



The Asbury Journal

A monthly publication of Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church

DECEMBER 2011
Volume 2011 Issue 12

From the Cluttered Desk...

I decided to use one of my favorite Christmas stories as a part of my article this month. It came to mind as I was shopping (one of my least favorite activities) for a 13-year-old who calls Epworth home. I think this is what Christmas giving is all about --- giving something to someone who really needs a gift --- anonymously. I wish I could give credit to the story teller but this gift remains anonymous too. Please read on.....

I remember a wonderful Christmas adventure I had with my Grandma as a kid. I remember tearing across town on my bike to visit her right after my big sister had dropped the bomb: "There is no Santa Claus," she jeered. "Even dummies know that!" My Grandma was not the gushy kind, never had been. I fled to her that day because I knew she would be straight with me. I knew Grandma always told the truth, and I knew that the truth always went down a whole lot easier when swallowed with one of her "world-famous" cinnamon buns. Grandma was home, and the buns were still warm. Between bites, I told her everything. She was ready for me. "No Santa Claus?" she snorted...."Ridiculous! Don't believe it. That rumor has been going around for years, and it makes me mad, plain mad!! Now, put on your coat, and let's go." "Go? Go where, Grandma?" I asked. I hadn't even finished my second world-famous cinnamon bun. "Where" turned out to be Kerby's General Store, the one store in town that had a little bit of just about everything. As we walked through its doors, Grandma handed me ten dollars. That was a bundle in those days. "Take this money," she said, "and buy something for someone who needs it. I'll wait for you in the car." Then she turned and walked out of Kerby's.

I was only eight years old. I'd often gone shopping with my mother, but never had I shopped for anything all by myself. The store seemed big and crowded, full of people scrambling to finish their Christmas shopping. For a few moments I just stood there, confused, clutching that ten-dollar bill, wondering what to buy, and who on earth to buy it for. I thought of everybody I knew: my family, my friends, my neighbors, the kids at school, the people who went to my church. I was just about thought out, when I suddenly thought of Bobby Decker. He was a kid with bad breath and messy hair, and he sat right behind me in Mrs. Pollock's grade-two class.

Bobby Decker didn't have a coat. I knew that because he never went out to play at recess during the winter. His mother always wrote a note, telling the teacher that he had a cough, but all we kids knew that Bobby Decker didn't have a cough; he just didn't have a warm coat. I fingered the ten-dollar bill with growing excitement.

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December Flowers:

- 4th: *Bevline Lowder*
11th: *Poinsettias*
18th: *Poinsettias*
25th: *Poinsettias*

REMINDER:

*Information Deadline
for the January issue of
The Asbury Journal:
due by:*

**5:00 PM, Thursday,
December 22nd!**

Assisting With Worship in December:

Trustee.....Thomas Brantley
S.S. Greeters.....Marshall Class
Nursery/Preschool.....Staffed

Financial Workers:

- 4th: **Ed Owens and
Sandy Sanders**
11th: **Liz Matthews and
Doris Bowen**
18th: **Stuart Greer
and Rick Wall**
25th: **Reba Avant
and Al Lindsey**

Asbury News...

I would buy Bobby Decker a coat! I settled on a red corduroy one that had a hood to it. It looked real warm, and he would like that. "Is this a Christmas present for someone?" the lady behind the counter asked kindly, as I laid my ten dollars down. "Yes, ma'am," I replied shyly. "It's for Bobby." The nice lady smiled at me, as I told her about how Bobby really needed a good winter coat. I didn't get any change, but she put the coat in a bag, smiled again, and wished me a Merry Christmas.

That evening, Grandma helped me wrap the coat (a little tag fell out of the coat, and Grandma tucked it in her Bible) in Christmas paper and ribbons and wrote, "To Bobby, From Santa Claus" on it. Grandma said that Santa always insisted on secrecy. Then she drove me over to Bobby Decker's house, explaining as we went that I was now and forever officially, one of Santa's helpers. Grandma parked down the street from Bobby's house, and she and I crept noiselessly and hid in the bushes by his front walk. Then Grandma gave me a nudge. "All right, Santa Claus," she whispered, "get going." I took a deep breath, dashed for his front door, threw the present down on his step, pounded his door and flew back to the safety of the bushes and Grandma. Together we waited breathlessly in the darkness for the front door to open. Finally it did, and there stood Bobby. Fifty years haven't dimmed the thrill of those moments spent shivering, beside my Grandma, in Bobby Decker's bushes.

That night, I realized that those awful rumors about Santa Claus were just what Grandma said they were: ridiculous. Santa was alive and well, and we were on his team. I still have the Bible, with the coat tag tucked inside: \$19.95.

May you always have LOVE to share, HEALTH to spare and FRIENDS that care.....

And may you always believe in the magic of Santa Claus and the mystery that is God!

....*Pastor Steve*

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Please bring your unwrapped gifts with the card attached to it to the church office **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th**. If you have questions, please call Laurie Brandes at 609-2332 or the church office at 776-7237.

STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUSES:

As we enter this season of celebrating God's gift to us of His son, Jesus, the members of the Committee on Staff Parish Relations request that you include our staff among those on your gift list by giving to the 2011 Christmas Fund. By giving, you can join others to show your appreciation to the staff for their efforts to support our Asbury family throughout the year. The deadline for receiving your donation is ***Wednesday, December 14th***. Please place your donation in the Sunday offering plate in an envelope marked "*Staff Christmas Fund*" or mail to the church office. Checks should be made payable to Asbury Memorial UMC and will be given to the Church Treasurer to ensure that your donation will appear on your financial record.

Walter Gunter, Chairperson

NEW OFFICE HOURS IN 2012

The Church Office hours will change beginning January 1, 2012. The office will be open Monday through Thursday, 8:30—5:00 pm (closed from 12-1 for lunch) and will be **CLOSED ON FRIDAYS**. If an emergency should arise, **please feel free** to call Debbie Owens on her cell at (843) 245-5834.

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Thursday
8:30—5:00



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to place a Christmas Poinsettia in the church in memory/honor of a loved one, please fill out a form (available in the narthex, Social Hall or church office) and return it to the church office with your money by **Wednesday, December 7th**. You may also call the church office and place your order over the phone with Debbie.

The plants are \$12.50 each and will be in the church on Sunday, December 11th, 18th & 25th. You may take the plant home after the service on Sunday, December 25th.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We only have **45** poinsettias this year, so get your order in early. Thanks!

IN
OUR
PRAYERS



William Askins (great nephew of Sharon Rogers), **Lib Axson** (mother of Bob Axson), **Alexa Bailey** (Charles Burroughs' niece), **Carolyn Beckham**, **Ted Bentley**, (brother-in-law of Judy Axson), **Dorothy and Jack Bittner**, **Deborah Burrows** (mother of Melissa Axson), **Bill and Ann Cauthen**, **Charles Cline** (brother of Bill Cline), **Aline Coggins** (DeAnn Willard's grandmother), **Alma Collum** (Debbie Jordan's mother), **Mark Cox** (son-in-law of Rodney and Mary Ann Derrick), **Rebecca Crowe** (Ann Cauthen's granddaughter), **Joel David** (son of DaMaris Rorie), **Sheila Drake** (niece of Vivian Drake), **Mac Dunbar** (friend of Sharon Rogers), **Lois Elkins**, **David Harris**, **L.D. Hinson** (Inez Hinson's brother), **Pat Joyner**, **Jeanne Kennedy** (Elly Hinson's niece), **Marsi McAlister**, (Van & Addie McAlister's daughter), **Pat McAlister**, **Pat Mitchell** (mother of Rob Moore), **Rob & Linda Moore**, **Beth Nance** (Lindsay Sorrell's mother), **Carroll Ann Norris** (friend of Strom & Beverly Johnston), **Lorine Norton**, **Family of Gaylia Mae O'Neill** (mother of Sherry Bailey), **Virginia Outlaw** (sister of Pat Wall), **Susan Owens**, (daughter-in-law of Reid Owens), **Richard Render**, **Robyn Rhodes**, **Jenny Rolling** (sister of Carolyn Tippins), **Dianne Rutledge** (daughter of Reba Avant), **Dr. Fred Shealey, Jr. and Susan Shealey** (son-in-law/daughter of Teresa Toombs), **Ashley Skrypek** (granddaughter of Rudy & Day Walters), **Irene Smith** (grandmother of Kristin Smith), **Family of Patricia Stanley** (mother of Happy McGill), **James Voss** (Brenda Podewil's father), **Emily Wall** (granddaughter of Rick & Pat Wall), **Mary Wall** (daughter-in-law of Rick & Pat Wall), **Rudy & Day Walters**, **Family of Bill Webb** (Sue Howdyshell's brother), **Harriett Wilkinson** (Glen Adams' business partner), **David Wythe** (friend of Sarah Kimbrough)

Continuing Care:

Debbie Amick—Heritage Healthcare, Ridgeway, SC
Hilda Turbeville—Morristown, TN
Bill Cauthen—NHC Park Lane
Lois Elkins—River Oaks Senior Care, Port Royal, SC

Retirement Home:

Nell Heriot—Methodist Oaks

Military Service:

Andrew Phillips Ted Podewil

Thank You ...



Just a note to thank our Asbury family for all of the prayers, calls and visits while Ron was in the hospital. A special thanks to Pastor Steve for staying with us and helping to keep us calm. We love you all. Thanks so much,
Ron and Kathy Brown

Upcoming Worship Schedule

Please note schedule changes for several Sundays

December 4 --- 2nd Sunday of Advent --- Communion at both services
December 11 --- 3rd Sunday of Advent --- Regular Schedule
December 18 --- 4th Sunday of Advent --- Christmas Cantata --- *One Service at 11:00*
December 24 --- Christmas Eve --- Evening Worship at 7:00
December 25 --- Christmas Day --- *One Service at 11:00*
January 1 --- New Year's Day --- Wesley's Covenant Service --- *One Service at 11:00*

WORSHIP COMMITTEE CHRISTMAS DECORATING SCHEDULE

The Worship Committee will meet to decorate the church sanctuary on Saturday, December 3rd, at 9:00 AM. Any assistance would be appreciated.





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission: "We Gather to Worship and Learn. We Go Out to Serve and Share."

Vision: "Together as people of God, we will be a beacon of God's love for our members and the community through sharing the word of Jesus and doing His work."

Asbury Pre-School & Kindergarten News

Christmas Blessings from the children and staff of Asbury Preschool and Kindergarten!

TWO BURIAL PLOTS FOR SALE...

Two burial plots (Lot 392-A, Spaces 1 & 2) at Greenlawn for sale
Currently selling for \$2,295.00 each—will sell for \$1,795.00 each.

Contact Greenlawn to view these plots.
Call Jim & Pat Wadford at 776-2803

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church
1005 Asbury Drive - Columbia, S. C. 29209
www.asburycolumbia.org

Church Office: 803-776-7237
Fax Number: 803-776-7238

Church Office Hours:
8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Thursday
8:30 - 12:00 Noon Friday

Pastor: Steve McCormick
Cell Phone: 1-803-968-0345
Parsonage: (803) 776-0449
SMcCormick@umcsc.org

Administrative Assistant: Debbie Owens
Notary Public
Cell Phone: 843-245-5834
asburychurch@bellsouth.net

Director of Music Ministries: Suzanne Sloan
suzannesloan1@att.net

Organist: Donald Cockrell

Director of Youth Ministries: Kirby Jordan
Cell Phone: 803-206-0067
willkj7@bellsouth.net

Kindergarten Director: Susie Childress
Kindergarten Office: 803-776- 8121
asburychurchpk@bellsouth.net

Sexton: Glen Smith