Serving Others With Love

Tri-Valley Haven Thrift Store Remodel

Our project to remodel the Tri-Valley Haven Thrift Store is off to a great start! We have completed construction of a new storage shed and renovated much of the front retail space. Since this store is needed as a positive source of income, we hope this work will help increase sales and provide a more positive shopping experience for their customers.

We will resume work on February 10, working several days per week to finish the front retail space. Consider joining us. Contact Steve Elliott, Roger Everett or Bob Hoffman for more details.
Kim’s Korner

My long-time friend, Charles, was in the jury pool for a capital murder trial. The defense and prosecution asked each person still in the pool one final question: What is your opinion of gun control?

Charles realized he had never really thought through his own opinion. In fact, he’d avoided taking sides. People he loved, held firm convictions on both sides of the issue. He himself had grown up in Tennessee, and had served in the military. Charles was still pondering all he had ever heard, read, and experienced regarding guns, when his name was called. What was his opinion of gun control? He struggled a bit for the words. The judge gently intervened: “You have to answer the question.” Charles sighed, and said he needed a moment just to be quiet. And after a moment, Charles spoke from his heart, and articulated his own stand on a complex and controversial subject.

I saw Charles later that evening, and he told me about this experience. I couldn’t help but notice that Charles was exhausted after the long day at court—and elated. It was hard work to put into words what he felt in his heart. And it felt so wonderful, even liberating, to do so. Living with integrity does that to us.

Listening to Charles, I realized that living a true life of faith means knowing what we truly believe—not just about current issues but also about eternal issues. Seems to me, that’s our ongoing assignment as people of faith. To live with integrity, we have to know what we believe, and we have to live what we believe. There is great joy in that way of living.

So, continuing into February, in worship on February 2 and 9, we’ll be exploring what we truly believe about Jesus. We’ll ask questions like: why does Jesus matter? What do we believe about what Jesus lived and taught? What about people who don’t follow Jesus, are they doomed? Does everyone have to follow Jesus in order to find joy, purpose, and meaning? Are God and Jesus the same?

Like my friend Charles, we will pause in order to Listen Deeply as we explore these questions. And may we also find the joy that comes from discovering new ways to live and love, as followers of Jesus.

See you in worship!

Kim

Celebration of Life Services

It is such a privilege as a community of faith to celebrate the life of the saints of God.

Two members of Asbury have died recently and we are going to be celebrating their lives and remembering their gifts of faith and devotion over the coming weeks.

Saturday, February 1, 2:00 p.m.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us as we hold a memorial for Jerry Sveen on Saturday, February 1 at 2:00 p.m. A long time member of Asbury, Jerry is survived by his five children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Saturday, March 1, 2:00 p.m.

On Saturday, March 1 at 2:00 p.m. we will be celebrating the life of Shirley Northrop. She and husband Allen moved to Livermore several years ago from Connecticut to be closer to family. Shirley is survived by husband Allen, three adult children and her grandchildren.

May God’s grace and peace surround the families and friends of these saints of God!
Trusts and Wills

Tuesday, March 4, 7:30 p.m.
On March 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, we have the opportunity to hear Jennifer Thaete, a local estate planning and probate attorney, discuss the benefits and some of the options of estate planning. She will review the primary options in creating an estate plan including: Trusts, Wills, Financial and Health Care Powers of Attorney. The presentation will review what a will is and how a will works, as opposed to a trust and how a trust works.

A general review of probate and estate taxes will be discussed. This entire presentation will be in plain English. All questions are welcome.
For more information, talk with Dave David, Dave Gamble, or Art Molvik.

Financial Peace University

Starting February 9, 3-5:00 p.m.
Asbury is proud to announce that Financial Peace University will be coming to our congregation. Beginning February 9 at 3:00 p.m. (class is approximately two hours long) and continuing for nine Sunday afternoon classes, we will study the fundamentals of budgeting and debt repayment.

Ron Logan, Bill Warren and Glenda Warren will lead the class to financial independence and the ability to live like NO one else - with financial health for the NEW YEAR. Dave Ramsey developed Financial Peace University years ago when he found himself bankrupt and out of work, and since then it has helped literally millions of Americans out of the debt nightmare. Learn the tools needed to take you from being broke every month—with little or no help in sight—to changing your life and gaining freedom from debt.

All three of the leaders have taken FPU recently and have changed their own ways of thinking about debt and budgeting and can’t wait to bring this education to Asbury.

The cost of the nine weeks of classes is $99.00 per couple, but there may be some opportunities for scholarships for those needing assistance. Contact Pastor Chuck for further information on the scholarships. At the first class, students will be given a large packet of information from FPU, including CDs, a workbook, and other very useful information. We look forward to beginning the nine week journey of evaluating debt and developing budgets and starting towards the goal of financial independence. What a great opportunity to start 2014 in the best financial shape of your lives. Join us soon!

Memorial Reception Team

Are you looking for a way to serve at Asbury? The Memorial Reception Team is always looking for workers to assist from time to time when a reception is held at Asbury. These receptions are so important to the families and it helps to make a sad time a little easier for them. There are several ways that you can help, and you can choose something that fits your time schedule. They include:

• Providing food - baked goods, fruit or veggie tray
• Set up - putting out tables, tablecloths and dishes
• Prep - making coffee and plating food
• Serving - keeping an eye on things during the reception
• Clean up - washing dishes and putting away food

Contact Nancy Grover, and she’ll add you to the list for the next time a reception is scheduled.
Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, February 6, 12:00 noon
Join us on Thursday, February 6 for the monthly senior/retiree luncheon. The cost is $5. You may sign up in the Fellowship Hall after worship or contact the office.

Celebrating Scout Sunday
Sunday, February 9, 2014
All young people (and adults) involved with Scouting are encouraged to wear their uniform to worship that Sunday. We are also looking for Scout volunteers to be involved with the service as greeters, acolytes, and ushers. If you would like to volunteer to serve in any of those positions, please contact Tony Gnecco or Tina Morris, or sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

Valentine’s Brunch
Sunday, February 16, 10:30 a.m.
Join us for a Valentine’s Brunch in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy some delicious food and wonderful company. This is open to everyone and there is no charge.

Ladies’ Night Out
Monday, February 17, 6:30 p.m.
Women of Asbury get together once each month for a time of fellowship and conversation at a local restaurant. All women are welcome. This month, they’ll be going to Roya Afghan Cuisine at 2020 1st Street in downtown Livermore.

RSVP to Nancy Grover or Joanne Petty so they have an idea of how many people are coming and can let the restaurant know ahead of time.

Women’s Retreat 2014
March 7-9, 2014
Pastor Kim Risedorph will lead our retreat at Westminster Retreat Center, Alamo. Our topic: Daughters of Eve: Cherished, Not Cursed.

Images and myths about Eve have not always been positive, and have not helped us know what it means to be God’s beloved daughter. We’ll look at the story again, to see what it really says. (Spoiler alert: there’s no apple in the story.) What else do we assume about Eve, and our identity as women, that’s not really true?

Join us for a weekend a meaningful and fun weekend, in a beautiful setting. Cost is $165, and scholarships are available.

Senior/Retiree Day Trip
Thursday, March 6, 2014
Seniors and retired members of Asbury will embark on a trip by bus to examine some of the most architecturally creative churches in the Bay Area.

Pastor Chuck will lead an exploration of four churches, reflecting four different Christian traditions. Starting with the Orthodox Cathedral in the Oakland hills we journey to the Lake Merritt region in downtown Oakland to see the new Catholic Cathedral along the lakeshore, then to Lake Merritt UMC for lunch and a tour, then across to San Francisco for a tour of Grace Cathedral.

The cost per person is $40 and this includes travel, lunch, some group contributions to the churches, and gratuity for the bus driver.

Sign ups have started and will continue until February 23. If seats on the 53 passenger bus are not full we’ll invite members of another local UMC congregation to consider joining us.

Sign up at Coffee Fellowship on Sundays or in the church office Contact Pastor Chuck for more information.

Murder’s Bad, But Monday Can Kill You!
March 15, 16, 21 and 22, 2014
Don’t miss this wisecracking whodunit by the popular playwright Pat Cook. Watch the clueless Sam Spade wannabe Harry Monday get totally committed to the case, when he gets called to Restful Glen after a patient is murdered. When Monday learns that two more victims were murdered at the same time, he quickly finds himself in over his head.

Help him out by solving the mystery yourself during the show. Like Monday says, “Clues are falling like cigarettes in the boys’ bathroom.” This show will keep you guessing until the last red herring is tossed out!

Performances at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22 and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, 2014

$10 general admission at church, at the door or online at www.AsburyLivePresents.com.

For more information, or to be part of Asbury Players, contact Barbara David.
Celebrate Community (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

**Jazz at Asbury**

**Saturday March 8, 7:00 p.m.**

Jazz Guitarist, Terrence Brewer, is coming to Asbury in early March. A multiple-Award winning artist Terrence Brewer is a first-call and in-demand bandleader, record producer, concert performer, studio musician, and one of the San Francisco Bay area’s foremost and sought after music educators. Brewer has produced and released eight nationally acclaimed albums (two releasing in February 2014) on the record label he started in 2005. Those albums have had several top 15 and top 10 appearances on the national jazz charts. Brewer has also performed to sold-out crowds at the Monterey Jazz Festival, Yoshi’s, and the SFJAZZ Jazz Festival.

Concert tickets may be purchased following worship starting on February 2. Cost is $15 in advance (and for students and seniors) and $20 at the door. Information and online ticket purchasing can be found at www.asburylevepresents.com.

Growing In Faith

**The Gifts of Imperfection**

**Starting Sunday, February 9**

Join Jim Culpepper and others for a five week class, starting February 9, after Sunday worship. You’ll be reading The Gifts Of Imperfection by Brene Brown, and exploring what it means to live an authentic and whole-hearted life. Sign up after worship or by calling the church office at 925-447-1950. The class will meet in the Fireside Room.

**Praying Our Goodbyes**

**Starting Tuesday, February 11**

“Praying Our Goodbyes” is a wonderfully written resource by Joyce Rupp – which provides ways of reflecting on loss and the accompanying grief that comes from the death of a loved one or friend, job loss, serious illness, broken relationships, and many other ways loss can be encountered.

Pastor Chuck will facilitate a seven week study and support group starting Tuesday, February 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Books will be provided for a modest cost at the first session.

Signups are limited to 12 people so please sign up soon. You can find information, a display copy of the book and the signup sheet on Sunday February 2 and 9 at Coffee Fellowship, or any weekday in the church office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information contact Pastor Chuck 925-447-1950. If you know someone outside the Asbury community who would benefit through this study please let them know.

**Lay Leaders 2014**

This year, we have three lay leaders serving at Asbury: Cory Coll, Martie Muldoon, Bill Groth. Each one will focus on a different part of our Core Values statement: Centered in Jesus Christ, we grow in faith, celebrate community and serve others with love.

Our hope is that by having a church lay leader focus on how we are living our core values, we will align the structure of our church with our core values. By doing this, we will be better able to fulfill our missions, which is to be followers of Jesus Christ, who transform the world.

Cory Coll will focus on: centered in Jesus Christ, we grow in faith. Martie Muldoon will focus on centered in Jesus Christ, we celebrate community. And Bill Groth will focus on: centered in Jesus Christ, we serve others with love.

Each of these lay leaders will be exploring how we are currently living our core values, and then will make recommendations as to how we can do even better.

Please feel free to contact them and share your insights and experiences. Please look for an opportunity to thank Cory, Martie, and Bill for serving in this way. And, please pray for them as we engage in this experiment.
Oklahoma Mission Trip

As you might recall, in May of 2013, a large area of central Oklahoma was hit by some of the worst tornadoes in history. The damage was significant and widespread. We are planning a mission trip to go assist with the rebuilding effort. We hope you might be interested in joining us.

We have arranged for a team to go to Oklahoma, April 5-12, 2014. We will be working at one of several possible locations near Oklahoma City. The specific work location and where we will be staying will be arranged about one month before the trip. For now, we just recruit our team and plan our travel. We will add in the details later.

The cost for the trip will be $600 to $700 per person, including airfare. For more information or to sign up contact Steve Elliott or Roger Everett.
Youth Happenings

What’s happening in February?

- **February 2** – No youth group – Super Bowl.
- **February 9** – Youth Mission fundraiser! UMW Luncheon & Fashion Show. Young ladies will model “vintage” clothing and young men (and women not modeling) will help as servers. Pizza will be provided as lunch for all helpers.
- **February 9** – Scout Sunday in worship. Scouts and Scout leaders are encouraged to wear their uniform to worship. No youth group because of the Fashion Show.
- **February 16** – Youth Groups meet 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **February 23** – Home Group dinner at the Smiths from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

How can I help?

We will need volunteers to prepare & serve dinner for about 25 youth and adults in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 on Sundays. The link to sign-up on TakeThemAMeal.com can be found HERE. Or go to TakeThemAMeal.com and enter Last Name = “Youth” and password = “4949”.

If you would like to help out in any way, please contact Tony Gnecco.

What’s coming up?

- **March 2** – Youth Mission fundraiser! Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.
- **June 29-July 5** – High School SSP trip to Stockon, CA.
- **July 6-11** – Toyon Kids grades 3rd-6th / Toyon LIT for 14 and 15 years olds. (Registration begins in mid-February)
- **July 13-18** – Camp Quest grades 7-9 / Impact LIT for 16-19 year olds. (Registration begins in mid-February)

SSP Shirts

If you went on SSP last summer in Susanville and didn’t get a t-shirt, please contact Tony. A few left-over shirts were found in the Youth Director’s office.

Children’s Ministry

There are two important items to note this month regarding children’s ministries at Asbury. First, church council has approved or is close to approval of a new Safety Policy. The policy will be available on the website. Anyone who volunteers with kids or youth will be asked to complete a criminal background check, a DMV check and to watch the safe sanctuary training video that will be sent to you in an emailed link.

We thank you for understanding the importance of having this policy in place and would appreciate your quick attention to the matter when you receive the email.

Second, First Aid and CPR training will be offered on Saturday, March 22. Our trainer is Sharon Grant. This is a six hour training. Upon completion, participants will be certified. There are only ten spaces available for the training. It is appropriate for those working with infants, children and youth. It is also appropriate for those who participate in mission trips or those who just want to have the skills and knowledge. Please contact Tina Morris to reserve your space.

We are currently taking applications for nursery workers. Please contact Tina if you are interested in part-time work.

**Note:** Club 45 will not meet on Sunday February 2.

*Tina Morris*
The Garden of Grace and Fertile GroundWorks

There’s a lot of growing, learning and service going on at Fertile GroundWorks, inside the Garden of Grace and beyond! The Garden of Grace Project, which started in the Asbury UMC community in 2010 and now moves forward in partnership and under the direction of Fertile GroundWorks, is making a positive difference in the lives of an ever-increasing number of people.

In the first half of 2013, twenty-two new in-ground raised beds were added to the Garden of Grace. Fertile GroundWorks staff and volunteers laid-out and formed over 2,800 square feet of new beds. Many of these beds were then double dug (to increase rooting depth) and amended with organic compost donated by The Newby Island Recyclery. Ten beds of tomatoes, three beds each of peppers and squash, and one bed of eggplant were planted April through July. The five remaining beds were planted with cool season crops during the late summer and early fall. In all, we now garden 70 beds totaling more than 9,000 square feet. Whew, too many numbers?

During the first half of 2013 a very generous anonymous donation in the Asbury Community was used to construct a remarkable well, which now provides irrigation water for the entire Asbury Campus as well as the Garden of Grace and the Asbury Flower and Community Gardens. 2013 also saw the influence of Fertile GroundWorks, grow beyond the Garden of Grace as we partnered with two local schools and another faith-based community. FGW helped St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church found their Big Heart Garden in the spring and we have been providing education, consulting and seedlings as Big Heart grows more self-sufficient. We also helped Village High School of Pleasanton and Emma Smith Elementary School in Livermore to revitalize and/or create new organic food gardens. The Village HS Food Garden is now an integral part of their vocational “Garden to Table” food-catering program and Judy Matthews, a dedicated FGW volunteer/Alameda County Master Gardener, provides ongoing support. Asbury member Michelle Rudd did some matchmaking between Fertile GroundWorks and the Emma Smith Elementary Science program which resulted in the creation of a new Science/Food garden. Both Michelle and FGW Volunteer Brenda Casey are working with Science Teacher Roya Husseini.

The Garden of Grace blesses many people in many different ways. Come and visit!

Our website lists our volunteer hours.
Christmas Thank You!

Thank you to 36 of our Asbury family who went Christmas caroling to senior members and friends of Asbury during our All-Church Christmas Caroling event on December 22, 2013.

A special thank you to adult and youth choir members who came along to provide strong musical leadership. Each group really sounded good!

Another thank you to the children and youth who came along and put a sparkle in the eye of many of our seniors.

Also, to the Asbury cookie bakers, who provided enough HOME MADE Christmas cookies for our Christmas Concert, that we could save some from that event, to give to the folks at the homes and residences that we visited.

Well done all! Thank you for your beautiful voices and gracious spirits. Also, a special thank you to our caroling-event photographer, Doug Webb.

With gratitude,

Jean Braun
Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries
Rex and Linda Beach
Chuk and Kellie Campos
Glen and Theresa Dawes
George and Ann Duff
Dean and Regina Juan
James and Kelly Pettis
John and Jan Stevenson
Ron and Lynn Tripp
Allan and Eve Van Lehn

Birthdays
Patti Arnold
Harry Bate
Dylan Bennett
Ashleigh Bohling
Laurie Cano
Keenan Christoff
Marc Christoff
Tanner Christoff
Anne Coll
Linda Culpepper
Christopher Danan
Barbara David
Theresa Dawes
Nancy Deis
Beth Giannotti
Joe Giannotti
Keri Gibson
Andy Grant
Leslie Hammer
Betty Holdener
Pam Howell
Nickolaus Item
Delaine Jantzen
Janet Johnson
Alec Kenward
Lori Kenward
Warren King
Virgil Koon
Susan Lambaren
Kathy Lee
Lyle Lee
Brittany Lord
Maris Medeiros
Jeff Molvik
Tina Morris
Ruby Mueller
Carolyn Norton
Kelly Pettis
Kelsey Pettis
Andy Pomykal
Margaret Price
Charles Runnels
John Sharry
Joel Spooner
Abdul Sughayar

Anniversaries and Birthdays
Laurance Suter
Brenda Sveen
Brady Taylor
Kimberly Wakefield
Otis Walton
Kayla Webber
Laura Whipple
Kevin Wiley
Cathy Yung
February 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
- 10:30 a.m. GIFT, Fireside Room
- 10:45 a.m. Children and Youth Choirs
- 10:45 a.m. The Gifts of Imperfection, Fireside Room (starts February 9)
- 3:00 p.m. Financial Peace University (starts February 9)
- 5:30 p.m. Club 45
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 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 Study, Room 11
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study, Heritage Estates
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit
- 7:00 p.m. SGG, Room 6
- 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. AA, Rooms 11-12

February 1, 2014 (Saturday)
- 9:00 a.m. CPR/First Aid Training, Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Jerry Sveen Memorial Service, Sanctuary

February 2, 2014 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Meet the Pastors, Fireside Room

February 6, 2014 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

February 8, 2013 (Saturday)
- 9:00 a.m. CPR/First Aid Training, Conference Room

February 9, 2014 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 13
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room
- 12:00 p.m. UMW “Sweet Memories” Luncheon, FH

February 10, 2014 (Monday)
- 9:30 a.m. UMW Morning Glories Circle, Fireside Room

February 11, 2014 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room

February 13, 2014 (Thursday)
- 8:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Room 8

February 16, 2014 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Valentines Brunch, Fellowship Hall

February 17, 2014 (Monday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Roya Afghan Cuisine, 2020 1st Street

February 21, 2014 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH

February 27, 2014 (Thursday)
- 9:30 a.m. Sewing & Quilting Group
- 8:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry
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, February 20, 2014.