

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

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**AUDUBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Church Staff**

**Dr. Walter Jesuncosky III, Pastor**  
**Diane Stanley, Director of Discipleship & Evangelism**  
**Marilyn K. Radley, Director of Music**  
**Marge Watson, Organist**  
**Jessie Deal, Pianist**  
**Elina Matthews, Secretary**  
**Arsenette Reiter, Assistant Secretary**  
**John Bowdoin, Custodian**  
**Elizabeth Hoffman, Nursery**  
**Helen 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**

**Contemporary Worship 8:30 a.m**  
**Church School      9:15 a.m.**  
**Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.**  
**Jr./Sr. High Youth  6:30 p.m.**

**Monday - Snack N Yak**

**After School 3 - 6 Grades**  
**(September - May)**

**On the Internet:**

**[www.AudubonUMC.com](http://www.AudubonUMC.com)**

*The January Newsletter is sponsored Adele Seidelman  
in memory of her husband Thomas Seidelman and her parents Mr. & Mrs. Walter Casebeer.*  
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# JANUARY 2006

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Counters

Barbara Hertfelder  
Tom Hertfelder  
Bill Simpson  
Anne Simpson  
Elina Matthews

Chancel Choir

Marilyn Radley, Director

Cheney Bell Choir

Marilyn Radley Director

Ushers

Walter Jesuncosky  
Ron Fennimore  
Robert Fonash  
Frank Cunane

Greeters

Dick Williams  
Ray Thorne

God' Kids Choir

Jennifer Smith, Director

Communion Stewards

Laurie Bouch  
Cindy Burrough  
Gwen Evans  
Rachel Graham

Church Closing

Marty Jacobsen

Liturgist

Carol Tait

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# FEBRUARY 2006

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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  
Lori Ryan  
Ruslana Snyder  
Barbara Cunane

Greeters

Norm Lore  
Gail Lore

God' Kids Choir

Jennifer Smith, Director

Communion Stewards

Gwen Evans  
Laurie Bouch  
Rachel Graham  
Cindy Burrough

Church Closing

Luis Matthews

Liturgist

Sandy Albrecht

Happy New Year from our Staff!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Monday, January**

(Office is Open but no Snack N'Yak this day)

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### DVD's of Worship Available!

There are DVD's Available of our Sunday Worship Services. For more information please contact John Inverso or Pastor Walt.

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### Membership Class.

Begins Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>

9:15-10:15 am

Pastor Walt's Office

Any Adult who is not a member of our Church and wishes to join is invited. Learn about the Methodist Religion, Church Committees and enjoy coffee and snacks with Anne Simpson and Pastor Walt. There will be approximately 9 sessions after which those completing the course will be received into the full membership of Audubon United Methodist Church the Sunday after Easter. If you would like to join our fellowship or even just audit the class, please see Pastor Walt or Anne Simpson.

From Diane Stanley  
Director of Discipleship & Evangelism

How many of you have ever made a New Year's resolution? I have always liked the tradition, and to me the practice has a Christian quality to it. To me it suggests a self-examination- although it may be limited in scope- and the desire to improve oneself. People make all kinds of resolutions: some resolve to get out of debt, others to get in shape physically, or to get more organized, or even to spend more time with their families. These, and most New Year's resolutions, are worthy goals. But I have a challenge to each of you individually and that is, for the New Year, to make a commitment to grow spiritually, and to deepen your faith. In short, to become more Christ-like.

Most people associate being a Christian with church involvement. They may attend worship services regularly and they may give both their time and money to the church. But the Bible calls us to be more than a church participant and supporter. It calls us to be a disciple of Christ. But what exactly is a disciple? In short, a disciple is a man or woman who is trying to live like Jesus. But what does that *really* mean? The best description I have found was in a book called *The Disciple Making Church: From Dry Bones to Spiritual Vitality* written by the Rev. Glenn McDonald. In the book the author defines a Christian disciple as an individual who exhibits the six marks of a disciple. In short- and I'm paraphrasing here- a disciple is one who: 1) is totally committed to Christ 2) reading the Bible regularly and is being transformed by it 3) consistently acts with love and kindness 4) prays regularly 5) shares their faith with others 6) has a spirit of servanthood and stewardship. This in short is a picture of what we, as Christians, need to be growing into.

There are many ways one can grow spiritually. For instance a person who is not in the habit of praying daily can commit to spending ten minutes each morning in prayer. You might want to read from the Bible, or Christian devotional, daily. You may decide to listen to Christian talk radio on the way to work. Another way is to take a class offered through our Community Christian Education program.

I started this program in the fall to offer our members ample opportunities to deepen their faith. Classes will be starting again in January. Brochures will be coming out shortly, and they will be mailed at the very end of December. Six classes will be offered and five of them are new. There are two Bible studies, one on the Old Testament book of Isaiah and one on the New Testament book of Revelation. I will be leading a class on prayer, and Rev. Jack Deal will be teaching a class on how to get more out of reading the Bible. There is a class offered on how to overcome worry and one on managing grief. I have spent much time and

effort putting this program together, and it is my hope that many members of our congregation will take advantage of this opportunity. There is a charge for most of the classes, which is used to offset the cost of mailing out brochures to Audubon and Mt. Ephraim residents. If you would like to take a class, but are unable to pay for it, please call me. No member of our church will be denied taking a class because of financial need. If you would like to take a class, but are unable to drive at night, please call me so I can try to arrange a ride for you. I would also like to mention that John Inverso will be leading a study of the book of Philippians on Sunday evenings. His class is not part of the Community Christian Education program, but I'd like to encourage all of you to consider taking his study as well.

Diane

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## Bible Hour

Sunday Evenings 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Starting Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

Location: Sanctuary

John Inverso will conduct a 6-8 week study on Paul's Letter to the Philippians in our Church Sanctuary. Only book required is your own Bible.

# Bethany Christian Services

Bethany Christian Services celebrated 25 years of serving children and families in the Greater Delaware Valley in 2005. In 2005 we were blessed to find 3 families willing to open their hearts and homes for not just one child but two. We also witnessed the miracle of four families who sought to adopt children with disabilities from other countries. Three of the four children adopted had Down Syndrome. This Christmas, three pairs of siblings and four children with special needs celebrated together with families; families who will be there for them this year, and next year, and the next.

Of course we praise God for every circumstance where He allows Bethany to join a child with a family who will love them for the rest of their lives. We have seen that miracle happen more than 1,000 times during the past 25 years. But our heart breaks for the children who are still waiting; waiting to be adopted, waiting to be rejoined with their biological family, or waiting for their birth mother to make a decision for life.

This month is a local boy named Eric who is waiting for a Family. (Insert in Bulletin Board and also printed in this Newsletter). Please continue praying for Eric and others like him who are awaiting a stable future home.

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As the temperatures go down and heating bills go up, more people need assistance from our church's Food Pantry. We need to keep our pantry well stocked, and we cannot do it without the help of every member of our congregation. Therefore we have started on the

***2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month:  
Food Pantry Week!***

***on  
January 8, 2005***

**If your family's last name begins with:**

- |            |                            |  |
|------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>A-F</b> | <b><i>please bring</i></b> | <b>2 cans of Veggies</b>   |
| <b>G-R</b> | <b><i>please bring</i></b> | <b>Paper Products</b>  |
|            |                            | <b><i>(1 Pkg. Toilet Paper, 1 Roll Paper Towels OR 1 Box of Tissues)</i></b> |
| <b>S-Z</b> | <b><i>please bring</i></b> | <b>2 cans of Soup</b>  |

Please bring items only on designated Sundays and place in wicker basket. If you miss one month, bring it the next month.

## Mission Corner

Our Church supports many different Missions and Missionaries. I hope to highlight one or more of these each month in the newsletter.

This month I want to share with you about the Red Bird Missionary Conference. We support this mission each year through our Missions budget, usually in the amount of about \$300.00. So who are they? The Red Bird Missionary Conference is a Conference of the United Methodist Church and is located in Southeastern Kentucky. It was formed in 1968 to meet the needs of the area because the local resources are not able to do so. The Conference is comprised of 23 Churches, 4 Outreach Centers and 4 Missions Institutions.

Their mission is to empower the people and advocate justice by providing spiritual, educational, health and community outreach ministries.

The Appalachian local Pastor's School where approximately 100 local pastors receive training each year to help them identify with the local people, share the gospel with them and provide leadership to develop strong and effective congregations.

The Bennett Center of London is the newest ministry of RBMC. The Center is a resource for the entire community where people go for learning, fellowship, personal growth opportunities and help in times of need. It is an ecumenical center, supporting 10 community based partners offering pre-school education, child care, job training, adult literacy and GED training and a children's library.

Family Ministries addresses community needs, offering volunteer programs, prison ministry and an Arts Center.

Volunteers and Contributions from across the United Methodist Church helped to renovate and upgrade the Camp O' the Cumberlands, which is used year round providing Christian Education for Children and Youth, mission encounters, small group retreats, Emmans, local Church and family events and specialty camps.

The Henderson Settlement is organized into 6 areas of ministries - administration, community care, economic development, facilities, mission resources and outreach. Begun in 1925, today they offer child and senior care, agricultural programs, a craft shop including training and marketing, a used clothing store, community service, education, youth ministries and more.

The Red Bird Clinic serves the area providing primary health care and dental care to the area residents. The Red Bird Mission offers a K-12 school, early childhood development, a Senior Center, housing for the elderly and a women and children ministry.

The Red Bird Missionary Conference provides all of this and more to the people in this depressed area of Kentucky in the Appalachian Mountains. They appreciate our support and ask for continued prayers.

They also ask for our help by saving Campbell's Labels for Education and General Mills Boxtops for Education. You can drop these in the container on the table in the entryway of the Church.

Linda Holonia

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## **Missionary News**

In November we received news from the Crackers - Denny and Michelle. They are very grateful for our prayers, gifts and letters.

Denny was able to make 7 successful training trips over the past year. Please continue to pray for Denny's safety as he travels on these trips. Continue to pray for Strategic Training Ministry.

They have completed another successful school year at Morrison Christian Academy where Michelle works in the Counseling Center and Heather and Jennifer attended. Pray for God to change lives and bless Michelle and the girls. Pray for Stephanie as she continues her sophomore year at Asbury College.

Class Bible Studies have been held at the Cracker's home each month for 2 high school classes, several young men have been discipled, and 7 have been baptized.

The very first Missionary Kids Task Force of 8 young people came to Taiwan. Pray that each one who came will have a greater burden to pray for the Chinese.

Edith Ward

# YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS!

Are you hungry?

Come and fill your hungry soul!

Food for thought provided & some light snacks!

7th to 12th graders welcome!

Bring a friend or two!

Sunday nights from 6:30-7:30 pm

## January Events

1st: No Youth Group

8th: Small group sit-ins Grades 7,8: Conover Parlor

Grades 9,10: Ugly Room Grades 11,12: Stage

15th: Afternoon at the movies! Time to be announced!

20th-21st: 30 Hour fast! Details to be announced!

29th: Regular meeting!

Get ready for Keswick on Feb. 3rd, 4th, and 5th!

Important contact information:

Paris and Joe's cell: 856-904-0296

Elaine's cell: 609-280-4792

Email: [JOENPARIS@comcast.net](mailto:JOENPARIS@comcast.net) for Paris

[bemil@comcast.net](mailto:bemil@comcast.net) for Elaine

## Women of the Church

Calling all Ladies looking for an opportunity to take a break and spend a day and an evening in fellowship and praising God with a few friends!

*Women of Faith* returns on September 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The cost is \$65.00 and tickets are going quickly. If you would like to reserve one please complete the following and give to Linda Holonia or send to the Church Office with a \$30.00 deposit for each ticket. (Checks made payable to the Aububon United Methodist Church)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit included: \$\_\_\_\_\_

If you have never attended a Women of Faith Conference, you are in for a treat. You will come away refreshed, renewed and uplifted.

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Carol Mannion	16	Cyrus Tahmasebi
2	Ruth Dabundo	17	Maggie Bowen
3	Holly Fitzgerald	18	Ruslana Snyder
3	Jen Craig	22	Joseph Fennimore
4	Kevin Acker	22	Jessica Wacker
5	Pastor Walt	23	Evan O'Toole
7	Dave Francis	26	Elijah Nicholas
8	Scott Radley	26	Samantha Graham
8	Victoria Beetle	29	Jonathan Soulliard
9	Kyle Kraszewski	29	Matthew Soulliard
11	Joe Craig, Jr.	29	James Nachtrieb
12	Barbara Nachtrieb	31	Gail Lore

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Carol-Jo & Ryan Juntti
- 8 Howard & Lucy Miller

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.

## *Looking Ahead to the Past*

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, the tenth candle to countdown to our church's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be lit.

*Did you know...?*

*1920—This was the year a Church Bell made its home in our tower. In June of 1917 the Primary Department, under the leadership of its Superintendent, Mrs. Lulu B. Degan, started a project by selling tea strainers at a profit of \$0.02 each. Jelly bags netted a profit of \$0.08 each and jar rubbers \$0.02 each. In three years they earned \$37.73. \$101 was added to this fund in November 1919 when the department presented a “Mother Goose” sketch in Schnitzler’s Hall. Since the bell would cost approximately \$337.25 more funds were needed. Our Pastor, Rev. Burkett, expressed his belief that members and friends of the church would gladly give to this fund, so their help was solicited. The response was so gratifying that on March 20, 1920 the order was placed with the Buckeye Belly Foundry Company in Cincinnati, Ohio for a bronze bell to weigh 799 pounds—with hanger, 900 pounds. The inscription on the bell was to read, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will toward men. Presented by the Primary Department of the Audubon M.E. Sunday School, June 13, 1920.” Due to considerable delay, both unforeseen and unavoidable the bell was not received until September 1, 1920. It was hung in the tower on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and completely installed by September 11<sup>th</sup>. On the following day, after a short Sunday School session, the service was turned over to Mrs. Degan. After a fitting presentation of this gift to the church the Primary Department marched out of the church and to the delight of every child they were told to hold on to an extended rope as they lined up and down Wyoming Avenue. Then, at a given signal, the children pulled and pulled—ringing the bell for five minutes or more. When its last echo had faded everyone joined in singing the Doxology, after which the benediction was pronounced. After all the expenses were paid, a balance of \$10.87 remained. Mrs. Degan, being a woman of great faith, suggested this money be the start of the pipe organ fund after producing a “Tom Thumb Wedding.” (excerpt from church history compiled by Ethel Walker)*

*Thanks to the effort of our Trustees and generous donations by members, our church bell can ring again in a restored bell tower.*

## Message from the Finance Committee:

Elsewhere in this Newsletter is a copy of the budget approved by Church Council. A number of expenses were consolidated into general headings in order to fit the budget on one page. A copy of the budget in more detail is available at the Church Office or by contacting me.

Please note that even with small increases in the Worship, Christian Education and Outreach areas, the overall total of expenses has been reduced, in both the Ministry and Property budgets.

As you can see, to meet the budget as it is right now, we will need an increase in giving. The proposed income figures are simply optimistic, estimated numbers. If the increase is not there, the items that usually suffer are the three areas mentioned - Worship, Christian Education and Outreach - since we still have to pay our utility bills, payroll and office expenses. We hope to increase these three areas even more, not cut them, but that is only possible if our giving increases.

If you haven't yet decided on your pledge for 2006, please take the time to do that now. Imagine planning your family budget (you know how much the mortgage, utilities, car insurance, food, etc. cost), without having any idea how much your salary will be for the year. Your estimate of giving will help us plan out spending better if you will fill out an estimate of giving card and give it to, (Sandy Albrecht) or send it addressed to, the Financial Secretary.

We deeply appreciate your faithfulness and your generosity.

Sincerely,  
Carol Tait  
2005 Acting Finance Chair

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 January would you pray for the Red Bird Missionary Conference.

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## Remember the date

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER deadline is:  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>

PLEASE send in submissions early if you can. Feel free to email your article via email. Please, no late submissions.

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## Shut-in of the Month

During the month of January, please remember Evelyn Thomas - a special woman who is unable to worship with us. Our entire Congregation is encouraged to remember her this month with your cards, prayers and/or even a phone call. ☺

Evelyn Thomas  
318 Hutchinson Avenue  
Haddonfield, NJ 08033  
(856) 547-0852

## From Pastor Walt: “Just Say No to Criticism”

Many of you heard it with your own ears at Church Conference, but let me restate, the year 2006 will be a “Criticism-Free Year” at Audubon United Methodist Church. I know that’s a tall order, but think about it. How many of you have held an office or done a job at a church? Were you ever criticized for the job you did? Just as I thought, you WERE criticized! How did you feel? Some of my favorite criticisms leveled at me over the years have been “Pastor Walt’s head bobs up and down too much during communion,” (I had to distribute communion to people at an altar rail that had no racks for the elements and I’m 6’4”), “he coughs and clears his throat too much,” (sorry, I have allergies and other health issues), and “he doesn’t walk affectionately enough with his wife down the aisle at the end of worship,” (I don’t believe a worship service is the place for PDA). I’m sure you have been on the receiving end of similarly nonsensical jabs. Christians are quick to judge and criticize one another to the point where some say they never want another job in a local congregation, even leave the church. I am not talking about constructive criticism that is meant to help. This is unfair or unreasonable criticism which hurts and belittles another. Listen to James words...

*Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison,” James 3:6b-8, NIV*

Sometimes it is nit picking, other times the words are meant to hurt or demean the person attacked, and still other times the criticism is just another way of gossiping. Call it what you like, as Christians we need to be very careful of the words we use because of the harm they cause others and ourselves. Who wants to be around a negative, critical person? Sooner or later they will turn their guns on you. So the challenge to us in 2006 is to think before we speak...engage our Christianity before putting our mouths into gear. Here are some helpful rules of thumb to apply when we are tempted to criticize...

- Rule 1. Assume the person you are tempted to criticize loves the Lord Jesus Christ and is motivated by his or her faith, trying to do the best they can.
- Rule 2. Assume the person you are tempted to criticize has nothing to gain personally from the work he or she is doing, but serves because of their commitment to Christ and his church.
- Rule 3. Treat the person you are tempted to criticize not only how you want to be treated, but even better!
- Rule 4. Realize that what you say will get around even to the person you are criticizing. There is no such thing as “anonymous criticism,” though you might try to cover yourself by using the phrase “people are saying...” You are the “people” and others will figure it out.
- Rule 5. When tempted to criticize, ask yourself, “Will this further the cause of Jesus Christ, improve the situation, and build up others?” If the answer is “yes” go personally to the individual you have an issue with and talk things out. Say it to his or her face in a spirit of Christian love. If the answer is “no” give the criticism to God and let Him handle it.

If we really want to be the kind of Christians and the kind of church God calls us to be, let’s treat one another as precious brothers and sisters for whom Christ died. Give them the benefit of the doubt and respect they deserve as co-workers in Christ for a Criticism-Free 2006!

Pastor Walt