

# September Newsletter 2010

Audubon United Methodist Church  
314 Graisbury Ave.  
Audubon, NJ 08106

A Christ-centered, Biblical, Caring church, making a difference

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**September Newsletter is sponsored by:  
Laura McCauley, “in loving memory of her daughter, Judy”.**

## Sunday Worship Opportunities:

Contemporary Service 8:15 am

Sunday school 9:30 am (all ages)

Traditional Service 10:45 am

Youth Group Jr./Sr. High (meets September to June)

6:00 – 7:30 pm

## Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Walter Jesuncosky, III, Pastor

Marilyn Radley, Music and Choir Director

Jesse Deal, Pianist

Marge Watson, Organist

Helen Orfe, Nursery

John Bowdoin, Custodian

# FROM THE PASTOR *September, 2010*

## *Fall Update*



*"That was our contemporary service. Next is the traditional service, followed by a classical service and a casual service with a sports emphasis."*

The long, hot summer is drawing to a close. It has been a good one for Audubon UMC. We had a great vacation Bible school with attendance surpassing last year. Our new Mid-summer Nights Service was a success and we hope to continue the program next summer. Summer worship attendance was better than many Sundays last fall, winter and spring! Folks got married, babies were baptized, and the church air conditioning worked! Our church also experienced loss with the passing of two very special members, Ethel Walker and Miriam Blaisdell. Several of our members faced serious health issues, but by the grace of God, they have experienced the touch of the Great Physician.

Now fall is fast approaching and we look forward to some special ministries and opportunities as well as the return of regular programming. Sunday School, or "Christian Education" as church council has dubbed it will resume in early September with classes for all ages. Our Youth Group will also return and begin a new monthly worship service led by the youth. We forward to the youth Worship Band sharing in our services throughout the year.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Supper Club resumes on Wednesdays with a six-week course based on Adam Hamilton's *Christianity and World Religions* series. Supper will be served at 6 pm with the class to follow. Also, I look forward to offering confirmation class for all who will turn age 13 during the next year. This class is usually held on Sunday Mornings during the Christian Ed hour in the pastor's Study. Watch for details and sign up information. Beginning Sunday, September 12, our Contemporary Worship will move to **8:30 am** on Sunday mornings. Please note the time change. Later in the fall we hope to begin two special programs; one based on the book and study *Just Walk Across the Room* by Pastor Bill Hybels of Willow Creek Church. This will be an all-church program to challenge our members to be more effective in their personal witnessing for Jesus Christ. We are also planning to challenge members with a special stewardship campaign so we can move beyond just paying bills to funding increasing ministry and mission.

It is easy for churches to come out of the summer months in a state of lethargy...feeling disconnected, still on vacation mentally, exhausted not rested by summer activities, struggling to get "back in the swing of things." I pray this will not be the case for Audubon United Methodist Church for the fall of 2010. With so many area churches struggling to stay open, let alone put people in the pews, God blessed us this summer. We have some exciting programs and worship opportunities planned for the weeks ahead. And most importantly, we have these words of our Lord Jesus to motivate us...

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 NIV*

## *Pastor Walt Jesuncosky*

## September Meetings and Events

### Events in September

#### Regular monthly meetings for September

Trustees	Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup> .	Church House	7-8:30 PM
Finance Meeting	Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup> .	Church House	6:45-7:30 PM
Church Council	Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup> .	Conover Parlor	7:30 - 9 PM
Mission of the Month				

#### Weekly meetings

Seekers	Monday's		Conover Parlor	7:00 – 8:00 PM
AA Meetings	Monday's		Adult Assembly Room	7:30 _ 8:30 PM
Prayer Group	Wednesday's		Church House	10:00 –11:00 AM

Youth Group meets every Sunday at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. All 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade children are welcome to attend.

Seekers Bible class meets every Monday night at 7:00 pm in Conover Parlor. If you can't make Sunday school, this is the place to come to study the Bible. Everyone is welcome.

Choir Rehearsal, Wednesday evenings at 7:30 in the Sanctuary.

Cheney Handbell Choir, Sunday after service when announced.

The choir resumes on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. They are always a blessing to hear each Sunday.

\* **Offerings: Applications for Electronic Giving** are in the Narthex and on the church website. Please give or send the completed form to Sandy Albrecht.

Psalm 37:7-9 O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.



## COME MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE1

Chancel Choir

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 8 at 7:30 PM

Cheney Handbell Choir

Rehearsals begin Sunday, October 3  
Following church service.

Information: Marilyn Radley (856) 858-5094





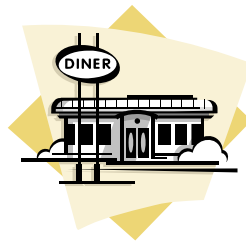
**Shut-in of the Month of September:** Jean Stephens, c/o Atvia, Rt. 207, Health Way Dr., Salisbury, MD 21804.

Please keep Jean in your prayers and let her know she is in your thoughts by sending her a card.



**Newsletter deadline is September 12<sup>th</sup>.**

Don't delay what you can do today! Get it done early and off your mind. .



### Out to lunch with the Friendly Seniors

On September 29th at 12 noon at the Crystal Lake Diner. Won't you come along and join the fun? We'd love to have you. Please contact Joan Windston.



### Food Pantry for September

- A-F 2 cans of soup
- G-R Paper (1 pkg. of toilet paper, 1 roll of paper towels, or 1 box of tissues)
- S-Z 2 cans of veggies



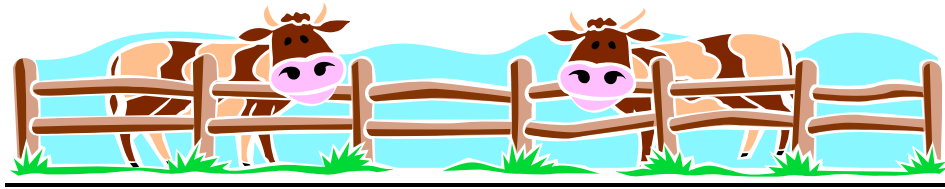
## **FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Now that you have your new box of envelopes, we hope you will pick up a packet of yellow envelopes in the Narthex to contribute to the “Building & Major Repairs Fund”. This is the fund which will pay for the repairs to the stained glass windows and other major repairs that are too large to be included in our regular budget. The envelopes are in packets of 12, but you may of course take as many as you will use. We currently have enough funds to repair one window, but have 8 more that need major repairs and 3 that need minor repairs. The cost is approximately \$3,500.00.



## **BUILDING FUND AND MAJOR REPAIRS**

If you would like to contribute to the “Building and Major Repairs Fund through electronic giving, see Sandy Albrecht or Carol Tait and let them know that you would like to give to the “Capital Campaign”.



## **EAT MORE CHICK, PLEEEASE**

### **CHICK- FIL- A**

Chick-fil-A Spirit Night: Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4-7PM. Take a night off from cooking and enjoy dinner and fellowship with fellow church members/friends. A portion of the proceeds will come to the church. Be sure to tell them you are there from AUMC-and while you're at it, invite your neighbors and friends to go too!

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEETINGS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR**

**October 4<sup>th</sup> Monday @ 7:30 Meeting in fellowship Hall.**

**November 8<sup>th</sup>.Monday 7:30 Ingathering in fellowship Hall, Bethel church providing entertainment.**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>. Saturday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Christmas Bazaar, Fellowship Hall.**

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## September Birthdays

Jessica Kyler	1	Blair MacMinn	27
Christian Dexter	3	Cindy Burrough	27
Steve Bradshaw	3	Jake VanArnam	27
Sandra Handal	4	Terry Mazur	27
Christina Crea	5	Winnie Deal	29
Emily Doughty	5	Janet Kirsche	30
Nicole Kyler	7	Laura Crosson	30
Marion Kreckmann	9	Rebecca Kitchmire	30
Kenneth Conley	10	Steve Rizzo, Jr.	30
Renee Craig	10		
Robert Grube	10		
Lindsi Arcaini	13		
Emily Whiteley	19		
Gerry Gosk	19		
Cyndy Lowden	20		
AJ Foremny	21		
Sarah Smith	22		

## September Anniversaries

Mindy & Steve Ruoff	3
Paula & Barry Zane	10
Carole & Ken Sturgis	23
Peg & George Keel	24
Carol & Ron Fennimore	28
Diane & Michael Stanley	30



Calling all *women of faith* to attend the Women of Faith Conference  
"OVER THE TOP"

Date: September 10-11, 2010 at the Wachovia Center

Times: Friday: 10 AM to 3:30 PM and 7-9:30 PM

Saturday: 9-4

Car pools will be available.

Box lunches for both days included in the low price of \$89!

If you can't go both days, split the ticket and price with a friend!

Payment of \$89 due to Elaine Soulliard (546-8864).

"Tickets are still available"

Annual Conference – June 3-5, 2010  
Valley Forge Convention Center

Theme: Building the Church by Our Presence

I had the privilege of representing Audubon UMC at the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. I participated in almost three days of wonderful worship, fantastic music and excellent preaching. To try to describe every message, the business sessions, etc. would probably put you to sleep because I could not do them justice. Instead, I will try to give you snapshots of what I heard and the notes I took.

Thursday – Conference opened with the traditional Service of Remembrance and Communion. The message by Rev. Esther Chung Kim reminded us that God sent the Messiah as promised, Jesus, who gave us access to God as believers. We are to draw near to God through prayer, worship and meditation on the Lord and we are to draw near to each other because brothers and sisters in faith are the best reminders of God. Through God's promises we are called to keep holding on, in good times and in times of burden." "God's plan is not to harm, but to give us hope for a future." "God has promised to walk with us and he does." The author of the book of Hebrews exhorts us to meet together. The reading of the names of clergy or clergy spouses who died during the past year followed and Conrad Kauffman, a friend who lived in Audubon and worshiped at Haddon Heights UMC, was remembered. The service concluded with communion.

The conference preacher was The Rev. Stephanie Moore Hand who energized the conference with her preaching. She talked about "Doubting" Thomas. He was not present when Jesus revealed himself to the disciples. She challenged us not to get stuck on "unless this or unless that" ("unless I see the marks in his hands . . .). People have all kinds of "unless this or unless that" excuses for not showing up in church such as the style of music or the length of the sermon or how the young people dress. When Thomas saw Jesus, Jesus told him to feel his wounds to remove all doubt. Thomas missed the first encounter with Jesus but we serve a God of second chances.

The Conference Lay Leader addressed the laity while the clergy met with the Bishop. She reminded us of that this year's theme—Disciples transforming the world through our presence. Our presence is more than showing up—it is being a part of the body of Christ, presence in action, and a healing presence. A business session followed. After dinner, Bishop Devadhar gave the Episcopal Address. He encouraged clergy and laity to always ask, "Are we a sacramental presence of Christ in everything we do?" He urged prayerful consideration of whether God is calling us to be "risk takers, caretakers or undertakers." He challenged us to become "powerful circuit riders" of the 21<sup>st</sup> century by prayerfully looking at our Methodist history and by living fully in the present.

Friday morning began at 7:15 with a Bible study led by The Rev. John C. Holbert, a professor of homiletics (the art of preaching) at Perkins School of Theology. He began with Exodus 33 and the story of Abraham and the presence of God. He then moved down the family tree through Isaac to Jacob. Words cannot do justice to how interesting this was. He continually translated many of the Hebrew words to give so much more meaning to a story I thought I knew. He was also very funny.

Rev. Hand preached again reminding us we are "all broken clay vessels . . . with imperfections, but when God is in it something will happen. God will show up, when we show up," she said. "When we take one step, God takes two. She urged the importance of empowering the laity to be in ministry. God has not only called clergy to ministry. She ended with an altar call and I think we sang the last song about 75 times (no kidding).

We heard a number of reports including the "Study on Effectively Fulfilling Our Missional Responsibilities" from Rev. Doug Ruffle. He said that of the estimated 9 million people living in the bounds of the conference, only a third are active in a community of faith and only 11.7 percent of New Jersey's population attends any mainline denominational church. The goal is to have one new church plant a year, forming "revitalizing clusters" in each of the nine districts (of which we are a part of one in Gateway South).

The proposed budget of \$12,105,498 for 2011 was accepted, a .15% decrease from last year. The budget includes a 0 percent increase in income from Shared Ministries, which was possible by using Conference Reserve Funds. The recommendation to consolidate three Conference staff positions into one was accepted.

Rev. Kadi Billman preached for the Commissioning Service. She said “when you reach moments in your ministry when you feel the gifts and resources you have are not sufficient,” remember the scripture lesson where Jesus fed 5,000 men in addition to all the women and children with only five loaves of bread and two fish. She reminded us that when Jesus was surrounded by the large crowd, he was in a boat attempting to seek a secluded spot to be in prayer. “I don’t know where that place is for you, but find that boat, find that place and take what is too large to God.”

Bishop Devadhar preached at the Ordination Service. He posed the question, “Where’s the beef?” He talked about “ecclesia exitus,” the Latin term for church drop-out and offered examples of possible reasons. He speculated that several disciples also dropped out. In John 21, the disciples were suffering and decided to return to their former profession but were not able to catch any fish. They had stepped away from Christ’s team and decided to go fishing on their own. Jesus was not angry. He asked them, “have you any fish? Where’s the substance? Where is the growing point of your faith that will help you mature? Where’s the beef?” He reminded us it is neither the size of our buildings or our endowments that make the difference in our ministry. “It is the ability of the people of God to ask the right questions at the right time.” “The unchurched are asking us, our youth are asking us, and the world is asking us that same question: Where’s the beef?” The ordination service followed and my friend Tom Austin was ordained in the Order of Elder.

Saturday morning, at 7:15, I attended another Bible study with Rev. Holbert, on the book of Ruth. Again, I thought I knew this story very well since we studied it in Sunday School not that long ago but he added so much more to our understanding.

Conference preacher, Rev. Hand preached on the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. “Because Phillip was willing to listen, the Ethiopian was willing to talk.” We are called to serve – not to be served. We are “guides” to lead people to Christ. To do this, we must be students of the Scriptures. She encouraged us, particularly the clergy, by saying that sometimes ministry is hard but don’t quit.

Our District Superintendent shared with the conference the story that appeared in the Courier-Post recently about Pastor Marilus Rodriguez in Camden.

I was excited to hear about the ministries planned in Newark and Trenton under the direction of Bishop Felton Edwin May (Retired) and hope that in the next few years Camden will be the target of revitalization.

The worship, music and preaching were the best I have experienced at Annual Conference.

Carol Tait

Lay Member to Annual Conference



**Bethany Christian Services cordially invites you to attend its**

Greater Delaware Valley Fund-raising Banquet on  
Saturday, October 16, 2010  
from 6 o'clock in the evening until 9:30

Crowne Plaza Valley Forge  
260 Mall Boulevard  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

**Highlights of the Evening**

Live and Silent Auctions  
Gourmet Hors d'oeuvres  
Elegant Dinner

Have you ever experienced Amazing Grace?

\*Bethany birthparents, adoptive and foster parents, and adoptees will be sharing their stories of Amazing Grace spanning 30 years.

**Don't forget to RSVP!** To RSVP for the banquet, send your name, address and phone number [here](#).

The fall banquet is our major annual fund-raising event. We are continuing our tradition of no advance per plate charge. Therefore, if you reserve a seat, and are not able to attend, we respectfully request that you forward a donation that considers Bethany's \$42 per plate expense.



**Please make checks payable to Audubon United Methodist Church.**



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**"Project Graduation for the Audubon Seniors"**

There will be a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, September 26. The time will be from 4 until 7. For further information, please contact Ruslana Snyder or Paula Zane.

## **Monthly Assignments**

If you are unable to perform your assignment any given week, please call a substitute or you chairperson.

### September Ushers

Robert Fonash  
Ron Fennimore  
Jim Barrett  
Raymond Thorne

### September Greeters

Kim Williams  
Ruslana Snyder

### September Closers

Ron Fennimore

### September Counters

Sandy Albrecht  
Norma Albrecht  
Gwen Evans  
Raymond Thorne  
Emmett Watson