Asbury Articles

Centered in Jesus Christ, we Grow in faith, Celebrate community and Serve others with love.

Asbury Seeks Youth Ministries Director

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is conducting a search for a new Director to lead the youth program. The job description and application is available by downloading it from the Asbury website:

Interim youth ministry leadership is in place, and all our fall programs will begin in September. We’re grateful for the adult volunteers who are working with our youth. We welcome your prayers during this time of transition. Please feel free to contact Pastor Chuck, Pastor Kim, or Ross Turk (the SPRC youth ministry liaison) if you have any questions or suggestions.

We would like to thank Yosh Nakajima for his service as the Director of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry at Asbury. He will be stepping down from his position on July 31, as he prepares to depart for life with his new bride in Japan. His leadership of the youth program is greatly appreciated, as is his service at the summer camps for children and youth.

Rob Rudd
On behalf of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee
How Do We Respond When We Feel Strongly About Something?

Trayvon Martin, George Zimmerman. Supreme Court decisions on the voting rights act, marriage equality. Debate on immigration law reform. It’s been quite a summer so far.

"As you go, proclaim the Good News. The Presence of God is close at hand." (Matt 10: 7) It’s been quite a Gospel so far.

How can God’s Presence be right here and now, when so many diverse views on important topics are swirling around? I’ve been wondering: where is God’s Presence when there is chaos and conflict?

I latched onto a statement by Craig Barnes, "Conflict is neither good nor bad. It is just inevitable, and it’s another tool for leadership. The challenge for Christ’s church is to make conflict redemptive." (Christian Century, March 20, 2013, p 33)

I take that to mean: a wide variety of perspectives and opinions will always be part of the church community. That’s a given. How will we respond when we feel strongly about something, and not everyone agrees? What does it mean to be a faith community with a wide variety of heart felt perspectives?

When I encounter tricky questions like that, I look to the Bible. And I notice that the Holy Spirit, (God’s Presence here with us in every day life), finds chaos and conflict to be a preferred working environment. Check out the opening verses of the Bible, when the Holy Spirit shoved the dark chaos aside to create light and beauty in its place. Ponder the story of how the church got started. On the day of Pentecost, the scene was anything but controlled and orderly (Acts, chapter 2). And later, when Jesus followers began to live their faith, they "turned the world upside down." (Acts 17:6) That’s our job description: to turn the world upside down.

Our work then, as a faith community that follows Jesus Christ, is not to avoid chaos or conflict because we are afraid of it. Our work is to find the Presence of God here with us, close at hand, regardless of what is happening around us. And that takes intentional effort and practice. To stay aware of God-here-with-us is the most exhilarating and important work we can do for our communities and world.

Here are some ways to practice the Presence of God:

Explore what it means to be part of a spiritual growth group. (See article by Pastor Ron Dunn, page 8) Starting in September, we’ll be starting our own small group ministry focused on spiritual growth. Stay tuned!

Join Pastor Kim after worship on Sunday August 4, in the chapel. Together, we will edit and discuss our welcoming statement: "Asbury UMC welcomes everyone to our campus and community of faith. We are committed to treating everyone with respect and consideration without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, cultural background, disability or age." Is there something you would like to say about, or add to, this statement? Join us on August 4.

May your day be full of opportunities to stay aware of God, and to do good in the world.

Blessings

Pastor Kim
2013 SSP Photos
Celebrate Community

Asbury United Methodist Church’s Welcome Statement Discussion

August 4, 2013, after worship
Invitation to discuss and edit our Welcome Statement: On Sunday, August 4, right after worship, in the Fireside Room, join Pastor Kim as we consider our welcome statement and how we can live into it. Our current statement is, “Asbury UMC welcomes everyone to our campus and community of faith. We are committed to treating everyone with respect and consideration, without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, cultural background, disability or age.”

Fifteenth Annual Piano Recital

September 7, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
It’s hard to believe this is the fifteenth year that Asbury and the Alameda County East Branch of the Music Teachers’ Association of California (MTAC) have co-sponsored the September Piano Recital. Each summer at the MTAC convention, members of our local branch choose a talented young artist to perform at Asbury. This year’s recital will be held on Saturday evening, September 7, 2013, 7:30 p.m. and will last about 45 minutes. The entire congregation and residents of the Tri-Valley area and beyond are warmly invited to attend. Children and music students of any age, and their families, are especially welcome.

This year’s performer is Connie Chen of Pleasanton, CA. Miss Chen graduated from Amador Valley High School, and will be a freshman at UC Berkeley in the fall where she will major in civil engineering and minor in music. This summer she was inducted into the prestigious Young Artist Guild of the MTAC. Connie has won top prizes and given performances in California, Florida and Austria.

Miss Chen has chosen musical gems from the piano repertoire for her performance at Asbury. Among them are a prelude and fugue from Bach’s iconic Well-Tempered Clavier, and sonatas by Beethoven and Prokofiev. Also on her program is Chopin’s magnificent Andante Spianato et Grande Polonaise Brillante.

Do mark your calendar for this evening of unforgettable music performed by a gifted young musician. The recital is open to all at no charge. Refreshments will be served afterward. For more information, contact Anne Coll.

Our Two Cents

Two brief updates on giving from the Finance Committee:
1. Mid-year financial update – Thanks to many who have already paid their 2013 pledge in full already, donations for the first six months have exceeded expenses.

January-June 2013
Income: $293,705
Expenses: $258,322
Expenses will increase in the second half of the year as Pastor Chuck returns to a full-time appointment. Please continue to faithfully contribute toward your yearly pledges.

2. Fellowship Hall debt repayment – Over $53,000 has been paid-off in the first half of 2013. The debt is down to just under $235,000. Thank you for continuing to pay your debt repayment pledges. We could be debt-free in just a couple of more years!
Did You Know This?

We’ve had our new website (www.asburylive.org) up now for a couple months, and I think we’ve worked most of the kinks out. Hopefully by now you’ve taken the time to explore the site, and poke at things. But I wanted to point out a few things that you may not have discovered on your own.

**Mobile Aware Site**

The new website was designed to be mobile aware. So no matter if you’re on a PC or Mac, a laptop your iPad or other tablet, or your smart phone like an iPhone or Android, it will automatically reformat the content to fit your device. If you’re looking at your device horizontally or vertically, it will switch things around so they fit.

**Asbury Articles and Other News Categories**

Did you know you can read the Asbury Articles before it actually gets published? You can also pick just the type of articles that you want to read, without plowing through a bunch of other stuff that you’re not interested in.

On all pages except the Home page, there is a drop-down choice on the right with a heading of “Read Other Articles”. Click the drop-down to select a Category. “Asbury Articles” is one of them. Select that, and you can read almost all the articles that have gone or will go in the newsletter. So even if the newsletter isn’t “live” yet, you can still read the articles.

Just want to see the sermons? Choose “Sermons”, and you can see the articles Pastors Chuck and Kim have written about upcoming sermons. Soon we’ll have the recordings of the sermons so you can listen to them if you missed it that week. Similarly, you can see all the articles Sharmyn has written about the Butterfly Gardens and the books she has in stock.

Oh and by the way, you can get to all the articles in reverse chronological order by choosing the “News” tab from the website. The last five articles are also in a scrolling list in the top right box on all other pages of the site. That way you can always get to the latest news from any page on the site.

**Got An Opinion About Something?**

At the bottom of every news article, there is a box for you to leave your comments. To date, we’ve only had a couple. But we like to hear encouragement, comments, opinions, questions and thoughts. All you have to do is put your name, e-mail address and your comment in the box (oh and solve a simple math problem*). If you have a question about something, just ask it. We’ll respond with an answer. Just like on Facebook, you can put your mark on a post, you can do the same thing here.

Note that we do moderate all comments, so it may not appear right away. So if someone puts something inappropriate or profane those will get deleted (as do all spam comments). This is a friendly-site after all. But if you don’t like something, that’s OK. We want to hear it and will post that too (as long as it’s polite).

*Why is there a math problem? That helps keep the spammers out. Kind of like the squiggly letters you have to type into some websites, this serves the same purpose – it makes sure it’s a real person filling out the form, not a robot spammer.

**What Features Do You or Would You Like?**

We want feedback, so please leave us a comment on the website. Tell us what you like, what you don’t like, or what you think is missing. We’ve tried to do our best to get it all in there and make it easy and interesting for you. But we’d love to hear your side too. The site will continue to evolve as we get other pieces in place.
Urgent Need – Volunteer with Asbury at the Food Bank

The Alameda County Community Food Bank has an urgent need this month and next for volunteers to help sort and bag produce. The Food Bank is receiving some nice donations of fresh produce for distribution to clients, but is challenged with repackaging the bulk donations into bags for distribution. We would like to help. So Asbury will provide 10 volunteers on Friday, August 16 and Thursday, August 29 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. The location is near the Oakland Airport. All ages, 10 years or older, are welcome to help. We will likely carpool from the Church to the Food Bank. To sign up or for more information, contact Steve Elliott or the church office.

Join Us At Open Heart Kitchen

Open Heart Kitchen serves a hot meal to those who need one on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week at the Asbury Fellowship Hall. Volunteers prepare and serve the meal. It is a blessing to give of our time in this way. Asbury UMC provides a team to do this prep/serve the first Wednesday each month. Consider joining us on our next date, August 7. Choose one of two shifts, 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 11:30-2:00 p.m. To sign up, contact Steve Elliott.

Asbury to Work on Camp Lodestar

Located in the Sierra Foothills of Calaveras County, Camp Lodestar is one of our United Methodist Church owned retreat venues. It hosts a variety of youth, family and other camps Spring through Fall. The sprawling 425 acre facility is in regular need of maintenance. We will take a team to Camp Lodestar during the week of September 16-20, 2013 to help with various building repairs. A two and half hour drive from Livermore, we will carpool up on Monday morning and return on Friday afternoon.

Camp Lodestar is a terrific place for doing mission work. Pleasant surroundings, interesting projects for any skill level. Perfect place for someone on their first mission trip. You can even come for part of the week if your schedule is limited. In past years, our projects have included painting buildings, installing new picnic tables, repairing cabins, rebuilding the camp stage and putting up fence.

Our accommodations will be a conference cabin that offers space for 20 people in twin bedrooms, separate men/women bath facilities and a full kitchen. Estimated trip cost is $150. Registrations are due August 15, 2013. For more information or to register, contact Steve Elliott.

2013 Interfaith Backpack Project

This year Livermore’s Interfaith Backpack Project enters its third decade of providing school backpacks to children from families that are struggling financially. For several years now, Asbury has donated 100 middle/high-school backpacks filled with supplies at the beginning of the school year.

This year, we will be capitalizing on a donation of empty elementary school backpacks by Costco to provide a total of 145 backpacks for approximately the same total offering. Our 2013 commitment is 75 of the “usual” middle/high-school backpacks which cost just under $50 each (including a $15 shoe certificate).

In addition, we will provide supplies that will fill 70 elementary school backpacks. These elementary school backpacks will go to Livermore children whose families meet the income eligibility guidelines for free meals under the National School Lunch Program.

Please consider making an offering to this worthy benevolence. Checks should be made out to Asbury with “Backpack Project” on the memo line.
Roller Derby is coming to town on Friday, August 16! Actually, if you didn’t know it, Roller Derby is all over the Bay Area, and there are 1500 leagues all over the world. This month is Roller Derby’s 78th anniversary of being founded on August 13, 1935. Leo Seltzer founded Roller Derby way back in 1933. His son, Jerry Seltzer (pictured) lives practically in our back yard, in Sonoma, and is known as “The Commish”. He roams all over the state and country promoting Roller Derby and all the fun things about the sport.

“EvilEye Cherry”, one of the team members who is on the executive committee of the Undead Bettys told me, “We are very excited to participate in the upcoming Blood Drive. I know a few of us, including myself, have already signed up and there will be more.” Many from their team will be there on hand to give out free Roller Derby t-shirts, pose for pictures, or sign the t-shirts if you want them to.

We’re also going to have a special local partner at the blood drive, Melo’s Pizza and Pasta who are generously donating a stack of pizza and some pasta for people to enjoy while they’re at the drive. They will have coupons for people who donate that are good in their restaurant too.

Jerry Seltzer will be putting in an appearance as well. He’s a really neat guy, lots of fun (if you can’t tell from the photo above), and I think you’d enjoy chatting with him about Roller Derby!

**How To Sign Up for the Blood Drive**

The drive details are:

**Friday, August 16, 2013**

1-7:00 p.m.

**Asbury United Methodist Church**

4743 East Avenue

**Livermore, California**

If you or a family member (or both!) or friend can donate blood, PLEASE sign up by going to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use **ASBURY925** as your sponsor code. If you can’t make that drive because of timing or location, PLEASE go to the same website and search by your zip code. We need more blood donors in the system no matter where you live, to help people who are sick, injured or are having surgery. With the summer’s lull in donations, we really need your help.

If you have a college student who is home for the summer, please encourage them to come to the drive too. In addition to helping to save lives, they’ll really like the pizza too!

Do you have questions? Please contact me, Tom Petty, online or ask the church office for my contact information.

Thanks for supporting the blood drive, and THANKS for helping to save a life! People who need blood products, literally can’t survive without you.
By Ron Dunn, Senior Pastor, San Ramon Valley UMC

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

While there are, of course, many ways of growing spiritually, there are some key disciplines that, I believe, are instrumental to the growth. John Wesley referred to these disciplines as the "means of grace." There were essentially two categories that fell under the heading of "the means of grace."

One was "Works of Piety," such as prayer, fasting, Bible study, Holy Communion, Baptism, and Christian conferencing.

The other category, as you may know, was referred to as "Works of Mercy" and included visiting the sick and the imprisoned, feeding and clothing the hungry and the homeless, doing good and choosing to be a servant of others.

John Wesley made it clear to the early Methodist movement that if anyone was serious about growing up as a follower of Jesus, then they would be intentional in the practice of both works of piety (personal formation) and works of mercy (social transformation). As those who have inherited the witness of Wesley as a part of our spiritual legacy, I would suggest that, in many respects, these "means of grace," still provide the key trail markers for the path that leads to our growth and maturity as followers of Jesus.

But there is one other aspect of Wesley's witness that, I believe, provides the critical tool in enabling us to immerse our lives in the gospel. And, as some of you might have guessed, that aspect has to do with the experience of small groups. If there is one thing that set the Methodist movement apart and enable this movement to change not only the face of England, but America as well, it was the inclusion of the small group as a basic and essential part of the Christian life. While Wesley was not the best preacher of his day, he was the best organizer and his choice to insist that the people called Methodist gather on a regular basis to pray and talk and share and serve proved to be the spark that would ignite a movement.

In this respect, John Wesley was not only a man ahead of his time, but in some respects, a man ahead of our own time. Perhaps you’ve noticed that Wesley’s class meeting format has today, become standard practice in churches of every denominational and theological stripe across our country.

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

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Dear Asbury Friends,

Thank you for all the expressions of sympathy and many kindnesses you have shown me following Fred's recent death. I will always be grateful for your thoughtfulness and your friendship.

May God Bless Each and Every One of You."

Beverly Cavin
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 25 and September 22, 10:30-11:30 a.m. 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.

Contact Tina to find out how you may help.

*Tina Morris*
Anniversaries

Kevin and Shannon Dunn Boercker
Ed and Margena Cassidy
Jim and Pat Cooper
Jim and Linda Culpepper
Roger and Peggy Donavan
Ken and Beth Giannotti
Jim and Renee HAugen
Elmond and Wilma Holbrook
Bob and Janet Johnson
Coleman and Bobbie Johnson
Alec and Lori Kenward
Ken and Edie Lamb
Ron and Joyce Logan
Mike and Lorraine Magee
Joe and Janet Malski
Neil and Tina Morris
Allen and Alice Schell
Alan and Robbie Teruya
Doug and Lindy Webb
Bob and Debbie Whiteside
Larry and Beckie Wiley

Birthdays

Ella Baird
Maureen Bell
Jackie Bennett
Juanita Benson
Beth Berger
Christina Bluck
Sheryl Bluck
Jean Braun
Margaret Burke
Margena Cassidy
Edna Chance
Matt Coll
Pat Cooper
Dick Crawford
Emily Donavan
Keri Gnecco
Sheryl Goodman
Abigail Grisham
Judy Guidry
Sepp Hammer
Dennis Henderson
Ray Hudson
Jonah Johnson
Vange Jones
Logan Levan
Beverly Lord
Mike Magee
Kyle McCammon
Marlys Miller
Hollis Molvik
Jonathan Molvik
Neil Morris
Yosh Nakajima
Raj Nathan
Bill Ouellette
Nick Pauliukonis
Gretchen Piscotty
Billie Rigg
Ron Saltgaver
Dave Schlientz
Cheryl Seberger
John Stevenson
Joyce Suter
Dan Swinbank

Sheila Taber
Martha Thomas
Janice Wakefield
Sarah Walker Cleaveland
Bill Warren
Doug Webb
Drew Webber
Christina Westfall
Dixie Wood
Drew Worth
Michele Yano
August Calendar

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

Mondays
- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays
- 11:00 a.m. Loose Canons
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Rosewood Gardens
- 3:30 p.m. Worship Service, Rosewood Gardens
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Conference Room
- 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

Thursdays
- 7:45 a.m. Men’s Bible Stud/Advent class, Room 11
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Band, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

Fridays
- 9:00 a.m. Exercise Class, Fellowship Hall

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

August 1, 2013 (Thursday)
- 6:00 p.m. Dine and Dawdle, Fellowship Hall

August 4, 2013 (Sunday)
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room

August 8, 2013 (Thursday)
- 6:00 p.m. Dine and Dawdle, Fellowship Hall

August 13, 2013 (Tuesday)
- 12:00 p.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room
- 3:00 p.m. Gentle Graces Exercise Class, Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Strength & Spirit Exercise Class, Chapel

August 14, 2013 (Wednesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Fertile GroundWorks Meeting, Conf. Room

August 15-18, 2013 (Thursday-Sunday)
- Family Camp, Camp Shelley, Lake Tahoe

August 16, 2013 (Friday)
- 1:00 p.m. Blood Drive + Roller Derby, Fellowship Hall

August 18, 2013 (Sunday)
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room

August 20, 2013 (Tuesday)
- 3:00 p.m. Gentle Graces Exercise Class, Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Strength & Spirit Exercise Class, Chapel

August 27, 2013 (Tuesday)
- 12:00 p.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room
- 3:00 p.m. Gentle Graces Exercise Class, Chapel
- 4:00 p.m. Strength & Spirit Exercise Class, Chapel
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

Music Director
G. Allen Schell
Choir Coordinator
Jean Braun
Secretary
Terri Gamble
Nursery Coordinator
Susan Danan

www.AsburyLive.org

Church office hours are:
Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Closed for lunch.

The deadline for the next Asbury Articles is
Thursday, August 22, 2013.