

Doing More TOGETHER Than We Can Alone

I read a quote the other day from a couple in another church. In response to a question about why they give significantly to their church they said:

“Because together as a church we can proclaim the good news in the world better than we can do it alone.”

I think there is no better encouragement for us as a church than words like that. As we head into 2010 and we ask each other to make a commitment to our giving, serving, and growing, it is simply a way for us to make a commitment to proclaiming the good news to the world around us. By gathering together the resources of those who follow Jesus here at Asbury we have the opportunity to do more together than we can do alone.

Just think about Sunday morning. How much joy is there in gathering in the Sanctuary to sing hymns and songs in praise to God? How incredible is it to gather with those who love us so deeply and so unconditionally? How meaningful is it for us to spend time praying together and taking Communion together? That only happens because we give together and serve together and worship together.

And then there are times of learning and times of fellowship. We are busting at the seams with almost every corner of the building occupied on Sunday morning. We gather together as disciples seeking to know God and seeking to live our life for God. It is our small groups that give God a way to nurture our faith in deep and meaningful ways. It is our small group that provides comfort and care for us when we're sick, or struggling, or in need. It's a community that only happens because we come together.

And then we have the greater work done by the larger United Methodist Church. African children who would have died from malaria are protected because together we are the largest funding organization of *Nothing But Nets*. Churches in Mexico and Central America and the Ukraine are able to bring hope to their communities because of the way we as a church contribute to the larger church.

It is amazing what we can do TOGETHER. It is so much more than we can do alone. I pray that you have considered releasing your resources to God – your resources of money and time and talents. Bringing together what we have and putting it into God's hands allows God to do so much more through us as a church than could be done as individuals. As you make your offering to God please keep that in your heart.

Blessings to you,



Growing, Leading, Serving...

Wed - Friday, Nov 25 - 27
Church office closed

Friday, December 4th
6:00 - 8:00 pm
*Family Christmas Movie
& Pizza Night*

Sunday, December 6th
8:00 - Noon
*Mini Bazaar & Bake Sale
(sponsored by U.M.W.)*

Saturday, December 12th
4:00 pm
*Young @ Heart trip to
Dickinson, Tx*
4:30 pm
Youth Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 13th
8:45 am
*Christmas Cantata
(Asbury Chancel Choir)*

Sunday, December 20th
11:45 am
*Christmas Cantata
(Asbury Praise Band)*
5:00 pm
Live Nativity & Caroling

Thursday, December 24th
5:00pm
Children's Service
7:00pm
Traditional Service
9:00 pm
Contemporary Service



**Order Your
Poinsettias**

Would you like to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one during this holiday season?

Poinsettias that will grace our sanctuary from December 13th through Christmas Eve, are now available

for order. The plants are \$10 each and you may pick them up **following the 9:00 pm Christmas Eve worship service.** A special bulletin announcing those being honored will be printed.

Order forms are available in the Main Hall. Payment should be made at the time of your order and **orders must be received by Wednesday, December 9th.** You may also call the church office (281-484-4814) during the week to place an order.

Welcome New Member

Norma Moore
11414 Davenwood Dr
Houston, Tx 77089
281-481-8560

Norma joined our Asbury family on 9/20 during the 10:45 Service.

Norma is already involved with the Wesleyan Sunday Morning Group, and our Blankets & Blessings group.



Thank You...

From a most grateful congregation at St. Johns UMC...

Thank you for your church's generous donation and thoughtfulness in our great time of need. God is doing a "mighty" work in our midst and in the last few Sundays in our temporary worship location we have taken in 8 new members, three of these adults came by profession of faith and were baptized.

Again, our deepest gratitude to all of your people for their extravagant generosity! Please continue to keep the people of St. Johns and the Methodists in Texas City in your prayers as we seek to discern God's will for our future in Texas City.

Gratefully yours,
Tom W. Crowe, Minister

Asbury is offering Mission opportunities to help those in need this holiday season!



Salvation Army Christmas Stockings...

Pick up one or more stockings in the Education Hall to fill with Christmas items for children in need in our area. Select any age child; purchase items that fit in the stocking easily (a list of suggested items is available); staple the cardboard top of the stocking; then write the age and gender of the child on a sticky note and attach it to the stocking. Bring filled Christmas stockings to the church **by Sunday, December 13th** to be delivered to the Salvation Army.

Seafarers Christmas Boxes...



Each year, we collect personal items, as well as "fun" items, to fill Christmas packages for the Seafarer's Center at the Port of Houston. **There is a box in the Education Hall labeled "Seafarer Items" for you to put the items in.**

(A list of suggested items is posted there also.) Our Cross Talk youth will put these items in shoeboxes, wrap them as Christmas presents, and they will be delivered to the Seafarer's Center at the Port of Houston. Our gifts will then be distributed by the Chaplains to the men and women on the ships docked in the port during the holidays. **If you wish, you may bring a filled and wrapped shoe box and leave it on the table for us to deliver along with the others.** All donations must be received by Sunday, December 13th. **Thank You!**

Christmas is just around the corner and we would like to invite all children ages 3 through 5th grade to be part of our special Family Christmas Eve Service. Each year, our children participate in a short pageant about the birth of our Jesus Christ. We will be rehearsing for the play on Sunday evenings during Live Wires Kids' Club time (5:00 - 6:30). We have roles and parts for all kids - some speaking parts, some non-speaking parts, some set building, some technical roles. Even if you can't be at all the rehearsals, you can still be a part of the fun. Please talk with Susan Palmer or Rick and Diane Cotton for more information.



Volunteers are needed to work in the Nursery on Friday, December 11th from 9:45 - Noon during the Day School Christmas Program. (This allows the parents to enjoy the Program without having to worry about younger siblings). **If you are available, please contact Debbie Owen at (832-230-9530). Thanks!**

We seek to honor our covenant through our prayers, our presence, our giving, and our serving...

PRAYERS . . .

Bill Alsobrook, Ernie & Linda Alsobrook's son, health concerns
 Family of **Todd Ashby**, Pat Davis' great-nephew, killed in motorcycle accident 11/3
Judy Barnett, Kim & Lane Barnett's 16 mo. old daughter, surgery 11/20
Bea Bissonnet, hospice care
Ross Bissonnet, health concerns
Johnny Bonds, Naomi Lines' friend, renal cancer
Blake Boudreaux, Diane Peppo's co-worker's son, eye surgery
Doug Brown, cancer
R. C. Campbell, Sue Janda's brother in law, heart problems
Leola Calhoun, Jackie Williams' mother, Park Manor rehab
Betty Carter, former Asbury member, melanoma in the eye
Ralph Champion, colon cancer
Ona Mae Cook, health concerns
Don Custer, former Asbury member, health concerns
JoAnn Dee, Leon Dee's mother, health concerns
Leon Dee, recovering from back surgery
Mary Ellen Dussouy, Cindy Evans' relative, breast cancer
Patrick Eaves, kidney dialysis
Willis Evans, health concerns
Norma Jean Ethredge, Ethredge's daughter-in-law, cancer
Mary Farrell, Sue Bolch's co-worker, fighting cancer
Jack Fink, health concerns
Lynn Fisk, friend of Mona Davis, cancer
Preston Freeman, Letha Bissonnet's cousin, brain cancer
Ismael Flores Jr, health concerns
Hortencia Galvan, Olga Galvan's mother, heart concerns
Geneva Garza, James Turlington's mother, health concerns
Joe Godail, health concerns
Caroline Green, Michelle Glover's niece, leukemia
Robert Heath, Pat Godail's neighbor, diagnosed with cancer
Lee & Pauline Hendricks, Paula Zikogiannis grandparents, health concerns
Earl Hester, Ronny Bolch's cousin, heart problems
The Hick's Family
Tom Higgins, Joetta Ethredge's brother-in-law, cancer
Linda Hoefar, cancer
Jerry Hyatt, Sheila Guettler's uncle, cancer
Aidan Immroth, Olga Galvan friend, brain tumor/cancer
Isabella Johnson, Jeff Jordon's grandmother, fractured hip
Jeff Jordon, Joe and Pat Godail's son in law, medical issues

Aunt Joy, Glenna Tolley's aunt, hospice
Sharon Leonard, recovering from gall bladder surgery
Maurine Liles, Kindred Hospital
Dennis McBee, Mike Deen's co-worker, recent death of wife
Noah Melcher, Diane Peppo's student, brain tumor
Denise Mexicano, Andrea Mann's friend, chemo treatments
Corey Monzingo, Dixie McAdams' family friend, age 20, cancer
Jim Moody, Larry Moody's father, carpal tunnel surgery
Sam Murdock, Evadell Murdock's son, health concerns
The Nesmith Family, Owen's full recovery
Michael Parrish, autoimmune disease
Warren Pfender, Debbie Heckman's friend, cancer
Rita Piper, knee replacement surgery 11/18
Justin Pitchford, Sheila Guettler's cousin's son, leukemia
Chuck & Tracy Reed, Vickie and Leon Dee's son & daughter-in-law, guidance
Fisher Reid, Michelle Reid's son, broken leg
Jack & Billie Schmidt, health concerns
Harriet Setrella, Darlene Pettit's mother, hospice care
Raymond Smith, son of Sam & Mildred Gay, health concerns
Matty Steen, brain tumor
Connie Temple, health concerns
Lillian Thompson, Carol Halliday's sister, multiple myeloma
Laura Tyler, Glenna Tolley's stepsister, cancer
Jose Valdez, health concerns
Georgia Wisby, health concerns
Miriam Williams, Jackie Williams' mother-in-law, recovering from broken hip surgery
Martha Zoy

Our pastor, staff & church

Prayer requests will be printed for a period of 30 days unless an update is received in the church office.

Please pray for those serving our nation, especially:

Michael Chopcinski, Jeremy Cauley, Corey Ellis, John Ethredge, Doug Goecke, Christopher Grantham, Derek Greer, Damon Gregory, Jessica Hamilton, Drew Hargus, Drake Inkster, Jeremy Jernigan, Jason Kelly, Todd Lockhart, Sean Lowe, Johnny Lozano, Carl Mann, Donald Meyer, Jesse Patterson IV, SFC Eric Quellhorst, Ronnie Randolph, Blake Sammons, Amy Southard, Jason Tisdale, Travis Waller, Andy Waller, Calvin Wallet, Jason Williams, national & world leaders.

PRESENCE . . .

Sunday, November 8, 2009

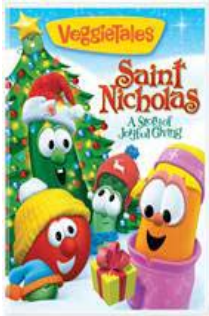
8:45 a.m. Worship Service	85
Sunday Small Groups	145
10:45 a.m. Worship Service	156
Sunday Evening Activities	44

Sunday, November 15, 2009

8:45 a.m. Worship Service	104
Sunday Small Groups	160
10:45 a.m. Worship Service	155
Sunday Evening Activities	44



For several months Asbury has been participating in the Manna Bag Ministry. We have a list of items we collect (on the table in the Main Hall), plus a box to collect the items in. One item on the list that we like to collect is new or used Devotional booklets, (Upper Room, Daily Word, Guideposts, etc). After delivering Manna Bags one Saturday in downtown Houston, and then making another turn around that same block to deliver another bag, one of the homeless men was spotted sitting there reading the Guidepost magazine from the bag he had been given. What a great feeling it was to know that that manna bag could make a difference in that homeless persons life! Please be sure to bring items and support this ministry so that we may make a difference in other lives!



Families are invited to join us on Friday evening, December 4th from 6:00 – 8:00 as we begin a season of joyful giving. We will start the evening with pizza and a movie from the Veggie Tales, “Saint Nicholas – A Story of Joyful Giving.” We will end the evening by filling stockings with gifts for children in our area.

If you are able, we are asking that you bring small toys for a child (boy or girl – ages 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14). Ideas for the stockings may include small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, toys that light up or make noise, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, writing pads, calculators, coloring books, toiletries, washcloths, t-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry. **Please do not include any war-related items such as guns or knives, chocolate candy, medicine, breakable items or aerosol cans.** These items will be packaged and taken to the Salvation Army.

Invite your friends and family to this special event. Everyone is welcome so that we can share the message of love and sharing with as many as possible. God is so good to us; we want to make sure everyone knows about His special love!! Did we mention the games and door prizes also?!?!?



Asbury Day School is collecting **Boxtops for Education.**

If you would, please save your box tops from any Pillsbury and General Mills products and take them to the Day School office in the Education Hall. Our Day School does not receive any extra funding from the state, and they are able to receive extra money by sending in these box tops. **Thank you!**

Friday Night Light
Real life... Real truth... Real connection

Young adult small group – 20’s -30’s,
married, single, or other.

Meets on 2nd and 4th Friday nights
each month at 7pm.

A small group where casual is the dress code and
connecting our faith with our everyday life
is the conversation.

Contact Pastor Mike Lindstrom for details.

Our next edition...Due to the busy holiday season, Asbury’s next Circuit Rider along with the January calendar will be published Friday, December 11th. That will be the last Newsletter for 2009. Please submit articles and/or information in the church office or via email at asbury@asbury-umc.com by Tuesday, December 8th.

ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
5354 SPACE CENTER
PASADENA, TEXAS 77505

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