Enough: Asbury Autumn Focus and Study

Five years ago, our nation and our citizens—probably each one of us—was rocked with the calamity of failing banks, collapsing lending institutions, government intervention to stabilize the American and global economy, plummeting stock market figures, imploding 401Ks and other investments.

Five years later, we are doing better. There are many signs of improvement: a stock market that has roared back, unemployment that is creeping, albeit too slowly, towards “normal” levels, and housing starts have improved as have prices.

Yet there is still a great deal of anxiety, and we’ll never quite feel as safe as we might have, say, six years ago. The scripture tells us “not to put our trust in princes”. If there had been a stock market, a Wall Street, and banks “too big to fail” two to three thousand years ago, the scripture probably would have expanded the imploring tone about where we put our trust.

But here in the autumn of 2013, the Stewardship Committee here at Asbury, and your Pastors, and other volunteers, hope to put a focus on issues of money, anxiety, debt, budgeting, and how to attend to the practical areas of life while addressing the spiritual dimensions of how we spend our financial resources.

“Enough” invites everyone to discover the joy of simplicity and generosity. It takes a spiritual path through a practical landscape. Where do we put our trust? How do

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Kim’s Korner

Do you have a favorite sports team? (I know who you are, I read your Facebook posts.)

And if you don't follow a sports team as a loyal fan, keep on reading. Just imagine this scene:

Your favorite team had a challenging season, but still managed to win the Championship Title at the end. Such a day to celebrate! As you savor the good news, you decide to replay all the games of that season. You, as a loyal fan, have recorded each one.

So, as you’re watching the games, you get to the time when your team hit a slump. There were a series of games where they weren't at their best. Mistakes were made. Games were lost. Yet, now as you watch them, you don't get nervous or upset or distressed. That's because you are watching them AFTER the season was over. You already know that these mid-season challenges happened, but everything ended up just fine. You won the Championship, after all.

Your perspective helps you observe the challenging times, without losing hope or peace of mind.

So, the same is true in our individual lives. There will be times when we face challenges, when things aren't going too smoothly. There will be times when we hit a slump, when we make mistakes, when we have regrets. And even in those times, we can know a deeper truth: the very Presence of God, is here with us. We are not alone. God, the Divine Presence, is always available. And no matter what challenges we face, God's love for us is always constant, steady, real.

As people of faith, we practice the Presence of God. We practice the Presence of God by praying, having a daily devotional time, pausing and giving thanks, being a part of worship on Sunday mornings. And we are assured that whatever we face, we are all held in God's tender, loving care. Now and always.

(Continued from page 1)

we determine how much is “enough”? How should Christians live in light of financial uncertainty? Is our faith and assurance for life rooted in God or in the success of our 401K? How do we balance our needs for life's necessities with our wants for life's luxuries? What can make us content with what we have? What are the spiritual dimensions of being financially responsible, wise with our resources and also generous?

On September 29, we'll begin distributing books after worship. We have purchased one per household (and welcome a donation of $7 for those who wish to help defray costs). We'll be inviting everyone interested to sign up with a study group.

On October 13, we'll kick off our focus on "Enough" in worship and beginning our study groups that next week.

Whether you are comfortable with your economic condition or struggling with debt and anxious month in and month out, your participation in a study group or attending a workshop can provide enlightenment and mutual guidance. We'll be collectively a stronger congregation, and individually, better stewards of our resources when "Enough" is completed.

The Stewardship Committee
Help Us Get Ready for Christmas

This December, we will publish our own Advent Devotional Book filled with stories from you. Each day of Advent, we’ll have a Scripture and a prayer, and a story from someone in our community. The stories will be about a favorite Christmas memory; or a time when you glimpsed something new about the real meaning of Christmas; or a time when you were dreading Christmas and yet found a moment of peace and hope.

Please take a moment to reflect on a Christmas that you still remember and cherish. Write down your memory, using 100-200 words. Send your story to Pastor Kim, with Christmas Story in the subject line. You can also drop it by the church office during the week between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., or put it in the offering plate on Sundays.

Thank you!

Our Two Cents

Two quick updates from Finance Committee

There will be a special offering on Sunday, October 6 for World Communion Sunday. More details on WCS can be found on the website at www.umcgiving.org.

The Finance Committee is now seeking budget requests for 2014. Please make sure that you contact the com-
mittee chair (Tony Gnecco) if you have any requests you would like considered for the 2014 budget.

Free Books

Free books? Yes, indeed. Many of you have noticed the small bookshelf in the Fellowship Hall filled (sometimes overfilled) with books and the occasional videotape or DVD. These items have been generously donated and are available to anyone who wants them, including you! Be sure to stop by and look at them some Sunday and help yourself to any that appeal to you.

The books are also appreciated by the folks who come to eat at the Open Heart Kitchen here at Asbury on Tues-
days and Wednesdays. One woman told me that she and her son have been living in her car, and without television they spend their evenings reading, at least until the sun goes down. As you can imagine, they went through a lot of books on the long summer evenings.

So please enjoy this resource. Feel free to take books or donate books, but please don’t leave more than will fit on the shelves neatly. Because the Fellowship Hall is used by so many different groups, it is important to keep these shelves looking neat and tidy. Whenever you walk by, feel free to let your inner librarian straighten up a few books.

Also, please do not leave anything else on or around these shelves, that is, no clothes, shoes, toys, etc. If you want to donate such items to the homeless in Livermore, please contact Margot Platt, and she’ll try to help you get them to the right place.
Senior/Retiree Lunch
Thursday, October 3, 2013, 12:00 p.m.
The luncheon is being hosted by United Methodist Women, and it will feature a baked potato bar. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact the church office at 925-447-1950. Cost is $5.00/person.

Asbury Follies
October 19, 2013, 7:00 p.m.
It’s that time again! Time for an evening of music, laughter and fellowship, and you can be a part of it. If you sing or play an instrument, please join us for the Follies. As in the past, you are encouraged to:
1. Choose any piece of music you want to perform, alone or with any number of partners
2. Send the lyrics or sheet music to Barbara David by October 8
3. Rehearse on your own with your accompanist (live music only, unless you bring your sound engineer with you!)
4. Rehearse with the entire group on Friday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.

Annual Asbury Backpacking Trip
From September 5-8, Alan Burnham, Patrick Epperson, Bob Hoffman, Larry Suter and John Van Scyoc enjoyed a backpacking trip from Saddlebag Lake to Shamrock Lake in the Hoover Wilderness just east of Yosemite. The relatively easy hike in with packs left us with enough energy to explore the many lakes and ridges in the area over the next two days. A scramble to an 11,000 foot ridge that divides the Hoover Wilderness from Yosemite gave great views and an opportunity to cool off in some of the little patches of snow that remained. We are grateful to have the opportunity for these mountain experiences so close to home. If you would like to join in the backpacking trip next summer or have ideas for a destination, contact Bob Hoffman. We plan for moderate hikes with packs to a camping spot that provides great day hikes.

5. Perform for your adoring fans on Saturday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.
If you have other mad performance skills that you want to share (dancing, story-telling, juggling or anything else) please contact me and we'll include you in the fun, too.
Your song will magically become part of a story that the Asbury Players Readers Theater will tell as the evening unfolds.
If you don’t want to perform solo, you can still be a part of the Follies by joining in a group number or the big finale.
And if you don’t want to perform at all, please join us in the audience. Admission is free to all, but donations to APPLAUSE will be dramatically accepted.
For more information, contact Barbara David at home.

Ladies’ Night Out
Monday, October 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
All women of Asbury are invited to join in Ladies’ Night Out where we meet at an area restaurant for fellowship and a yummy dinner. This month, we’re meeting at Saigon Café for some Vietnamese cuisine. Please RSVP with Nancy Grover or Joanne Petty we know you’re coming!
How Does Spiritual Growth Happen?

By John Ortberg
Senior Pastor
Menlo Park Presbyterian Church


When I was growing up, if someone asked me, "How is your spiritual life going?" my mind immediately went to what we called "the quiet time." If my quiet times were regular and long, I would rate my spiritual life highly. I rated my spiritual life in terms of my devotional practice. That's not necessarily a bad thing. But devotional practices are not the ultimate criteria for spiritual growth. When I realized that devotional practices were not the best measure, I once asked Dallas Willard how he monitored the condition of his soul. His immediate response was that he regularly asks himself two questions:

- Am I growing more or less easily irritated these days?
- Am I growing more or less easily discouraged these days?

People need a deeper way of looking at the well being of their souls. And because we all live in our own blind spots, it is enormously helpful to find a way to have relationships where other people can help me see those parts of my soul that are obvious to others and opaque to me.

If we really want to help someone flourish, we have to help him or her in a way that fits his or her uniqueness. Our great model for this is God himself, for he always knows just what each person needs.

He had Abraham take a walk,
Elijah take a nap,
Joshua take a lap,
Adam take the rap.

He gave Moses a 40-year timeout,
He gave David a harp and a dance,
He gave Paul a pen and a scroll.

He wrestled with Jacob,
argued with Job,
whispered to Elijah,
warned Cain,
and comforted Hagar.

He gave Aaron an altar,
Miriam a song,
Gideon a fleece,
Peter a name,
and Elisha a mantle.

Jesus was stern with the rich young ruler,
tender with the woman caught in adultery,
patient with the disciples,
blistering with the scribes,
gentle with the children,
and gracious with the thief on the cross.

God never grows two people the exact same way. God is a hand-crafter, not a mass-producer. God has a plan for the person he wants me to be. It will not look exactly like his plan for anyone else, which means it will take freedom and exploration for you to learn how God wants to grow you. Spiritual growth is handcrafted, not mass-produced. God does not do "one-size-fits-all."
Serve Others with Love

Tuscaloosa UMVIM Trip Scholarship Available

Are you interested in going with our UMVIM Team to Alabama later in October but short on financial resources? A generous Asbury household has given $800 to someone who is long on desire but short on cash - so that he or she can join the UMVIM Team and make a difference. If you have interest please contact Pastor Chuck by phone, email or in person as soon as possible. Arrangements are being finalized soon so don't delay. Many thanks to the generous folks who have made this scholarship possible.

Volunteers Needed for Fertile Groundworks

In the next few weeks Fertile Groundworks needs people to help get the garden ready for the winter:

- Continue starting the winter crops with green house seeding and direct sowing
- Prepare the beds with amendments, double digging some beds
- Transplant out the greenhouse seedlings
- Plant ten new fruit trees
- Expand the irrigation system to new beds and trees
- Continue harvesting summer crops tomatoes, cucumbers, squashes and peppers
- Remove non-productive summer crops and plant appropriate cover crops
- Continue compost production and vermiculture

They hope to accomplish all these chores by mid-October, so they need all the people who want to volunteer to sign up.

They will be in the garden all day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., and 12:30-6:00 p.m. on Fridays. They have three-hour shifts:

- 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
- 12:00-3:00 p.m.
- 3-6:00 p.m. with 20 people/shift.

They will have a giant fall finale workday on Saturday, October 5 from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., again with three-hour shifts with 20 people/shift.

Please sign up for whichever shifts you can work by going to www.fertilegroundworks.org. Hover over the “Get Involved” menu and choose “Volunteer Opportunities” from the drop down menu, then select “Click here to see our volunteer opportunities” from the text.

Create a user profile and sign up for any and all shifts you would like to work. If you already have a profile, just log in and sign up for the shifts you are interested in working.

If you have tools, please bring them and any snacks you might want.

For more information, contact Bruce Campbell at or Brenda Kusler.
Mission Service at Camp Lodestar

A beautiful setting in the Sierra Foothills. Great weather. A terrific team. Fun work. Lots of laughs, good food, touching moments. A perfect formula for a meaningful mission trip experience. We journeyed, in mid September, to Camp Lodestar, for what has become an annual tradition. Our goal was to address selected repair and maintenance priorities at this United Methodist owned church camp.

Our team of eleven from Asbury and Lynnewood UMC churches tackled building a new deck at Apricot Hall, installing new vent fans at two dorms and a variety of other projects. The tasks were challenging and interesting. And we all appreciated the need for all the work required to keep a camp like this functioning.

We accomplished a lot, but most cherished the opportunity to share time together at meals, during devotional time and socializing each evening. Our devotional theme for the week was "Halftime." We looked at the "halftime" of our lives. We considered the "first half": work, family, our faith, accomplishments, disappointments. We talked about what was meaningful and what was difficult. We then reflected on our goals, priorities and expectations for the "second half" of our lives. The opportunity being to make the "second half" even more rewarding by how we approach it.

Nestled in the pines, we enjoyed the forested setting of the Camp. The nights were crisp, star filled and accented by the sounds of all the night creatures. We laughed a lot and shared some ridiculous jokes. One of the trip highlights was September 19, International Talk Like A Pirate Day. It was filled with "arrrg's" and a stunning amount of pirate silliness. Psssst: don’t tell anyone, but Nancy Deis has a Johnny Depp pillow case.

As we returned from this trip, the blessings of a mission experience where yet again affirmed. We are grateful for the chance to live our faith in this way.

Mount Diablo Fire Front Lines

Over 3,000 acres burned. Park facilities destroyed. Untold numbers of animals killed or displaced. It was a tense, fearful few days for many people who live in the East Bay.

On Sunday, September 8, the unthinkable happened: a fire erupted near Mount Diablo State Park. Overnight it quickly spread through the bone dry brush. It immediately threatened the community of Clayton near where the fire started. In less than twelve hours it was approaching the historic Summit. By mid-morning on Monday, the fire had turned south down the mountain towards Danville. But at that point the some 700 plus firefighters took a stand and began the process of containment, with the fire completely out by the end of the week. The Summit was defended. All of the communities spared. No lives lost. The drama ended.

Steve Elliott, a member of Asbury UMC, worked at the fire all week assisting with park access control, managing volunteers who provided public security. "Among other realizations, I gained a first hand experience with fire-fighters," observed Steve. "It was amazing to watch them at work, to hear them on the radio, to talk with them as they came and went on shift changes. These are remarkably brave people for which I have a new-found respect."

So, now what? Well, the repair and restoration process started even before the fire was out. Fire breaks had to be covered over. Dangerous areas fenced off. Trail damage surveyed. Over the coming months, the Park will focus on completing the recovery needed for safe visitor access. Interestingly, what will not happen is any significant replanting or reforestation. We have learned over the years that for the most part, nature should just be allowed to take its course. Many plants and wildflowers will return, perhaps even better than ever. Oak trees not so much. But except for selected areas of erosion control, the land will heal itself. Give it a few years and the animals will return and life will renew again.
Registration forms
If you have not yet filled out and turned in your Permission/Medical Form or your Contact Sheet, please do so as soon as you can. Completed forms should be returned to the Youth Director box in the church office.

Sunday Night Fellowship
Youth Groups meet Sunday nights in October from 5:30-6:30 p.m. with dinner from 6:30-7:00 p.m., except for:

- **October 13** - Home Group meeting at the Campos house (7033 Morgan Territory Rd.)
- **October 27** - A trip to the Corn Maze in Lathrop

More details will be coming soon!

In November, the youth will design and lead a Sunday evening worship service.

Adult Volunteer Opportunities
Youth Meals on Sunday nights - We need adult volunteers to make the Sunday night meals for the youth. Simply go to TakeThemAMeal.com to sign-up for an upcoming Sunday.

Drivers for the Lathrop Corn Maze trip - We need adults to help drive the youth to the Corn Maze in Lathrop on October 27. You get to stay and have some fun, too!

If you can help in either of these areas or have any questions about these opportunities, please contact Tony Gnecco.

New Youth Group Leaders
We are very blessed to have a dozen volunteers step forward and offer to team-up to help lead the High School and Middle School Youth Groups on Sunday evenings this year. Together they bring a variety of experiences and talents to youth leadership, and we are looking forward to an exciting year. The youth leader team consists of:

- Barbara David
- Doug Webb
- Karen and Paul Bauman
- Kate and Mike Brunicardi
- Kelly and Jolin Gully
- Martie Muldoon
- Renee Haugen
- Scott and LaNor Smith

When you see them at church, please offer them thanks and encouragement as they take on their new leadership roles.

“Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.” - Dalai Lama

Question to ponder: What kind thing can you do within the next hour?
Hello to All Asbury Families.

For the last couple of weeks, I have been sorting, throwing, selling, packing and moving. Yuck! I hope I don't have to do that again soon.

The reason I share this with you is that I was feeling overwhelmed with those tasks and I reached out to my Asbury Family.

This is what happened. Dick Crawford and Phillip showed up with tables for a garage sale. Roger Everett helped me with clothes racks. Karen Faraldo and Val Pace set up a lovely table for Sundae Sunday. Gabe Elliott said, “Yes” to being a leader for Club “45”. Susan Bothwell, Renee Haugen, Nancy Deis, Kellie Campos and Cliff/Beckie Biermann helped with serving and cleaning up. Mike and Suzy McClung took my Sunday teaching slot. Tom Petty gave me a break on my submission deadline. Steve Elliott forgave me my tardiness at OHK duty day. Dylan Spooner covered so many tasks I can’t list them all.

May I just say how blessed I feel to be part of this church? Thank you. If you ever feel overwhelmed, just ask. You, too, might be surprised how many people are willing to lend a helping hand.

THANK YOU

Elaine Bosserman replaced all the broken clocks in the Sunday School classrooms. Thank you, Elaine.

Club “45”? 

As some of you know, Club 56 was restructured so the sixth graders could be a part of the Middle School Youth Group.

So we will now offer Club 45 in the Children's Ministry department. This group will meet once per month on the first Sunday of the month. We will meet 5:30-7:00 p.m. This is the same time as the Middle School and High School Youth Groups.

We will participate in activities that help us grow our faith and serve others. We will then participate in the snack supper with the big group.

Gabe Elliott has agreed to be a co-leader with this group. If this sounds like something you feel called to do, please let me know.

Our schedule is:

- October 6
- November 3
- December 1
- January 5
- February 2
- March 2
- April 6
- May 4

Please let me know if you have questions by calling 925-447-1950 x105.

I hope you will all be here on October 27. Bring a pumpkin to decorate!

Finally, I would like to give a brownie point to my friend Zackary L. I was taken aback one Sunday as he approached me with obvious intent to interact. I wondered what this could be about. He stuck out his hand, looked me in the eye and gave me a hearty, “Good morning, Tina. Peace be with you.” Wow that’s pretty amazing for a little guy to be that brave. Good job Zackary, Mom and Dad.

Thanks for lending me your kids for a little while each week. They bring me great joy.

Peace and Joy,

Tina Morris
Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries

Chris and Suzy Almeida
John and Sheryl Bluck
Dick and Judy Chagnon
Brian Defenbaugh and Erik Swenson
Gary and Nancy Deis
Tim and Linda Evans
Paul and Mikelleen Jones
Dwight and Lisa LeVan
Dennis and Louise Nelson
Ron and Kathy Ng
Corey and Carolyn Norton
Tom and Joanne Petty
Mark and Elizabeth Piscotty
John and Barbara Sharry
Bernie and Dottie Sherman

Birthdays

Joanne Abey
Chris Almeida
Pat Baker
Caitlin Beach
Rex Beach
Kathy Berger
Madison Bernstein
Dave Bing
Jessica Bohling
Elaine Bosserman
Alan Burnham
Kathy Chase
Darrell Christoff
Elaine Clary
Edison Cummings
Kathy Defenbaugh
Leila Epperson
Linda Evans
Don Faul
Nancy Grover
Ruth Hawley
Ryan Heath
Jeannette Jensen
Donna Koon
Wyatt Koon
Elizabeth Maczko
C.J. Malski
Holly McCammon
Jim McCarty
Nicholas McClendon
Aiden McKee
Caitlyne Miller
Chloe Molvik
Priya Nathan
Dennis Nelson
Kristina Ormond
Patti Paiso
Tanner Paiso
James Pettis
Peg Pettis
Kris Porter
Joseph Pyle
James Rigg
Anya Runnels

Cait Sanders
Eric Schell
Hailey Schultz
Jonathan Senge
Carolee Smith
Erica Squires
Jan Stevenson
Marc Stewart
Caleb Sughayar
Denise Sughayar
Jeff Wagoner
Michael Wakefield
Larry Wiley
Carol Wilson
Libby Wood
Philip Woolworth
Sue Worth
Cody Zabriskie
October 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
- 10:45 a.m. Children and Youth Choirs
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers, Rooms 11-12

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

Tuesdays
- 11:00 a.m. Loose Canons
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 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
- 4:00 p.m. Arthritis/Chronic Pain Group, Room 10
- 7:30 p.m. Faith Choir, Sanctuary

Thursdays
- 7:45 a.m. Men’s Bible Stud/Advent class, Room 11
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study, Heritage Estates
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Band, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

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

October 3, 2013 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

October 6, 2013 (Sunday)
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room

October 9, 2013 (Wednesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Fertile Groundworks, Conference Room

October 18, 2013 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

October 20, 2013 (Sunday)
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room

October 21, 2013 (Monday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Saigon Café, 2011 2nd Street, Livermore

October 24, 2013 (Thursday)
- 9:30 a.m. Sewing & Quilting Group
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-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Closed for lunch.

The deadline for the next Asbury Articles is
Thursday, October 24, 2013.