

From the Mailbag

Our friends at Asbury UMC,
 Thank you so much for your gift to Sacramento in memory of Dad! Camp was a special part of his ministry— especially Camp Sunshine. Your gift is a lovely tribute to his life and ministry. Dad enjoyed worshipping with you over the years— thank you for making him part of your church family. We appreciate your continued thoughts and prayers.

With much gratitude,
 Amy and Janet Weyant

Retirement Party for Paula Waldrip

Mark your calendars for February 26th, and be prepared to celebrate the end of an era. Paula has served as Church Administrator for 20 years and she needs a grand sendoff! The S.P.R.C. in conjunction with the United Methodist Women are hosting a retirement party on Sunday, February 26th, at 2:00pm in the afternoon. We encourage you to spread the word and invite as many former members and friends as possible. In the meantime, we have set a collection box on the post-table in the narthex of the church. We will be collecting monetary donations as a retirement gift for Paula. If you choose to use a check, please make it out to Asbury UMC and note "Paula Retirement" on the memo line. All monies collected will be presented to Paula during the party. Let us all join together and express our thankfulness for the years of faithful service Paula has given to the Lord and to our congregation.



THE JOURNAL

Asbury - "Where Hearts are Warmed for Christ"

February 14th, 2017

A word from the Pastor

Grace and Peace!

As you receive this issue of the newsletter, we are moving ever more closely to the season of Lent in the Church. Ash Wednesday is on March 1st and soon our focus will turn toward the sacrifice Jesus made to redeem us from our sin and return us to our Father Who loves us.

While this is to be the focus of all that we are and all that we seek to accomplish as a church, it is very easy to become sidetracked with doing so much good that we fail to accomplish the great.

I commend the following short story to you as we consider together our purpose as a church!

"There is an old story about a lighthouse keeper who worked on a rocky stretch of coastline. Once a month he would receive a new supply of oil to keep the light burning so that ships could safely sail near the rocky coast. One night, though, a woman from a nearby village came and begged him for some oil to keep her family warm. Another time a father asked for some to use in his lamp. Another man needed to lubricate a wheel. Since all the requests seemed legitimate, the lighthouse keeper tried to please everyone and grant the requests of all.

Toward the end of the month, he noticed his supply of oil was dangerously low. Soon it was gone, and one night on the light on the lighthouse went out. As a result, that evening several ships were wrecked and countless lives were lost. When the authorities investigated, the man was very apologetic. He told them he was just trying to be helpful with the oil. Their reply to his excuses, however, was simple and

to the point: "You were given oil for one purpose, and one purpose only - to keep that light burning!"

There is no end to the demands placed on a church's time and resources. As a result, we often find our resources stretched thin as we are tired. Now, I in no way want to cease any of the ministry opportunities God has placed before us. At the same time, I want to encourage all of us to keep our focus on the primary purpose for our existence.

While the church can be a place for fellowship and fun, it is not a social club. The church can be a place for physical and emotional healing, but it is not a hospital. Often the church is a place where people find a place to belong, but this cannot be an end in and of itself. The church must be about the business of meeting people's needs, whether they are physical or emotional needs. But we must not lose sight of our primary purpose. We are present in this world for the purpose of lifting up Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world!

It does no good to give a cup of cold water to a person and bless them without sharing the true source of all blessings. A plate of food and a warm coat can minister to the body, and this we must do, but if this is all we do we have failed to be the church Jesus has called us to be. Everything we do must not only be motivated by the love of Jesus in our own hearts, but it must be focused on ensuring the love of Jesus enters into the hearts of those that we minister to.

Just like the story, we must keep the light of Christ burning brightly so that He can be seen. This means effectively communicating the love of God in Christ by what we do and by what we say! The foundational purpose of a church must remain supreme: To proclaim Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world.

Blessings,
 Pastor Russ

Our Mission

Connect - to God and neighbor

Equip - to disciple

Send - to serve

Our Vision

A vibrant faith community that reaches out with the love of Christ to every generation for the transformation of the world.

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Sunday Worship:

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Worship Services, Sanctuary

10:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages

Pastor Russ Nebhut

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Serving Schedule:

Greeters February 19th

9:00 a.m. Sammie Rogers, Mike Krueger

11:00 a.m. Charles & Bonnie Cotten, Terry Richey

Ushers February 19th

D. Andjulis, D. Hughes, M. Lippman

Technology February 19th

Media Computer Mike D.

Sound Board 9:00 Tim B.

11:00 Mike W.

Video Camera 9:00 Sunder P.

11:00 Jaci B.

Greeters February 26th

9:00 a.m. Sammie Rogers, Mike Krueger

11:00 a.m.

Ushers February 26th

H. Lane, Captain, M. Waldrip, B. Johnson, D. Hughes, K. Magness, J. Curry

Technology February 26th

Media Computer Carolyn K.

Sound Board 9:00 John B.

11:00 Anthony M.

Video Camera 9:00 Sunder P.

11:00 Jaci B.

Attendance:

February 5th, 2017

9:00 76

11:00 97

Sunday School 53

February 12th, 2017

9:00 58

11:00 77

Sunday School 66

Prayer Requests

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND AND THOSE IN NURSING HOMES:

Lois Holt Gertrude Merrit (Parks) Trula Palmer
 Mona Rogge Wanda Stahl Clarence Stahl
 Mary Jo Hill Joy Bolding

PRAYERS FOR ASBURY FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Sue Angle	Mike DeShazo	Cherryana Little	Jim Nickel	Joy Slack
Christie Applegate	Judy DeWeese	Keith Little	Joel Nowlin	Roger Smith
Tammy Armstrong	Libby Ellrich	Bailey Lively	Kim Nowlin	Kimberly Stepp
Ronald Bennett	Mark Farquhar	Imiah Lively	Lloyd Nowlin	Hollis Terry
Bishop Earl Bledsoe	Al French	Frank Love	Catherine Paul	Diane Thomas
Marilyn Brown	Anita Guinn	Nancy Lovett	Sandi Phillips	Sandra Vickers
Paul Brown	Dorothy Hart	Jenica Maroney	Linda Pope	Bryan & Tara Vinson
Corey Carrell	Melba Hayden	Nathan Mendoza	Lisa Ramirez	Glendya Williams
Casey Cates	Gene & Jimmie Jeanette Hewitt	Clint Mesker	Prisilia Ramirez	Kaleb Zengher
Shelli Childers	Mary Hodges	Paul Minton	Ervin Renacis	Methodist Outreach in Zambia
Jim Cornell	Tom Horton	Amanda Moss	Scarlett Robinson	Chance
Adele Cortez	Kay Kingon	Noah Moss	Maddie Saunders	Nolan
Erble Creasman	Helen Lewis	Bobby Nelson	Marla Scott	Penny
Karen Crutchfield	Ralph Lewis	Jerri Nickel	Don & Barbara Shinn	

PRAYERS FOR MILITARY & DEPLOYED:

Military & their families

Meet Your UMC Missionary– Innocent Afful

Mr. Afful is a native Ghanaian who has served in social ministry and outreach in Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and now in the Kinshasa District of the DR Congo as the Director of the Heart and the Hands of Christ Orphanage. He states, *I do this, as is written in James 1:27, by taking care of "orphans...in their distress."* The HHC Orphanage currently cares for 205 orphans divided about evenly between boys and girls. He says, *Some of our children are orphans from the civil wars in the past, some lost their mothers in child birth, and others come from very poor homes, having been born to parents who were unable to care for one more.* Their goal is to provide food (hopefully 3 meals a day but when funds are short, they can only provide 2), clothing, safe shelter, education and training in a craft or skill so the young people are prepared to support themselves and their own families as adults. Mr. Afful not only serves as coordinator and operations manager of the orphanage but also teaches religious instruction to all 205 students, and other subjects, as needed during their six-day school week. In addition, he directly teaches many of the craft and skill classes to train the children how to start home businesses when they become adults. They also make tie-dye material, soap and other things that can be sold to help support the orphanage. Remember him in your prayers that God would give him strength as he carries this heavy load and that their material and spiritual needs would be met.

Contact Us

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Russ Nebhut

Pastor



aumcodessa

Bind Us Together – Bishop Itineration

Bishop Bledsoe will be visiting towns across the Conference on a spring itineration. Joining him will be the DS of location, CF&A representative, Insurance/Benefits representative, Randall Partin, Provost, Sid Strebeck, Conference Lay Leader & others.

The United Methodist Church is facing change and challenge from within. Simultaneously, we have the opportunity to bring light and grace to an uncertain world without. The Bishop felt compelled to travel throughout the NM & NWTX Conferences to provide an update and address questions and concerns. At a time when our differences tend to be more prominent, this will be an opportunity to talk and focus on what binds us together.

Bishop Bledsoe will be at First Methodist Church on Saturday, March 18. He will begin the time of sharing at 10:00am. The Conference wants to hear from you! Questions? Contact Randall Partin at (505)255-8786 or randall@nmconfum.com.

Youth Summer Camp Breakfast Burrito Fundraiser

The youth will be selling breakfast burritos during the month of February on the 2nd and 4th Sundays! The burritos will be sold between services. Please support the youth as they fundraise for summer camp!

Lectionary Readings

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH: LEVITICUS 19:1-2, 9-18, PSALM 119:33-40, 1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-11, 16-23, MATTHEW 5:38-48

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH: EXODUS 24:12-18, PSALM 99, 2 PETER 1:16-21, MATTHEW 17:1-9

Asbury Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 19th, 2017:

8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Prayer
 9:00 a.m. Asbury Worship
 10:00 a.m. Life Lessons
 10:00 a.m. Coffee With Pastor Russ
 11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship
 3:30-5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
 5:00 p.m. Ascent Student Ministries

Monday, February 20th, 2017:

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Power Flex
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, February 21st, 2017:

9:30-11:30 a.m. MOPS
 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 7:00 p.m. VSC, #121

Wednesday, February 22nd, 2017:

Super Wednesday!
 9:00-11:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study
 4:30 p.m. Melody Makers
 5:30 p.m. Supper
 6:15 p.m. Activities
 7:15 p.m. Choir

Thursday, February 23rd, 2017:

9:00 a.m. Stitches
 6:00 p.m. Power Flex
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Sunday, February 26th, 2017:

8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Prayer
 9:00 a.m. Asbury Worship
 10:00 a.m. Life Lessons
 10:00 a.m. Coffee With Pastor Russ
 11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship
 3:30-5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
 5:00 p.m. Ascent Student Ministries

Monday, February 27th, 2017:

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
 1:00 p.m. Deadline for Newsletter Articles
 6:00 p.m. Power Flex
 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, February 28th, 2017:

Newsletter Day
 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 7:00 p.m. VSC, #121

Wednesday, March 1st, 2017:

Super Wednesday!
 9:00-11:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study
 4:30 p.m. Melody Makers
 5:30 p.m. Supper
 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
 7:15 p.m. Choir

Thursday, March 2nd, 2017:

9:00 a.m. Stitches
 12:30-2:30 p.m. WTX Twilight Vision, #110
 6:00 p.m. Power Flex
 6:30 p.m. Tai Chi
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

Friday, March 3rd, 2017:

12:00 p.m. Scrapbook Group, T/R

Saturday, March 4th, 2017:

8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. Scrapbook Group, T/R

Sunday, March 5th, 2017:

8:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Prayer
 9:00 a.m. Asbury Worship
 10:00 a.m. Life Lessons
 10:00 a.m. Coffee With Pastor Russ
 11:00 a.m. Instrumental Praise Worship
 3:30-5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class
 5:00 p.m. Ascent Student Ministries

