



# ASBURY TRAILS

Raising up a new generation of Christians

## All-Church Picnic

Everyone in the church is invited to celebrate Pentecost with an all-church picnic, immediately following the second service on May 31. We'll meet in nearby Matheson Park (Lexington and Morris—two blocks south and three blocks east of the church) and enjoy food, games, and music from 12:30-2:00 PM. Hot dogs, drinks (water and lemonade) and paper products will be provided.

Please bring a favorite picnic side dish to share, such as chips, baked beans, cookies, etc. The church kitchen will be open earlier if you need to keep something cold or hot. Bring your own blanket or lawn chairs to sit on. Also, please note that the park doesn't have restroom facilities, but the church is just a short shuttle away!

There will be a special, short program to honor the Davis family, bidding them farewell as they leave Asbury to serve another church in Sweetwater, Texas. Steve's last sermon as our senior pastor will be given that morning.

With Dave Sauter and Betty Jean Highland at the grill, and Mike Baldwin as a ceremonial emcee, this will be an event you won't want to miss!

Questions? Call Bonnie Hardesty at 271-0486.



## Pastoral Change

The SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) recently learned that Rev. Layloni Drake, currently serving at First United Methodist Church in Gallup, will become Asbury's 11<sup>th</sup> senior pastor in June. Our current senior pastor, Rev. Steve Davis, has been reassigned to Sweetwater, Texas, and will leave Asbury at the end of May. We will miss him and wish him and his family well.

Layloni will be Asbury's first woman senior pastor. She is a former Air Force chaplain and has served many churches in our conference. Her passion for mission closely fits ours and was a key factor in the Bishop's selection of her for our church. She said she and her family—husband Ray Craig and three grown children—were "ecstatic" to come here and serve.

The SPRC joins the rest of Asbury in welcoming Layloni and her family, and we look forward to doing meaningful ministry together.

Her first Sunday in the pulpit will be June 21, Father's Day.

—Laurie Carlson, SPRC chair

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## Miss Kay's Retirement Reception

Kay Martinez is retiring after 37 years of working at Mother's Day Out (MDO).

Please join us on Sunday, May 17, at 12:30 PM in the West Hall.

Kay started with Mother's Day Out in 1972, becoming the director in 1985. She served as the director of Mother's Day Out for 24 years.

MDO is an outreach of Asbury United Methodist Church to families in the neighborhood. Kay has touched the lives of an estimated 5,000 children through her dedication and loving service.

Please help us get the word out to former MDO kids.

See you on May 17!

—Ann Plante

**STEVE'S STEEPLE**

## Partnership in the Gospel

*"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."  
--John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement*

My first *Trails* article was shared with you on May 24, 2006, just a couple of weeks before my family and I arrived from Texas. As I began that letter, I said, "Whenever I leave one congregation and come to serve another, we always have a mixture of feelings. For both congregations, we always have such great thanks for the ministry we have shared in and for the new ministry we will share together.

So we come with thanks!"

I want the Asbury family to know that as we leave you at the end of May, we return to Texas with thanks for the opportunity to share in a ministry partnership with you. John Wesley affirmed that in our work together, the body of Christ should reflect the following: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." This affirmation represents the fact that we may have our differences, but we're still partners in the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul introduced his letter to the Christians at Philippi with a similar theme. He wrote, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5).

A closer look at his introduction (1:1-11) reveals three characteristics that partners in ministry share. Partners in the Gospel do the same work. "I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel." (1:4, 5). The joy Paul experienced in his partnership with the Philippian Christians overflowed into his prayer life. He felt grateful to count them as co-laborers in ministry and was confident in the good work God was doing in their midst. We may live in different parts of the community (or even different regions of the country), meet in different parts of the building, and choose different expressions of worship. But as we unite under the authority of Scripture and the unifying call of the Great Commandment, we share the same task: to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission. That has been our mission at Asbury: To love God and one another through Jesus Christ, and to raise up a new generation of Christians. It has been my joy to help lead Asbury in that effort as your senior pastor, and I have prayed deeply for that work.

Partners in the Gospel share the same heart. "It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart" (1:7). "I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus" (1:8). Partners in the Gospel keep one another in their hearts because they share a heartfelt passion to glorify and honor God. Does it mean we never get upset with each other, or that we express ourselves in the same manner with every person? No. It does mean that despite our uniqueness, we count it a privilege to love each other through Christ. We know that you will share your love for your new parsonage family as you have for us, and they too will know what it is to be held in your heart.

Partners in the Gospel seek the same things. "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound . . . that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless . . . filled with the fruit of righteousness" (1:9-11). Paul's partnership with the saints at Philippi led him to seek for them the very things he desired in his own life. Partners in the Gospel do the same today. So many of you have expressed such wonderful affection to me and my family, and we are truly touched by your love.

If there is any encouragement I can share with you concerning Asbury's next senior pastor, Rev. Layloni Drake, and her family, it would be to share your affirmations early on. Don't wait to express your affection for her leadership and pastoral skills. Share your appreciation for messages well-delivered and pastoral presence and leadership. I know that you will grow in great ways as Layloni and Melissa lead you in the years to come. I look forward to hearing of your success and will rejoice with you as well, for this is my prayer.

In areas that were essential, you have supported me. In matters that were non-essential, you have allowed for liberty. In your expressions of thanks for our time in ministry and our partnership in the Gospel, you have shown charity. And for all

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**The Mission of Asbury United Methodist Church** is to love God and one another through Jesus Christ, and to raise up a new generation of Christians.

As United Methodist Christians, we are part of a global movement of churches that is making a difference in the world. We share a faith in Jesus Christ and practice baptism and communion. We believe that God will comfort, guide, and forgive every person; that serving others is a priority; that worship can be both personal reflection and communal; and that our lives should reflect our beliefs.

Asbury practices the "open hearts, open minds, open doors" policy of the United Methodist denomination. We welcome all who seek to learn more about the Christian faith.

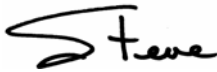
—Worship—Fellowship—Discipleship—Ministry—Evangelism—

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these things, and the work we have yet to see God do through us, I come with a grateful heart affirming, "I thank Christ Jesus my Lord, that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry..." (1 Timothy 1:12)

As we, the people of the United Methodist Church, open hearts, minds and doors, let us always be a church committed to living out the best and most sincere expression of our partnership in the Gospel. Let's share the joy of our Asbury family, where faith matters, grace is experienced, and love is real every day!

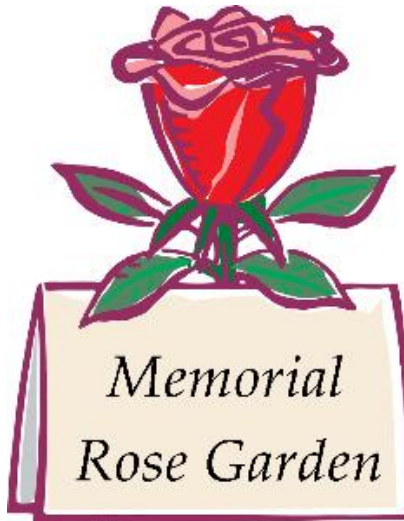
Yours and His,



Rev. Steve Davis, Senior Pastor

P.S. My final message will be shared with you on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, with a summer picnic as our send-off! I look forward to sharing that special day with you!

## Rose Garden Dedication Service, May 24



Asbury has a beautiful memorial rose garden. There are nearly 80 rose bushes planted in memory of a loved one. Some of the roses are over 30 years old. Volunteers came to prune the roses in late March. The bushes have been fertilized; hopefully by Memorial Day they will be in full bloom.

New this year are plaques for each rose bush with the name of the rose and to whom it is dedicated. In honor of these people, we will have a short dedication service on Sunday, May 24, at the end of the Sunday School hour, led by Rev. Bonnie Hardesty. It's a special time to thank God for the beautiful roses and the people they represent.

If you would like to put in a rose bush for a member of the church who has passed on, please contact Sue Campbell in the office. We ask that you purchase the rose bush locally and bring it to the church by May 10. Plaques will be ordered for the new roses and placed in the garden when they arrive.

A map of the memorial garden is available in the office with all the names, locations, and who gave the roses.

## Disciple Bible Study Graduates

Congratulations to our newest Disciple Bible Study graduates! Since last fall, they have read over 90% of the Bible and engaged in a weekly study with Dave Campbell. All of the graduates attend Acts 2, so the recognition ceremony will be held in those worship services on May 2 & 3. The graduates are Suzanne Dawson, Dave Kuntz, Alan Kuntz, Michelle Palmer, Kathy Salazar, Eddie Salazar and Marsha Wallace.

## Special Days in May

Mother's Day, May 10  
 Armed Forces Day, May 16  
 Ascension of the Lord, May 21  
 Memorial Day, May 25  
 Pentecost, May 31

**ASBURY TRAILS** is a monthly publication of Asbury UMC, 10,000 Candelaria NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Rev. Steve Davis, senior pastor; Laurie Carlson, editor. Opinions expressed in articles with bylines are those of the individual authors and may not reflect the opinions held by the church. Please e-mail articles by the 10th of the preceding month to [trailседitor@comcast.net](mailto:trailседitor@comcast.net) or leave typed, double-spaced articles in the Trails mailbox at the church.

This issue's contributors are: Sue Campbell, Laurie Carlson, Steve Davis, Melissa Madara, Ann Plante, Pat Phipps, Debbie Slate, and Allen Webner.

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*Experience — Know — Grow In — Serve — Share — CHRIST!*

## Asbury Ministries

### United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women

Unit Meeting

Thursday, May 7

9:00 AM

Hospitality Room

Sabbath House

Presented by Rev. Bonnie Hardesty

Spiritual Director

Come find out about the Sabbath House and what we can do to help. It is a ministry of food, shelter, prayer and presence for care-givers of patients receiving medical care in Albuquerque.

—Ann Plante

### Music Ministry

*New (to us!) Kawaiï Baby Grand Piano*

Thanks to everyone who donated toward our new piano! And a special thanks to the anonymous donor who promised to match the first \$1,000 raised. We met that challenge and more, fully funding it. This amazing piano only cost \$3,000 but is worth \$20,000. God was truly with us!

Why do we need another piano? To tell the truth, Asbury has been piano poor.

We have the Story & Clarke in the Sanctuary, the Yamaha studio in the choir room, and the big upright in the Hospitality Room. Until the purchase of the Kawaiï, the Yamaha studio had to be moved between needed spaces. For instance, a few weeks ago, after the choir warmed-up in the choir room before church, the piano was moved immediately to the West Hall to accompany a handbell piece. Now, we can move the Yamaha down there permanently.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Kawaiï, which will take up residence in the choir room. I feel we are still one piano shy of having the necessities we need in the building, but someday . . .

—Allen Webner

### Youth Ministry

*Graduating High School Seniors:*

T.J. Seaman—Eldorado

Kayla Brown—Eldorado

Kevin Raisch—Academy

Elliot Feng—Academy

Justin Crouch—Sandia

Ellie March—Eldorado

Holly Baker—Eldorado

Josh Smith—Eldorado

Jennifer Tallman—Eldorado

Tyson Lanier—Eldorado

Emily Detlefs—Manzano

Ame Wood—in Virginia

It's hard to believe summer's almost here. We have 12 seniors, class of 2009, graduating in the month of May. I have to admit that it's quite bittersweet for me, with my son Justin graduating and having such a large class leave next fall. That will cause some growing pains in our youth program. I am excited however, for all of the amazing things in store for our seniors. The love, support and continuous grace that our church family at Asbury has provided these youth will stay with them as they reach new and exciting milestones. Stay tuned for the June *Trails*, which will highlight each senior, their plans, their goals and how their lives have been enriched here at Asbury.

Twenty-six youth, including four first-timers, came to our First Annual Easter Eve Lock-in. Hands down, it proved to be a favorite activity. We had a very meaningful time of self reflection, watched *The Passion of the Christ*, we ate, decorated Easter eggs and stayed awake most of the night. What a blessing it was to celebrate the dawn of Easter in the sunrise service at 6:30 AM with all the youth and sponsors! We look forward to a similar event next Easter.

—Debbie Slate

### Children's Ministry

*Vacation Bible School*

Camp Edge, this year's Vacation Bible School, is coming to Asbury on June 22-26. We have gathered most of the leaders needed, but now we need kids to sign up! Registration for Camp Edge begins May 17. Watch for an insert in the worship bulletins or pick up information at the tent and tree in the breezeway.

All kids age 3-5 will be in our preschool, and incoming kindergarten through 5th grade will be in the elementary section. The preschool has a limit of 30 kids, so register early. Outgoing 5th graders can become VBS helpers for the first time.

This is a great outreach to the community and all of us have a great time. Invite your friends and neighbors!

*Popcorn and a Movie*

The smell of popcorn fills the air with Popcorn and a

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Movie this summer. During the summer, Asbury provides newly-released DVD movies for kids and anyone else who would like to come. The first movie is *WALL-E* on Wednesday, June 3, at 1:30 PM. The kids usually play outside for a few minutes, then watch the movie in our air-conditioned theater. We will finish around 3:30 PM.

A complete list of the movies will be published in the June *Trails* and be available in the breezeway.

### *Mother's Day Tea*

Everyone is invited to the end of the year program presented by the Creative Kids at the Mother's Day Tea, Saturday, May 9, at 2:00 PM. Enjoy a cup of tea with light refreshments provided by the Creative Kids' families. The United Methodist Women will be hostesses.

The Creative Kids will sing a few Disney songs and perform on the handchimes. The 3rd-5th graders performed on the chimes at Christmas. Now the K-2nd graders will try their hand at ringing, too.

Donations will be accepted at the door and given to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and the Creative Kids Scholarship Fund. St. Jude's is a leading pediatric treatment and research facility focused on children's catastrophic diseases. A short video about the hospital will be shown at the tea.

On behalf of the Creative Kids, thanks to the congregation for supporting this art and music program at Asbury. The program would not continue to be a success without the help of our great volunteers. Each week we have eight volunteers who assist 35 kids. Thanks also to the parents and grandparents who bring the kids to the church. We could not have the program without you! Creative Kids takes the summer off and will start back up after school begins in August. See you then!

## Parsonage Needs

Can you help? As part of our responsibility as a United Methodist church, we are to provide a suitable, furnished home for our pastors. Rev. Layloni Drake will live in Asbury's parsonage on Kirby NE, but will need the following furniture:

- Breakfast table and 5 chairs
- Family room sofa and two upholstered chairs
- Two endtables
- Washer and dryer (electric)
- King bed
- Master bedroom: Two nightstands, One chest of drawers, One vanity dresser
- Double bed headboard—ivory or off-white or paintable
- Loveseat or small sofa for living room
- Two living room chairs
- Wish list: patio furniture, 1-2 floor lamps (living and family); 4 table lamps for bedrooms

Jim Hawk, District Superintendent, told us to provide furnishings in good, useable condition—"not the sofa that the dog has slept on for the last nine years." Please understand that we'll need to see the offered item and will be trying to coordinate it somewhat with the rest of the room's furniture. **DO NOT** bring any items to the church.

Call the church office at 299-0643 if you have any potential items that can be used for the parsonage. We can accept donations up to May 15.

### **Pentecost**

On May 31, Christians around the world will celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It's often remembered as the church's birthday. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon those who believed in his resurrection.

Three thousand people gathered in Jerusalem when the Spirit came upon them. They were so touched by the Holy Spirit that they began to worship regularly. To symbolize the "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3) that came upon the people present at Pentecost, liturgical churches display the color red in their worship services on Pentecost Sunday.



## Library News

By Pat Phipps, librarian



### **May 11-17 is Children's Book Week. Celebrating Books and Reading since 1919**

Children's Book Week, held each spring, is sponsored by the Children's Book Council, a national nonprofit trade organization for children's book publishers. They work together to promote education, literacy and reading just for the fun of it.

Asbury's library has books for children of all ages, from board books for the very young to novels for older readers. We have most of the Caldecott and Newbery award-winning books plus other distinguished children's literature. Adults, this is an opportunity to share your love of reading with your favorite child. And kids, you can share your favorite books with an adult in your life.

Watch the next issue of the *Trails* for details about the summer reading program that begins in June. The year's theme is "Pop Open a Good Book," and anyone can participate. There will be games, prizes, and of course, lots of good books to read.

### New in the Asbury Library

#### Adult

*The Purpose of Christmas* by Rick Warren

*Sourcebook of Poetry*. Compiled by Al Bryant

#### Junior

*The Christmas Sweater* by Glenn Beck. Donated by Betty Adkins

#### DVD

*Easter Party with Bedbug Bible Gang*

*Easter Story: Greatest Adventure Stories from the Bible*  
*Aladdin*

Asbury's library, located on the northeast corner of the building, is open any time the church is open. The door may be closed and the lights may be off, but the library is open for your reading enjoyment. Visit the Library page on the Asbury Web site at [www.asburyabq.org](http://www.asburyabq.org) to search the library collection.

## Financial Update

From the Committee on Finance  
January 1 – March 31, 2009

### Cash Basis Report

INCOME	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledged	\$66,913	\$90,378
Other Giving	\$64,450	\$41,058
Building	\$10,863	\$15,060
Other Income	\$15,533	\$49,188
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$157,759</b>	<b>\$195,684</b>
EXPENSES		
Outreach & Ministry	\$104,273	\$111,408
Administration	\$26,785	\$34,053
Shared Ministries	\$2,923	\$24,345
Debt Retirement	\$42,300	\$43,092
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$176,281</b>	<b>\$212,898</b>
Deficit	(\$18,522)	(\$17,214)
Designated Funds 3-31-09	\$19,347	

## The Extraordinary

By Rev. Melissa Madara, Associate Pastor

When God takes something that is rote, mundane, or commonplace and transforms it into something extraordinarily holy, that is cause for celebration. It's what the church is all about.

We celebrate this transformation week after week, month after month, when we receive God's grace through the ordinary elements of bread and grape juice, or when we witness the making of a brand-new disciple in the simple act of pouring water for baptism. We see it when God takes common, ordinary people and calls each to a life of faith and service that is anything but ordinary. And what a blessing it is when we are able to witness the extraordinary unfolding before our eyes.

The Asbury congregation is about to witness something extraordinary—a first, not just for the people of Asbury, but for the New Mexico Annual Conference. For the first time in the history of the Conference, we will experience God working in our midst through the pastoral leadership of two clergywomen at the same time.

For some people, I recognize that this might be a bit of a struggle to imagine. When I first began to gain a sense of my own call to ministry, I also struggled, never having met a clergywoman and not knowing that they existed. And I am not alone in this. Interestingly, the issue of women in ministry is not a new issue. It goes back for centuries, and makes its way into some of the earliest roots of Methodism.

When John Wesley (one of the founders of what is now the Methodist Church) was alive, there was no such thing as a female pastor. There were, however, a few key women who had gifts for ministry and held leadership positions in their churches, occasionally “overstepping” their role and delivering a sermon. One woman in particular, Mary Bosanquet, pushed Wesley on his “no clergywomen” stance, citing God's capacity to work in and through women as well as men. In the year 1771, she received a very interesting response from John Wesley:

*“My dear sister, I think the strength of the cause rests there, on your having an Extraordinary Call. So, I am persuaded, has every one of our Lay Preachers: otherwise I could not countenance his preaching at all. It is plain to me that the whole Work of God termed Methodism is an extraordinary dispensation of His Providence. Therefore I do not wonder if several things occur therein which do not fall under ordinary rules of discipline.”*

What John Wesley was essentially saying was this: God can work extraordinary wonders in unexpected ways—ways that challenge our conventional and ordinary ways of thinking. Indeed, Jesus himself challenged the religious leaders of his day to think beyond the ways they expected God to work, and to allow God to surprise them by how and through whom God's grace can become real and vibrant.

As we prepare to welcome Layloni into our midst, let's keep our minds and our hearts open to the extraordinary ways that God is planning to use her and each person in this church as divine instruments of God's grace.

*Prayer: Gracious God, open my eyes that I might catch a glimpse of your extraordinary work in my life and in the lives of those around me. Amen.*



## May Lectionary

May 3, Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)  
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

May 10, Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31 (UMH 752)  
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

May 17, Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98 (UMH 818)  
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 21, Ascension of the Lord  
Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 (UMH 781)  
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 24, Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension Sunday  
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1 (UMH 738)  
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 31, Day of Pentecost  
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35 b (UMH 826)  
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

*Experience — Know — Grow In — Serve — Share — CHRIST!*



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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



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Come Worship With Us!

*Traditional services:*

Sunday mornings 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 AM

*Contemporary services:*

Saturday evenings 6:30 PM  
Sunday mornings 11:00 AM



ASCENSION  
SUNDAY