The Asbury Players Present: Suite Surrender

It’s 1942, and two of Hollywood’s biggest divas have descended upon the luxurious Palm Beach Royale Hotel—assistants, luggage, and legendary feud with one another in tow. Everything seems to be in order for their wartime performance...that is, until they are somehow assigned to the same suite. Mistaken identities, overblown egos, double entendres, and a lap dog named Mr. Boodles round out this hilarious riot of a love note to the classic farces of the 30s and 40s.

Join the fun at Asbury and watch as the Asbury Players perform this madcap play.

On opening night, April 9 at 6:00 p.m., enjoy dinner prepared by the Fellowship Team—cost is $7/person.

Performance Times:
- Saturday, April 9, 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 10, 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 15, 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 16, 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday April 17, 2:00 p.m.

Asbury United Methodist Church • 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550 • 925-447-1950 • www.AsburyLive.org
As we move into Resurrection Living, we have ample opportunities to be aware of God’s Presence, right here with us. One of the ways we try to do that at Asbury is by being a community where all are welcomed.

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charleston SC, has a laminated card in the pews that reminds us to welcome families with children, even if the children get antsy in worship. Here’s what it says:

“TO THE PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST…

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don’t feel you have to suppress it in God’s house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what’s going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others’ heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the Service and actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me.’

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in their house of worship.

TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing.

Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.”

I especially like the reminder to “give a smile of encouragement to their parents.” We can do this, as we seek to be a place where all are welcomed.

After church a few Sundays ago, an occasional visitor made a point of finding me and saying how welcomed he felt each time he came to worship. It meant a great deal to him.

Thank you, Asbury, for being a place where all are welcome!

Blessings,
Pastor Kim

Building an Inclusive Church

Sunday, April 10, 10:30 a.m.

Open Forum on Reconciling on Sunday, April 10. Stay in the Sanctuary directly after worship for an opportunity to share your thoughts and listen to others on the possibility of Asbury becoming a Reconciling Congregation and join the Reconciling Ministries Network.

The forum will be led by Pastor Kim and Rev. Dick Ernst. Child care will be available. Bagels and coffee will still be served in the Fellowship Hall after this forum.
Ladies’ Night Out
Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m.
This month we will be going to Casbah Mediterranean Kitchen (www.casbahexotic.com) located at 1770 First Street (near the Vine Cinema). All ladies of Asbury are invited. Please let Nancy Grover know if you plan to attend so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect.

Senior/Retiree Luncheon
Thursday, April 7, 12:00 p.m.
All seniors and retirees are invited to attend the luncheon on April 7 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is $5 per person. Please sign up after worship or call the church office at 925-447-1950. For more information, please contact Mitchie McCammon at home.

Tapestry Handbell & Vocal Ensemble
Saturday, May 14, 7:00 p.m.
Tapestry will be performing “The Brilliance of Broadway” at Asbury UMC in the Sanctuary. Come enjoy a performance of combined handbells and voice.

Dear Asbury Family,
Thank you so much for being there for us. We would not have made it through the last few months without you.
Your prayers, calls, cards, meals, and monetary assistance supported us throughout a very difficult time. Most of all you’re listening and hugs meant so much to us.
We thank God for all of you.
Frank and Kris Raskauskas
Happy Spring! Lent and Easter was a very special time for us all as a community as we colored Lenten posters, created by Adam Walker Cleveland, stuffed Easter eggs together, waved palms to the altar, enjoyed our First Performing Arts Showcase with an Old Fashion Church Potluck Dinner, listened to the Easter Story in a variety of ways, decorated egg hunt bags, hunted for New Life Easter Eggs, and last but not least created “Jesus Gives Us New Life” butterflies.

Children and Sunday School Teachers have ended their insightful exploration of Jesus’ Parables. Thank you again to Sharmyn Crawford who wrote 22 resourceful and inspiring deeper looks into each of the Parables we spent time with. We are beginning a new journey through a Joyful Path Curriculum where we will be blessed by exploring who God is, Jesus showing us the way to God, finding God in nature, within ourselves and all around us. It will be a thought-provoking and joyful time together.

According to Safe Sanctuary best practices, children in grades three through five may sign themselves in and out of Sunday School. Children in the Nursery and in the Pre-K through second grade class need to be signed in and out by their parent, guardian, or authorized adult.

**Wanted: Sunday School Assistant Teacher and Summer Sunday School Teachers** — Children’s Ministry is looking for an Assistant Sunday School Teacher to assist a Lead Teacher once a month in the grades 3-5, located in room 4. We are also looking for Summer Sunday School Youth and Adult Teachers to add to our regular Teachers so we all have opportunities to enjoy summertime worship services and activities. Please contact Jackie Bennett if you would like to serve others in this life changing Ministry.

**Vacation Bible School** — Preparations are under way for Asbury’s VBS, July 25-29 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., with a lunch following our closing program on Friday. This experience is designed for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade.

We will be exploring the theme “Christmas in July” with a variety of meaningful experiences of God through fellowship, arts and crafts, science, food, recreation, bible stories, music, and serving others with love. This will be our second year creating our own VBS “outside of the box” experience led by our imaginative team duo Barbara David and Nancy Deis.

Last year, we had a wonderful time experiencing Holy Spirit led created curriculum as it radiated a unique excitement throughout the entire week, while building beautiful lifetime memories and relationships with each other and God.

Please let Jackie Bennett know if you are a youth or an adult interested in volunteering to let the light of Christ shine through you to make this an incredible experience of God for the children of our loving community. Nursery care will be provided for volunteers with children under the age of four. Registration forms for campers and volunteers are available online on our website and in our church office.

**United Methodist Summer Camps**: Grades 3 and up:
- Lodestar, July 17-23: Super Kid, Lodestar L.I.T, Super Camp

Camp registration opened February 2016 at www.cnumc.org/youthministries.

Peace and Blessings,
Jackie Bennett
Director of Children’s Ministry

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**Youth Ministries**

**Youth Events, April 2016**
- **April 3**: No Youth Group
- **April 10**: Youth Group 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **April 17**: Youth Group 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **April 24**: Youth Group 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Asbury Women’s Retreat

April 22-24, 2016

Signups continue for our upcoming Women’s Retreat at beautiful San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, CA, April 22-24.

The title for this year’s retreat is “God-Sighting: Looking for God in every crack of light, every petal of beauty, in unexpected places, even in the dark.”

Retreat Leader is Pastor Marylee Scheffer, from Lafayette UMC. Pastor Kim first met Marylee in seminary, and continues to appreciate the joy, authenticity and humor Marylee brings to the spiritual journey. We are in for a treat with Marylee as our retreat leader.

By way of introduction, Marylee wrote: “I live and pastor in Lafayette and before that was appointed to serve two little churches in Scott Valley, just below the Oregon border. I loved living in the country but I’m very happy to live in the Bay Area again. My husband and I and our dog, Zelda, love to explore parks and walking trails in our area. My favorite places to walk are near water. I also like knitting (although I’m not very skilled); cooking; and helping people find God in the midst of life.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall after worship, or call the church office to register: 925-447-1950.

Circles for Change Update

Circles for Change is off to a great start to help our neighbors who are coping with poverty! We have expanded the program to include more motivated folks in need of community support. That has created an opportunity to include more Allies.

If you are interested in giving 4-8 hours a month to walk alongside people who have committed to achieving financial stability and changing their lives, I invite you to join us. We also welcome people interested in volunteering in our childcare and tutoring programs.

Contact Shana at Director@circlesforchangetrivalley.org for more details. Stay up-to-date on our progress and how to get involved by liking our Facebook page (facebook.com/circlesforchange) and following us on Twitter, @Circles4Change.
Last Call for the Mission Trip to Weed

April 30-May 7, 2016

We have ten people registered with more in the works! Consider joining us as we travel to Weed, California (near Mount Shasta) to help rebuild from the so called “Boles Fire,” which destroyed half of the town and much of the surrounding area. The California Nevada Conference is sponsoring a long term recovery effort.

We will carpool to the area on Saturday, April 30 and return on Saturday, May 7, 2016. It is roughly a five hour drive.

We will be preparing our own meals and staying at the Mount Shasta United Methodist Church. The church has sleeping rooms, a kitchen, gathering areas and showers. The cost of the trip will be $150 to $200. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Steve Elliott or stop by the Serve Others Table after worship. Hurry! Registrations are due by Sunday, April 10, 2016.

Asbury to help with Refugee Resettlement

Asbury, Lynnewood and San Ramon Valley UMC have formed a task force to sponsor resettlement of refugee families. We anticipate the arrival of our first family after May 1. We are teaming with Catholic Charities on this new ministry.

We will help with the following: housing, home furnishings, stocking food pantry, clothing, school enrollment, job search, English language tutoring, transportation, medical, dental, mentoring and socialization.

At present, we are fundraising and soliciting volunteers to help. If you would like to help financially, give to Asbury UMC, noting “Refugees” on your donation. If you would like to know more about giving of your time, contact Steve Elliott for more information.

Sign Up for Livermore Community Action Day

Saturday, April 23, 2016

On Saturday, April 23, Asbury will be participating in the Livermore Community Action Day. We will be providing volunteers to assist with projects at the historic Hagemann Farm. This is an activity for the whole family! Most of the work will be in the morning with lunch to follow.

While more details will be available soon, consider signing up! This will be a great way to give back to our community. Stop by the Serve Others with Love table after worship.

Join Us at Habitat in April

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Our next Saturday workday is April 16 at the Muir Ridge Project in Martinez. No experience is necessary- just a willingness to help and learn. The work on the first ten homes is now mostly interior work. Youth aged 16 and older can work on construction and are encouraged to participate.

Half the volunteers and crew leaders are female, so this is not just a guy thing.

Work at the site starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends by 4:00 p.m. We carpool from Asbury, leaving at 7:40 a.m. from the parking lot by the office building. For information or to sign up come to the Serve Others with Love Table after worship, or contact Bob Hoffman.

Volunteer at Open Heart Kitchen this Month

One of the most rewarding things we do is offer a nice “home cooked” meal to those who need one. Volunteers are needed at Asbury every Tuesday and Wednesday.

In addition, an Asbury UMC team covers two shifts, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., on the first Wednesday each month. Our next date is April 6. For more info stop by the Serve Others with Love table after worship or contact Bill Groth.
Asbury’s 2015 Finance Update

The Finance Committee would like to offer this summary of the past year’s spending, hoping that it will give people an overview of how Asbury has used the money it received in 2015.

First some explanation is in order. We distinguish between money that a donor gives to Asbury for a specific purpose, and money that is given “with no strings attached”. The former is called restricted funds and can only be used for the purpose that the donor has designated. Examples include the various special offerings, UMCOR and the New Building Fund. Funds that Asbury receives which do not have a specific purpose (for example; loose plate offering, most pledged income and corporate matching funds) is termed General Funds and goes to pay the various line items in our general budget.

With this distinction, we turn first to the General Funds accounts, which received $581,811 in 2015. This money was applied in the following general areas:

- UM Church Support $65,145
- Mission $11,500
- Asbury Programs Support $34,968
- Administration/Office $23,875
- Utilities/Maintenance $111,452
- Salaries $301,606
- Unspent Surplus $33,265

In the above, the money we budgeted for UM church support is more typically called apportionments, and is sent to the greater Methodist church to pay for Asbury’s share of the district and conference expenses, as well as some of the mission work of the larger church.

The largest portion of the Administration/office expense is the cost of the copier lease ($11,909), but this area also includes IT support, office supplies and the occasional computer upgrades for staff.

The Utilities/maintenance area is a large expense, but includes such big items as utilities ($34,164), insurance ($17,259), and janitorial and pest control services ($12,210). This year, it also included the cost of new HVAC systems for the chapel, nursery and lower elementary buildings.

Finally, although the unspent money is less than 6% of the total funds received, it was unusually high in 2015. This resulted primarily through savings in salaries. We have moved from having 2.5 full time pastors/youth minister 3 years ago, to 1.75 full time positions today.

As mentioned above, in addition to the General Funds contributions, Asbury also received money during the year for specific projects. Referred to as the Restricted Funds, we currently have over 60 individual accounts containing donations given for programs such as VIM, UMCOR, backpack project, the shower ministry, and many more. These accounts also include the Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and other special offerings throughout the year.

Although they are diverse, a rough grouping of donations to Restricted Funds in 2015 can be summarized as:

- Mission Related $180,544 $138,944
- Asbury Program Related $36,107 $43,773
- Fellowship Hall Debt Retirement $72,815 $72,815

For the Restricted Funds the income and the amount spent usually do not match in any given year. This is because money set aside for these programs can carry over from year to year. For example, the program related Restricted Funds spent money in 2015 that had been set aside in previous years, while the mission related Funds received three large donations this year that are intended to be spent over the next few years.

The numbers for the mission related funds are somewhat inflated because Asbury receives money from non-members to support such projects as Open Heart Kitchen, the laundry and shower ministries, the Homeless Refuge and Circles. We do not distinguish between gifts from members and non-members.

A highlight of the year was the retirement of the loans Asbury made to finance construction of the new Fellowship hall. Following this, a new restricted fund was established for future projects named the New Building Fund, and it already has $8,691 in it.

We hope this review is helpful. If anyone has questions or would like more detailed information, please feel free to contact Dave Braun (Finance chair), Dick Crawford (Treasurer) or Roger Everett (Bookkeeper). A copy of the more detailed finance report is always available on request.
Anniversaries

- Preston and Nancy Carter
- Larry and Kathy Chase
- Herb and Judy Guidry
- Dennis and Melanie Henderson
- Larry and Karena Sanford
- Scott and LaNor Smith

Birthdays

- Tim Arnold
- Joe Baker
- Chloe Bennett
- Ty Bothwell-Mitlitsky
- Zoey Bothwell-Mitlitsky
- Edwin Cassidy
- Tova Christensen
- Lesleyann Coker
- Nick Constant
- Danielle Cowgill
- Christie Crozier
- Christine Cummings
- Eric Cummings
- Cameron David
- Tucker Dawes
- Shelby Deis
- Jill Edgar
- Dave Gamble
- Laura Giannotti
- Bob Hoffman
- Elmond Holbrook
- Rhonda Item
- Dean Juan
- Greta Kohlmoos
- Jean Lerche
- Laura Linden
- Peggy Loomis
- Kent McCammon
- Gabrielle McClung
- Hal Miller
- Martie Muldoon
- Allen Northrop
- Adam Paiso
- Justin Pettis
- Mark Piscotty
- Christina Pomykal
- Amelia Schell
- Russell Schwartz
- LaNor Smith
- Ron Tripp
- Jennifer Wakefield
- Adam Walker Cleaveland
- Steve Wilson
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. Bible Study, Room 15
- 10:30 a.m. Cherub Choir Rehearsal, Room 6
- 10:30 a.m. Rainbow Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal, Room 9
- 5:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry, Fireside Room (first and third Sundays only)
- 7:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study, Room 10

Mondays
- 11:00 a.m. Crafting for a Cause, Room 10
- 7:00 p.m. Fertile Groundworks, Conference Room (second and fourth Mondays only)
- 7:30 p.m. Reconciling Ministries, Room 10 (first and third Mondays only)

Tuesdays
- 11:00 a.m. Loose Canons
- 11:00 a.m. The Long Good-bye, Fireside Room (second and fourth Tuesdays only)
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Small Group, Fireside Room (second and fourth Tuesdays only)
- 7:00 p.m. Alanon/Alateen, Rooms 13-15
- 7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesdays
- 9:30 a.m. Mom’s Bible Study
- 12:00 p.m. Open Heart Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- 7:30 p.m. Faith Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursdays
- 7:45 a.m. Men’s Group, Fireside Room
- 10:30 a.m. Women of the Spirit
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Rooms 11-12

Fridays
- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Room 15
- 10:00 a.m. Crafting for a Cause, Room 10

Saturdays
- 8:00 a.m. Lawn Crew
- 9:00 a.m. AA, Rooms 11-12
- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study, Room 15

Other Events

April 5, 2016 (Tuesday)
- 6:30 p.m. Ladies’ Night Out, Casbah Mediterranean

April 7, 2016 (Thursday)
- 12:00 p.m. Senior/Retiree Luncheon, FH

April 9, 2016 (Saturday)
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner before Asbury Players, FH
- 8:00 p.m. Suite Surrender Play, Sanctuary

April 10, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. SPRC, Room 10
- 10:30 a.m. Finance, Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Suite Surrender Play, Sanctuary

April 15, 2016 (Friday)
- 1-7:00 p.m. Livermore Community Blood Drive, FH
- 8:00 p.m. Suite Surrender Play, Sanctuary

April 16, 2016 (Saturday)
- 8:00 p.m. Suite Surrender Play, Sanctuary

April 17, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Trustees, Conference Room
- 2:00 p.m. Suite Surrender Play, Sanctuary

April 19, 2016 (Tuesday)
- 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Team, Rooms 11-12

April 24, 2016 (Sunday)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Council, Conference Room
Asbury United Methodist Church
4743 East Avenue
Livermore, CA 94550

Time Dated Material—Deliver Promptly

Address Service Requested

Asbury UMC Staff

Pastors
Chelsea Constant
Kim Risedorph

Children's Ministry Director
Jackie Bennett

Youth Director
Chelsea Constant

Secretary
Terri Gamble

Facilities Use Manager
Teri Lambert

Music Director
G. Allen Schell

Choir Coordinator
Jean Braun

Nursery Coordinator
Pam Tegge

Lay Leader
Martie Muldoon

Livermore Community Blood Drive
Friday, April 15, 1:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Every single day, Bay Area hospitals need over 300 units of blood to help sick and injured people live. If you’re 17 or older and in good health (or 16 with parental consent) help save a life by giving blood! Go to redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: ASBURY925. Call Tom Petty at home for more information. Thank you for helping to save a life by giving 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 Friday, April 22, 2016