



ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

MARCH 2011

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Enrich Your Spirit During Lent

In March, the wind blows, hot and cold air fight each other, and the season of Lent begins. For some people, Lent is a six-week opportunity to dig deeper in our walk with the Lord. Some will do so by attending choir practice, Sunday School, or a Bible Study group; by helping at the Rescue Mission or Love Inc.; or by increasing their giving to the Lord's work.

This year Lent begins on March 9, with Ash Wednesday services. Our service will be at 7:00 PM. We will have communion, talk about the symbols of repentance, and invite each other to engage in some spiritually-enriching opportunities.

When Jesus walked on this earth, the calendar was filled with special days and seasons. These reminded people of events like the Giving of the Ten Commandments, Passover, the Offering of the First Fruits, and the Day of Atonement. We, too, have our days of preparation and seasons of remembrance, like Lent. In days of old, people removed certain items from their cupboards during this time. What they did not spend on such items would be given to the needy. Some of you may still practice this.

People have choices. As a spiritual discipline, you may want to give up something and then give what it would cost to consume such an item to a mission project. You may want to get into something that would help you to enrich your walk of faith, such reading the Bible or taking a Lenten class. We'll have opportunities for all of these, right here at Asbury. Take a moment and begin to pray about what you can do as we prepare ourselves for the greatest events in human history—the life, death, and resurrection of God himself—Jesus the Christ.

See you in church,

Rev. Layloni Drake, senior pastor

Why Ashes?

On the first day of Lent, pastors in many churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

God's people have used ashes as a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. In the Old Testament, ashes were used as a purification offering. The New Testament speaks of repenting in "sackcloth and ashes" (Luke 10:13, NRSV).

On Ash Wednesday, Christians are pained because our sins—private and public—led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing it leads to resurrection on Easter Sunday.

—*The Newsletter Newsletter*, March 2011

Wednesday Service

Plan now to attend the Ash Wednesday service on March 9, at 7:00 PM. Mark the beginning of Lent with reflection and fellowship at Asbury.



What To Do During Lent

Advent prepares us for Christ's birth; Lent prepares us for the glorious act of Christ's resurrection. Churches have special services during the weeks of Lent, but it's what each of us does regarding our spiritual life that makes Lent most meaningful.

Lent is a good time to read and study. Consider taking one or more of these Asbury classes. Call 299-0643 for more information.

Jesus' Parables of the Lost and Found by James W. Moore.
Tuesday 10:00 AM, beginning March 15

This six-session, short-term study series from James Moore is organized around the general theme of parables, with each chapter focusing on a particular parable. Moore shows readers what Jesus says through the parable, both to listeners of long ago and to us today.

24 Hours That Changed the World and 40 Days of Reflection, both by Adam Hamilton
Tuesday 7:00 PM, beginning March 15

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In his inspiring book, *24 Hours That Changed the World*, Hamilton guides us, step by step, through the last day of Jesus' life. Included are 40 days of devotions, enabling us to pause, reflect, dig deeper, and emerge changed forever.

In the Dust of the Rabbi DVD by Ray Vander Laan
Wednesday 10:30 AM, beginning March 16

Walk through the land that Jesus and his disciples walked, learn how the culture and politics of the first century influenced the imagery and stories of the Bible, and see the text through the eyes of God's chosen people, the Jews. Session 1—When the Rabbi says, "Come." Session 2—When the Rabbi says, "Go." Session 3—The Presence of God: A Counter Cultural Community? Session 4—Living Stones? Session 5—The Very Words of God.

Walk As Jesus Walked DVD by Ray Vander Laan
Wednesday 6:00 PM, beginning March 16

As disciples of Jesus, we've discovered that following him demands a passion for the text and a complete devotion to Christian community. But there is more. A disciple is consumed with a passion to be like The Rabbi—Jesus. Come and discover the passion of the early Christians. Follow in their footprints as they loved the Messiah with all their heart, all their soul, and all their might—every moment of every day.

Brown Bag Bible Study with Don Jerome and Alan Stemm
Wednesday at noon, beginning March 16

Each year Don and Alan have an exciting lesson during Lent. They give good insight to the lesson and generate great discussions. Bring your lunch and bible.

(Continued on page 3)

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.

(Continued from page 2)

Prayer and Pilates with Sue Campbell
Thursday at 10:00 AM beginning March 10

No class on March 31. Prayer and Pilates is a class to put your mind at ease and body in shape during Lent. All you need are comfortable clothes and a towel or mat. No experience is needed.

Praying With Each Other with Pastor Layloni Drake
Mondays, beginning March 14, time TBA.

You are invited to learn the fundamentals of praying with others. We will cover reasons why we pray for others, the importance of listening, the significance of Biblical images and words, the sacredness of prayer, and the transformational nature of prayer with others.

Pancake Supper

The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on **March 8, at 6:00 PM** in the West Hall. If you plan to give up sweets and fat for Lent, then you better fill up on "Fat Tuesday" with yummy pancakes and sausage.



Help Needed

The church office needs a Monday afternoon volunteer from 1:00-3:00 PM to help answer phones. If you can help, please call 299-0643.

Reminder:

Please do not leave any valuables in your vehicle during worship or while attending other church activities.

Lend a Hand

The next church work day will be on **Saturday, March 5, starting at 9:00 AM**. Please come and help as we give the church some needed TLC.

Say Yes to God

"Many think of self-denial as giving up something during the Lenten season. Others have said that it is to be dead to self, or even to hate self. I disagree with these opinions. When Jesus referred to self-denial (Mark 8:34), he was not talking about denying ourselves some luxury item or denying the reality of self or the needs of self. Rather, he was focusing on the importance of renouncing self as the center of our life and actions.

"In other words, self-denial is the decision of each of his followers to give over to God his body, career, money and time. A true disciple is willing to shift the spiritual center of gravity in his life. Self-denial is the sustained willingness to say no to oneself in order to say yes to God."

—Bill Hull, *The Newsletter Newsletter*, March 2011

ASBURY TRAILS is a monthly publication of Asbury UMC, 10,000 Candelaria NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Rev. Layloni Drake, 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 or leave typed, double-spaced articles in the Trails mailbox at the church.

This issue's contributors are: Sue Campbell, Susan Caskey, Laurie Carlson, Layloni Drake, Bonnie Hardesty, Patricia House, Dru Kuntz, Pat Phipps, Kathy Salazar, Mary Swigert, and D. Max Whitfield.

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Asbury Ministries

United Methodist Women

What is Christian Social Action? This covers many areas, including peace and justice work, education, immigration, civil rights, environmental issues, economic justice, women's health, the rights of children, media monitoring, human rights, and farm worker rights—just to name a few.

On March 3, 2011, at 9:00 AM, Kelly Brooks, the Albuquerque United Methodist Coordinator, will speak at our unit meeting. She will inform us of current projects in the New Mexico Conference. All women are welcome. Come join us and learn what the UMW can do! Baby sitting is available.

—Mary Swigert

Ministry Fair

Come to Asbury on Saturday evening, March 12, or Sunday morning, March 13, and explore and marvel at all of Asbury's many ministries! Stop and chat with those at the booths and take time to look at the displays. If something has been tugging at your heart, come and find the right kind of ministry for you.

Prison Visitation Ministry

You have the power to forever change the life of an incarcerated person—yes, YOU! It's as simple as baking a dozen cookies. These cookies will be used in Kairos Prison Ministry as symbols of God's love and forgiveness. They will be distributed to every weekend participant, every guard, and every employee of the Grants Correctional Facility during April 7-10. Hundreds of dozens of cookies are needed.

Cookies should be 2" in diameter, contain no nuts, no fruit (especially raisins), no frosting/dusting/sprinkles. Let them cool completely before putting in zip-lock baggies. Any containing peanut products (peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil) must be specifically marked to avoid allergic reactions. Broken cookies cannot be used, so please transport them in a flat container (cardboard box, cookie sheet, etc.) to Asbury no later than Sunday, April 3. If you have questions, please contact Bonnie Hardesty at 271-0486.

Youth Ministry

A recent sermon in an Acts 2 service had the following scripture: "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:14-16)

Approximately every four meetings for our youth group, we will go out into our world and "Be the Light." We pray for God's grace to work through us to shine His light in our community.

While some of our mission service projects will be at Asbury UMC (painting, cleaning, keeping things looking nice), we are also going out into our local and state community.

Do you want to join us? Do you have mission ideas that you are willing to support?

A warning: mission work is not always nice and clean—it tends to be hard work and messy. Are you ready to let your light shine for His glory?

March:

- 4-6 Rhythm of Christ (mid-high youth)
- 5 Amazing Bible Race: 7:45-8:15 PM
- 6 NO YOUTH (Youth Choir: 4:00-5:15 PM)
- 12 Amazing Bible Race: 7:45-8:15 PM
- 13 Youth Sunday: 2:00-4:00 PM
Youth Choir: 4:00-5:15 PM
- 13-19 APS Spring Break
- 18 Church Dinner and Dance
- 20 Youth Mission: 2:00-4:00 PM
Youth Choir: 4:00-5:15 PM
- 26 Amazing Bible Race: 7:45-8:15 PM
- 27 Youth Leadership Council: 12:15-1:30 PM (bring lunch)
Youth Sunday: 2:00-4:00 PM
Youth Choir: 4:00-5:15 PM

April:

- 2 Amazing Bible Race: 7:45-8:15 PM
- 3 Youth Group and Youth Music
- 9 Amazing Bible Race: 7:45-8:15 PM
- 10 Youth Group and Youth Music
- 16 Amazing Bible Race Dinner out!
- 17 Youth Mission and Youth Music
- 21-24 Holy Walk (multiple day events)

—Kathy Salazar

Apply Now for Emily Sannebeck Scholarship



Asbury UMC is accepting applications for the Emily Sannebeck Scholarship. The scholarship is for \$1350 for the 2011-2012 school year. Applicants should be enrolled (or applying for enrollment) in a seminary, technical or vocational school, or a college. Preference shall be given to single women, especially a single parent seeking to improve her ability to support herself and her child or children.

The scholarship fund was established in memory of Emily Sannebeck, who was an active member of the Methodist Church for many years. Emily cared deeply for the development of Christian values and the opportunities for women to advance their careers. **Applications must be received by May 4, 2011.** For an application, please contact the church office at 299-0643 or email to church@asburyabq.org.



The Truly Successful Life—

According to the Bible, true success comes when we do what God requires of us, namely “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly” with him (Micah 6:8, NRSV). God wants us to use the talents and gifts he’s given us to pursue his kingdom on earth.

Success comes when we share our achievements, blessings and wisdom with others, especially people who are hurting or in need. Success comes when our family is tied together with love, prayer and worship—and when we share one another’s struggles, successes and goals.

Here’s a letter of wise advice from a caring Asbury grandma, in the hopes of spurring her granddaughter on to a more successful life:

Dear Granddaughter,

I am deeply sorry about the life struggles you are experiencing. I hope you will accept my counsel and take it to heart. I want the best for you. Please know that the wisdom coming to us from the ages is valid. Following these teachings will change you and will change how others perceive and react to you.

The first principle is that it’s not about you. Or I say to myself, “It’s not about me.” Meaning that I am not the center of the universe. Behave and think of the welfare of others and how they are feeling. “Other”-ness instead of “me” -ness.

Second, the “golden rule” governs the way we think and act. “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Smile, treat everyone with courtesy. The response is amazing and you’ll like the way you feel. Hold your anger in check and wait to deal with issues until you’re calm.

The third principle is to “Love my neighbor as myself.” It’s right to love yourself. That means taking care of yourself spiritually and physically. This is for survival and true happiness. But then move on to notice what other people need. The mark of an adult is when these two elements become as one in a healthy, mature individual.

I hope and pray, dear granddaughter, that you will ponder these things, examine yourself, and incorporate these crucial lessons into your own life. Practice them until your new way of thinking and behaving becomes part of you. You’ll be so much happier and more loved and more successful in life.

*Love always,
Grandma*

Library News

By Pat Phipps, librarian



There are many new books in the library this month. As we prepare for Lent, I especially recommend two of them: *24 Hours that Changed the World* and *The Greatest Prayer*. We have other Lenten resources as well. You can contact us at library@asburyabq.org with any questions, or call the church office at 299-0643 and leave a message.

New in the Asbury Library:

UMW Reading Program, donated by the UMW

Education for Mission:

Stones into Schools by Greg Mortensen. Anonymous Donation

Nurturing for Community:

Inheriting the Trade by Thomas N. DeWolf

Just Another Girl by Melody Carlson

Slant by Laura Williams

Social Action:

Connected Wisdom by Linda Booth Sweeney

The True Cost of Low Prices by Vincent Gallagher

Spiritual Growth:

Contemplative Crochet by Cindy Crandall-Frazier

Large Print:

This Child Will Be Great by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

Just Choose Happiness by Nell W. Mohney

Same kind of different as me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore with Lynn Vincent

Adult:

The Greatest Prayer by John D. Crossan

24 Hours that Changed the World by Adam Hamilton

Church Banner Designs by Joyce Bowers

The Story of Christian Music from Gregorian Chant to Black Gospel

by Andrew Wilson-Dickson. Donated by Vera Kleinhenz

A Survey of Christian Hymnody by William Reynolds and Milburn Price. Donated by Vera Kleinhenz

This We Believe by William H. Wilmon

Leadership is the Key: Unlocking Your Ministry Effectiveness by Herb Miller. Donated by Laurie Carlson

The Good Goodbye by Gail Rubin. Donated by Celia Richardson and Asbury's Stephen Ministry. Autographed copy

The New Banner Book by Betty Wolfe. From the Education Office

Banner Designs for Celebrating Christians by Jane DeBord and Linda Isbell. From the Education Office

Banners for Beginners: A Step-by-Step Approach by Cory Atwood. From the Education Office

Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Anonymous Donation

Children:

Book! Book! Book! by Deborah Bruss and Tiphany Beeke. In honor of the baptism of Ava Belle McCarthy-Flores

DVD:

12 DVDs in the *Storykeepers AD 64* Series. Donated by David and Carolyn Biswell

March Lectionary

March 6, Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99 (UMH 819)

2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

March 9, Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785)

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 13, First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32 (UMH 766)

Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

March 20, Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121 (UMH 844)

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 27, Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95 (UMH 814)

Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42



Time to
Spring Ahead
Mar. 13, 2011

From Our Bishop—

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The state and national economy has begun a slow recovery. The recession has directly impacted some members of our congregations. More importantly, it has created a culture of scarcity over many congregations. People are fearful. It is time for us to place our trust in God who has created a world of abundance. We have all the resources we need...God has provided abundantly for us.

The Conference Ministry Team and the Conference Council on Finance and Administration are working very hard to reduce requests for Shared Ministries. We are focusing on the primary mission of enabling, equipping, and empowering local churches to develop dynamic disciples of Jesus Christ. This means that good ministries that do not significantly contribute to this mission may need to be reduced or eliminated. I believe local churches must [also] ask what ministries and expenditures in their congregation develop dynamic disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and use this standard to...develop dynamic disciples of Jesus Christ.

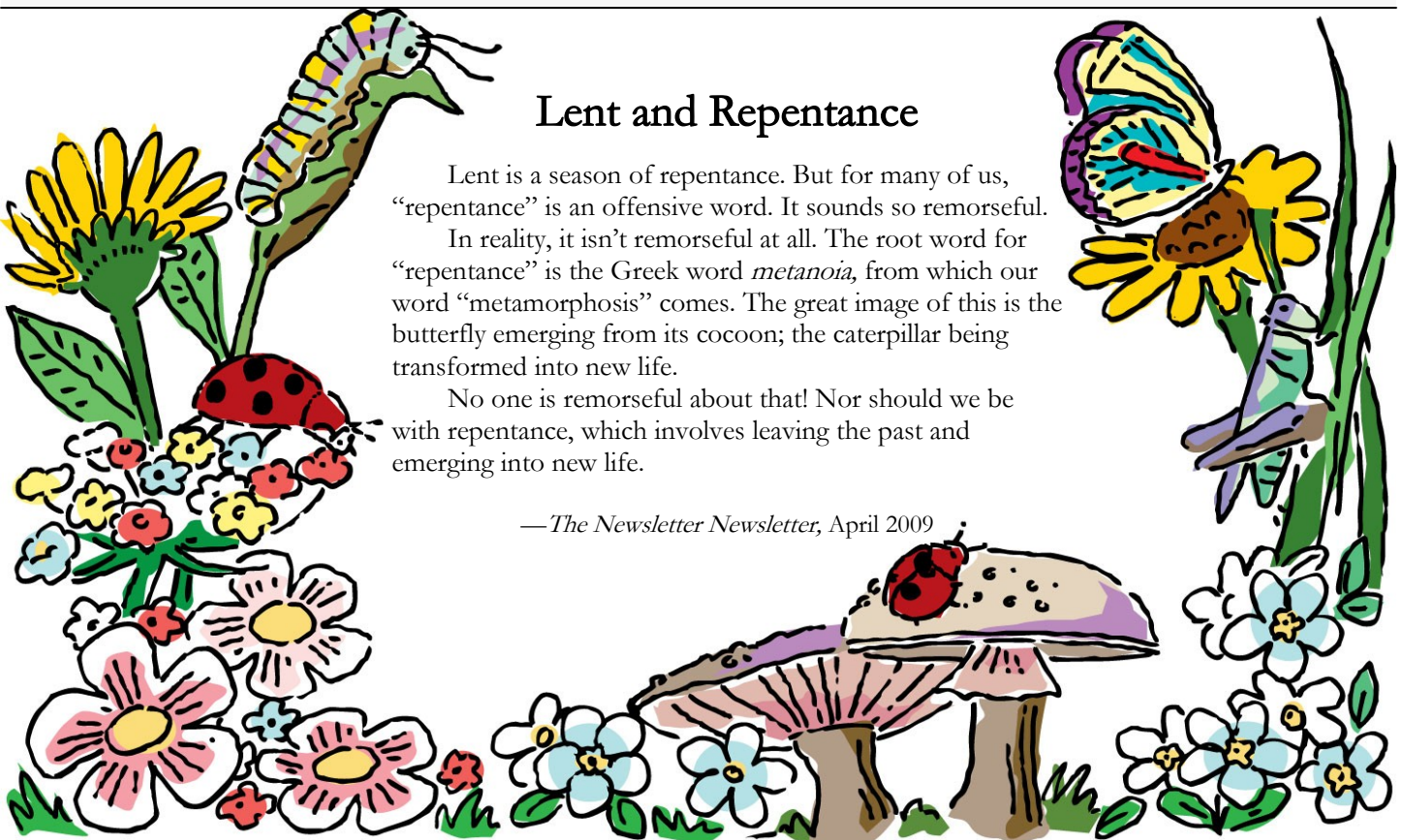
I rejoice and give thanks for your contributions to your Shared Ministries. You improved in your percentage of contribution in 2010 over 2009. The Annual Conference has assisted in starting new congregations, strengthening youth ministries in local churches, sending missionaries around the world, providing loans and scholarships for college and seminary students, training pastors and laity to make disciples in the congregation's mission field, and other vital ministries to fulfill our common mission. Your gifts made a vital difference in the Annual Conference and around the world.

I want to personally thank you for what you have done for the financial health of this Annual Conference. Financial resources are essential in carrying out ministry. However, the most important challenge is resourcing and equipping congregations to enable persons to encounter Jesus Christ, grow toward perfection in love, and reach a new generation for Christ. We must keep Christ's commission first in all that you do.

Please pray for each congregation, each pastor, and a special prayer for me as we strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ and seek to use our resources in the most effective ways.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. D. Max Whitfield



Lent and Repentance

Lent is a season of repentance. But for many of us, “repentance” is an offensive word. It sounds so remorseful.

In reality, it isn't remorseful at all. The root word for “repentance” is the Greek word *metanoia*, from which our word “metamorphosis” comes. The great image of this is the butterfly emerging from its cocoon; the caterpillar being transformed into new life.

No one is remorseful about that! Nor should we be with repentance, which involves leaving the past and emerging into new life.

—*The Newsletter Newsletter*, April 2009



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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

