Happy Fall!

As the days grow shorter, Fertile Groundworks is working to continue providing food to our community year round. The coming weeks will be transformative, as we do the final harvests of our summer crops, remove the plants, amend the beds and put in the fall crops. Novice and master gardener work side by side. It is a lot of work but very satisfying and the more the merrier so feel free to bring your friends! If you have a group who can, come please let us know. We’d love to have them!

We will be adding 1:30-4:00 p.m. afternoon shifts to our regularly scheduled 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday volunteer days. We also welcome garden volunteers Friday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. and the first, second and third Saturday mornings of the month (9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.).

Come for a whole shift or an hour or two. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Happy gardening!
Chelsea’s Contemplations

One of the questions that I have been asked frequently in the past few months is, "How is the transition to Asbury going?"

I am deeply appreciative of the thoughtfulness, care, and love that inspires such a question! The love in this community has made this transition beautiful and delightful.

As you may know, I came to Asbury directly from Duke Divinity School. And I went to Duke Divinity School directly from Tulane University, went to Tulane directly from high school and so on. This is the first time in 25 years that I have not been in school.

The rhythm of school is different than the rhythm of working full-time. The rhythm of school moved semester to semester. In that rhythm I would sprint through work without taking much break. I would immerse myself in my work, knowing that in just a few months’ time the semester would be over and I could come up for air, spend a month filling my lungs and my soul so that I had the breath to dive deep into work again the next semester.

One of the biggest transitions into full-time ministry at Asbury for me has been learning that this rhythm does not translate. There is no longer a set time to come up for air and find rest, and so I have learned how important it is for me to find time every day to stop and to breath.

These moments feed my soul and rejuvenate me, there are moments where I experience the Divine and feast upon God's grace. For me this often means finding time to read for pleasure each day. It means sitting down and having a meaningful and distraction-free conversation with a loved one. It means listening to music and being drawn by the words into meditation of God.

I admit, these intentional spaces of rejuvenation in my day are often simply moments. I may only have 10 or 15 minutes to devote to them. Yet even when they are short, they are times when I feel God's breath of life being breathed into me and my soul being refreshed.

Life is not a sprint, but a long journey. If we don’t take the time to care for ourselves and rejuvenate along the journey we become exhausted, weary, and unhealthy.

As the holidays approach it is easy to get caught up in the busyness and the bustle. It is easy for this time of joy and celebration to turn into a time of stress and exhaustion. I encourage us all to find time every day, be it an hour or ten minutes, to do something that feeds and renews the soul. Find a time to meet God wherever it is that you experience the Divine, in a book, on a hike, in a warm cup of tea, listening to music.

Let your soul be renewed by the grace you find there, let your lungs be filled by the Divine breath of life you find there.

Raise An “Amen!”

Asbury Family, would you please consider saying “amen” or being silent instead of applauding choirs or soloists in worship?

Often, as a song is ending, there is a beautiful moment that happens – the final chord rests, a prayerful connection made. Would you not applaud? Would you savor the moment? Would you let that song be a prayer, on your behalf, to God?

Telling musicians, or anyone leading worship, of your appreciation can still happen – after worship. Choir directors, even for the youngest choirs, have talked to their singers about their contribution to worship. It’s not a concert. Raising an Amen, which means “so be it”, puts your agreement on the prayer that was just offered. As one of the children in my Chorister’s Guild magazine put it, "Don't stomp on the magic". Savor the moments.

Thank you. – Jean Braun
Asbury Annual Church Conference

Sunday, November 30, 11:30 a.m.
On Sunday, November 30, at 11:30, we will gather as a congregation for our annual church conference in the Fireside Room. Reverend Dan Sturdivant will preside. At this gathering, we will celebrate the year just passed, and look ahead to 2015. We will vote in new church leaders, and approve the compensation packages for our pastors. All are invited to attend, and all church members have a vote.

Save The Dates!

December 7, 7:00 p.m.: Asbury Christmas Concert – in the Sanctuary
December 14, 5:30 p.m.: Asbury Christmas Pageant – in the Sanctuary. Will be followed by a soup and sandwich supper in the Fellowship Hall.

Asbury’s Annual Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 14, 5:30 p.m.
Featuring Asbury Kids and Youth: "The Light of the World" by Mark Patterson

Practice Schedule
November 9: Sign Up for Pageant Parts and Prelude Numbers (Chapel)
November 16: Rehearsal during SS, All (Chapel)
November 23: Rehearsal during SS, Speaking Parts/Choirs (Chapel)
December 7: Rehearsal during SS, Speaking Parts/Choirs (Chapel) Please pick up costumes in Room 14.
December 11: Rehearsal 5:30-7:00 p.m., Speaking Parts/Choirs (Sanctuary)
December 13: Dress Rehearsal 2:00-4:00 p.m., Everyone (Sanctuary)
December 14: Rehearsal during SS, Everyone (Chapel)

Johnstone Equity Share Paid Off

When Chuck and Lou Johnstone were buying a house shortly after being assigned to Asbury, the church helped them out by providing $54,800 as an Equity Share loan. The house appreciated in value from when it was purchased so Chuck and Lou have returned $65,202 to the church.

Based on a recommendation from the Finance Committee, Church Council voted to use roughly half of this payment, $33,000, to help pay off the loan on the Fellowship Hall. This has reduced the principal on the loan to just over $82,000. With the continued commitment to paying off this loan, we could easily finish the task sometime in 2015!
Youth Happenings

Youth Happenings for November 2014

- **November 2**: Youth Group 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **November 9**: Youth Group 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **November 15-16**: Lock-in! 2:00 p.m. Saturday-10:00 a.m. Sunday
- **November 16**: No Youth Group
- **November 23**: Youth Group 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **November 30**: No Youth Group

Fall Lock-in

All Middle and High School Youth are invited to a fall lock-in in November 15-16. The lock-in will begin at Asbury at 2:00 p.m. on November 15 and finish after church on November 16. During the lock-in we will head down to Los Altos UMC for a Youth 2015 Tour Stop, a high energy, inspirational 90 minutes of music, message, and hip-hop for youth! We need to arrange tickets and drivers in advance, so please let Chelsea know by November 7 if you are coming! Along with the Tour Stop our lock-in will include midnight bowling, s’mores, and fun time together. Hope you can come!

Parents, we do need drivers down to Los Altos and to midnight bowling. If you can drive for one or both activities please let me know.

Children’s Ministry

Greetings Asbury families. During November our kids will be using the Buzz curriculum to Grow in Faith with special lessons from the Old Testament. Our offering each Sunday will go to help support the shower ministry as we seek to Serve Others with Love. Parents, did you know the kids spend time each Sunday in a worshipful attitude wherein they pray, celebrate “things that make them happy”-Joys and “things that make them sad”-Concerns? They also pass an offering basket around. Please help us teach our kids the importance of sharing their gifts. A few coins each Sunday would be appreciated and make a difference. Thank you!

This month we will also begin working on the Christmas Pageant. The 2014 pageant is called *The Light of the World* by Mark Patterson. It is a lovely depiction of the Christmas story that helps us remain Centered in Jesus Christ. The pageant is a multigenerational affair, and as such, is a way we Celebrate Community. All the children and youth choirs will be performing. Our director this year is the talented Chloe Bennett with Rich and Jackie Bennett serving as assistant directors. Parents, please mark your calendars with the dates on page 3 of the Articles. We have worked hard to limit rehearsals and to make the best use of Sunday School time. We do, however, need to have a couple of rehearsals outside of Sunday School time, so I hope you will make this a priority. The pageant is a special way for kids to experience and share the story of the birth of Jesus. We hope everyone, not just parents, will plan to attend.

Looking for a way to get involved? We would love some help with the soup and sandwich supper, running the lights and preparing the program. Please contact Chloe if you would like to help out. You don’t even need to have a child in the pageant to help. Everyone is welcome!

Thank you for sharing your kids with us. It is a joy to be with them a small part of each week.

Peace and Joy,

Tina Morris

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Club 45 meets November 2 and 16 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Bring a Friend!
Celebrate Community

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday November 6, 12:00 p.m.
If you’re a senior or a retiree, please come join us in the Fellowship Hall to have a delicious lunch and enjoy some fellowship. Cost is $5 per person.

Ladies’ Night Out
Monday November 3, 6:30 p.m.
It’s a new night! Ladies of Asbury, let’s get together for an evening out at a local restaurant. This month, we’ll be going to Lanna Thai (www.lannathailivermore.com), in Livermore. The restaurant is located at 2270 Las Positas Road, right off 580 next to Cold Stone. If you plan to attend, please RSVP with Nancy Grover so they can tell them how many to expect.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 23, 4:30 p.m.
With gratitude, we will gather as an interfaith community, Sunday November 23, 4:30 p.m. at St. Augustine Church in Pleasanton (3999 Bernal Avenue), for an interfaith Thanksgiving worship service. Representatives from Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Christian faith communities will share music, readings, and reflections on how their tradition gives thanks. A reception will follow.

Asbury Scout Achievements

Troop 900 (the Boy Scout troop sponsored by Asbury) held its Fall Court of Honor on September 29 in the Asbury Chapel. Below are the three Scouts from Asbury who were awarded merit badges at the ceremony:

- Austin Gnecco – Cinematography, Environmental Science*, Geology, Photography, Space Exploration
- Joey Campos – Chess, Rifle Shooting
- Ralph Miller – Chess, Citizenship in the World*

*Eagle requirement

Please congratulate these young men when you see then at church.

The troop would like to thank Asbury for being generous hosts to the troop and their activities. The troop would also like to remind you that their Christmas Tree Lot (on East Ave. at Hillcrest) will be opening the weekend after Thanksgiving.
Where To Go From Here?

A Call To Welcome All
Written by Bill Groth and Larry Wiley, on behalf of the Tuesday Night Small Group

Our small group of fourteen has been meeting for several months and recently completed our second Adam Hamilton book, “Confronting the Controversies”. We’d like to suggest that other small groups and perhaps individual church members take some time to explore the issue that we addressed during our most recent meetings: homosexuality and the United Methodist Church.

During some of our meetings, members of our group shared extremely personal experiences and feelings that came straight from their hearts. It was deeply moving to realize how trusting in one another our members had become. As we discussed the chapter, Homosexuality, it was clear that group members had very strong feelings about this subject and, for some, those feelings stemmed from personal experiences.

During our discussions on sexual orientation and gender identity, some of us discovered that three or more years ago, members of Asbury addressed the question of our becoming a reconciling church but put the matter on a back burner. The Reconciling Networks Ministry seeks to bring about a more inclusive church by having congregations go through a process to become Reconciling Congregations. A Reconciling Congregation is publically and fully open to all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We learned that some of our group members have gay family members, including children, who are deeply loved. We learned that there are churches in Livermore that do accept homosexuals with absolutely no limitations, and that the Walnut Creek United Methodist Church is a reconciling church. We were aware that here at Asbury there are members who oppose the idea of becoming a reconciling church and who believe that homosexuality is wrong and that the Bible teaches against it. We discussed the fact that the church’s Book of Discipline prohibits gay marriages within the church, the performance of same sex marriages by Methodist clergy and the ordination of gays and lesbians. We argued that our church is a welcoming church and that homosexual persons are loved and invited to be members of our church. We concluded that isn’t enough.

Although there are verses in the Bible that speak against ancient understandings of homosexuality, Jesus did not. There are many cultural practices and positions prohibited or promoted by the Bible that society today views totally differently (such as slavery, women’s role in church and the use of violence). Times, mores, and understandings have changed. Loving one another has not changed and never will. If we receive someone with open arms and simultaneously tell them, “There are certain behaviors of yours that we find disqualify you from marriage within the church and from ordination,” are we still loving and accepting or are we judging? Jesus described love of neighbor as unconditional.

Time is passing and we really cannot afford to continue to avoid this issue. We may be failing to serve certain members of our community as well as not receiving from them special contributions that they could bring to us. We recommend that our congregation re-examines its position on this issue. We encourage and urge other groups and other members to rekindle these issues, study our Bibles and pray, carry out discussions by opening anew our minds and hearts, and considering again changing our existing position. We recognize and understand that this is an extremely sensitive and complicated matter, and we do not wish to bring any harm to Asbury UMC. We wish to discern the path to take in order to make our church stronger and more loving than it already is.

Join us in this conversation Sunday, November 9, 7-8:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We are a community with different perspectives on this topic, and all voices are needed in order to go forward as a community. Please join us, and add your voice!
Serving Others With Love

Hospitality at Asbury

Asbury Friends, if you have an extra umbrella, please would you consider donating it to us? On rainy Sundays our youth and Greeters would like to keep folks dry as they walk from the parking lot to the sanctuary. Drop off any umbrellas in room 7, Tina’s office or in the church office. Thank you.

A special thanks goes out to our Ushers and Greeters. Along with all of you, they do a wonderful job making sure we are welcoming guests to God’s House in a radically hospitable manner. Did you know a visitor will decide within 7 minutes whether or not they will return to a new church? Let's all do our part to make everyone feel welcome. You may notice that our ushers are making an effort to seat all of you. We do this so that it becomes a regular part of our hospitality and it feels natural to us; especially at times when we have a lot of visitors. Please help them out, if they bring someone to your pew, please scoot to the middle. That is so much more welcoming than having them climb over your legs and feet. Thank you!

You may also notice that one of the greeters is overseeing the parking lot area. What a nice way to say “welcome” right away. Additionally, some of our greeters are serving a few minutes after worship at the Visitor Welcoming Table. Everett and Lily White are responsible for the welcome table and are appreciative of any help.

Finally, our Beverage and Bagel servers are two dedicated groups that make sure we have food and drinks to offer our guests. Would you do less if you had guests in your home?

All four of these ministry areas are important and actually fun. If you are interested in volunteering in any of these areas, please let Tina know. We can always use some extra help.

Footnote: most folks who return to Asbury say they did so because the people here are so friendly. You already do a wonderful job at welcoming others. We just need some additional help in these intentional ministry areas.

Stephen Ministry Training Class Begins in January

Looking for a way to make a difference? Searching for a way to deepen your own spiritual journey and grow in faith? Consider training to be a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministers provide confidential, Christian-based, one-on-one care to people in transition or pain. Our new class begins in January 2015. See Pastor Kim, Sharmyn Crawford, Dale Boercker, Jan Stevenson or Michele Rudd for an application or more details.

Holiday Events with Tri Valley Haven

Once again we open our campus, and partner with Tri Valley Haven for their holiday events. Starting the first week in November, TVH volunteers will be on campus to prepare Thanksgiving food baskets that will be given away. These events will be in rooms 10-12.

In December, there will be an additional opportunity for you to be involved by volunteering in the gift bazaar, or donating gifts for this event. Those sign ups will begin in mid-November.

Thank you for being a congregation that seeks to serve others with love!
Asbury Youth Enjoy Tasty Tour of Garden

Sunday, October 5th, Asbury youth and leaders enjoyed a taste testing tour of the Garden of Grace. Fertile Groundworks’ Bruce Campbell provided a tour of the Garden and facilities, talked about the Garden’s purpose and answered questions along the way. Youth and leaders picked and ate a variety of tomatoes, black-eyed peas, kale and even an heirloom Italian Red Torpedo Onion!

Just one week earlier San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church Youth and Leaders toured the Garden and helped plant broccoli and cabbage.

October 12 marked the last Garden of Grace love offering for the year. As the days grow shorter, Fertile Groundworks is working to continue providing food to those in need year round. The coming weeks will be transformative, as we do the final harvests of our summer crops, remove the plants, amend the beds and put in the fall crops. Novice and master gardener work side by side. It is a lot of work but very satisfying and the more the merrier so please join us and bring your friends!

We will be adding 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. afternoon shifts to our regularly scheduled 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday volunteer days. We also welcome garden volunteers Friday afternoons from 3:00-5:30 p.m. and the first, second and third Saturday mornings of the month (9:00-12:00 p.m.). Come for a whole shift or an hour or two during any of these times, as your schedule permits. Looking forward to seeing you all there.
Asbury UMW Celebrate Graduation

Christine was 12 years old (photo at right) when the UMW women of Asbury became her Mums. Christine had been living on the streets of Kampala (her parents had died). She was brought into Dwelling Place where the UMW sponsored her by helping pay for her keep and education. Each birthday and Christmas a package of gifts was sent to Christine from her Mums, letting her know that she was a special young girl.

She learned how to use a knitting machine and the UMW helped her to buy one so she could make sweaters and scarves and sell her work. Many of you bought sweaters and scarves that were sent here through missionaries. Christine had hopes of going to college, but those around didn’t think she could do it.

She took the tests, passed, and went on to learn about marketing. She graduated from college on October 17, 2014. UMW is so proud of her.

She is now getting contracts to make sweaters for schools that require their students to have a uniform that includes a sweater.

At age, 20, Christine has become an amazing young woman, a Christian and is a role model for other children.

Asbury Stewardship

On October 26, 2014, we began a sermon series: Treasure: A Stewardship Program on Faith and Money. We are discussing and studying Jesus’ words about giving from the Sermon on the Mount, in which he said “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

We are offering small groups and daily devotions so we can learn from God and each other as we ponder how our spending, saving and giving decisions reflect our values and our faith. We are providing several ways for you to join in the discussion:

- Receiving a daily devotional on your e-mail or on Asbury’s Facebook page. (The first will be sent on October 26, 2014.)
- Join Pastor Kim for a weekly discussion following worship, 10:30 a.m. in Fireside Room
- Join Pastor Chelsea for an online weekly discussion

This will culminate on November 16, 2014 when we will make our commitments for the coming year, then move to the Fellowship Hall for a Celebration Brunch, put on by our Fellowship and Stewardship Teams. Stay tuned for more details.

The Stewardship Team,
Art Molvik, Elizabeth Piscotty, Dick Crawford, Kim Risedorph
Anniversaries and Birthdays

Anniversaries
Paul and Karen Bauman
Alan and Mary Burnham
Dave and Barbara David
Patrick and Leila Epperson
Michael and Rebecca Kohlmoos
Roy and Susan Lambaren
Tom and Marilyn Miller
Art and Kathy Molvik
Bobb and Carolee Smith
Marc and Joy Stewart
Jeff and Susan Wagoner

Birthdays
Suzy Almeida
Dorothy Leonard Beatty
Henry Bell
Rich Bennett
Katie Bing
Dave Boercker
Aubrey Bonetti
Dave Braun
Bill Cain
Frieda Cain
Josef Campos
George Duff
Morgan Ebbitt
Laura Evans
Doug Fedder
Carol Gordon
Brian Grant
Herb Guidry
Jocelyn Hart
Renee Haugen
Melanie Henderson
Scott Henderson
Matthew Hewitt
Katie Hinz
Coleman Johnson
Mikeileen Jones
Felicia Juan
Sara Lakamsani
Teri Lambert
Kayla LeVan
Jackie Loyd
P.J. Malski
Suzie McClung
Joe Medeiros
Gabe Meeker
Tom Miller
Kathleen Mitchell
Carole Nakanishi
Ron Ng
Jonas Pauliukonis
John Pettis
Joanna Raskauskas
Kris Raskauskas
Vicky Ringleb
Michele Rudd
Larry Sanford
Jackie Schlientz
Darrin Schrader
Dennis Siebers
Wes Stark
Evan Sughayar
Herb Thomas
Madeline Turk
Patrick Wagoner
Shawn Wagoner
Matt Warren
Sheri Watkins
Philip Weiss
Emily Yu
November 2014 Calendar

Please visit the Asbury website calendar for the latest updates: http://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
- 10:30 a.m. Children and Youth Choirs
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Asbury Ringers, Rooms 11-12

Tuesdays
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, 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
- 7:30 p.m. Faith Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursdays
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

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

November 2, 2014 (Sunday)
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room
- 5:30 p.m. Club 45, Room 9

November 3, 2014 (Monday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Lanna Thai, 2270 Las Positas Road, Livermore

November 6, 2014 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

November 9, 2014 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room

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

November 16, 2014 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room
- 5:30 p.m. Club 45, Room 9

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

November 23, 2014 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room

November 25, 2014 (Tuesday)
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room

November 27, 2014 (Thursday)
- 9:30 a.m. Sewing/Quilting Group, Rooms 11 & 12
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested

Asbury UMC Staff
Pastor
Chelsea Constant
Pastor
Kim Risedorph
Children's Ministry Director
Tina Morris
Youth Director
Chelsea Constant
Music Director
G. Allen Schell
Choir Coordinator
Jean Braun
Secretary
Terri Gamble
Facilities Use Manager
Mitchie McCammon
Nursery Coordinator
Pam Tegge

Livermore Community Blood Drive
Friday, November 21, 1:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

We need you! If you’re 17 or older and in good health (or 16 with parental consent), please call Tom Petty for more information about donating blood, or sign up at redcrossblood.org and use sponsor Code: ASBURY925. Thank you for helping to save a life by giving blood!

Download the free app by going to http://3cu.be/blood!

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, November 20, 2014.