

Circuit Rider

The Newsletter of Asbury United Methodist Church
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Jean Evans, Editor Lena Cheng, Mailing Coordinator



October 2017

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Asbury family,

As I write this (Sept 28), I am aware that today marks my 3rd anniversary in ministry with the Asbury Croton community. Reflecting on these past few years, my heart is filled with joy and love.

As we look at our experiences together through the lens of love in this community, there is so much grace:

- The excitement of children on their first day of Sunday school.
- Bright spots in the storms as neighbor helps neighbor.
- Faithful servants of this congregation bless us every day with their witness through word and action.
- We feel the promise of this heritage community's next generation as they develop their own traditions to live out our Wesleyan understanding of faith.
- We are encouraged by the words and actions of the justice builders around us.
- We see God at work in the miracles of reconciliation.

Together we are agents of loving transformation to those whom we encounter. We don't just respond with love but we proactively love – not with random acts of kindness but with intentional acts of loving-kindness. We live in ways that infuse the world with the love and light of Jesus!

Love is at the heart of who we are as a community . . . not just in the church but out in the world in our day to day lives.

I am thankful to be on this journey with you and look forward to another year of partnership, nurturing each other's spirits while sharing God's love with the world.

Peace,
Pastor Melissa



“Men Growing in Christ so Others May Know Christ”
ASBURY CROTON ON HUDSON UNITED METHODIST MEN’S FELLOWSHIP
ASSOCIATION

ACOHUMMFA

OCTOBER meeting dates:

Saturday (8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. sharp)
19 Old Post Road So, Croton on Hudson
(FREE Breakfast 8:00 a.m. option FRANKIES)

OCTOBER 7, 14, 21, 28

Activities/Topics: Croton Trails Walks and study series The New Testament

YOU CAN READ THE BIBLE in a year!!!! challenge:
Just 15 minutes/day — you can do it

Weekly Readings: Ma1-14, Ma15-28, Mk1-16, L1-16

Intercessory Prayer: Asbury COH Church Families: S-T

Sunday, October 15, 2017
36th ANNUAL HARRY CHAPIN WALK & RUN AGAINST HUNGER
JOIN AN EVENT AS AN ASBURY TEAM MEMBER OR JUST DONATE
- See more at: <http://runagainsthunger.com>

PICK “JOIN A TEAM”
Choose “ASBURY”

BIRD SEED SALE
SATURDAY, October 21 & 28

SEND YOUR ORDER TO: 914-271-3128 or acohummfa@aol.com

Proceeds for Church’s winter heating bills:
“Feed the Birds, Warm the Flock”

ADVENT CALENDAR ON SALE OCT 1
ASBURY LIMITED ADDITION ORIGINAL ART
Created by Ann Reibel
More info: Stu Colby call or text 914-330-4104 or ACOHUMMFA@aol.com

ASBURY CROTON ON HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TREASURER'S COLUMN II

—Stu Colby

Last month I reported that so far this year income (offerings, our donations to support the Church) was a bit behind the expenses. Well, GOOD NEWS!! Donations STEPPED UP in September and Asbury resourced its programs with over \$130,000 in funding so far through mid-September 2017. Nearly all of this was utilized in Croton but it also includes \$1,283 sent to UMCOR for disasters relief, and \$1,551 in donations received in special collections for missions via “Apportionment” (a portion meant for others).

Thank you all for your commitment and generous contributions to the Church. And did you know we have a DONATE NOW feature on the Asbury home page website? It is a quick and easy way to support Asbury’s missions. Donations can be arranged through your checking account, debit or credit cards. Recurring payments can be set up too. Try it!

Another way to help is to invite or host someone or a family to join you at a service or church event. We have room to grow even more!

Thank you for your support to **make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.**



Through water and the Holy Spirit, Asbury joyfully welcomed Caleb Montgomery Gorch into the family of Christ on September 24. May God's life-giving love be with him, today and always! Caleb is pictured with his parents, Ed and Alyce and big sister, Riley.

Asbury's 2018 Budget

Greetings from Asbury's finance committee.

We would like to share with the entire congregation an overview of our 2018 budget. Overall, we estimate that it will cost \$198,000 to fully fund all of Asbury's programs next year which includes the following:

- \$128,000 is budgeted for salaries and benefits. In addition to our full-time pastor, Asbury has five part-time employees (office secretary, choir director, organist, sexton and nursery care).
- \$40,000 is needed to keep the church, education building and parsonage up and running. For each of these properties, we pay for fuel, electricity, water, and insurance.
- The cost of our church programs is \$7,500. This includes all of our office expenses, bulletins, Sunday school materials, and various publications Asbury purchases throughout the year.
- The remainder of Asbury's budget provides support for the programs of the Methodist church throughout the world. Our Apportionments are our "portion meant for others". Asbury is connected to all United Methodist churches and as such we help finance ministerial education, mission projects, Africa University and general church administration.

Fundraising and building rentals constitute only 20% of our income. **The rest, 80% of this budget, is provided by the generous gifts of the members of our congregation.**

God Bless,

Adam, Bovone, Finance Chair

Finance Committee members include: Stu Colby, Lena Cheng, Don Daubney, Tina Pershing and Beth Phillips



***Take a moment – think about it.
What does the Asbury United Methodist
Church mean to you, your family and your
community?***

Sister, brothers, friends and family united with God are called to celebrate our commitment to the love of God through service, worship, Christian education, and support of the many ongoing ministries of Asbury.

Please join us on Nov. 19 (directly after worship service) by attending Asbury's annual consecration luncheon.

In gratitude for all the work and generosity of members of Asbury, the luncheon will be prepared by members of the Administrative Council, Finance Committee and Stewardship Committee. At that time each household in the congregation will be asked to complete an 'Estimate of Giving for 2018' form. Based on that total, the Finance Committee will be able to determine if Asbury will be able to meet its obligations as presented in the budget (see details in attached article).

At our current level of giving, we will not meet the funding that we need to adequately fund our ministries. It may be necessary to cut our staff or to move from a full-time pastor to part-time. We are distressed to mention it, but it may become a reality unless all of us 'Step Up' our giving.

Please take a few prayerful moments and look at your family's budget and consider increasing your household giving by \$10 or \$20 each week. With ALL of us participating we will be able to fund all the programs and staff in 2018.

“The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs.”

Always Grateful to God,

The Stewardship Committee: Cynthia Plater, Chair, Gloria Laemmel, Inga Colbran, Cathy Adlesic, Adam Bovone, Don Daubney

THE HISTORY CORNER

It is the time of year when we decorate our homes, and Asbury, with signs of fall. One of the items we like to use, gourds, is probably the oldest domesticated plant in the world and we can trace that domestication to 13,000 years ago in Africa. Gourds traveled from Africa to Asia, and then about 10,000 years ago from Asia to America. It was domesticated because it was such a handy plant. The young fruits could be eaten, and mature fruits could be dried, resulting in a hard shell that could be made into a wide range of vessels, dippers, and musical instruments.

Gourds were cultivated worldwide and are still cultivated and used as they were thousands of years ago, as well as turned into beautiful pieces of art, as they sometimes were in ancient times. In China a technique was developed that enclosed a young gourd in a two-part mold that the gourd grew into, and when the mold was broken a bottle with an incised pattern was the result. In South America a gourd is still used to make a cup to drink mate tea. The bitter melon used in Japan for a variety of sushi is a young gourd, though in America we often substitute cucumber for the melon. In this case we are not far off in a substitute as both are members of the cucurbitaceae family that includes pumpkins. Among music instruments are drums, a variety of whistles and flutes (ocarina), and rattles. In colonial America, gourds were used as bowls and dippers in addition to wooden ones. In Europe to help rid crops of insect damage gourds were made into bird houses and hung in fields to encourage purple martin nesting and thus have the martins consume the insects.

Luffa, also known as Dishcloth Gourd, is a gourd that has had the skin and seeds removed leaving the bleached fibers remaining to be used as a household and skin cleaning sponge. If you use gourds this year try drying them in an area that has low humidity. It is good to put them on a rack like one used in cooling baked goods. Don't let them touch each other, and turn them every week. When they are completely dry the seeds inside them will also be dry and you will have a rattle, or a maraca. The color will probably be gone but you can paint them.

SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS

We sell gift cards from ShopRite on Sunday after church and at other events such as coffee hour. Asbury receives a profit of five cents on each dollar of cards we sell. We all eat and we all buy food, so it is an easy way to donate to Asbury. This money is kept in an emergency fund.

For more information and to purchase cards please contact Gloria Laemmel

News from a former parishioner

—Lena Cheng

Recently I have been corresponding via email with an old friend, John Cecconi. John and his late wife, Norma, were active in the music department at Asbury. They both sang in the Chancel Choir, John occasionally played the organ when the regular organist was not available. He also played the banjo. His banjo band was featured in one of our coffee houses.



Shortly after Norma died, John moved to North Carolina, where he continued with his banjo playing. In fact, he is director of a band. He sent me a copy of a song he wrote to the tune of *America the Beautiful*, inspired by a sermon given by his late pastor. Stu Colby and Don Daubney sang it to Stu's guitar accompaniment in Chapel last month. Below are excerpts from John's emails:



I recently played a banjo solo in a musical concert here - "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise."



Yesterday I attended a Vietnam Veterans recognition event at the local VFW post with 300 other vets and families. Somehow I was able to fit into my uniform! A friend of mine (his wife is a member of my band) was there with the County Honor Guard.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School Pedals For progress 1-4pm Youth Group Kickoff 3pm/ Social Hall | 2 Pastor in Nashville | 3 Pastor in Nashville BS Den 2 3:30pm | 4 Pastor in Nashville | 5 | 6 Pastor Melissa Sabbath | 7 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 10:00 AA |
| 8 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School 6:00 Jan Peek Meal Coffee Hour GS 2919 4:00pm | 9 Confirmation Class Retreat 11am 9-3pm Music Rm Rental (S. NDiaye) | 10 Lunch & Learn: Sisters 12:30-1:30 7:30pm SPRC | 11 | 12 | 13 Pastor Melissa Sabbath GS 1235 5:30pm | 14 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 9:00-10:30 Sally Read Book Group (Music Rm) 10:00 AA Dinner Church 5:30pm |
| 15 Run Against Hunger 10am Communion on Front Porch | 16 12:00 Peekskill Lunch | 17 7:30pm Ad Council BS Den 2 3:30pm | 18 | 19 | 20 Pastor Melissa Sabbath GS 1235 5:30pm | 21 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 9:00 UMW (Music Rm) 10:00 AA Pastor Melissa Vacation |
| 22 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School Coffee Hour Prayer Circle Pastor Melissa Vacation | 23 Kear Memorial Service 1pm Pastor Melissa Sabbath | 24 BS Den 2 3:30pm | 25 | 26 Pastor Melissa Sabbath | 27 | 28 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 10:00 AA |
| 29 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Worship & Children's Sunday School | 30 | 31 | <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>OCTOBER 2017 ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH</p> </div> | | | 30 8:00 ACOHUMMFA Breakfast at Frankie's 8:30 ACOHUMMFA at Wesley House 10:00 AA |