February 2015

Dear Friends,

I have some great news to share with you.

But first, a little history:

*May 27, 2008: Asbury signed a mortgage for a parsonage purchase: $ 148,603.00

*Fast forward ahead to December 31, 2014 and the mortgage balance: $ 13,812.25

Looking ahead to the first quarter of 2015, we can subtract the following from that balance:

Monthly mortgage payments
Jan – Mar ($450 x 3) $ 1350.00

Trustees Payments
Jan – Mar ($1000 x 3) $ 3000.00
(Thanks to the Trustees’ oversight, our investments have performed very well over the past few years and the Trustees have agreed to make a donation of $1000 per month to pay down on the mortgage.)

Remaining Balance $ 9462.25

(continued on page 6)
**February Worship Assistants**

**February 1**
- Worship Leader 10:00 a.m.: Joyce Cannon
- Greeters: Barbara Hentz
- Fellowship Hour: The Schaffrick Family
- Altar Flowers: The Landeen Family

**February 8**
- Worship Leader 10:00 a.m.: Ken Clark
- Greeters: Don & Joan Tilley and Heather VonHagen
- Fellowship Hour: Don & Joan Tilley and Heather VonHagen
- Altar Flowers: Open

**February 15**
- Worship Leader 10:00 a.m.: Pat Sallstrom
- Greeters: Eula Foster & Heidi Borkowski
- Fellowship Hour: Eula Foster & Heidi Borkowski
- Altar Flowers: Betty Topalian

**February 22**
- Worship Leaders 10:00 a.m.: Madison & Dylan Whillock
- Greeters: Phyllis Petit
- Fellowship Hour: The Amadio Family
- Altar Flowers: The Szydlo Family

**Altar Guild**
- Lorna Baxter

**Birthday Caller**
- Joyce Cannon

**Soup Kitchen**
- Membership / Girl Scouts

**8:30 a.m. Worship Leader**
- Carl Aspland, Donna Motyl, Mike Motyl, Denise Krom

**Ushers**
- Wayne Fuller, Bonnie Emery, Dennis Floyd, Don Mazerolle, Dick Peterson, Roy DiYulio

**Communion Stewards**
- Wayne & Treaty Fuller

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**February Birthdays**

| 01 | Heather Wright | 14 | Lenny Cannon |
| 02 | Gail F. Wojtusik | 15 | Dustin Heinzman |
| 03 | Lisa Weed | 16 | David Woellmer |
| 04 | Barbara Alim | 17 | Cole Lockhart |
| 06 | Kim Varano | 18 | Amber Brown |
| 07 | F. Townsend Downs | 19 | Karna Baumberger |
| 09 | Judy Staub | 20 | Nicole Hurlburt |
| 10 | Marilyn Bechert | 21 | Bette Hubbard |
| 11 | Jennifer Mahaney | 22 | Madison Whillock |
| 12 | Carol Williams | 23 | Donald Lunn |
| 13 | Zachary Butler | 24 | David Majors |
| 14 | Mia Clement | 25 | Nancy Deprey |
| 15 | Jeffrey Wegner | 26 | Alexis Scanlan |
| 16 | Jennifer Bechert | 27 | Heather VonHagen |
| 17 | Caryln Bechert | 28 | Rebecca May |
| 18 | Mia Clement | 29 | Christopher Pinette |
| 19 | Jeffrey Wegner | 30 | Kate Schilling |

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Dee Brouseau, Carl Aspland, Barbara Emanuelson, Elsie Lyons, Edward Coloske, and others who have needs of which we may not be aware.

If you wish to be listed in the bulletin and newsletter for prayers, please call the church office at 860-584-0529 or e-mail us at: asburysecretary@sbcglobal.net.

If you wish to relate prayer needs to the **prayer chain**, please call Phyllis Petit at 860-589-6059 or Mernie Whitcomb at 860-583-5373, or e-mail Pastor Laura at pastorlaura.g@sbcglobal.net. Please keep your call brief, and be aware of the privacy rights of the person(s) for whom you are requesting prayers.

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Avery Emma and Savannah Lee Lafferty were baptized on Sunday, January 11th. Their parents are Taylor (Bechert) and Brent Lafferty. Their big brother is Rhys Lafferty. They are the granddaughters of Jim and Debbie Bechert, and the great granddaughters of Marilyn Bechert. They make their home in Bristol.

Avery Carole Costello was baptized on Sunday, January 18th. Her parents are Brian and Lisa (O’Brien) Costello. They make their home in Bristol.

Brian Russell Costello was baptized on January 18th. He makes his home in Bristol with Lisa and Avery.

Brian and Lisa Costello joined the Asbury family on Sunday, January 18th. They have one child, Avery, and they make their home in Bristol.

Longtime Asbury Member Beatrice Trafton passed away on Thursday, December 25th. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 30th at O’Brien Funeral Home.

*Editor’s note:* One of my earliest and fondest recollections was Bea as my Sunday School teacher. She will be missed.
Thank you Letters

Dear Church Family,

God’s blessings to you and thank you for your beautiful cards.

With love,
Carrie Zahacewski

Dear Asbury members,

Many thanks for making the holidays brighter.
I’ve enjoyed the basket of goodies and beautiful poinsettia and the cards I got.

Gratefully,
Marian Conrad

Dear Asbury Family,

Greetings from Yokota Air Base, Japan! From Tampa & Kyrgyzstan…to Connecticut, Massachusetts, Alabama…back to Florida…a trip through Hawaii…and finally to Japan in July (and a week long trip to Australia for Scott in September), we wish you the very best in 2015.

With warmest wishes…
Scott, Jennifer, Elena and Paul Maskery

Dear Asbury,

Thank you for the beautiful teddy bear. There is great comfort knowing he comes with the word of God, prayers, songs of praise and the sermon preached.

God bless you all,
Margaret Ruel

To the members of Asbury UMC,

Thank you so much for your support/prayers especially over the last few years…with both of my parents in declining health, we were in need of your prayers.

Mernie and Phyllis, both mother and father looked forward to your visits and I am so pleased that you were able to visit with them. Pastor Laura, you were so supportive with your visits and prayers. Thank you to all the “Seniors” for your prayers, visits and support, all were sincerely appreciated.

Seniors: thanks you so much for attending mother’s funeral and luncheon, I know she was happy to see you there.

Love you all,
Paula Trafton Felt

From Knit For Kids

Dear Asbury,

Thank you for the beautiful, hand-made sweaters you recently mailed to us. Each of your generous gifts will soon warm the body and soul of a child in great need. These handmade gifts are meeting critical needs of the world’s poorest children, often intervening during life-saving situations. Please know that your loving gifts are making a difference.

Last year, World Vision distributed warm items donated by Knit for Kids volunteers to 50,400 children. This year, we hope to increase that number to 60,000. Thank you for joining this effort – and please keep stitching!

Find patterns at worldvision.org/knitforkids and go to the ‘Get Involved’ section / Step 1.

From Mike Nestico

To all who donated returnable drink containers to the church for the year 2015, THANK YOU. The total for the year was $805.95. This amount was earmarked for the TRUSTEES to assist them with some of their expenses throughout the year. I believe this is the highest amount we’ve ever taken in for a year. A special thanks to those who rinsed out and removed flip tabs from containers.

Also, 115 lbs of aluminum tabs were delivered to the Shriner’s in Newington, this equates to approximately 172,500 tabs. Thanks to all that support this effort.

Asbury will begin its Lenten season with the U.M. Men serving a pancake supper on Ash Wednesday, February 18th at 6:00 pm. There will be a short service after. There will also be a short service at 12:00 pm. Both services will include ashes for those who would like them.
COULD YOU USE A STEPHEN MINISTER IN YOUR LIFE?

Stephen Ministers offer one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. A Stephen Minister provides care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour.

- Congregation members, friends and family can receive care from a Stephen Minister when struggling through a difficult time in life while experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis.

It’s important to know that:

- The relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential.
- Men are matched with men; women with women.
- When a care receiver’s needs exceed what a Stephen Minister can provide, the Stephen Ministry team can help you find professional help or other community resources.

If you, (or someone you know) are going through a difficult time and think you could use a Stephen Minister, please contact Bill King at 860-518-6987 or Pastor Laura Galbraith at 860-584-0529.

Daily Bible Reading Guide

FEBRUARY
God’s Loving Word

- 1 John 3.1-21
- 2 John 3.22-36
- 3 John 4.1-42
- 4 John 4.43-54
- 5 John 5.1-18
- 6 John 5.19-47
- 7 John 6.1-24
- 8 John 6.25-71
- 9 1 John 1.1-10
- 10 1 John 2.1-29
- 11 1 John 3.1-24
- 12 1 John 4.1-21
- 13 1 John 5.1-21
- 14 1 Corinthians 13.1-13
- 15 John 10.1-21
- 16 John 10.22-42
- 17 Psalm 23

Ash Wednesday (Western Churches)
- 18 Psalm 51
- 19 Psalm 52
- 20 John 13.1-20
- 21 John 13.21-38

First Sunday in Lent
- 22 John 14.1-31

Great Lent (Orthodox)
- 23 John 15.1-17
- 24 Mark 12.13-27
- 25 Mark 12.28-34
- 26 Deuteronomy 6.1-25
- 27 Ephesians 3.1-21
- 28 Ephesians 4.1-32

CAN YOU HELP?
We are looking for one or two people who could volunteer for an hour or so on a Friday afternoon or Saturday to stuff the bulletin for Sunday’s worship services. If you can help, please call the church office at 860-584-0529.

Wendy’s of Bristol on 1247 Farmington Ave.
Tuesday, March 3rd
Tuesday, April 7th
from 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Stay and enjoy fellowship or get take out and help to pay down the parsonage mortgage. Ask to have your receipt put in the Asbury UMC basket! We receive 20% of all sales made!
Pastor’s Message
(continued from page 1)

The mortgage has been significantly reduced thanks to the generous gifts of many members of Asbury UMC since 2008. THANK YOU! In 2008, we were looking at a 30 year mortgage and less than six years later, we are looking at the loan soon being PAID IN FULL! The generosity continues! A member of Asbury has tossed out a challenge:

For every dollar given to the pay off the balance on the mortgage by Easter (Sunday, April 5), they will give a matching gift! $1 automatically becomes $2 ... $50 becomes $100! We can do this, can’t we?

It’s time to rid ourselves of the burden of this loan and get back to putting every dollar toward the ministries of Asbury UMC. I don’t know about you, but instead of having my dollars go to the vault at Farmington Bank, I’d like them to support our Sunday School or the children of Bristol who are hungry or someone who’s never had a Bible for their own. How about you?

If you would like to continue to support the PAY OFF of the mortgage by Easter, please drop your donation in an envelope that is clearly labeled, “Mortgage Reduction,” and it will be put to very good use for sure!

Let’s get on in doing God’s work!

Walter Bruce has started to teach Tai Chi to the Seniors and anyone else in the church who is interested. It starts at 11:00 a.m. on the Thursdays listed under “Save The Date”. On February 12th we’re having a Valentine exchange – bring a signed Valentine and get one in return. On the 19th the Bristol and New Britain Police Departments are speaking to the Seniors about Safety (assaults, scams, etc...) All church members are invited to attend and stay for a light luncheon after – a sign up sheet will be available in Wesley Hall. All church members are invited to attend any or all of the above activities.

F E L L O W S H I P

Save The Date
February 3
@ 5 pm – Wendy’s Fundraiser

February 14
Valentine’s Day

February 18
Ash Wednesday
12 & 7 pm Worship Services
6 pm – Pancake Supper

February 25
@ 6 pm – Soup & Sandwich Program

March 3
@ 5 pm – Wendy’s Fundraiser

Senior Fellowship
• February 5 – Tai Chi
• February 12 – Valentine Exchange, Tai Chi
• February 19 – Speaker – Senior Safety, light lunch served, open to all church members
• February 26 – Birthday Celebration, Games

The deadline for the March Circuit Rider is Sunday, February 15th. Please leave all articles in the mailbox in the church office or e-mail them to: asburysecretary@sbcglobal.net.
February 9, 1872

Sunday morning dawned bright and glorious upon our village, but church goers found a serious obstacle in the new fallen snow; anxious looks were exchanged for smiling glances, however, when Mr. Barrett was seen coming down the street mounted on his snow plow with “Old Gray” between the shafts. The ladies who had occasion to use the sidewalks on that snowy day vote Barrett a perfect gentleman, and the boys say he is a “brick”.

The Ladies Aid Society intend holding a Festival in the church on Wednesday and Thursday evenings of next week, the proceeds to be devoted to painting and refitting the interior of the church. Oysters and other creature comforts will be furnished, and the ladies are expected to look their killingest.

February 7, 1873

A series of revival meetings are being held here with generally good results and high hopes are yet entertained of reaping an abundant harvest.

February 19, 1874

A man from Plainville stated in a prayer meeting at church last Sunday evening that James N. Bishop had changed his theological views, admitting the existence of a God. Mr. Bishop authorizes us to say that he has never denied the existence of a God – the supreme occult power of the universe. He is a Pantheist, and not an Atheist, as many suppose.

February 6, 1880

We learn from the Hartford Post, that Rev. Loren Webb, formerly pastor of the M.E. church in this place, died at the residence of Rev. J.B. McFerrin at Nashville, Tenn., on Saturday last, of consumption. Mr. Webb had many warm friends here who will mourn his loss, although for several years his health has been such that he could do little or no manual labor and has been obliged to make Florida his home. By his death two little girls, at present with friends in Norwalk, Ohio, are left orphans, their mother having died in Florida some time since.

February 3, 1930

The cottage prayer service this week will be held at the home of Mrs. F.J. Hiltbrand, corner of Farmington and Stafford Ave. This meeting is held Thursday evening at 7:45. All in that vicinity are welcome and any others who can go out from the village.

February 25, 1930

The Ladies Aid Society of Asbury M.E. Church will serve a supper on Wednesday evening in the dining room of the church. The supper will be served from 5:30 to 7:00. Tickets for the supper may be secured at the door or before the supper from Mrs. Harry Law, Mrs. Fred Downs, or Mrs. Everett Sutherland. The menu will consist of hash, salad, baked beans, rolls, pie, cake and coffee. (Hist. Note – this was for the benefit of the carpet fund.)

February 15, 1955

Mrs. Abby Mills and Miss Clara Beach of 15 Garden Street will observe their 88th birthday, Friday, February 18. Born in Terryville in 1867, the identical twins lived together until Clara entered Moody Bible Institute in Northfield, Mass., and Abby married Dwight Mills. Both (the twins) are in good health and active around their home. Their special hobbies are the raising of house plants and braiding of rugs. They are specially interested in current events. (Hist. Note – the twins were faithful attendants at Asbury and active in church affairs.)
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<td>6:15 PM Girl Scouts</td>
<td>9:00 AM Crochet Class</td>
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<td>15 Native American Ministries Sunday</td>
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**March 2015**

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**Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:00 AM Fellowship Hour at 11:00 AM**