Fertile GroundWorks Anniversary

We’re closing in on the third anniversary of the creation of the Garden of Grace and have many reasons to celebrate and be thankful. The Garden has grown and evolved to serve an ever-increasing number of people in the Tri-Valley area and is a testament to the love and charity of the Asbury UMC community.

In three short years we have built a garden that started as five 4×20’ bio-intensive beds, with no infrastructure. It’s now a multi-faceted charitable and teaching garden with 70 bio-intensive beds, complete with a water-efficient drip irrigation system, electrical utilities and several small support buildings. The garden is situated on about 2/3 acres of Asbury’s “back 40” (actually about 5 acres land south of the paved perimeter road). In 2012, we grew and harvested over 13,000 pounds of organic garden produce almost all of which was delivered to Open Heart Kitchen and local food pantries.

Garden Learning Lectures are provided free of charge to the public on second or third Saturdays of the month and experiential garden learning is provided to all garden volunteers. We are currently receiving about 70 hours of service per week from an average of 25 volunteers per week as an increasing number of people from the Tri-Valley area become aware of our programs.

We are also celebrating the first year of partnership between Asbury UMC and Fertile GroundWorks.

(Continued on page 3)
As Kim and I return to Asbury, newly appointed at Annual Conference on June 20, we are mindful of the blessing it is to be among you as your pastors. For a congregation gifted with energy, compassion, vision and a welcoming spirit (and many other wonderful things), we feel deeply blessed. As another year of being co-pastors unfolds here are just a few of the things that are on my mind:

**First:** as Kim and I discovered at Annual Conference, the model of “co-pastor” is catching on throughout the Conference, with no less than four other churches giving it a try. Your willingness to try something new and help us make it work effectively has helped inspire other churches and pastors to envision a new and creative way to do ministry.

**Second:** I am deeply appreciative of being able to be back to Asbury at full-time. It was a great privilege to be pastor at Grace in San Ramon for the last 18 months. Your support and “sister-church” spirit made a difference in my ability to help serve there. They are thankful for your prayers and openness to helping them along their journey.

**Third:** Among the things on the horizon at Asbury is building a small group ministry through the encouraging and training of leaders starting this autumn. Our GIFT (Growing in Faith Team) has engaged the gifts of a fellow pastor, Rev. Sun-Hee Kim, to provide training to those who respond to an invitation to consider making a personal investment in this ministry.

Small groups are the most effective means for developing relationships with other believers, to seek spiritual growth and depth, and to find answers to life’s questions. From the time of Jesus, followers of our Lord have found God’s love and grace alive and vital in gathering with other believers for times of study, sharing, prayer and exploring God’s purposes.

Pastor Kim and I are going to be asking people to consider learning more about small group leadership, but we would welcome you asking us first and beating us to the punch.

An article by former pastor Ron Dunn, in this issue of “Asbury Articles” (page 7) is very informative. Please read it!

**Fourth:** We are thankful for Yosh’s ministry among us, and I hope you’ll take time to connect with him before July ends and he is off to be married and moves to Japan.

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee has put together an updated job description for a youth director and is going to get that out far and wide to see if God will lead someone in our direction.

Pastor Kim and I will be working with SPRC to examine the directions God is taking Asbury and hope that we will find just the right match of gifted servant with the needs and hopes of the Asbury community. Please pray for us and SPRC as we do this search and discernment work. Your input is very welcome – so don’t hesitate to share your hopes!

**Fifth (lastly):** I hope you will consider helping Fertile GroundWorks, started as Asbury’s Garden of Grace just three years ago, as it seeks to move forward in its mission and ministry in the community.

A major fundraiser is taking place on Wednesday, July 24 out at Crooked Vine/Stony Ridge Winery. Most of the ticket price is tax deductible, but more importantly, you can help make this “new” expression of God’s grace really take hold, through supporting its efforts. Pass the word!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Chuck
Our Two Cents

Finance Committee Update

Tornado Relief—In late May, an anonymous donor in the congregation pledged to match any funds from Asbury donated to tornado relief in Oklahoma up to $5000. The congregation responded generously by donating $6056 over the next couple of weeks. With the matching funds, a total of $11056 was given by Asbury to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Tornado Relief. Thank you to everyone for their generous giving!!

Quarterly giving updates—Contribution Statements will be distributed by the Financial Secretary via email beginning in the early part of July. This is summary of the donations that you’ve made to Asbury for the first six months of 2013. The statement also shows your progress toward fulfilling your yearly pledge. Please take a moment to review your statement for accuracy. If you have any questions/concerns about the summary or you don’t receive one, please contact the Financial Secretary, Gail Bryan.

Yosh Is Getting Married!

Yosh Nakajima, the Director of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, has shared with the youth and parents of Asbury that he will be getting married. We wish Yosh and his bride every happiness as they embark on one of life’s great adventures, and even a greater adventure, in this case, since they will be moving to Japan.

This move means that Yosh will be stepping down from his position on July 31. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will be conducting a search for a new Director to lead the program going forward.

Please join in congratulating Yosh on his engagement and wish him well for his married life.

Rob Rudd

On behalf of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Fertile GroundWorks Anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

GroundWorks, a new 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It was founded to carry on the charitable purposes of the Garden of Grace and to build broad-based community and financial support to develop educational resources and outreach for local people, communities, schools and organizations.

The mission of Fertile GroundWorks is “to teach and empower people and communities to increase their health, well being, and self-reliance by growing food for themselves and others organically and sustainably”. We embrace both the charitable “give a person a fish” to feed them in their day of need, and the empowering “teach a person to fish” to enable them to provide for themselves.

We are grateful to the Asbury Community for their passion for service, for their substantial support and for entrusting us with the use of a portion of their valuable and rare suburban farm land! We strive to make the highest and best use of this land for the common good of all and to continue to evolve it as a true Garden of Grace.
Golf Tournament Results

The 8th Annual Asbury Golf Tournament on June 1 was a highly competitive event with the top three teams finishing within one stroke of each other. The team of Dean Scotch, Mike Gnecco, Tony Gnecco, and Austin Gnecco eked out the win with an 11-under par 61. The big winner of the day, however, was Jeff Wagoner who earned “closest to the pin” honors on both the eighth hole (20 feet) and eleventh hole (an impressive 6’6”).

Asbury Church Camp

August 16-18: There’s Still Space!

For the fifth year in a row, Asbury folks are heading out to Lake Tahoe and LARPD’s Camp Shelly, for several days of fun and relaxation. There are only two or three spaces left out of 25! For just $125 you can have three nights and four days camping, in great facilities and with a lot of fun people.

Tent camping and RV camping exists side-by-side. There are toilets and hot showers too!

There will be a youth camp site for Asbury’s middle and high school students who don’t have parents going. Just talk to Pastor Chuck for information.

Family and friends who are not members of Asbury are more than welcome to join us. Look for the signup sheet on Sundays during coffee fellowship or come into the office during the week.

Dine and Dawdle

Thursday nights, 6-8:00 p.m.

It’s summer time, and Dine and Dawdle is in full swing. Don’t feel like cooking? No problem. Let Asbury take care of it on Thursday nights throughout the summer. Enjoy a yummy dinner (dine) and set a spell (dawdle). Best of all? No dishes to clean up! $5/person or $20/family.

*July 4*—NO D&D

*July 11*—UMW dinner $6/person: Pulled pork + Reader’s Theater (see above)

*July 18*—Cheesecake cookoff: bring your favorite!

*July 25*—Game night (bring your fave) and sausage fest!

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Reader’s Theater performs OUR TOWN

Thursday, July 11, Following Dine and Dawdle

Enjoy a staged reading of the classic play "Our Town", after Dine & Dawdle, Thursday, July 11. Admission is free but donations to support APPLAUSE (Asbury Players Philanthropic League for Assistance to Useful Service Efforts) are always appreciated.

In October of 1992, Asbury Players performed their first full-length play in the brand-new sanctuary. The production of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Our Town", featured a much younger Chuck Johnstone as the Stage Manager and the always youthful Lesleyann Medeiros Coker as Emily. This 1938 Broadway hit reminds us to appreciate life every day, to seize happiness wherever it occurs, to recognize that the little things in life are really the big things, to remember that everyone goes through ups and downs and to realize that even an imperfect community is important.

Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 7 pm as we recreate life in 1901 in the small town of Grover's Corners. For more information, contact Barbara David at home.
Fertile GroundWorks Fundraiser

Join us for a great time!
Wednesday, July 24, 6-9:00 p.m.

On July 24, there will be a food, wine tasting, music event at Crooked Vine/Stony Ridge Winery to raise needed money for the Fertile GroundWorks non-profit.

For just $75 per person you can have an evening of fun, make a difference in providing FGW needed financial assistance ($60 of every ticket goes to the programs and is tax-deductible). You’ll have the chance to bid on many great prizes: vintage wine, signed footballs by 49ers stars, gourmet dinners and dessert prizes, art, tours, vacation weeks and cabin getaway weekends, gift baskets, lovely quilts, dinner/theater packages, and a lot of signed memorabilia will be available for bid.

Make a huge difference and purchase a table ($750) and make it a special event for ten people. Tickets are on sale in the church office and online through the FGW website, www.fertilegroundworks.org.

Asbury Is Looking for a Nursery Coordinator

Asbury seeks a Nursery Coordinator. The nursery provides a safe, clean play area wherein young children (up to four years old) may explore and grow under the supervision of caring staff who are well trained.

The nursery is open on Sunday mornings during the worship service and as needed during events following the worship service and during the week. The position takes 1/2 to 1-1/2 hours most weeks, with an additional 1-4 hours once a month for planning.

A commitment of at least one year is expected for this position.

The Nursery Coordinator will enable parents to engage more deeply in Asbury’s activities to grow in faith, to celebrate community, and to serve others with love. Asbury has an active nursery program with about half a dozen infants and toddlers each Sunday.

To download the application and see the full job description, visit www.asburylive.org/news.

Fall Mission Trip to Tuscaloosa Alabama

The spring storms of 2011 were among the most destructive in a number of years. Many areas of the Midwest and South sustained widespread damage. North Alabama was particularly hard hit. The Tuscaloosa tornado was up to 1-1/2 miles wide, killed 64 people and caused an estimated $2.2B of damage. UM COR sponsored rebuilding in Alabama is now centered in Tuscaloosa and will likely conclude this fall.

We worked near Birmingham in November 2011 and in Tuscaloosa in September 2012 and are pleased to announce that we are forming a team to assist with this final phase in Tuscaloosa.

We plan to depart on Saturday November 2, 2013 and return November 9. We will fly to Birmingham, and then drive to Tuscaloosa. The work will be to repair/rebuild homes of people who can not afford to do it themselves. We will again be staying at Camp Coker on the west side of Tuscaloosa. The accommodations there were excellent and they were well stocked with tools and supplies.

The cost of the trip will be $700 to $800, including airfare and housing. For more information or to register, contact Roger Everett or contact the church office for more information. Please consider joining us. These VIM trips are a rewarding way to live your faith.

Habitat for Humanity Workdays

The new affordable housing project in Walnut Creek is well underway. It is a new ten-home development near the BART station. We are helping to sponsor the All Faiths Home and will be providing a team of five volunteers each month to work on All Faiths Day.

Our next two Saturdays are July 20 and August 17. We would love to have you join us.

Contact Steve Elliott or Bob Hoffman for more information and you will be provided instructions on how to sign up on the Habitat website, www.habitatebsv.org.
Youth Ministry

Here's a list of youth events coming up. On top of these, we will still be holding regular office hours during the weeks I'm around.

Be sure to follow our Facebook youth page for the most updated information: facebook.com/AsburyYouth

**July 6-12**—Monte Toyon Camps. There's still a little space at some of the camps. Please check out the conference camp website www.cnuc.org/pages/detail/1726 or talk to Yosh if you're interested.*

**July 14**—Home Groups with the Campos Family. Bring a swim suit! 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**July 15-19**—Vacation Bible School. Come help out at our VBS! It's a load of fun. Talk to Tina or Yosh if you'd like to help!

**July 21-27**—SSP*

**July 28**—Final Bonfire with Yosh. Have a final bonfire with Yosh before he leaves Asbury. Bring some wood to throw into our bonfire. We'll stay until the wood runs out or midnight! 9:00 p.m.-12:00 midnight.

**August 11**—Youth Service Sunday

*Yosh is away from Asbury during these dates

Children’s Ministry

In a changing world, God’s truth remains fixed and unchanging.

**Summer Sunday School**

Ahhh...summer. With it comes a different rhythm to our days. Summer Sunday School feels different, too. Please remember the kids are signed into our care in the chapel. They then have fun, play with friends, learn new songs, hear Bible stories and end up with snacks in the Fellowship Hall where you may pick them up. Thank you for bringing your kids to church every Sunday.

**Children’s Moment Training**

Attention, all who provide children’s moments: there are two more opportunities for you to attend the training. These will take place on August 25th and September 22nd 10:30-11:30 in the chapel. Many of you attended the first session. If you did not make the first session, however, please plan to attend one of the others. Thank you for serving in this ministry.

**Vacation Bible School**

**All Call for an All Church Luncheon and Set-up We Need You!**

VBS takes place July 15-19. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to volunteer in this important ministry at Asbury. There is an opportunity for everyone to get involved on Sunday, July 14th. Immediately following worship we will have 15 to 20 minutes tasks written on index cards. Please meet Tina and Dylan Spooner (co-director) in the courtyard to claim a card and complete a simple task to help us set up for VBS. We will enjoy a simple lunch, as well. With your help, we should be completely set up within a half hour or so. Please join us.

We could still use some help with the Friday luncheon. Contact Tina to find out how you may help.

Tina Morris
Intentional Spiritual Growth

By RON DUNN, Senior Pastor
San Ramon Valley UMC

[Excerpted and edited from a sermon of January 13, 2013 of the same title.]

Spiritual growth doesn’t happen through osmosis. It doesn’t happen just because you happen to show up for worship on a Sunday morning and hang around people who talk about spiritual matters. Spiritual growth doesn’t just happen because you want it to happen. It happens, at least in part, because one chooses to be a willing participant in the process of growing spiritually. To be sure, there is a sense in which growth is a gift that comes from God, but it is a gift that we will never receive unless we choose to play a proactive role in receiving it. Spiritual growth will not happen by accident, only by intention.

United Methodist Bishop Peter Weaver has made an interesting observation by using the analogy of a pickle. He makes his point by asking how a pickle is made. And the answer, of course, is that the pickle is made by taking a cucumber and immersing it in special brine over the period of several days. Cucumbers do not become pickles overnight. It takes time, patience and intention. You don’t just squirt a little pickle juice on a cucumber and expect that Presto! Zingo! You will have a tasty pickle on your hands.

In a similar fashion, Weaver observes, you don’t create a disciple of Jesus Christ by occasionally squirting a little gospel juice on them as they come through the door on Sunday morning. No, a person only becomes a follower of Jesus by immersing themselves in the word and the way of Jesus, by saturating themselves in his witness of love and grace, by steeping themselves in the witness of scripture and spiritual conversation with other followers. It takes time, patience, and clear intention to become a faithful follower of Jesus.

So let me ask you, how intentional are you about the possibility of growing spiritually? In what ways have you expressed that intention during the past year?

In a recent conference presentation, consultant Doug Anderson observed that if you truly want to experience transformation, it will not likely be in the Sunday morning worship experience. That experience is designed for inspiration, but not necessarily, for transformation. Small groups, he notes, are the engines of transformation. It is, you see, in the context of Christian community, life shared with a trusted few, that one has the opportunity to read and think and discuss and serve and, in the process, pursue the deeper life, the more significant spiritual life that we all know to be important.

The Reverend Ron Dunn has been the Senior Pastor at San Ramon Valley UMC since 2001. From 1992 to 2001 he served as Asbury’s senior pastor.
## Anniversaries

- Joe and Pat Baker
- Henry and Maureen Bell
- Kenneth and Jennifer Bernstein
- Fred Bothwell and Susan Mitlitsky
- Tim and Megan Buckley
- Brett and Christy Gibson
- Tony and Keri Gnecco
- Vamsee and Robyn Lakamsani
- John and Martie Muldoon
- Keith and Carole Nakanishi
- Bill and Mary Ouellette
- Glenn and Glynice Pomykal
- Michele and Rob Rudd
- Ron and Pat Saltgaver
- Ron and Evelynne Schwartz
- Abdul and Denise Sughayar
- Larry and Joyce Suter
- Arthur and Barbara Weiss

## Birthdays

- Nancy Ackerman
- Steven Bettencourt
- Dee Bing
- Gail Bryan
- Mary Burnham
- Lauren Cano
- Fred Cavin
- Connor Christoff
- Jim Culpepper
- Brian Defenbaugh
- Bethany Duff
- Zack Edgar
- Karen Faraldo
- Steve Fedder
- Julian Galicia-Thomas
- Ken Giannotti
- Brett Gibson
- Carissa Grisham
- Mitchell Haugen
- Bob Howe
- Jean Howe
- Bob Johnson
- Mike Lambaren, Jr.
- John Linden
- Mark Linden
- Joyce Logan
- Jewels McCafferty
- Kayla McClendon
- Eleanor North
- Brandon Norton
- Michael Norton
- Mike Piscotty
- Don Rynders
- Todd Schrader
- Kami Schwartz
- Dave Seberger
- Erin Senge
- Dottie Sherman
- Grant Siebers
- Bobb Smith
- Clay Smith
- Julia Sveen
- Steve Taber
- Robbie Teruya
- Thomas Thournir
- Karen Ullrich
July 2013 Calendar

The full Church Calendar is now online at: www.asburylive.org/events

Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays
- 9:00 a.m. Worship, Sunday School, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Butterfly Gardens is open
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays
- 11:00 a.m. Loose Canons
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. Gentle Graces Exercise Class, Chapel
- 3:30 p.m. Worship Service, Rosewood Gardens
- 4:00 p.m. Strength and Spirit Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Alanon/Alateen, Rooms 13-15

Wednesdays
- 9:30 a.m. Mom’s Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 2:00-6:00 p.m. Yosh’s office hours, Room 15

Thursdays
- 7:45 a.m. Men’s Bible Stud/Advent class, Room 11
- 6:00 p.m. Dine and Dawdle, Fellowship Hall (no D&D July 4)
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Band, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

Fridays
- 9:00 a.m. Strength and Spirit Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Gentle Graces Exercise Class, Chapel

Saturdays
- 8:00 a.m. Lawn Crew
- 9:00 a.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

Other Events

July 1, 2013 (Monday)
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 900

July 6, 2013 (Saturday)
- Monte Toyon Camps

July 15, 2013 (Monday)
- 8:30 a.m. Vacation Bible School
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 900

July 21, 2013 (Sunday)
- 8:00 a.m. SSP 2013

July 26, 2013 (Friday)
- 1:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, Fellowship Hall

July 29, 2013 (Monday)
- 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 900
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested

Asbury UMC Staff

Pastor
Chuck Johnstone
Pastor
Kim Risedorph
Children’s Ministry Director
Tina Morris
Youth Director
Yosh Nakajima
Music Director
G. Allen Schell
Choir Coordinator
Jean Braun
Secretary
Terri Gamble
Nursery Coordinator
Susan Danan

Livermore Community Blood Drive
Friday, July 26, 1-7:00 p.m.
The Livermore community blood drive is every month in the Fellowship Hall.
If you’re 17 or older (16 with parental consent), and generally in good health, you may be eligible to donate blood. Visit redcrossblood.org and use ASBURY925 as the sponsor code to sign up today. Please call Tom Petty to have your questions answered.

www.AsburyLive.org

Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday, 9:00-12:00 noon. Closed for lunch.

The deadline for the next Asbury Articles is Thursday, July 18, 2013.