



Audubon United Methodist Church

314 Graisbury Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106

www.audubonumc.com 856-547-6114

January, 2016 Newsletter

Sunday Worship Opportunities:

9:00 AM Contemporary Service

9:00 AM Church School for all ages

10:30 AM Traditional Service



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Mt. 19:14

Did you see all the children at our Live Nativity and Open House? How about the kids in our Children's Choir? And with those children come parents and grandparents! I hope you are as excited about this as I am. "Where did they come from?" you might ask. God. That may seem like a flip answer, but I am convinced this is a God thing. Let me explain.

A sure sign a church is in decline is when you look out into the congregation and you find a sea of gray, blue or no hair (I resemble one of these). The sound of children crying and kids chatting has been replaced by wheezing and bones creaking (once again, I resemble these). But in recent months, children have been coming to our church for special activities, Sunday School, and choir. The kids have always been there. Greater Audubon is not a 55 and older community. There are lots of children and families here. Just walk down the street on any given day and you will see plenty of them. They just haven't been coming to our church (or any church, for that matter). But with a few key families serving as magnets and our growing children's music program, they started coming. Like I said this is a God thing. To those who have helped make this happen I say thank you for being God's instruments in blessing this church and community. This is just the start. I want to see our church make reaching families and children of our area our top priority.



(The pastor's message is continued on page 3)



Our Doors are always open!

Our Church Building is Handicap Accessible. Elevator access to the sanctuary and the lower level can be found on the Graisbury Ave. side entrance. Handicapped parking is available on Graisbury and also in the rear of the church house.



The January Newsletter is presented by George and Estelle MacCulloch.

Meetings and Events

Jan. 12 7:30 PM Church Council-Conover Parlor

Jan. 19 Trustees Meeting

Jan. 10 Deadline for February Newsletter—send To Lyn Radley at smradley@verizon.net

Weekly Meetings:

Mondays: Seekers (7-8 PM) Conover Parlor
Men's Prayer Group 7 PM at the Arcaini's
AA (7:30-8:30 PM) Adult Assembly Room

Wednesdays: Chancel Choir rehearsals 7:30 PM

Sundays: Hand Bell choir rehearsal following service
Young Adult Bible Study 5:30 PM

Church Office Hours

Monday & Wed. 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Friday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Update on 2015 Christmas Bazaar

The bazaar may be a UMW-Victorious Women event but it is successful because so many people like friends, families and yes, even the men worked together. All our efforts produced the following results:

Attic Treasures	\$ 411
Baskets	702
Café	240
Christmas Shoppe	277
Baked Goods	780
Vendors	325
Total:	\$2,735

Thanks you all for a great job! As you know these monies are used to support missions local and far and many of our own church projects.

Mission News

A couple weeks ago Matt and Heather Baehr of Cru Jersey Metro informed their supporters of how God has led them in a new and exciting direction working for the Global Aid Network (GAiN). Take a moment to read a portion of Matt's e-mail letter below:

"When we first joined staff, Heather and I always said, "Oh, it'd be great to serve on GAiN staff once any kids we might have would be grown and out of the house." We thought humanitarian work would be about traveling around the world and handing out aid. It's not...not just that. Or at least it's not just that with GAiN. Humanitarian work is about opening up doors for the advancement of the gospel in the toughest places on earth. People that don't want the gospel become more willing and open to listen as their brokenness and dignity is restored through God's love being shown in tangible ways. Aid gives Cru missionaries (both indigenous and foreign) in over 190 countries around the world access to places we couldn't get to before. For example, Cru missionaries recently wanted to plant a church in a small village in Liberia. The leaders of the village said no. The staff left and returned two weeks later with aid supplies from GAiN. The staff told the village leaders they had food, clothes, toys and school supplies for the people living there. The villagers responded, "Please come!" With the help of GAiN's aid, the village now has a church, a school, active evangelistic outreaches, and Bible studies. Humanitarian aid and the proclamation of the gospel go hand in hand as the gospel moves forward in the toughest places on earth. Heather and I don't speak any foreign languages and we have 4 young children. How can we be actively involved in getting the gospel to the unreached during this unique stage of life? While we were at Cru's biennial staff conference last July we were challenged by powerful messages about privilege and giving your "spot" away in ministry. We started praying about how these influential ideas would affect our ministry approach. Then, while standing in line at the cafeteria, we saw a poster indicating GAiN needed procurement specialists. We sent a general inquiry email asking what that position would look like and before I knew it I was meeting with the GAiN CEO in the coffee tent discussing the position! After the conference we continued to pray and seek wise counsel from our pastors, elders, Cru superiors,

*friends, families and some supporters. Everyone was overwhelmingly affirming of us continuing to explore this option. See, before joining staff, Heather worked in the public health field and I was in sales. We never imagined being able to use those God-given skills and passions in ministry with Cru, yet now we have the opportunity to. Currently GAiN has no procurement specialists. I would get to use my skills in sales to acquire gifts in-kind to source the ministry, while building relationships and using my humanitarian work as a platform to share Christ in the business world. Heather would be able to use her degree in public health to serve on GAiN's International Programs team, specializing in health. As Heather has been interacting with GAiN staff, it has been really refreshing for her to be around people who know and are excited about what her degree is and how she can use her unique skill set to further the Kingdom of God in the world! So, we took a vision trip to GAiN headquarters in Dallas, TX a week ago where most of our lingering questions and concerns answered. **After months (and possibly 11+ years!) of prayerful consideration and preparation we have decided to join GAiN staff.** We are still missionaries with Cru, just in a different role.*

Please pray for us as we transition roles within Cru. We know the campus ministry. We've been serving in it since 2004! This is a big step of faith for us into the unknown. Please pray that we would finish well in the campus ministry, and for the continuing work on Jersey's college campuses. Please also continue to support us financially and refer us to others who may have a heart for this kind of missions work! Currently we need \$531 per month in order to be fully funded." -

Matt Baehr 464 Christian St. Glassboro, NJ 08028

Join me in praying and supporting the Baehr's as they better utilize their talents in the new year for the Global Aid Network, which "expresses the love of Christ in the toughest places on earth by relieving suffering and restoring dignity".

Thanks for your great show of love in the past year. May GOD be with you through 2016, and fill your life with love and comfort!

Bruce Krout, Missions chairman

Thanks from Rebekah The spaghetti dinner brought in a profit of \$300 to aid in legal fees.

(Continued - pastor's message from page 1)

Parents and kids need to know how much Jesus loves them. That's not to say we forget other important folks in our church... seniors, singles, and everyone in between. We need our seasoned members to be mentors and guides for the days ahead. We cannot do this work without their wisdom and willingness to work. But God has laid on my heart the future of AUMC lies with our ability to trust God to provide real Christ Centered ministry to children and their families. The excitement they generate, the possibilities they present are incredible. Therefore, I declare 2016 **"The Year of Children"** for Audubon United Methodist Church. Let's dedicate our planning, resources and energy to develop and grow what God has already started here. Your help, suggestions and prayers are needed. I think we are in the midst of a time of renewal that defies human description except to say "God is behind this." Let's be sure we are on board with what He is doing.

As we begin 2016, I want to encourage our members and friends to join me in praying God's continued guidance, inspiration and blessing for the year ahead. God has great things in store for us if we trust him and encourage "the little children to come to Him."

Pastor Walt

Updated Phone System

Our new phone system is up and running with accurate announcements and voicemail. To call the church office, simply call the same number as always (547-6114). This number is for all office business. You may also call the pastor using this number. The pastor also has a separate number for his voicemail and calls (547-9616). Please do not call the pastor's number with information for the church office or administrative assistant. Voicemail will be monitored when the pastor is in his office. For pastoral emergencies, always call the parsonage first at (547-0653.)



THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We all appreciate your Christmas gifts of love and want to say thank you. It is our privilege to serve

our church and our God. **Walt**, Diane, **Mia**, **David**, and Jesse

Live Nativity Photos!



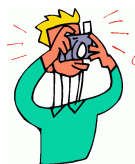
Thank you to all who participated, it was a great night!



New Website for view at audubonumc.com

You can also find us on facebook. Go there to see more photos of the Live Nativity!

Wanted: Photographers and photos of church events



If you are one of those special people who take pictures at our church event, please send copies to crosstait630@yahoo.com for use on the church's Facebook page and the church's new and improved website. We need to let our pictures help tell the story of what our church is doing! Thank you.

Sunday School for all ages at 9 AM

Children meet in the Hoffman Room
Seekers (men and women) meet in Conover Parlor
Fidelis Class (women) meets in the Chapel.

Fidelis Sunday School Class

December started a new quarter of study for the Fidelis class. The theme of tradition is the focal point entitled "Sacred Gifts and Holy Gatherings". Our lessons will be from the Pentateuch (the first 5 books of the Old Testament), Song of Solomon, Hosea, and the Gospels.

Traditions instituted by God merit our respect and our observance. Traditions can offer order and structure in a world characterized by the chaotic disorder of sin.

We will also look at traditions that are part of the social framework, specifically weddings and funerals. Sadly, these traditions have been stripped of spiritual meaning, but within God's plan both can be vital teaching tools and means of witnessing to unbelievers of the significance of our Christian faith.

What do they represent? A wedding is the greatest act of unity that is possible to experience on a human level. A funeral marks the greatest experience of separation that we endure on Earth. There is perhaps no experience as joyous as a wedding and none as heartbreaking as a funeral. These two traditions have potential for Christian witness to an unbelieving world.

We keep a proper perspective amidst these highest of highs and lowest of lows in two ways. First, by maintaining a relationship with God, the creator of marriage and the one whose Son died and rose again to defeat death. Second, we keep perspective by maintaining relationships with the special people whom God places in our lives. Without these two ingredients, traditions of any kind can deteriorate into nothing more than lifeless ritual. But with these ingredients, we will come to understand an important principle: as we keep traditions, traditions will keep us. And therein lies their power.

The Fidelis Class meets every Sunday. All women of the church are invited to join us at 9 AM each week in the Chapel on the lower level. Have a new member in the family? Please feel to bring your little one with you.

For further information please contact Dorothy Groves at 609-405-4134 or by email at grovesdorothy@gmail.com

January Shut-in of the Month

Jean Stephens
1109 Schumaker Drive Apt. 210

Salisbury, Maryland 21801

Keep her in your prayers and let her know she is in your thoughts by sending a card

January Birthdays

- 3 Holly Fitzgerald
- 5 Walt Jesuncosky, III
- 8 Scott Radley
- 18 Ruslana Snyder
- 22 Joe Fennimore
- 31 Gail Lore



January Communion Offering: Ranch Hope

January Greeters:

January Ushers: Bob Fonash, Jim Barrett, Ray Thorne

January Liturgist: Dorothy Groves

January Counters:

January Trustee to open and close church: Ruslana Snyder

Prayers – Praise - Thanks

Numerous prayer requests have been mentioned or written on prayer cards. Some of them are listed here. Since our newsletter is posted on our website, last names are omitted for privacy. Please contact the office to update any requests you may have made – either answered prayer or no longer needed.



Prayer requests from our weekly bulletins

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| • Doug J. | • Mike & Tyler S. |
| • Shannon P. | • Beverly F (Chris's mother) |
| • Anne and Joe | • Theresa and son |
| • Nancy E. | • Carol and Bill B |
| • Carol B | • Mary P |
| • Crystal | • Mary L. |
| • Ruslana's father | • Lori R |

Our Friends with Special Needs

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| • Norma A. | • Bill and Kay R. |
| • Jean S. | • Wyone and Bob B. |
| • Doris K. | • Myrtle J. |
| • Gwen E. | • Eleanor T. |
| • Edith W. | • Ed S. |
| • Peg L. | • Ronnie W. |
| • Gerry G. | • Dan A. |
| • Bertha H. | • Pat M. |

Prayer Card Requests

- Complete healing for Lori
- Estelle M
- Bea F in rehab

- Dot and Charlie Pierce
- Carol T following wrist surgery
- My father - Diane
- Kim W in prayer for healing, strength.
- Scott - Lori
- Paul H
- Please pray for our church
- Mike that he could find treatments that would decrease his severe back pain and other health issues -Diane
- Crystal B. who is very sick that she would be open to the Lord
- Ruslana as she continues to recover

Praise

- Ana has returned home!

Church Staff:

- * Pastor: Rev. Dr. Walter Jesuncosky, III
- * Admin. Assistant: Diane Stanley
- * Director of Music: Mia Reich
- * Organist: David Reich
- * Pianist: Jesse Deal
- * Nursery helpers: Holly Fitzgerald,
Becca VanArnam, Emily Whiteley

