

# Announcer

March 2011 / Asbury United Methodist Church

Florence Hollinger, Editor

Rev. Carlotta Madison, Pastor

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## Mark Your Calendar

**3/6**

Confirmation Class  
New Members Class

**3/9**

Ash Wednesday

**3/13**

Snyder Chalk

**3/27**

New Members Class

**4/3**

Confirmation Class

**4/10**

Montco Senior Choir

## He's the Vine – We're the Branches

Living a life marked by Christ-likeness

John Ortberg in his book, *The Me I Want To be* >>*becoming God's best version of you*, tells a story about his friend Danny who went spelunking in the caves of Iowa. His guide took him deep underground, promising to lead Danny through a passage into a spectacular chamber. The passageway was small. Danny had to stoop at first. Then as it grew still smaller, he had to get on his hands and knees. Eventually the only way to go forward was to lay on his back and push his body forward with his feet. Then the ceiling was so low that when he inhaled he could not move at all! He had to stop inhale, and exhale, and only then was his chest low enough to allow him to move. By this point it was physically impossible to back out. If the passageway had gotten any smaller Danny feared that they would have lain there and died in that cave.

Danny was a sky-diving, mountain-climbing, hang gliding thrill seeker, but in that cave he felt sheer panic. He tried fighting his fears, but he kept picturing his dead body rotting in the cave. Finally, he told his guide he was about to lose it, and the guide said, "Danny, close your eyes and listen to my voice. I will keep talking, and guide you through this. I have been here before. I will get us to the

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# Helping One-another

## BELL CHOIR

With the untimely passing of Barbara Bolton the future of the Bell Choir was in doubt for a very short time. All choir members, bell and chancel, felt that it was important to continue the work and training that Barbara initiated with the bells and chimes. Carolyn Linarello has graciously volunteered to continue Barbara's bell choir legacy. Thank you, Carolyn.

## JUST A THOUGHT

If spring came but once in a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts, to behold the miraculous change.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



**Reminder:**  
*Announcer Articles*  
*Deadline 4.16*

other side. But you must listen to my voice.” Danny did as he was asked. What freed him from panic and fear was not trying hard to quit thinking fearful thoughts, it was listening to another voice.

What voice do you listen to when you're in the cave and it's dark, when the ceiling is low and you can't back out?

The Spirit – the Holy Spirit - longs to flow in our minds all the time. One reason why people have found memorizing Scripture helpful is that it helps us listen to the voice of our guide when we are in the cave. We set our minds on those thoughts that equip us for life. We might miss a second serve, but the Spirit will remind us that we are still God's beloved child. We might be criticized, but the Spirit reminds us that truth and grace are always our friend. The Spirit desires his presence to be a river of life – of love and joy and peace – through each moment of our day.

John Milton wrote in his epic poem *Paradise Lost*, “This mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.”

***“Those who live in accordance  
with the Spirit  
have their minds set  
on what the Spirit desires.”***

Romans 8:5

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## *A Special Thanks*

I want to thank Asbury for my \$150 scholarship which I put toward the cost of textbooks. This is my final semester at seminary as I plan to graduate in May. I appreciate all the prayers and support you have given me during this 6-year journey. The opportunity to study has been a wonderful adventure, a challenge and a blessing. Praise God!

Jenny Smith

# In The Spotlight —

This month we have Mary Catharine Nungesser Kurcik Maddonni, wife of Tony Maddonni. Catharine, the name we know her by, grew up in Norristown with five sisters and three brothers and at this point in time there is only one surviving sibling, a sister.

She attended local schools and prior to graduating from Norristown High School many years ago, Catharine's extracurricular activities were softball and swimming. Though, by her own admission, swimming was short lived because she couldn't master the back dive.

Like a lot of female high school students of that era, her first job was at F. W. Woolworth - Five and Dime

while she pursued post-high school studies at the American Institute of Banking. She was subsequently hired by Norristown Penn Trust Company (a bank). Later, there were twenty years of employment with AMP, Inc., and ten years as secretary at Asbury United Methodist Church. These rounded out her full time working years.

For the past four years, she has been a Handicap Child Aide with Balgo Transit Co.

Catharine and Tony's blended family includes nine daughters and two sons; four his and seven hers. Catharine has ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Tony's family adds seven more grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

In spite of almost constant involvement in family activities, Catharine still finds time for knitting and reading. She and Tony also like to travel.

Catharine has had a long time membership in the Order of Eastern Star Cedarettes and was a Past Matron of Eastern Star.

In answer to the question "What brought you to Asbury?" her response was, "My grandfather was a pastor in a Methodist Church. Marrying Tony brought me back home to Asbury." In addition to secretarial work she has served the church on Staff Parish, Commission on Worship and Commission on Education.

## IT'S A CONTEST

This issue of the Asbury Announcer introduces a new feature which, for the lack of a better title, can be found under the heading "In The Spotlight." The idea is to get to know each other a little better. There are no age restrictions, nor is there any set pattern as to who will be asked to be our subject, or when. However, a catchy title is needed. Our young people just might outdo their elders on this one. So think about it and submit your entries to my mailbox (Florence Hollinger) in the Pine Street entrance by March 16th. A panel of five judges will be asked to consider each one and select a winner to be announced in April. Who will it be?

# Reaching Out In Love

by Deb Kontra

The office has received some correspondence on the following people. We either have a bad address or do not have them listed in any of our records. If you have updated information on these folks, please contact the office. Thank-you!

**Reeves & Jerrie Havens** - no record at all  
(lives in Franklin, TN)

**Doris Edwards** - bad address

**Mary Lou Weaver** - bad address

## MYF

Deb Kontra

The Youth have been meeting regularly on Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00. We are working with Pastor Carlotta on a Youth led service sometime in March.

We would also like to thank everyone who bought hoagies or donated to us. We had a great time making them. I would like to thank the Sheridan's & Kinsey's for breakfast donations.

Another thank-you to Wendy Kinsey and my husband Tom for helping, as well. We made a total of \$203.00.

I am looking into the Wawa hoagie coupons for a Spring/Summer fundraiser. More details on this soon.

## Proverbs 25:14

Whoever falsely boasts of giving, is like clouds and wind without rain.



## Join a New Member's Class

### EXPLORING WHAT IT MEANS...

*to be a member of the United Methodist Church and Asbury's Community of Faith*

Jenny Smith is leading the discussions which commenced on Sunday, February 20th. Newcomers and old timers, too, are welcome to participate in the remaining two-one hour sessions which will be held in the Annex at 2PM Sunday, March 6th and Sunday, March 27th.

The topics will be; "Keeping the Faith Alive" and "Spiritual Gifts". The concluding session will cover "Membership".