

AUDUBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
314 W. Graisbury Avenue
Audubon, NJ 08106
February, 2005

AUDUBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Staff

Dr. Walter Jesuncosky III, Pastor
Marilyn K. Radley, Director of Music
Marge Watson, Organist
Jessie Deal, Pianist
Kevin Francis, Treasurer
Elina Matthews, Secretary
Arsenette Reiter, Assistant Secretary
John Bowdoin, Custodian
Elizabeth Hoffman, Nursery
Orfe, Nursery

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Telephone Numbers

Church 547-6114
Parsonage 547-0653
Fax # 547-7319



Sunday Services

Church School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Evening Service 6:00 p.m. Helen
(September - May)
Jr./Sr. High Youth 7:00 p.m.

Monday - Snack N Yak

After School 3 - 6 Grades
(September - May)

On the Internet:

www.AudubonUMC.com

*The February Newsletter is sponsored by John and Jean Campbell
in memory of their loved ones.*

FEBRUARY 2005

Counters

Sandy Albrecht
Robert Edginton
Janet Edginton
George Fisher
Bea Fisher

Chancel Choir

Marilyn Radley, Director

Cheney Bell Choir

Marilyn Radley Director

Ushers

Sandy Albrecht
Carol Tait
Ruslana Snyder
Barbara Cunane

Greeters

Pat Mace

God' Kids Choir

Jennifer Smith, Director

Communion Stewards

Gwen Evans
Laurie Bouch
Rachel Graham
Cindy Burroughs

Church Closing

Bill Soulliard

Liturgist

Barry Zane

MARCH 2005

Counters

William Rittmayer
Kay Rittmayer
Miriam Blaisdell
Gwen Evans
Raymond Thorne

Chancel Choir

Marilyn Radley, Director

Cheney Bell Choir

Marilyn Radley, Director

Ushers

Lindi Arcaini
Dan Arcaini
Sam Arcainili
Rose Arcaini

Greeters

Carol Tait
Sam Tait

Gods Kids Choir

Jennifer Smith, Director

Communion Stewards

Gwen Evans
Laurie Bouch
Rachel Graham
Cindy Burroughs

Church Closing

Randy Smith

Liturgist

Anne Simpson

Lenten Bible Study

"The World-Shattering Ministry of Jesus"

Topics Include: "Jesus Saves Sinners", "Cleansing the Temple", "Money", "Jesus Challenges What We Consider Good", and More

Thursdays 7:30pm

February 10th-March 17th

At the home of Anne Simpson

Call Anne (428-9039) or the Church Office
(547-6114) for Directions

Are you intimately familiar with all family restrooms within a 50 mile radius? Do you find small handprints of breakfast on your clothes when you get to work? Is a tiny giggle the most beautiful sound in the world?

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above, please join us on Sunday mornings, from February 13th—March 20th, when a group of parents will meet in the Hoffman Room during Church School to study the Bible and share the struggles we all go through every day to be Christian parents.

We are going to look at the Book of Colossians and "Focus on Christ's Love", "Focus on Family", and "Focus on Friends". No outside reading is necessary. Just bring your Bible and a willingness to share.

Since life's little interruptions are the norm, children under 3 are welcome to join us and a play area will be set up for them. Older children can join a Church School class.

Help Wanted:

DID YOU KNOW...Audubon United Methodist Church will be celebrating 100 years of bringing Christ to the community in 2006. That is only 11 months away! There are a few of us who have started working on celebration events, commemorative items, etc. But a handful of people cannot do it alone. ***WE NEED YOU!!***

Areas where you can help:

- Publicity In the Media
- Watch Night Party (New Year's Eve)
- Community Wide Block Party
- Anniversary Banquet Plans
- Anniversary Worship Service
- Invitations to Dignitaries (bishop, former pastors, community leaders, etc.)
- Compiling Memories of Church Members
- Wooden Sign Announcing Upcoming Events
- Dreaming Other Smaller Events to Commemorate this significant year

If any or all of the above interest you, please join the Anniversary Committee. Come to a meeting or contact Elina in the church office (547-6114).

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 1st 7pm
in Conover Parlor

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Annual Church School Breakfast

Sunday, March 13th
9am

And when your mouth is empty and your tummy full—join in the Hymn-Sing.

Adult Membership Classes Begin Sunday, February 6th

9:15 am at the Church House
(house next door on Graisbury Ave.)

<p><u>Benefits of Membership!?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every One Knows Your Name• Monthly Newsletter• Have a Voice in the Functions of Our Church• Become Officially Part of a Loving Family in Christ• Have Your Families' Birthdays & Anniversary Celebrated• Can Hold an Office or a be a Committee Member
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Shut-in of the Month

During the month of February, please remember Virginia Dirkes - a special woman who is unable to worship with us. All of our Congregation is encouraged to remember her this month with your cards, prayers and maybe a phone call. ☺

Virginia Dirkes
341 Maple Avenue
Audubon, NJ 08106

(856) 546-9598

The Mission Committee is asking for your support. This will not cost a cent. Each month we would like to ask you to keep on your prayer list a designated Mission of the Audubon United Methodist Church.

For the Month of February would you pray for the Pregnancy Care Center - Ministering to the unwed Mothers, counseling, preparing them in all ways to handle Motherhood.

This month the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, February 6th. The Communion Offering will be sent to Human Relations.

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Remember the date

MARCH NEWSLETTER deadline is:
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

If you have a completed announcement before that date, feel free to submit it early. Feel free to email your article via email. Please, no late submissions.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Kevin Cunane	19	Dan Hemmerle
2	Jen Tait	19	George MacCulloch
4	Kelly Bowdoin	23	Lori Ryan
6	Chris Stanley	24	Kyle Fanelli
11	Abigail Graham	25	Christy Schnyer
11	Maryann Hosford	25	Linda Rumbol
12	Anthony O'Toole	26	JoAnn Paul
12	Dave Smeltzer	27	George Holloway
12	Edward Smith	27	Hannah Gaspari
16	Katarina Reich	27	Jalen MacMinn
18	Elizabeth Hoffman	29	Kurt Cunane

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Rebekah and Josh Nicholas
 26 Bill and Jean Stephens

We have been collecting all of our congregation's birthdays and anniversaries. This is an ongoing project, therefore, if you have not given your family's special days to the church office, please place the information in the folder, (the mail slot) marked Birthdays and Anniversaries.

Bethany Christian Services

As you may know, in 2004, Bethany's Greater Delaware Valley Branch celebrated its 1000th adoption. It's remarkable to consider that one thousand children have been joined their forever families through our local office since we opened our doors in 1980. we praise God and thank our wonderful Bethany families for making a difference in the lives of so many precious children.

I would like to share with you about 13-year-old Deshawna, another precious child who is waiting for an adoptive family. Deshawna's father has been in prison most of her life. He gave her into the care of family members shortly after she was born. Deshawna has never had a significant relationship with her mother. This young girl needs a permanent loving family who will provide stability and nurture her.

Answered Prayers!

International Adoption

- Three families brought their children home in December.
- 30 children joined their adoptive families through our international adoption department this year!

Development

- God provided wonderful opportunities to share our ministry with the congregations of five different churches in November celebrating National Adoption Month.
- We are also blessed by the opportunity to share about the services Bethany provides with a large group of medical students at Temple University.

Special Needs Adoption

- 19 children moved in with their adoptive families.
- 25 children had their adoptions legally finalized.
- 16 children were legally adopted by their foster families.

Domestic Infant Adoption

- We praise God for a positive response to an equipping seminar we held for youth pastors and pregnancy care center staff in conjunction with Urban Family Council.
- Many adoptive parents recently attended our seminar on bonding and forming lasting attachments with children.
- God has provided several new adoptive applicants recently.

Thank you for your Prayers!

Upcoming in the March Newsletter and Bulletins:
Please note that Easter Sunday in 2005 is early!

Easter Sunday is:
March 27th

* * * * *

Office Voice mail

Just a reminder:

Our office voicemail is up and functional. Should you call and want to leave a message after hours and want to bypass our voicemail messages:

Elina/Elsie - ext. 200 or Pastor Walt - ext. 201

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A BIG THANK YOU!

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the generous love gift that you gave me on Christmas Eve. The Lord has so richly blessed me by giving me the opportunity of working for such a dedicated, caring congregation. May 2005 be a year of sharing, growth and blessing as we all continue to shine forth his light.

Sincerely Marge Watson

Attention College Bound Audubon High School Seniors

Please remember to ask your guidance counselor for an application for the Leon Walker and/or Jeffrey Bowen Scholarships. These scholarships are offered through the families and our church and are valued at \$1000.00.

Military Update

Please contact Linda Holonia with updated information for any of the names on our Military Prayer List. Much of the information is unchanged since it was originally provided. Also, if you know of anyone in the military for whom you would like us to pray, please provide her with that information as well.

Announcing another great Joe Corbi's Pizza Sale

This sale will again help fund our Christian College Matching Church Grant Fund. We will be offering Joe Corbi's Pizza Kits for sale beginning January 30th through February 13th. Kits will be delivered to the church for pickup on February 24th. Brochures are available in the Narthex. Please pick one up and ask your friends, neighbors and co-workers if they want to help support this effort. Most everyone who is familiar with Joe Corbi's Pizza like them and are looking for someone who is fundraising with them.

Easter Lilies 2005

If you would like to order Easter Lilies through the church to present for the Easter Sunday Services “In Memory of” or “In Honor” your loved ones, please fill out the form below and return it with your payment of \$6.50 for each plant to our church secretaries.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH.

If you have any questions, please contact Elina at the Church Office during office hours at 547-6114

You may pick up your Easter Lily after the Easter Sunday Service. If you are not able to attend the service, we would appreciate if you would make arrangements for someone to pick up you flower. Flowers left more than one week, will be given away. If you are available to help deliver flowers, contact Carol Fennimore. Thanks!!!

Easter Lilies 2005

Please order _____ plants at \$6.50 each. My payment is attached.

1. Presented by _____

in loving Memory of _____

in Honor of _____

2. Presented by _____

in loving Memory of _____

in Honor of _____

3. Presented by _____

in loving Memory of _____

in Honor of _____

4. Presented by _____

in loving Memory of _____

in Honor of _____

Snack 'N Yak News

What is Snack 'N Yak? A goofy name for a great after-school club.

Many of you have supported this program with donations of food, money and your prayers. But do you know what happens here?

Children from grades 3-6 burst into our church at 2:45 pm sign in and set up tables and chairs and look for something good to eat and drink. Lots of high level conversation going on.

Then the children settle down to listen to a Bible story on one week and act out the story the next week. One week we divide into 2 groups for games and crafts. The next week our groups memorize Bible verses with a game or music and a surprise station that can be anything from a game to a science experiment. For 2 weeks, children learn about the same Bible Story and Bible verse in different ways.

We end our sessions with a journal writing and prayer.

God is here with us. The children inspire us every day with the things they say and do.

We have an average of 17 great kids and a wonderful staff of 7.

Please continue to pray for this program.

Anne Simpson

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

THANK YOU

ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE U.M.W. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:

THANK YOU TO:

ALL WHO BAKED CAKES, PIES, COOKIES BREADS, CANDY AND JAMS.

ALL WHO HELPED SET UP THE BAZAAR ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

ALL WHO MADE CRAFTS AND DONATED ITEMS FOR THE WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE.

THE SEEKER'S CLASS FOR SETTING UP TABLES.

ALL THOSE THAT HELPED WITH THE TEA, BEING CASHIERS, MANNING THE BAKED GOODS TABLE AND HELPING MOVE ITEMS TO CLEAR THE TABLES AS THINGS WERE SOLD.

EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THE BAZAAR BY PURCHASING BAKED GOODS AND CRAFTS.

WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO THANK SNACK N' YAK FOR MAKING THE SNOWMEN ORNAMENTS, WHICH WE SOLD.

THE FINAL TOTAL FOR THE DAY WAS \$1,508.75.

ONGOING PROJECTS

CANCELLED STAMPS FOR METHODIST HOSPITAL

CAMPBELL LABEL FOR RED BIRD MISSION

TURBINS AND LAP ROBES FOR METHODIST HOSPITAL (WE HAVE PATTERNS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED) CALL JOAN WINDSTON 546-6150

Calling all Women of Faith

We have reserved a block of seats for the Women of Faith Conference coming to the Wachovia Center September 16th & 17th. Many of the seats are already spoken for but we do have some still available. If you would like to join us on Friday Evening and all day Saturday to praise, worship and celebrate our faith along with thousands of other Christian Women contact Linda Holonia.

The Conference features a group of six well-known authors and speakers who are the core of the Women of Faith Team and are joined in Philadelphia by Kathy Lee Gifford, Natalie Grant and Nicole Nordeman. You cannot attend a Women of Faith Conference and come away untouched by the experience.

The cost is \$59.00. Please give Linda Holonia your name and a \$30.00 deposit (checks can be made payable to Audubon United Methodist Church) to reserve your seat.

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ACME & CRYSTAL LAKE THRIFTWAY

Did you know that our church can earn 1% of almost everything we spend at **Thriftway and ACME?** The rules vary slightly, *i.e.* Thriftway will "return to your organization 1% of tape totals in the form of a gift certificate" (before senior citizen discount and less sales tax). We may submit tape totals of \$1,000.00 or more at a time and they must be dated within the past 6 months.

Acme requires tapes in bundles of \$5,000 (less sales tax, postage stamps, money order purchases, tobacco and milk). Acme will issue a check to the church for 1% of the tape amount. With all of us bringing in our tapes, they will add up quickly. Super Fresh does not have this program at the present time. If you shop elsewhere (Pathmark, Shop Rite, Genuardi's, etc.), ask at the Courtesy Desk if they have a Save-A-Tape program and request their form. There is a container at the main doors of the sanctuary for your tapes.

Thank you, Carol Tait

856.546.0242

AUMC
YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

COME ONE! COME ALL!
AND DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR
FRIENDS!

7th to 12th graders welcome
Sunday nights from 7 to 8 pm

FEBRUARY MEETING DATES

6th Regular Meeting! Ninth Graders
need to bring their favorite snack!
13th Birthday celebrations for teens
born in January and February.

20th No Meeting

27th Regular Meeting!

Important contact information: Paris
at work: 856-546-0600 ext. 228
Paris and Joe's cell: 856-904-0296

Email:

PKUCHARSKI@CHIRESEARCH.com and
JOENPARIS@comcast.net

From Pastor Walt – February 2005

Snow. It's here, (unless you are reading this in Florida). February is traditionally a snow month here in South Jersey. As I look out my office window at the snow (yes, I love snow) I am reminded how it affects people differently. If you live in Buffalo, NY you live and work in snow a good part of the year (with an average of about 90 inches of snow per year). People in Buffalo are ready to face the snow aggressively. Buffaloes (is that a word?) are prepared to do what has to be done to keep the city running, keep folks working, and carry on with life as normally as possible. It's a great city and people know there what must be done. They are prepared for whatever may come. A two inch snowfall there would be considered "flurries." Now let's move south to a city like Atlanta, also a great city. Let two inches of snow fall in Atlanta and the city is paralyzed. Two inches is the annual snowfall TOTAL there. Accumulating snow is a rarity in Atlanta. The city does not budget or staff for a major snowfall. Because they are not prepared for the snowfall Buffalo gets (or even Audubon, NJ), the city of Atlanta all but shuts down in snow. Both cities, Buffalo and Atlanta are fine cities in which to live. They have plenty to offer and have good, decent people living there (just like most cities). The difference between them is when it comes to the white stuff, one is ready to move on, and the other isn't.

Now let's switch the analogy from cities dealing with snow to churches dealing with outreach and evangelism. *Some are just not prepared to deal with the changing times.* Our world is changing and so is the spiritual climate. Though studies show people are interested in "spiritual things" organized religion is alien to many in our society, even our community. Church is a mystery to some, a distant memory for others, and something to be ignored for even more people. When the "snowfall" of such folks comes to our community and it has and will, what will be our response? Some churches will be paralyzed. They are not prepared. These churches will go along blissfully until things grind to a halt. An emergency effort will be made to "dig the church out" with varying degrees of success. Sadly, too many churches get snowed in and don't survive. Look at the closed churches in our area if you need convincing. Even though they had fine, Christian people in the membership, these churches are empty or have been acquired by other groups. *Then you will find churches that prepare for what is coming.* They know the spiritual climate and plan accordingly. Churches prepared for the snowfall (maybe even blizzard) of folks who don't know Christ, people for whom organized religion holds little interest, will budget and staff to meet the need. Sure, they will have to do some digging, but churches that have a heart for evangelism won't be caught without a shovel! The prepared church will move ahead regardless of the challenge. Like the two great cities I have mentioned, the difference between churches is how they rise to the challenge.

In the weeks ahead, Audubon UMC will be challenged to be Buffalo (no offense to Atlanta). We will need to be intentional about rising to the challenge of reaching our community for Jesus Christ. This takes planning, money, workers and commitment. On February 27th, Rev. Bob Costello will be joining us to encourage our congregation to rise to task before us. Also, we will be exploring ways to help our members to grow in their personal faith so they will be better prepared to make disciples for Christ. So as we look at the "snow" around us, let's do more than adopt the old philosophy "let the Man who put it there take it away." Let's make our preparations and start digging so the Church of Jesus Christ can move ahead.

Pastor Walt