration at a press conference sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Churches. The event, held at Hennepin United Methodist Church, gathered faith leaders to discuss the topic of immigration. Bishop Ough participated in today’s event in his role as resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area of The United Methodist Church. The statement maintains The United Methodist Church’s unity in standing with other faith traditions to denounce the order, as well as

calling all to remember Jesus’ words from Matthew 10:40: “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.”

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Bishop Ough's Message (continued from p. 1)

"I call upon the people of The United Methodist Church to see the face of Christ in the refugee," Bishop Ough said. "Say 'no' to the walling off of our country and our hearts and say 'yes' to their hope – our hope – for new life. Let us unite and work together to bring the soul of this country to a living birth!" The full text of Bishop Ough's statement follows:

Today, I stand with colleagues representing several faith traditions to strongly denounce President Trump's widespread attack on immigrants and refugees. President Trump's reckless, ill-conceived executive orders will divide families, impose a religious test for Muslims facing forced migration, penalize communities providing sanctuary and wall off the United States from our neighbors. These actions are expensive, unnecessary and profoundly antithetical to our values of compassion, dignity and justice for all individuals regardless of nationality, religious affiliation or legal status.

The biblical witness is clear and unambiguous. Walls are unbiblical. Hospitality is biblical. Denying one's neighbor is unbiblical. Welcoming the stranger is biblical. It is not surprising that Judaism, Christianity and Islam teach the reign of God as a banquet to which all peoples are invited. We are to welcome the sojourner, love our neighbor and stand with the most vulnerable among us. These very values from our sacred texts and faith traditions are currently reflected in the mandate of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and must not be usurped by any executive order. Orders, legislation or administrative actions that would have the U.S. State Department disqualify refugees from protection and resettlement based on their nationality or religion are a denial of the very principles this nation was built upon, contradict the legacy of leadership our country has offered the world, and dishonor our shared humanity.

Jesus was explicit in his teachings. In Matthew's gospel Jesus says, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." (Matthew 10:40).

Refugees and immigrants arrive among us, not only with their needs, but also bearing gifts of energy, resourcefulness, love of liberty and hope. These gifts have always contributed to the renewal of our society and the church.

Above all, these strangers bring to us the Christ. When we welcome a stranger we welcome Jesus, and when we welcome Jesus we welcome our creator. Refugees, immigrants, those yearning to be free—these are the ones whom Jesus spoke about when he said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35).

Repeatedly Jesus tells his disciples: "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:25)

The original Greek language is far more poetic, powerful and prophetic. In finer translations of the Greek language, we hear Jesus saying: "Whoever seeks to build a wall around their soul shall destroy it; whoever tears down the wall (around their soul) shall bring their soul to a living birth."

The very soul of our country is at stake. When we abandon strangers who are at risk of bigotry, xenophobia and violence we not only destroy their hope, we destroy our own souls. When we fail to assist the refugees fleeing danger, we not only place them in harm's way, we do harm to our own souls. When we build walls of concrete, or walls of divisive rhetoric, or walls of fear, or walls of immoral immigration policies, we build a wall around our own souls.

Christ calls us to tear down the walls around our souls that we might live fully and abundantly. Thus, I call on the Trump administration and the U.S. Congress to rescind the harmful executive orders and save the soul of our country. I call upon the people of The United Methodist Church to see the face of Christ in the refugee. Say "no" to the walling off of our country and our hearts and say "yes" to their hope – our hope – for new life. Let us unite and work together to bring the soul of this country to a living birth!

*Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President
Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church
January 30, 2017*



News from the Missions Committee:

The February Bread Tin offering, a loose change offering, will be dedicated to Mama Maisha, a charity that seeks to reduce maternal deaths in developing countries. Their website explains:

Almost 99% of women who die in pregnancy and childbirth are from developing countries like Tanzania. Women in rural Tanzania have poor access to health care services, especially maternal health care. A limited number of health facilities paired with an undeveloped road system makes it difficult for pregnant women to access quality prenatal care and delivery services.

In the area where Mama Maisha operates, local facilities regularly receive pregnant women experiencing a life-threatening complication. In fact, up to 50-70% of local women deliver at home, at the home of a traditional birth attendant (TBA), or en route to a health facility. Please give generously.

Thank you for giving generously! Our January Bread Tin offering raised \$452.56 to help provide school uniforms for students in Ghana.

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!

News from Sunday School:

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!

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church

Church Calendar for February 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
			<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>5:45 pm-Al-Anon Meeting [BC]</p> <p>6:00 pm-Handbell Practice [S]</p> <p>7:00 pm-Choir Practice [CR]</p> <p>8:00 pm-Narcotics Anonymous [FH]</p> <p><i>BULLETIN DEADLINE</i></p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours</p>	<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]</p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p>8:00 am-1:00 pm-Brown Chapel reserved</p> <p>9:00 pm-12:00 am-Midnight MANNA [MANNA FoodBank]</p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>9:45 am-Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am-Worship [S]</p> <p>8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]</p>	<p>7:00 am-Emmaus Group [YR]</p> <p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours</p>	<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours</p>	<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>5:45 pm-Al-Anon Meeting [BC]</p> <p>6:00 pm-Handbell Practice [S]</p> <p>7:00 pm-Choir Practice [CR]</p> <p>8:00 pm-Narcotics Anonymous [FH]</p> <p><i>BULLETIN DEADLINE</i></p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>10:00 am-Preschool Board Meeting [BC]</p> <p>2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours</p>	<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>6:00 pm-Bible Fun & Fellowship with Sallyanne [FH]</p> <p>8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]</p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>9:45 am-Sunday School</p> <p>11:00 am-Worship [S]</p> <p>12:00 pm-Friendship Circle Soup & Salad Luncheon [FH]</p> <p>7:00 pm-Missions Committee Meeting [BC]</p> <p>8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]</p> <p><i>Sherry Bates' last Sunday</i></p>	<p>7:00 am-Emmaus Group [YR]</p> <p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours</p>	<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours</p>	<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>5:45 pm-Al-Anon Meeting [BC]</p> <p>7:00 pm-Choir Rehearsal [CR]</p> <p>8:00 pm-Narcotics Anonymous [FH]</p> <p><i>BULLETIN DEADLINE</i></p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>2:30 pm-5:30 pm-Church Office Hours</p>	<p>9:00 am-1:00 pm-Preschool [EB]</p> <p>8:00 pm-Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]</p> <p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>	<p><i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i></p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 9:45 am -Sunday School 11:00 am -Worship [S] 8:00 pm -Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]	20 <i>Presidents' Day</i> 7:00 am -Emmaus Group [YR] 9:00 am-1:00 pm -Preschool [EB] 10:00 am -Worship Committee Meeting [BC] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm -Church Office Hours <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	21 9:00 am-1:00 pm -Preschool [EB] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm -Church Office Hours	22 9:00 am-1:00 pm -Preschool [EB] 5:45 pm -Al-Anon Meeting [BC] 7:00 pm -Choir Rehearsal [CR] 8:00 pm -Narcotics Anonymous [FH] <i>BULLETIN DEADLINE</i> <i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	23 9:00 am-1:00 pm -Preschool [EB] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm -Church Office Hours	24 89:00 am-1:00 pm -Preschool [EB] 8:00 pm -Alcoholics Anonymous [FH] <i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	25 <i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>
26 9:45 am -Sunday School 11:00 am -Worship [S] 8:00 pm -Alcoholics Anonymous [FH]	27 7:00 am -Emmaus Group [YR] 9:00 am-1:00 pm -Preschool [EB] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm -Church Office Hours	28 9:00 am-1:00 pm -Preschool [EB] 2:30 pm-5:30 pm -Church Office Hours				

FH=Fellowship Hall
S=Sanctuary
BC=Brown Chapel
EB=Educational Building
YR=Youth Room
GE=Givens Estate
PO=Pastor's Office
CO=Church Office
TBD=To Be Determined
UR=Upper Room Sunday School Classroom

Important Dates in March
March 1st - Ash Wednesday
March 12th – Daylight Savings Time starts
March 26th -UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing)

February Birthdays
Maggie Harvin – Feb 4th
Peter Andersen – Feb 5th
Bill Creasman – Feb 6th
Nancy Carter – Feb 7th
Robin Butler – Feb 9th
Lila Thomas – Feb 9th

February Birthdays
Wheeler Fisher – Feb 12th
Curtis Goforth – Feb 17th
Jerry Stubblefield – Feb 17th
Eliza Post – Feb 20th
Jeff McVay – Feb 23rd
Don Jackson III – Feb 25th

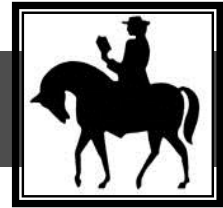


Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church Volunteer Schedule February 2017						
Date	Communion Servers	Lock-Up Volunteer	Counting Team	Ushers	Greeters	Sanctuary Stewards
2.5.2017	Curtis Goforth Elaine Poovey Sallyanne McVay Steve Rich	Larry Wilson (primary) Don Jackson, Jr. (secondary)	Diane Arnold Mark Smith	Eve Bridger Colin Bridger Mike Rice Sherry Rice	Nan Montague Laurel Bishop	Cynthia Stewart Laurel Bishop
2.12.2017	NA	Larry Wilson (primary) Don Jackson, Jr. (secondary)	Rick Morehead Janie Wilson	John Harvin Sylvia Burke Doug Tallent Martha Tallent	Mary Molloy Rebecca Tucker	Nancy Ernst Keith Campbell
2.19.2017	NA	Larry Wilson (primary) Don Jackson, Jr. (secondary)	Mary Molloy John Harvin	Steve Rich Julie Niwinski Bud Allison Geri Allison	Keith Campbell Sharon Campbell	Mary Molloy Ellen Banks
2.26.2017	NA	Larry Wilson (primary) Don Jackson, Jr. (secondary)	Elaine Poovey Scott Glenn	William Withers Jessica Withers Mardy Murphy Don McGearry	Linda Adams Jessica Jackson	Madeline Moseley

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church Volunteer Schedule February 2017					
Date	Acolyte(s)	Nursery Volunteer	Children's Church	Children's Message	Lector
2.5.2017		Mardy Murphy	Megan Shook	Sallyanne McVay	Curtis Goforth
2.12.2017		Martha Tallent	Judi Harvin	Sallyanne McVay	Nancy Ernst
2.19.2017		Madeline Moseley	Elaine Rich	Curtis Goforth	Jessica Jackson
2.26.2017		John Stewart	Nan Montague	Sallyanne McVay	Janie Wilson

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 12 Months Ended December 31, 2016		
	Actual	Budget	Favorable/(Unfavorable) Variance
Operating Funds:			
Income	191,505	195,000	(\$3,494)
Expenses	176,560	193,846	17,286
Net Income/(Loss)	<u>\$14,945</u>	<u>(\$1,154)</u>	<u>\$13,791</u>
Capital Campaign (net of expenditures)	<u>\$115,980</u>		
Special Giving*	<u>\$23,932</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 from the Friendship Circle:

The Friendship Circle will hold its annual Soup and Salad Luncheon immediately following worship on Sunday, February 12th. We are asking for donations for missions projects including providing a meal for the UNCA Campus Ministry. We will also be honoring our Music Director, Sherry Bates, and her husband, Randy Huntley, as they leave us for new horizons. Please join us as we bid them farewell. Reservation cards are in the pew racks. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate as it circulates so that we will have enough food. See you then!

News for Children and Youth:

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.

The 2017 season of Asbury Children's Choir has begun. All Children interested in singing should meet Director, Judi Harvin, on the 3rd floor in Sunday, Feb 12th to prepare to sing for worship on Feb 12th. Additional rehearsals are Feb 26th and March 12th to sing I worship on March 12th. Rehearsal is on April 30th for a singing date to be determined in May.

On February 10th, we will have an evening of Bible Fun and Fellowship for the children of the church. The children will join Sallyanne from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. A 2nd adult is needed to help; please contact Sallyanne (230-4065) if you are available to help.



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