

Asbury United Methodist

Volume 2, Issue 2

March 2010

A Word From the Heart....

My sermon series for Lent is called A Journey to Hope. During this series I will be examining the journey to the cross and to resurrection. Jesus tells us that if we want to follow him, we must "take up the cross". Our journey to "take up the cross" can sometimes be painful, sometimes be joyful, sometimes be lonely, sometimes seem hopeless...yet at the end of this journey is the beauty of hope and resurrection.

During the series, we will examine the temptations we encounter in our spiritual journey as we try to follow Jesus. We will look at how our identity and self-esteem can affect the journey. We will reflect on how we balance our individual needs with the needs of the body of Christ. Throughout our lives, there are times when we become tired, spiritually exhausted so to speak. We will examine how we can "refuel". We will reflect on our relationship with money. Does our money own us, or do we see ourselves as stewards of God's money? And finally as we draw closer to the cross, we will look at how our journey moves from moments of pain and despair to hope and resurrection!

To help you prepare each week for worship, we will study the scripture in our lectionary Bible study, and there will be questions to think about in the sermon notes, Facebook and our Webpage. I hope you will join us for all our Lenten services and may God bless you by drawing you into a closer relationship this season. Blessings, Dawn



Lenten Study during Sunday School: 24 Hours That Changed the World, by Adam Hamilton

Lenten Devotional Luncheons beginning Feb. 24th Wednesdays from 11:30-1pm at the Cluster Churches

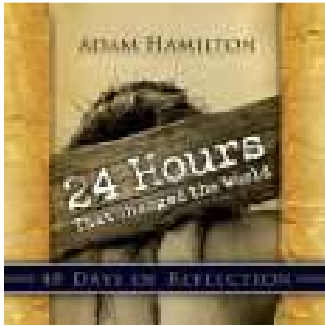
Sunday March 21st Dinner and Taize Service at 4:30pm: You are invited to join the Prayer and Spiritual Discipline class for a light supper at Asbury and Taize Service at Red Plains Monastery and Retreat Center. This is a service of singing, scripture, silence and prayer.

Holy Thursday Service April 1st at 6:30pm This service will be held in the gym and will include a light supper. We will be recreating the experience of the Upper Room. If you are willing to help provide food, please let Pastor Dawn know. Please bring candles or oil lamps.

Easter Sunrise (watch bulletin for time and place)

Lewis and Dorothy Dillier would like to thank everyone for cards they received and give a special thanks for helping out to Bill Katsakis and Lois Dickinson

Classes Offered



Pastor Dawn to Teach Lenten Series During Sunday School

Pastor Dawn will be using the book 24 Hours that Changed the World, by Adam Hamilton to teach a Lenten Series. The description of the book reads: *No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this book, Adam Hamilton guides us through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life. Each chapter is designed to help the reader experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before. Whether readers are long-time Christians or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, they are invited to join the author in retracing the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.*

We will also be using a video of Adam Hamilton in the Holy Land, describing the places that Jesus would have been during these last 24 hours. All are invited to attend this Lenten series.

Lectionary Bible Study

One thing that I look forward to every week is the Lectionary Bible Study. When we can't meet I find that my week is incomplete. There is something wonderful about being able to really examine, think about, discuss and "chew on" the scripture with other members of the body of Christ, which fulfills me. Perhaps it will fulfill you as well. Come and join us on the 2nd-4th Tuesdays at 11:30A in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer and Spiritual Disciplines Class

To date in this class we have examined how God is trustworthy so we can completely trust God with ALL our needs. We studied the spiritual disciplines of prayer, meditation and study. We learned how to do "breath prayers" and the Ignatian Method of studying the Bible. During Lent, on March 21st we will have a light supper together and then be taking a "Field Trip" to Red Plains Monastery and Retreat Center in northwest OKC. If you would like to join us, we meet at 4pm on Sundays

Children and Youth Program

A big thanks to all who continue to provide snack suppers for our Children and Youth Program. We are averaging between 25-45 children and youth on Thursday nights. There are still some nights we don't have anyone signed up, so if you can please do so.

The kids have really enjoyed Chuck helping them play basketball. One night they had a special treat as several young men from a soccer team that practice in our gym, played with them.

We appreciate Gayle for playing Bingo and doing crafts with the kids. On the 11th Pam Greenwell came and the kids got to decorate cookies for a Valentine treat. Robby and Sarah Clark also stop by to help out when they can.

We also appreciate Dan Knight's help in supervising, setting up and cleaning up.

The kids enjoy Bible Stories from Scott and Pastor Dawn at dinner time, especially when they get to help act them out.

Come by sometime and meet some of our children and youth. They are an awesome bunch of kids!!!!

Mission and Outreach News

Community Prayer Walks/Drives

It is amazing how wonderful it is to start off the week with the prayer walk/drive. It is such a blessing to pray for the people in our community. As we drive or walk and pray together, we are blessed by each other and blessed with feeling the presence of God in a very real way!

GED and ESL Classes

Our GED and ESL classes are going strong. Michael, our GED teacher is excited about the progress of his students. A BIG thanks to Scott, Tania, Robby and Sarah Clark for volunteering with the ESL class until we were able to get a teacher. Gloria O'Kelley is the teacher that the Community Literacy Center hired to teach our class.

Watchful Eyes Neighborhood Watch

Our first meeting for 2010 will be on March 2nd at 6:30pm at Asbury. We will have a business meeting that evening and we will be serving pizza and dessert. We will discuss our new project for 2010. We have so many seniors and other people who live alone and not one to check on them, so we plan on setting up a telephone tree to contact these people on a regular basis. Their health and safety is our main concern. We have several volunteers to help plan this and you will hear more about it next month. The weather slowed down the work on our projects but they should

be finished shortly. Some of our men will be putting up signs and OG&E should finish soon.
Rose Trobaugh

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women didn't meet in February due to inclement weather. On Tuesday March 2nd at 10:00AM, UMW will meet for a program on Prayer and Self-Denial. Gloria Sanders, Spiritual Life Chair will present this program. All women are invited to attend. We will have a "pot luck" lunch. A mini-mission school will be held at Penn Avenue UMC on March 6th. This school is always interesting as it gives us an overview of the mission studies for this year. Lunch reservations must be made by March 1st. Let me know if you are interested.

The Sunday circle studied our first "bad girl" of the Bible, Eve. We discussed the importance of knowing God's word and following it and how easy it is to be tempted to sin. This month's "bad girl" is Potiphar's wife, who is "bad to the bone". All women are welcome to join us at 5:30. We will meet THIS MONTH ONLY on the 4th Sunday for this fun and fascinating study.

Annabel Thompson

Angel Food Ministries

On Angel Food Saturday, we have many people from the community coming into our church to pick up food. This is a wonderful opportunity to show folks how friendly and welcoming we are at this church. A BIG thanks to those who faithfully help each month!

Doer's

Looking for a fun way to spend your Tuesday morning. Come join the Doer's for doughnuts and other goodies, coffee, fellowship and laughter and serving God.

Our Mission Giving

The following is an excerpt from an article on the website, umc.org: “So we rebuilt the wall, and all the wall was joined together . . . for the people had a mind to work.” -- Nehemiah 4:. *United Methodists have set their hearts and minds to work since an earthquake devastated much of Haiti a month ago. Through individual gifts and special offerings, benefit concerts and other innovative fundraisers, United Methodists have donated \$11 million to the United Methodist Committee on Relief, according to Melissa Hinnen, the agency’s director of communications. The time and talent of church members are meeting more than financial needs.*

All \$11 million of that will go directly to the people of Haiti in food, supplies and rebuilding efforts because of our apportionments. When we pay our apportionments part of that money goes toward the administrative expenses of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. That means that any money given directly for disasters goes right to the people affected by the disaster. I would challenge you to find any other organization that can make that claim. This is one reason I am so proud to be a United Methodist and why I believe in paying our apportionments. We may not be able to go to Haiti directly, but by paying apportionments, we ensure that special offerings for disasters don’t have to pay for administration. And it means we are not just caring for the physical needs of those in crisis, but we also are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with them

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Sermon Notes

March 7th Communion Sunday Mark 10:35-44 “Me or the Body?”

How often do our conversations with God involve asking for a personal blessing, rather than one for the community and world? When we journey with others, we must think of the collective whole, not just individual selves. Traveling with a group can be both difficult and rewarding. Some may want to become leaders and as a result, create division. James and John began focusing on personal desires and promotion, rather than on the best interest of the “whole.” This can disrupt the group’s unity and purpose, making the journey to hope arduous. **Question to reflect on: *What task can I do that best allows me to use my spiritual gifts?***

March 14th Mark 14:32-40 “Refueling”

When you are depleted physically, emotionally or spiritually, where do you turn to refuel? Do you turn to God or to “quick remedies” that are like “band-aids”, only covering what has led to your exhaustion? In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was exhausted, yet he turned to God. The disciples were tired and despite Jesus asking them to stay awake with him, fell asleep. Too often when people are hurting they turn to things like drugs, alcohol, pornography, gambling or extramarital affairs. They get sidetracked on their journey and end up in a pit. **Question to reflect on: *When you are tired or discouraged, how do you refuel?***

March 21st Mark 12:41-44 “God’s Hands”

In our scripture reading, Jesus watches many people as they contribute to the temple treasury. Jesus commends the widow because she gave all that she had and gave it willingly. Our journey in life requires that we have money for the basic necessities. Yet, our spiritual health requires that we tithe. **Question to reflect on: *How do we balance our budgetary needs with the spiritual necessity to tithe? If we are not tithing, is it because we truly can’t, or because of our priorities on how we spend our money?***

March 28th Palm/Passion Sunday Mark 14:43-64 “Betrayal”

God is no stranger to suffering, as the text from Mark illustrates. Imagine how you would feel if someone you had loved deeply and long betrayed you with a kiss. Imagine how you would feel if people surrounded as if you were a dangerous criminal, when you had lived peaceably among others. Imagine knowing the suffering that lay ahead of you and the dread you would experience. Jesus’ love persevered through it all. It did not fail when humanity failed him. This ultimate act of love shows that even in our suffering, God is with us. Along our journey in life, you may have felt betrayal and suffering. **Question to reflect on: *What keeps you going when you experience hardship or tragedy?***



Because we had to cancel several services, and because of the higher gas bill, we are behind in our giving. Please help us get caught back up again so that we can pay our insurance and other bills that are due.



Kappa Phi Giving Nursery a Makeover

Young Women from the Christian Sorority, Kappa Phi, at University of Central Oklahoma are giving our nursery a makeover. On Feb. 13th the women sorted, cleaned and reorganized the nursery. The next Saturday they come to work they will be repainting.

You might say this is an example of your apportionments at work. Kappa Phi began through the Wesley Foundation, which your District and Conference apportionments support. Your financial support has helped the Wesley Foundation grow, and now Kappa Phi brings their youth and energy to help us.

You might wonder why the nursery; so that any mother's can have a clean and safe place for their children during worship, Sunday School or any of our classes. One of the first places a young couple with children looks at in deciding if they want to join a church is the nursery. This makeover will brighten up and modernize our nursery and make it more attractive for younger couples.

A BIG thanks to Morgan Richards (Pastor Dawn's daughter) for bringing the idea to Kappa Phi, to Annabel for providing an awesome lunch and to the Kappa Phi women for their hard work!

Spotlight on Servants

"As for me and my household, we shall serve the Lord" Joshua 24:16



Our servant this month is Darlene Semrad. Darlene was married to Everett Semrad for 53 years, until he passed away in 2001. She has 2 daughters, Barbara and Diana and one grandson who graduated from OUS with a Business Degree. He works with his father in a construction business.

Darlene's hobbies include sewing, traveling, gardening, making candy preserves and cookies and she loves animals. She has traveled to every state in the union and 11 or 12 countries including Canada and Mexico. Darlene has been a community volunteer at the Lyric Theater, Hospice, Science Department, and is Member of the World War II "Rosie the Riveter" group. She is on the Trustees, is our church historian and faithfully keeps a scrapbook, works on bulletin boards, cooks cookies and candy for our Sunday morning fellowship time and prays each week on our prayer walk/drive. Her favorite Bible character is Ruth. She loves Asbury because of the people and the many classes she gets to attend to learn more about God. Darlene has gone to church her whole life. When little she lived in the country and they went to a country church in a wagon. She taught school for 31 years.

*We thank God daily for the
blessings we receive
through Darlene's ministry!*