



**Sponsored by United Methodist Men**  
**Fried Fish, Chips, and Cole Slaw**  
**\$8.00/serving**  
**May 21**  
**10:00am - 1:00pm**  
**Asbury Welcome Center**  
**Drive up Sales Only**  
**Proceeds to benefit Youth, Missions,**  
**Scholarship fund, and other projects**

Asbury United Methodist Church      Called to Make a Difference

### Contact Us

Give us a call for more information

Asbury United Methodist  
 101 Live Oak Blvd.  
 Lafayette, LA 70503

(337) 984-4211

www.asbury-umc.org  
 Email: aumc@asbury-umc.org

Rev. Richard Humphries  
 Senior Pastor

Rev. Susan Ferguson  
 Associate Pastor

Rev. Steve Berger  
 Associate Pastor

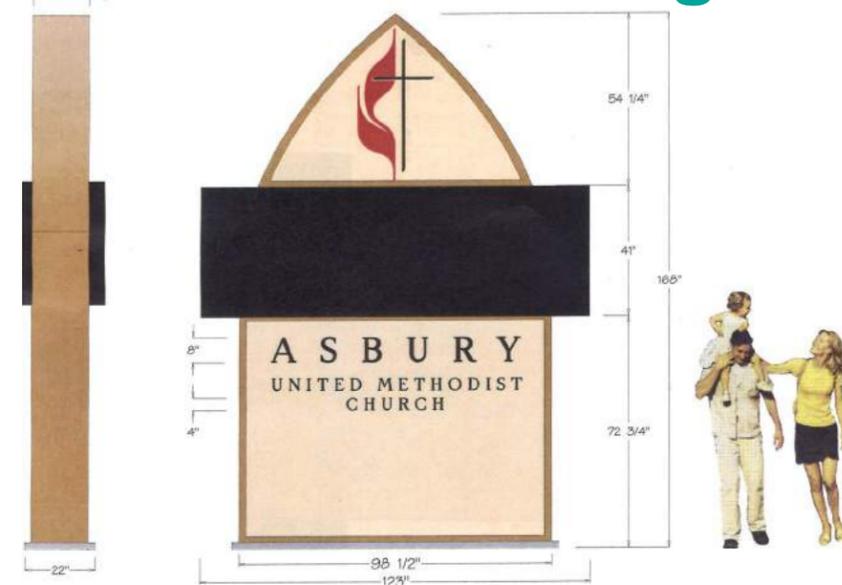
# THE RIDER



Asbury United Methodist Newsletter

May/June 2016

## Coming Soon! New Electronic Digital Sign



Just imagine conveying messages to everyone who passes by Asbury, 18 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year! Our new sign will provide the essential means of communication with existing church members, potential members and the community by informing them of special services and important events, all while attracting new members.

If the hundreds of automobiles passing Asbury along Johnston St. each and every day simply glance at our sign, it shouts loudly that our church is anything but ordinary. What does Asbury have that tells hundreds about the wonderful happenings going on within our walls? The Rider? The Asbury website? These things reach only the people we'll see next Sunday morning.

Asbury's new electronic digital sign will reach hundreds everyday and create excitement out on Johnston St. which translates into increased membership, a more connected community, and an appeal to our youth.

Those who  
 walk with God,  
 always reach  
 their destination

### In This Issue

- A Fond Farewell
- A Hearty Welcome
- Youth Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Music Ministry
- Faith 365

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101 Live Oak Blvd.  
 Lafayette, LA 70503



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When Dianne and I were appointed to Asbury four years ago, we had such mixed emotions. The church where we had long served and grown in ministry was like a second family to us, children we had seen being baptized were now approaching Confirmation age. When we arrived at Asbury we knew that God's hand had moved us here. You made us feel so welcome, appreciated and included in the beautiful rich stream of ministry and grace that is Asbury. We have grown with you for four years, led in some needed changes and transitions and been blessed in a thousand ways by your generosity of warmth and embrace of love. A call from our United Methodist Conference came several weeks ago, asking us to pray about and consider a move to another church, this time as Senior Pastor. I knew the church fairly well since I had served long in the Baton Rouge District. We struggled with leaving such a "dream appointment" as Asbury but know that my true call is to serve the greater good of the Conference and the Kingdom of God and this is a great opportunity to do just that. After much prayer, we said that we would go, though our hearts were heavy with the goodbyes before us. However, we know that Rev. Allison Sauls will be equally led by God and equally gifted to take up the flag of ministry. Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> will be my last Sunday at Asbury. I will begin my ministry at First United Methodist Church of Gonzales on the first Sunday of July. Please pray for us as we take our leave and start a new ministry with our sister church. Please pray for Rev. Sauls, that she will feel as welcomed and embraced in love as Dianne and I have felt. We will always cherish the people and heart of Asbury, you have blessed us in our coming here and in our moving forward. Thank you so much.

Rev. Steve Berger



*Let's celebrate  
FOUR fantastic  
years at Asbury!*

***Farewell Reception:  
June 12  
12:00 pm  
Spiritwind  
Worship Center***



**Guest Sanctuary Worship Leaders**

June 12	Jacob Bares, Violin
June 26	The Foto Sisters and Benjamin Harlan
July 3	Andrea Mouton, Soprano
July 10	Greig Ashurst, Marimba
July 17	The Bayou Belles
July 24	Will Green, Trumpet
July 31	Turning Point Band
August 7	Lauren Baker, Violin
August 14	Asbury's Favorite Hymns
August 21	The Asbury Choir



**Let God's Word Change You  
From the Inside Out!**

Children's Building - Upstairs  
No sign up needed • Walk-Ins Welcome  
9:00 am

If you're the type that can't resist sharing that choice morsel of gossip, throwing that negative barb, or snapping a sarcastic reply - OR if you bottle up those impulses inside, this study will help revolutionize your speech habits and improve your relationships.

**THE POWER OF TRANSFORMED SPEECH**

DATE	TOPIC
May 3	The Power of Navigation - James 3:5-6
May 10	The Power of Cause and Effect - Matthew 23:33-35; 15:16-20
May 17	The Power of Exchange - Psalm 39 and 40
May 25	The Power of an Open Gate - Genesis 11:1-11
May 31	The Power of Construction - Ephesians 4:20-5:4
June 7	The Power of Instruction - Isaiah 6:5-8, 51:16, 59:21

# OH WHAT A NIGHT!



Dr. Mack Wilberg, a composer, arranger, conductor, choral clinician and the current music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, has emerged as one of the pre-eminent composers and arrangers of choral music in the United States today. His sublime arrangements and compositions are being performed by choirs and orchestras around the world to great acclaim. On April 17, he directed.....  
.....the Asbury Choir!

**Oh what a night!** The sanctuary was at capacity with members and guests from the community. The music was absolutely outstanding. If you attended this concert, you left with goose bumps, literally. If you missed it, you now have the opportunity to go to our website and listen, but be prepared! You're definitely in for a treat!

[www.asbury-umc.org/worship](http://www.asbury-umc.org/worship)  
(Click on Asbury Music)



## “The Times They Are A-Changin’”

The times are changing indeed! Bob Dylan's famous song about change was first released in 1964, a mere fifty two years ago. Where has the time gone? That is the same question I ask myself about the last four years that we have had the Rev. Steve Berger with us as one of our Associate Pastors. Surely you have heard by now that he has accepted a new appointment that begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> in Gonzales, LA.

We here in the Asbury staff were anxious about the possibility of a change in our clergy team. With the shortage of clergy in the Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, I was even concerned that we might not get to keep two associate pastors at all. Fortunately, we will have our same number of clergy serving Asbury and our community, but Steve Berger will soon be in another place of ministry. I have appreciated the full range of talents and gifts Steve freely shared with us. He has served ably and faithfully, and he will be missed greatly.

We now know who will be coming to follow Steve. Her name is Allison Sauls, a gifted, creative, energetic, and enthusiastic young woman who is completing her first year after seminary in a new church setting in Sterlington, LA. I feel extremely fortunate that we are receiving someone of Allison's caliber and expertise. Though she is in her twenties, Allison already has a good deal of experience reaching out into the community, “networking” with community leaders, team-building, preaching, and serving. Her educational background and her experience as a life-long child of the United Methodist Church gives her a solid foundation upon which to build as she begins her ministry with us and among us.

Allison's title will be Associate Pastor for Outreach and Evangelism. She will have responsibility for the Spiritwind worship service, working closely with Kyle Deroche, our Spiritwind Worship Leader. Her task will be to join with us in reaching out into our community-especially to those who do not have a church home. It's certainly not like it was in the 1960's in terms of church participation. A full fifty-four percent of our community say they are not connected with any faith community. More and more we must reach new people by taking Christ *to the people*.

Please take time to read Allison Sauls' bio which also appears in this edition of *The Rider*. I know you will want to join me in expressing your appreciation to Steve and Dianne Berger when we hold our farewell reception on June 12. God is with us in this and every change of our lives. Of this we can be certain!

Grace to you,

*Dick*

# Livingston, AL



All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders welcome!  
 Kyle Deroche, Youth Minister  
[kyled@asbury-umc.org](mailto:kyled@asbury-umc.org)  
 (337) 984-4211



9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders who attended Senior High Retreat in March!



**THANK YOU ASBURY!!!**  
**OVER \$18,000 WAS COLLECTED FOR "ENVELOP OUR YOUTH" FUNDRAISER TO DEFRAY THE COST OF THE 2016 SUMMER MISSION TRIP TO ALABAMA.**  
**63 TEENAGERS & 19 ADULTS WILL BE PARTICIPATING!**

Follow us, *AYM (Asbury Youth Ministry) Lafayette*



Please visit our website, [asbury-umc.org/youth](http://asbury-umc.org/youth)

**MISSION TRIP 2016**

**MANDATORY MEETING DATES**

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 4:00-5:30 pm  
 This meeting is for Youth & Chaperones

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
 4:00-5:30 pm  
 This meeting is for Youth, Parents of Youth & Chaperones  
 Final Payments due at this meeting.

**Mission Trip June 3-11**

Calling all 2016 Graduating High School Seniors

Please call or email us by May 8th if you would like to be recognized  
 Senior Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>!  
[anglec@asbury-umc.org](mailto:anglec@asbury-umc.org),  
 984-4211



Allison was born in Shreveport, Louisiana. During her childhood, when not in school, Allison spent her time in the dance studio or at her home church, Grace Community UMC. After graduation from Caddo Magnet High School Allison attended Hendrix College (Conway, AR) where she majored in Urban Studies, minored in Religious Studies and with the help of many, discerned a call to ministry.



After college graduation Allison moved to Atlanta, GA to attend Candler School of Theology at Emory University to complete her M.Div. In addition to completing her degree, Allison also spent her time in Atlanta working with the L'Arche Atlanta community, serving as the pastoral intern at Epworth UMC at Candler Park and spent many hours in Cannon Chapel working for the Candler Office of Worship.

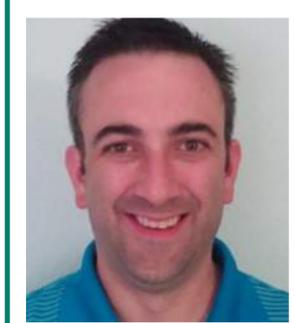
After completing her theological education in May of 2015 Allison returned home to Louisiana to serve as the Pastor of Connections and Church Planting Resident at Foundry UMC a brand new church in the Monroe area, there having the opportunity to join an incredible team of folks and learn what it means to plant a new community of faith. She is very much looking forward to joining the Asbury team and experiencing how the Spirit is at work in the congregation and community.

*Please join us for a welcome reception on July 10th at noon in the Spiritwind Worship Center.*

## Vacation Bible School - June 13-17

### Catch the wave and donate:

- ◆ Fish nets
- ◆ Tongue depressors
- ◆ Rolls of blue plastic table covers
- ◆ Plastic sand buckets
- ◆ Beach chairs
- ◆ Nautical rope
- ◆ Swim fins
- ◆ Pool noodles
- ◆ Small beach tents
- ◆ Rope lights
- ◆ Tiki torches
- ◆ Party lanterns
- ◆ Old flip flops
- ◆ Kites
- ◆ Gently used beach towels



## CONGRATULATIONS TO ZACH VOSS Children's Ministry Volunteer Spotlight

Zach has been a vital part of children's ministry from the first day he and his family attended. Zach works Fall Fest, shepherds the 4th grade every Sunday, always pays attention to what's going on with the kids on Sunday, and most recently saw that the foosball table needed drastic repair. Zach bought supplies, repaired the table, and even added a scoring system. It's great when volunteers see a need and get to work! Thank you, Zach, for your dedication to Asbury's kids!