



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.adaasburyumc.com & LIKE US on Facebook as Ada Asbury UMC

Pastor Travis Muse

Administrative Assistant Whitney Clifton



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

December 2015

The Story, 2016

Do you know your story? A bit of a loaded question I know, yet a very valid one when we consider all the different types of stories being told in the world today. There are sports stories and human interest stories, current event stories and fictional stories; we even share tragic stories and some stories that inspire the heart. I want to tell you about the greatest story of them all; it is a story of promise, betrayal, heartache, courage, confusion, hope and redemption. This story has all the elements of the classical literary novels wrapped together; in fact, it has been called the “greatest story ever told.”

The Asbury family will start a new spiritual journey in January 2016 to learn more about our faith story. We will journey through the entire Bible looking at the major stories, themes, and Godly encounters experienced by God’s people. Can you imagine that some people go their entire Christian life without hearing the major stories of the Bible and how it all ties into God’s redemptive work in the world? Through a great church resource called *The Story*, we will see the big picture from beginning to end and how it all applies directly to our lives.

One of the biggest opportunities during this year long campaign is to get everyone in the church on the same page. I realize we all come to church at different faith levels and experiences, yet we can all join together and read through God’s Word at the same pace. Personally, I draw the closest to God when I spend quality time reading the Bible and letting the overall story soak into my heart and life. Sadly, few people actually take the time to read through the entire Bible. We get bogged down with some of the minute details or we get distracted by life events and we never seem to get back into a good reading plan. *The Story* will help us encourage one another to good deeds, stronger faith, and a more meaningful spiritual development that will strengthen our congregation’s trust in the Lord.

One area that I personally see an immediate impact is pulling people together in Sunday School classes or study groups. Each group will receive material that coincides with the sermons and major themes preached throughout the year. Right now we lack a solid education program for both adults and children. I hope this campaign will get us going in a good direction to correct that deficiency.

Don’t worry; I will not go at a snail’s pace through scripture. The campaign will cover 31 stories and themes from Genesis to Revelation in chronological sequence. We will explore the overarching narrative of God’s grace while wrestling with the perplexing and sometimes appalling particulars of the human experience. I am truly excited about 2016 being a year of deep spiritual growth for us all. Please be praying now how God will use this campaign to transform our lives and draw others into the story of grace.

In Christ, Pastor Travis

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Sunday	Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Services 10:30 a.m.
Monday	Basketball Practices in the Gym ECU Wesley – FUSION 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	The WAY 6 p.m.
Wednesday	Choir 6 p.m. ECU Wesley – Bible Study 9:00 p.m.
Thursday	Basketball Practices in the Gym

HAPPENINGS

December

- 1st Lunch Bunch @ noon
- 1st Beautiful Day meeting 6p.m. First Baptist
- 2nd Pick up food for food pantry
- 3rd Spaghetti Dinner (FUMC) 11am-1:30p.m.
& 4:30p.m.-6:30p.m.
- 3rd Distribute food pantry
- 6th SBA banquet in Family Life Center 4p.m.-
8p.m.
- 13TH Choir Cantata & Christmas for SOAR
- 14th Beautiful Day meeting 6:30p.m. Asbury
- 16th Pick up food for food pantry
- 17th Distribute food for food pantry
- 20th Potluck Dinner
- 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 25th Merry Christmas

End of Year Giving

Some people like to give end of year financial gifts to the church. Let's be honest though, some of us wait till the last minute to do a number good of things. For those desiring to make one last contribution to the wonderful ministries at Asbury, you may do so right up until noon on December 31st. Our office will be closed on Jan. 1st so don't delay to long on those last days of 2015.

A Blessing for SOAR

We all know the joy that Christmas morning can bring to the life a little boy or girl. They anxiously wait for something special with their name on it that might include a new toy, a little doll, a game, or perhaps a new dress. This year we will once again

help the fathers at SOAR provide for their children a special present for Christmas. You can help provide for a child by picking out a card on the Angle Tree in the Foyer.

Advent Series - "He Shall Be Called"

The Season of Advent sets our hearts to the anticipated arrival of Christmas. While much of society focuses on Christmas as a single event, the church sees the 4 weeks prior as a time of preparation and yearning for the glorious arrival.

The first Sunday of Advent, November 29th, will bring a new series focusing on the name and characteristics of the Messiah's ministry.

The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah in his divine proclamation. Isaiah chapter 9 gives us a glimpse of the role the Messiah would play in transforming the heart of God people. "His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." We will explore what each of those titles mean for us and how Christ brings salvation into the world.

Each week we will light the Advent Candles, sing some much beloved Christmas Carols, enjoy the Choir Cantata on December 13th, and even have our hearts warmed with some special moments during the morning services. You will not want to miss any of it.

Christmas Eve Service, December 24th

Asbury will rejoice in the birth of Christ with a special Christmas Eve Candlelight service. What a great way to set aside the hustle of the holiday season and simply enjoy the powerful reminder that Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord, came into the world so many years ago. We look forward to celebrating the service with family, friends, and even guests who are looking for a church to give the Christmas more meaning. Be sure to invite someone to attend with you. Let's fill the sanctuary with joy and light.

Blessing of the Children's Gifts

Kids love to celebrate Christmas. (Us big kids do to for that matter.) They also love to show off their new toys. Let's help them make the connection that Christmas is not simply about toys and pretty trees, but that God gives us special gifts to enjoy and

share. We invite our children to bring one (1) of their new Christmas toys with them to church on Dec. 27th and we will have a "blessing of the gifts." No puppies please.

Beautiful Day Ministry

Beautiful Day is a ministry to the Widows in our community. We feel that the church could minister to these women by facilitating a way for them to support each other. So, our goal is to give them an opportunity to socialize with each other. These are monthly events designed to encourage the widows to make new friends and find new ways to serve each other. The events also provide outreach from the churches to the widows and from the widows to the churches about the special needs that they have. The first Beautiful Day will be held here @ Asbury UMC January 4th. If you are interested in volunteering or are a widow and would like to come please contact our office @ (580) 332-5266



December Birthdays

<i>James Quaid</i>	<i>4th</i>
<i>Dean Stephens</i>	<i>13th</i>
<i>Lattie Jones</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Jeff Jared</i>	<i>17th</i>
<i>Paul Keefer</i>	<i>19th</i>



December

<i>Andy & Deanna Ross</i>	<i>7th</i>
<i>Jim & Terry Cooper</i>	<i>16th</i>
<i>James & Laura Smith</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Lattie & Ethel Jones</i>	<i>29th</i>
<i>Roger & Cheri Busse</i>	<i>30th</i>



Lattie and Ethel Jones
J.E. & Barbara Quinton
Men @ SOAR
David & Markie Mask
Aaron Russ (Anita Arbabi's nephew)
A New Children's Sunday School Class
Allene Cobb

Asbury Helps Provide Practice Space for the Local Boys and Girls Club

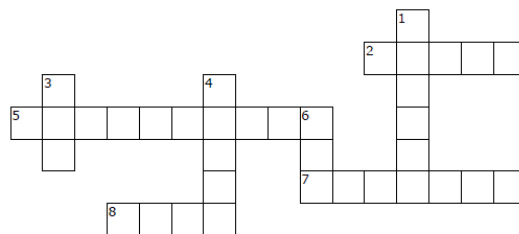
In case you have not noticed, the church parking lot seems a bit busier during week nights. We are opening our Family Life Center to several local Boys and Girls Club basketball teams to practice for their upcoming season. Kyle Carter, the Club director, informed us that because of the large number of kids wanting to play basketball this season, they faced a dilemma of turning some away because they did not have enough practice space for all the teams. There are now 6 teams that will use our gym on Monday and Thursday nights. We discovered that one team is comprised of children who live with only one parent. The coach wanted to give back in a special way just as someone did for him many years ago. Many have expressed their gratitude for using the gym. Way to go Asbury!!!

Word Search Puzzle

E A R T H Q U A K E S A G U H
 S C V U P P B J N D T F T I R
 V K A Q B E H T M F O A J F T
 R W L F V U N R G O N M K S E
 L Q A N O U I N I R E I X R A
 D P R T O D I L D S S N I U C
 A T M M C T Y K D E E E U M H
 W E E S T H F B E I C Y R O E
 P M D I Z O X X H Z N E U R R
 D P S K I N G D O M K G I S P
 C L Q Q N A T I O N V X S V F
 W E I A A E W O L I V E S B E
 A D I S C I P L E S E V B M Y
 R O E N H E A R P H N W U D Y
 S N M E Q H V M D U D P W B Z

BUILDINGS	EARTHQUAKE	WARS	DECEIVE	SITTING
TEMPLE	HEAR	ALARMED	OLIVES	RISE
DISCIPLES	NATION	KINGDOM	RUMORS	END
STONES	FAMINE	WATCH	TEACHER	MOUNT

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. To stay alert; observe carefully
5. A sudden shaking and moving of the Earth's surface
7. To mislead; to cause to believe what is not true
8. To receive sound with your ears

DOWN

1. A wide-spread shortage of food
3. Armed fighting between countries
4. A piece of news spread from person to person
6. To be finished

END	EARTHQUAKE	FAMINE	WATCH
RUMOR	HEAR	DECEIVE	WAR

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