



THANK GOD FOR THIS SEASON OF GREAT JOY

by Pastor David Thomas

With all the turmoil we are experiencing in our world today, the division we are

facing in our nation, and the struggles we have in our own lives, the message of the Angels that first Christmas Day is so needed. We hear them singing about peace on earth and good will among men (Luke 2:14). Oh, how we need that today. It is the season to draw close to the One who is called: The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), and we pray for that peace for the whole world today.

Ever since that first Christmas Night it has been a season of great music. I'm looking forward to Sunday evening, December 3, when Asbury's

Chancel Choir and Orchestra will be bringing us The Gift of Christmas. And then we are going to be blessed in our Asbury Senior Adult Fellowship meeting on Thursday, December 14, with Pastor Andrew sharing with us a message from his heart and Tom Overton with the Asbury Singing Ambassadors (ASA) leading us through our favorite Christmas Carols. It'll be a great day.

I know this is the Season when many of our Asbury Communities will be having special gatherings and meals. What a privilege those are! This year, with Christmas Eve on Sunday, I can just imagine the beauty of the worship services; these prepare us to celebrate God's special Gift in the One born in Bethlehem. It's my favorite time of the year. May it be so for you.



Beloved Seniors,

We are so excited to have Pastor Andrew join us at our December Senior Fellowship, along with the talented Tom Overton and the Asbury Singing Ambassadors. See the Upcoming Events page (pg. 3) in this newsletter for details.

I have asked Andrew to write a little preview of what he will be sharing with us on December 14. He graciously agreed:

Hello Asbury Seniors!

By now, you know my mantra: "Every breath is proof: God's not done with us yet." I want our senior adults to know that God has *more* for them. It's my job as your pastor to encourage and challenge and support and sheepdog you so that you are experiencing more and more of the life of God (see John 7:37-38) as each day passes. One aspect of

our lives about which I'd like to challenge our senior adults this Advent season is the area of forgiveness. Whom do you need to forgive before the year ends? Here's what forgiveness is not: forgiveness is NOT accepting what was done to you; forgiveness is NOT calling bad good; forgiveness is NOT becoming friends with the person who wronged you. Forgiveness is letting go of your desire to get even and instead giving that person over to God, trusting that He will handle things in the right way. The reason we forgive is because God has forgiven us, and so we forgive others because we know that the Lord has been merciful to us. God is not done with us yet, and when we forgive others, we step further into the joyful future God has for us.

Let's GO.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Christmas Luncheon on December 14.

Merry Christmas! -Andrew Forrest

Notes & News:



From My Heart to Yours (a message from Betty Logan)

What a wonderful ride these past three and a half years has been. I became the coordinator for Senior Adult ministries in May of 2020 and felt green as a new sprout as I started my first day. Since that time, I've grown to love and appreciate our "Beloved Seniors" here at Asbury more than I can express. Not only did I become familiar with the ministries to, with and for seniors, I became familiar with the heart and soul of seniors

across the church and drew inspiration from your energy and commitment. I recall one article I wrote (from the March 2023 newsletter), telling you that you "are leading the way in so many areas," and that your lives are a "testament of faith to the young families of Asbury." I love to hear Pastor Andrew mention how the "older generation is the key to growth." He understands the gift we have in you.

And now, for the news that comes with mixed emotions: I have felt the call to retire from full time employment for a few years now. This past May, I sensed that this is the year. And by "year," I mean the 2023-24 season of Asbury Senior Fellowship which always runs September-May. So, as of May 2024, I will be stepping down as your Senior Adult Ministries Coordinator. I'll be saddened to leave you but am confident that God's work will continue through my successor. Will you help us pray that as my time draws to an end, God will already have provided your next Senior Ministries overseer? I'm trusting that there will be a seamless passing of the baton, without any gap in leadership. Your prayers will help make this happen as Asbury begins to look for a qualified person to fill this role.

I've watched the Senior Adult Council work tirelessly to produce the many benefits we've seen over these past years; I will go into that more in a future article. However, there is so much work still to do - ideas to flesh out, new ministries to create, new dreams to dream. One beautiful dream that is finally becoming reality is our long awaited Transportation Ministry. I am excited to announce that Asbury Rides will be able to launch once Michael and I can get the requirements in place. Bless you all for supporting this effort by your prayers and for your patience with the process.

Lastly, may your Christmas be Merry and Bright! Whether it's a simple one (just you and the dog or cat), or whether surrounded by family and "chaos," may your heart receive the good news of those heralding angels: "Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord." Our joy comes not from outward things but from the knowledge that He truly is "God with us." The fruit that His Spirit bears in our lives far outweighs any earthly treasure. Ponder His goodness and majesty this season and let the Joy of the Lord be your strength. *"These things I have spoken to you [says Jesus,] that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full"* (John 15:11). May God continue to bless the Seniors of Asbury and help us to fulfill all that He has for us.

Love, Betty Logan

Upcoming Events:

December 3 - Christmas Commitment Sunday

- Worship | 9:00 & 11:00 am
- Holiday Family Fest | 4 - 6 pm
- The Gift of Christmas | 6 pm

We will have two services today, as we recognize what God has done this past year and still wants to do in the coming year. At 4:00 pm, Holiday Family Fest will commence, with Christmas ornament making, a Christmas Train, photos with Santa, live animals and much more! The day will be topped off with a Christmas concert, "The Gift of Christmas" at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Don't miss it!

December 5 - Senior Adult Trip | Wilma's Amish Dinners and Christmas Lights Tour

It's the time we wait for all year! The delicious meal at the Amish farm in Choteau, the wonderful fellowship around the tables and the Christmas Lights Tour from the comfort of the bus. Flyers in the Main Office. Hopefully, you've already turned in your reservation and we'll see you aboard!

December 7 - Asbury Women in Missions Program & Luncheon | 11:00 am in the CLC

Enjoy beautiful Christmas music, presented by Asbury's Music Department and shop for lovely homemade crafts and jewelry; all proceeds will benefit local missions. Guests please RSVP to Glinda Williamson at 918.859.3500 by Sunday, December 3. We hope to see you there!

December 11 - Widowers Lunch | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in the CLC

Men, come enjoy camaraderie with others in your life situation while hearing an inspiring presentation on why theological seminaries matter. Our resident scholar, Kevin Watson will provide insight worthy of your attention. Please contact Jim Furman to reserve your place: 918.625.1316.

December 14 - Asbury Senior Adult Fellowship Program & Lunch | 10:30 am in the CLC

Today is a very special end of year program. Pastor Andrew has a message on his heart to share with Asbury seniors. His desire is that we continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). And of course, our wonderfully gifted Tom Overton and the Singing Ambassadors will be here to regale us with Christmas tunes and get us in the Christmas spirit as he provides a little sing-along to boot.

- 10:30 am - 1 pm in the CLC (Doors open at 10:00) Cost of meal is \$6 (cash or check only)
- If You Are Reading This, Register Now, Don't Delay! Reserve your meal by RSVP online at asburytulsa.org/senioradultfellowship or by calling Rozann Bolz at 918.510.5232.
- Deadline to register for your meal is Sunday, December 10.
- Wear your name tag and let's get acquainted!
- Note: Rozann's final beautiful handmade wreath will be on display for silent auction. All proceeds go to missions.

December 21 - Thursday Night Worship's Christmas Eve at Asbury (Traveler's service) | 6:00 pm

Celebrate Christmas Eve in the Chapel with a candlelight service before heading out of town.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services | 10:00 am, 3:00 and 5:00 pm-Sanctuary, 11:00 pm-Chapel

Prepare your hearts for the birth of the Savior with Word, Song and Candlelight. Four service times to choose from to accommodate your schedule.

December 31 - New Year's Eve Service | 10:00 am, Sanctuary.

Join us in the Sanctuary for one service at 10 am.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
	Wednesday Morning Bible Study & Communion Each Wednesday, Dec 6-20 7:15-7:45 am in the Chapel Grab-n-go food available (not scheduled on December 27)				Asbury Senior Fitness 8:30-9:30 am, Gym Intermediate Pickleball 1-4 pm, Gym Pickleball Beginner Practice , 4:30-6:30	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Christmas Commitment Sunday , two services, 9 & 11 am, Sanctuary Holiday Family Fest , 4:00-6:00 pm, Gift of Christmas Concert , 6 pm, Sanctuary NO Competitive Pickleball 6-8:30 pm, Gym	Church Office Closed	Senior Adult Trip Amish Dinner and Christmas Lights Tour Healing Hats 1-3 pm, Room 1508 Pickleball Beginner 1-3 pm, Gym ASA 1-3 pm, Choir RM Pickleball Competitive 5:30-8:30 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast 7-8 am, CLC, \$5 Asbury Senior Fitness 8:30-9:30 am, Gym Prayer Shawl Meeting 1-3 pm, Room 2821 Intermediate Pickleball 1-4 pm, Gym	AWM Luncheon 10:30 am, CLC, Program: Asbury Music Dept Presents Thursday Night Worship 6 pm, Chapel	Asbury Senior Fitness 8:30-9:30 am, Gym ROMEO Men's Lunch , 11 am Intermediate Pickleball 1-4 pm, Gym Pickleball Beginner Practice , 4:30-6:30	 2nd Saturday 8:15 am - 12 pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Asbury Senior Fitness 8:30-9:30 am, Gym Widower's Lunch 11:30 am-12:30 pm, CLC Speaker: Kevin Watson Intermediate Pickleball 1-4 pm, Gym Competitive Pickleball 6-8:30 pm, Gym	Asbury Senior Fitness 8:30-9:30 am, Gym Widower's Lunch 11:30 am-12:30 pm, CLC Speaker: Kevin Watson Intermediate Pickleball 1-4 pm, Gym	Healing Hats 1-3 pm, Room 1508 Pickleball Beginner 1-3 pm, Gym ASA 1-3 pm, Choir RM Pickleball Competitive 5:30-8:30 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast 7-8 am, CLC, \$5 Asbury Senior Fitness 8:30-9:30 am, Gym Intermediate Pickleball 1-4 pm, Gym	Senior Adult Fellowship 10:30 am, CLC, Program: Tom Overton, ASA and Pastor Andrew Thursday Night Worship 6 pm, Chapel	Asbury Senior Fitness 8:30-9:30 am, Gym Intermediate Pickleball 1-4 pm, Gym Pickleball Beginner Practice , 4:30-6:30	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Asbury Senior Fitness 8:30-9:30 am, Gym Intermediate Pickleball 1-4 pm, Gym Competitive Pickleball 6-8:30 pm, Gym	Asbury Senior Fitness 8:30-9:30 am, Gym Intermediate Pickleball 1-4 pm, Gym	Healing Hats 1-3 pm, Room 1508 Pickleball Beginner 1-3 pm, Gym NO ASA practice Pickleball Competitive 5:30-8:30 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast 7-8 am, CLC, \$5 Asbury Senior Fitness 8:30-9:30 am, Gym Intermediate Pickleball 1-4 pm, Gym	Christmas Eve at Asbury (Traveler's Service) 6:00 pm, Chapel	Asbury Senior Fitness 8:30-9:30 am, Gym ROMEO Men's Lunch , 11 am Intermediate Pickleball 1-4 pm, Gym Pickleball Beginner Practice , 4:30-6:30	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00 am, Sanctuary • 3:00 pm, Sanctuary • 5:00 pm, Sanctuary • 11:00 pm, Chapel 	Christmas Day					
	Church Office Closed					
31						
New Year's Eve Service 10:00 am, Sanctuary						