



# ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

MAY 2011

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## Watering Our Souls

What a season of Lent we've had! Many people drank of those "living waters" through Bible study and prayer learning sessions. Seven groups met during Lent, praying and persevering through scripture, videos and books—all to study the life of Jesus. Some learned to pray for others, while others learned to be prayed with. Holy Week deepened our knowledge of the Seder and how it relates to Jesus' Last Supper and the events of the crucifixion. Then there was Easter weekend—whether you came Saturday evening, early Sunday morning, or at your regular time, it was a glorious time! The crowds were great and the thirsting of our souls satisfied.

When Easter is as late as it was this year, we march right into May. Just as the spring wind blows and dries out our skin, so the events of May seem to dry out our souls. There are graduations, baptisms, family gatherings, parties, and lots of running everywhere. Soon our spirits are looking again for that deep well and big drink of water. It is my hope that if you have to be out of town for all those family gatherings, that you'll find a place to worship. If you are shuttling people back and forth to airport on Sundays, then look at an alternative time to worship. Our souls need that water and as much as our bodies do.

On another topic, many people have asked about Ray's and my weight loss—almost 80 pounds between us at press time! We'd like to share those secrets with you. They're not really secrets, but they are insights found on a free website. We're starting a class in May. The first class begins on May 12 at 1:30 PM or at 6:00 PM. It will be a six-week mini-course that will incorporate both spiritual principles and the website that Ray and I use to help us make the progress we did. We'll also share samples of healthy recipes. If you're interested, please check with your doctor first so that you know what kind of eating regiment is good for you. There is no cost for the class.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus hold you in the palm of His Hand. May the working of the Holy Spirit ever be welcomed in your soul. May you diligently walk in the ways of the Lord our God.

Grace and peace,

*Rev. Layloni Drake, senior pastor*

## New Video Class

Starting on May 2 at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM, Layloni will lead a video class on the teachings of Jesus, featuring Rev. Ray Vander Laan. Sessions will run approximately an hour; call the church office to sign up: 299-0643.



## Farewell to Creative Kids

Creative Kids has been a big part of the children's ministry at Asbury for nine years. It started as an afterschool program of art and music for Asbury kids. It grew to be an outreach ministry for kids coming from schools all over Albuquerque and home-schoolers. The Albuquerque Public Schools gave us the opportunity to have Creative Kids on Wednesday afternoons since there was early dismissal that day. The State of New Mexico is now requiring students to be in class longer, so eventually there will be no early dismissal on Wednesdays.

Schools were given a choice on how to fulfill the new requirement. Some have chosen to start school an hour earlier in the day with early dismissal. Some are keeping their same schedule next year and facing the change later.

We decided to end Creative Kids this spring. Making schedule changes in the school affects all of us. Some kids will be going to school at 7:45 AM, and to have Creative Kids until 5:00 PM makes for a very long day.

The Creative Kids staff and I have had a wonderful nine years. Pat Phipps has been with me the whole time. Creative Kids has been featured in two national Children's Ministry Conferences. We started with only 9-12 kids and grew to over 40. This year we have 24 kids that attend almost every week. We appreciate all the support Asbury, parents and grandparents have provided.

Our closing celebration will be on Saturday, May 7, at the Mom's Day Tea. All former Creative Kids are invited to see a slide show and videos, featuring the "Best of Creative Kids." I hope you will attend this celebration.

—Sue Campbell

### Mom's Day Tea

The Creative Kids are hosting the Annual Mom's Day Tea on **Saturday, May 7 at 1:00 PM**. Tea, snacks and entertainment is provided. There is a special invitation to all former Creative Kids. The program, created here at Asbury, has been around for nine years. During the tea, we'll present a slide show and songs about "The Best of Creative Kids." We hope everyone will join us to honor moms and Creative Kids.



### My Mother's Garden

A mother is a gardener,  
Planting the seeds  
Of faith, truth and love  
That develop into the fairest flowers  
Of character, virtue and happiness  
In the lives of her children.

—J. Harold Gwynne

### Popcorn and a Movie

Every summer, Asbury offers *Popcorn and a Movie* for kids age 4 and up. There is no charge and no sign-up required—just come when you can. Enjoy fresh popcorn and a fun movie on a large screen in a nice, cool room. Parents may stay or run errands. Movies begin on Wednesday, June 8, from 1:30-3:30 PM. The list of movies is below:

June 8: *Tangled*

June 15: *Ratatouille*

June 22: *Beauty and the Beast*

June 29: *Shrek Forever After*

July 6: *Megamind*

July 13: *How to Train Your Dragon*

July 20: *Pirates Who Don't Do Anything*

July 27: *Toy Story 3*

August 3: *Despicable Me*



**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.

## Asbury Graduates

**Mitchell Espinosa** will graduate from St. Pius X High School on May 23 at 9:00 am. St. Pius is Albuquerque's only Catholic high school, but accepts students of all faiths.

**Savannah Render** will graduate from UNM with a Bachelors of Education in Elementary and Special Education. She has been accepted into the UNM Masters of Education program this fall.

**Tracy Carlson** will collect her master's degree in microbiology from Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine on May 20. She has been doing research on *Histoplasma* in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and looks forward to moving back to St. Louis where she will continue studies toward her medical degree.



### ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH January/March 2011 Financial Report

INCOME	ACTUAL TYD	BUDGET YTD
Pledged	\$113,770	\$120,309
Non Pleg/Loose Plate	\$25,862	\$43,704
Shared Ministries	\$15,397	\$21,614
Building	\$8,197	\$4,270
Other Income	\$16,666	\$12,900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$179,892</b>	<b>\$202,797</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Outreach & Ministry	\$99,666	\$103,150
Administration	\$20,532	\$34,446
Shared Ministries	\$15,397	\$21,614
Debt Retirement	\$32,202	\$32,202
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$167,797</b>	<b>\$191,412</b>
Surplus	\$12,095	
Designated Funds as at March 31, 2011:		\$31,024

Congratulations! We collected \$2,905 for UMCOR-Japan.

Giving is up; expenses are down; however Shared Ministries are still trailing behind.

## Retaining a sense of wonder

A man who took a trip observed the majesty of the mountains, the colors of wildflowers and the magnetism of a stream where trout were swimming. He returned home saying, "I hope I never get used to the glory of nature."

None of us should "get used to" the goodness of God, the Good News of Christ, the inspiring music of a choir, the stories of great saints, the thoughtfulness of neighbors, the assistance of strangers and the uplifting laughter of children who haven't lost the gift of wonder.



## On perseverance

Success is failure turned inside out,  
The silver tint on the clouds of doubt,  
And you can never tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems afar.  
So, stick to the fight when you're hardest hit  
It's when things go wrong that you mustn't quit.

—Author unknown

**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 [trailseeditor@comcast.net](mailto:trailseeditor@comcast.net) or leave typed, double-spaced articles in the Trails mailbox at the church.

This issue's contributors are: Sue Campbell, Laurie Carlson, Layloni Drake, Kay Martinez, Pat Phipps, Kathy Salazar, and selections from the 2008 and 2011 May issues of *The Newsletter Newsletter*, reprinted with permission.

## Asbury Ministries

### United Methodist Women

*Tour Cuidando Los Niños with the UMW*



Our unit meeting on May 5 will be a busy morning. At 9:00 AM, we'll start with a business meeting, followed by a talk given by an Albuquerque police officer about the stuffed toys they take to children of domestic violence calls. Please bring a stuffed animal, 10" tall or smaller, to donate.

At 10:00 AM, we'll carpool to Cuidando Los Niños to tour their new daycare facility. Finally, we'll stop for lunch at the Yale Boulevard Fuddruckers. Plan to join us!

—Kay Martinez

### Music Ministry

*Children's music:* the Sunday Servants will sing during services on May 8. There is no rehearsal in the afternoon—go spoil your mom!

*Adults:* Vera is looking for musicians to perform in worship services this summer. If you sing or play an instrument, please share your talent with us. Contact Vera at 299-0643.

### Children's Ministry

*Children's Church*

The Acts 2 Sunday morning service has several families attending with young children. The kids love participating in the service, but would like to have their own activities during the sermon. Children's Church is a fun lesson that includes a video and activities. After the lesson, the kids take communion and return to be with their families for the end of the worship service.

*Vacation Bible School*

*The Shake It Up Cafe* comes to Asbury this summer for Vacation Bible School, June 13-17, from 9:00-11:30 AM.

VBS is for children in preschool (ages 3-4) and kindergarten through 5th grade.

*Shake It Up Café* will be where kids carry out God's recipe. The first leader training meeting will be

Monday, May 9 at 6:30 PM.

—Sue Campbell



### Youth Ministry

Share a talent with the congregation and join us for the youth-hosted Asbury Review on May 27, from 7:00-9:00 PM. Perform a skit, musical number, magic show—we're looking for a few talented, gifted people or just those who enjoy having fun.

Dessert will be provided. Have a good time while supporting the youth summer trip to the Sacramento Methodist Assembly. There is no admission, but a love offering will be accepted.

Our youth have these important mission opportunities coming up:

- *Making 600 "goody bags"* for this year's Annual Conference on May 22. If anyone is interested in helping to deliver the bags, please talk to Kathy before May 31.
- *Working for Christ:* (multiple mission projects) June 8-10. We'll join with youth from Albuquerque and Tulsa to work at the Storehouse, Love, Inc., and the Abundant Grace Free Store. We'll close with a Christian party at Balloon Fiesta Park. Talk to Kathy if you're interested in attending and/or helping.
- *Leg 2 of the Amazing Bible Race* (the books of Joshua-Esther) begins May 7, after Acts 2. This is a Bible study for senior high youth. If you're interested, contact Kathy or Becky, or simply show up for the first meeting.
- *Mid-high or Senior High camp.* June 20-24. Sign up in the gym area or by contacting Kathy Salazar. Cost is \$275.00, which includes all meals and travel. There are also other summer camps available. For information on any United Methodist Church camp opportunities, go to <http://www.sacramentoassembly.org>

—Kathy Salazar

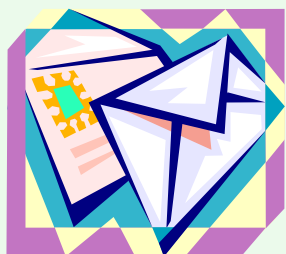
## Dear Asbury,

Thank you for your March gift to Methodist Mission Home. Each day we witness God in the sacrifice and inner strength of pregnant teens and young women as they decide the future of their unborn child. In this month's newsletter, Robert and Heather Patterson shared the overwhelming emotion they felt for the birth mother who had chosen them as the family for her child. For the Pattersons, it was the ultimate gift of love. . .

[Their new daughter, Hannah Elizabeth, was born Nov. 14, 2010 and adopted through an open process where the birth parents and adoptive parents get to know each other. Heather, who is unable to have children of her own, was allowed to be present at the birth as well.]

. . . Together, we are giving God's children a faith, a family, a future.

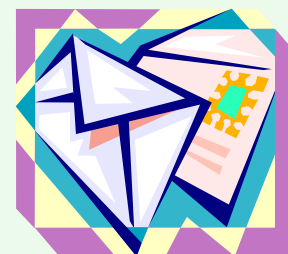
—Jennifer Sample, executive director



## Dear Asbury,

You are truly a family. Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and calls after my mother's death in March.

—Mary McKee



## Dear Asbury,

Your donation to Methodist Children's Home has been processed and is at work today for our children—thank you! Thanks to your generosity, the more than 1,400 boys and girls in our care will have opportunities to obtain unique experiences that will help them grow spiritually, physically and emotionally. . . Since our organization receives no monies from church apportionments and less than six-percent of our budget is comprised of state or federal funds, we depend on you. [Thanks to the gifts we receive], great things are possible for our children.

—Trey Oakley, vice president

## A child's perspective

A group of second-graders was quizzed about what ingredients their mothers are made of. One child said, "God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean."

To the question "What does your mom do in her spare time?" one youngster said, "Mothers don't do spare time."

When the children were asked "Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?" one child replied, "God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me."

## Library News

By Pat Phipps, librarian



### Children's Book Week is May 2-8

Children's Book Week has been celebrated since 1919. It all began with the idea that children's books can change lives. In 1913, Franklin K. Matthews, the librarian of the Boy Scouts of America, began touring the country to promote higher standards in children's books. He proposed creating a Children's Book Week and enlisted two important allies: Frederic G. Melcher, editor of Publishers Weekly, and Anne Carroll Moore, the Superintendent of Children's Works at the New York Public Library. The need for Children's Book Week today is as essential as it was in 1919, and the task remains the realization of Mr. Melcher's fundamental declaration: "A great nation is a reading nation."

On Sunday, April 10, during National Library Week, Layloni mentioned that Asbury's library has many stories about the faith of Christians worldwide, but, except for the book about our church's history, none about the faith of Asbury's congregation. She invited us to write our individual faith stories and place them in the library. We encourage you to add your faith story to our collection. You can type your story, handwrite it or even draw a picture that represents your faith. You may sign your name or write anonymously. All stories are welcome and will be placed in a binder to be kept in the library.

You can contact us at [library@asburyabq.org](mailto:library@asburyabq.org) with any questions.

New in the Asbury Library:

#### Adult:

*The Quilting Path: A Guide to Spiritual Discovery through Fabric...* by Louise Silk

*The Painting Path: Embodying Spiritual Discovery through Yoga, Brush and Color* by Linda Novick

*The Knitting Way: Guide to Spiritual Self-Discovery* by Linda Skolnik and Janice MacDaniels

*A Scrapbooking Journey: Hands-on Guide to Spiritual Discovery* by Cory Richardson-Lauve

*The Soulwork of Clay: Hands-on Approach to Spirituality* by Marjory Zoet Bankson

*Beading - the Creative Spirit* by Wendy Ellsworth  
*Five Practices of Fruitful Living* by Robert Schnase.  
Donated by Ann Plante

#### Children:

*Walter the Baker* by Eric Carle

*A Sick Day for Amos McGee* by Phillip Stead and Erin Stead. 2011 Caldecott Medal Winner. Donated by Sue Felts

*Skippyjon Jones in Mummy Trouble* by Judy Schachner. In honor of the baptism of Liam Kerley

*The Umbrella* by Jan Brett. In honor of the baptism of Sydney Kerley

#### Children's Non-Fiction:

*Eliza's Cherry Trees: Japan's Gift to America* by Andrea Zimmerman and Ju Hong Chen. Donated by Sue Campbell

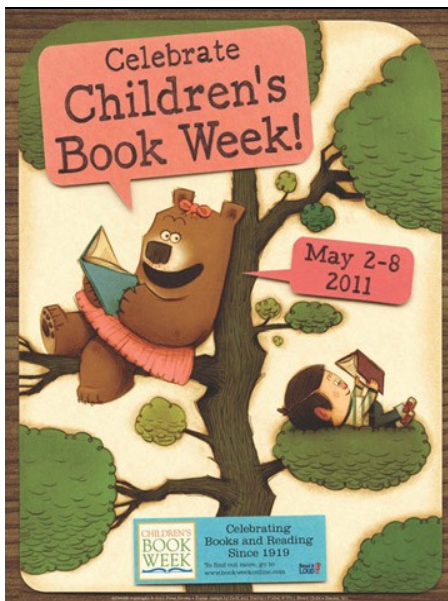
#### Junior:

*Moon Over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool. 2011 Newbery Medal Winner. Donated by Sue Felts

#### DVD:

*Horton Hears a Who and Other Dr. Seuss Stories*. Donated in Memory of Rose Martinez

*Veggie Tales: 'Twas the Night Before Easter*. Donated in Memory of Rose Martinez



## Get a Free Poster!

Posters are available from the Children's Book Council at no cost beyond shipping. To receive a free poster with activity guide, please send a 9 x 12 self-addressed envelope with postage affixed:

1 poster - \$0.65  
10 posters - \$3.00  
25 posters - \$5.00

Mail envelopes with postage affixed to:

**Children's Book Council**  
**Poster Order**  
**54 West 39th Street, 14th floor**  
**New York, NY 10018**

Please note: There is a 25 poster maximum per person. For more information, see [www.bookweekonline.com](http://www.bookweekonline.com)

## Easter Isn't Over

During your preparations for Easter, you may have heard someone say, “All this work and it’ll all be over so soon.” Sorry, but they’re wrong.

Easter as a celebration of the return of spring, the Easter of the Easter Bunny and colored eggs and candy, fancy hats and new spring clothes may be over by Easter Monday, not to come around again until next year.

But the true Easter, the celebration of Christ’s resurrection, is never over. Easter is the reminder and the celebration of a continuing fact: Christ, who was raised from death, is alive today, tomorrow and forever. Daily he offers us and the whole world power to begin new life now.

Easter isn’t over ... ever!

## Amaryllis

Early one spring, I planted a couple dozen amaryllis bulbs. With great anticipation, I watched for blooms. But weeks turned into months before the first sign of life appeared. By the end of summer, the bed of pink flowers I’d envisioned was nothing more than a scattering of green leaves. So I pulled them all up to make room for other plants. I wasn’t about to waste another growing season.

Imagine my surprise the following spring, when a single delicate amaryllis blossom appeared. My delight quickly turned to dismay—for I realized I’d given up too soon. Had I the least bit of patience or a little faith, I might have had a glorious garden.

Then I wondered: Are there other things or people I give up on too soon? What might a little patience and faith do for a difficult relationship or troublesome circumstances?

—Kari Myers (adapted from Homiletics)



## May Lectionary

*May 1, Second Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:14a, 22–32; Psalm 16 (UMH 748)

1 Peter 1:3–9; John 20:19–31

*May 8, Third Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:14a, 36–41; Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 (UMH 837)

1 Peter 1:17–23; Luke 24:13–35

*May 15, Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137)

1 Peter 2:19–25; John 10:1–10

*May 22, Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 (UMH 764)

1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

*May 29, Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 17:22–31; Psalm 66:8–20 (UMH 790)

1 Peter 3:13–22; John 14:15–21

## Always Remember

One Memorial Day, some children were asked what the holiday meant to them.

“That’s the day the swimming pool opens!” answered one eager boy. What he didn’t realize or appreciate was that he can freely go to the pool because more than one million people have put their lives on the line to preserve America’s democracy. Many of them have died so citizens of other countries might also enjoy the privileges of political, social and economic freedom.

Memorial Day is our opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices of many of America’s best citizens. They made the supreme sacrifice on our behalf, so please remember to honor these heroes on May 30.





Asbury Trails, a publication of  
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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**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



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