

AUDUBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
314 W. Graisbury Avenue
Audubon, NJ 08106
March, 2006

AUDUBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Staff

Dr. Walter Jesuncoy 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

*The March Newsletter is sponsored by Mary Begley
in memory of her loved ones.*

MARCH 2006

Counters

William Rittmayer
Raymond Thorne
Miriam Blaisdell
Gwen Evans

Chancel Choir

Marilyn Radley, Director

Cheney Bell Choir

Marilyn Radley, Director

Ushers

Lindi Arcaini
Dan Arcaini
Sam Arcainili
Rose Arcaini

Greeters

Sandy Albrecht
Norma Albrecht

Gods Kids Choir

Jennifer Smith, Director

Communion Stewards

Gwen Evans
Laurie Bouch
Rachel Graham
Cindy Burroughs

Church Closing

Randy Smith

Liturgist

Mary Begley

APRIL 2006

Counters

Robert Kondras
Barbara Kondras
Frank Cunane
Barbara Cunane
Ruslana Snyder

Chancel Choir

Marilyn Radley, Director

Cheney Bell Choir

Marilyn Radley, Director

Ushers

Tracy Schnyer
Allison Betts
Christy Schnyer
Nikole Zane

Greeters

Lindi Arcaini
Dan Arcaini

God's Kids Choir

Jennifer Smith, Director

Communion Stewards

Gwen Evans
Laurie Bouch
Rachel Graham
Cindy Burroughs

Church Closing

Kathleen Bowdoin

Liturgist

Tara Atkinson

The United Methodist Women

Spring Meeting

Monday, March 20, 2006

Time: 8:00 PM

Place: Adult Sunday School Room

Program: Trading Space by Marion Kreckman

Come out and bring a friend for a fun evening. Enjoy the Fellowship of the women you spend Sunday Service with each Sunday.

Bazaar and Tea Proceeds

New Piano	\$1,000.00
Camp Fund (Audubon Youth)	\$300.00
Christian Ministries Inc.	\$100.00
Fresh Air Home	\$100.00
Bethany Christian Services	\$100.00
Methodist Hospital	\$50.00
Collingswood Manor	\$200.00
Neighborhood Center	\$200.00
Quilts for Comfort	\$105.00
Card Ministry	\$50.00

Upcoming Dates

Mother/Daughter Banquet	May 5, 2006
Fall Meeting	October 16, 2006
Ingathering	November, 13, 2006
Bazaar/Tea	December 2, 2006

If you have any ideas that help to make our Christmas Bazaar/Tea more successful please let us know. If you have any ideas of things that would be good sellers we would be glad for your input.

Easter Lilies 2006

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, APRIL 9TH.

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 your flowers. Flowers left more than one week, will be given away. If you are available to help deliver flowers, contact Carol Fennimore. Thanks!!!

Easter Lilies 2006

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 _____

Mission Corner

I thought that I would introduce, acquaint or update you about one of our missionary families this month. I must tell you however, that it was not easy gathering information on the Crakers. Maybe due to the nature of their work in Taiwan or China, the information is sketchy. But this is what I could gather.

Denny and Michelle are the parents of three daughters, Stephanie, Heather and Jennifer. Michelle is the daughter of our former pastor, Will Hoffman. I chose them this month for a couple of reasons. One is because there is that local connection and another is that Stephanie's birthday is coming up in April. She will celebrate her 20th birthday on April 18th. She is a sophomore at Asbury College. I am hoping that you will feel moved to send her a birthday card. You can send it to Stephanie Craker, Asbury College, One Macklem Drive, Wilmore, KY 40390.

Now more about the family, Heather is 18 years old and Jennifer is 16 years old. The Crakers have been missionaries with World Gospel Mission and have served in Taiwan and China for many years. Denny is a pastor at a church and Michelle works at a school. They visited our church in 2000 when they were in the US and shared about their work at that time.

I want to share with you one of Denny's emails:

Dear Investors,

This is just a quick note to let you know my trip last week went very well. Thank you very much for your help and concern. Our important meetings with our managers to evaluate our present progress and to discuss our future plans went well. If all goes well, next year should be another exciting year of expansion and progress. Our competitor truly is trying everything to sabotage our efforts. Another factory encountered an enemy attack this past week. All but 3 have been released already, but we are concerned for the health and future of the 3 still being held. I would especially appreciate your continued concern for their safety. Your regular concern is of vital importance to our success. Thank you!

Your international representative,
Denny

Interesting isn't it? Denny has to mask his communications to look like a business matter so as not to alert the government to his mission. This was written in December, so he is referring to this year when he says next year. They and their fellow missionaries in the Far East need our ongoing prayers.

As I said, I don't have much information, but will share more as I get it. Please keep the Crakers in your prayers this month.

Linda Holonia

Communion Offering

Our March communion offering will be designated to support the Asbury College team that is traveling to Pass Christian, Mississippi over Spring break. A group from the college, as well as several townspeople from Wilmore traveled there over Thanksgiving break to help with the hurricane relief efforts. Asbury College has made a three year commitment to the town and Wilmore has adopted them as a sister city. The students each need to raise a minimum of \$175.00 to make the trip. This covers traveling expenses, maybe food and some building supplies. I should add that both students and faculty members are part of the team.

WOMEN OF FAITH

If you are planning to go to the Women of Faith conference in September, please see Linda Holonia right away. You need to have your deposit in by the end of March. If there is a financial problem please see her anyway. Thank you.

Looking Ahead to the Past

On March 19th, the twelfth candle to countdown to our church's 100th anniversary will be lit.

Did you know...?

Church Conferences were originally held in March. In the beginning of our Church history, Pastors were also appointed in March.

This procedure was changed in later years since moving pastors and their families in March was a hardship for the family especially if they had school age children.

Now the New Jersey Conference is held in June and new ministers begin new assignments on the 1st Sunday in July.

Anne Simpson



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Elaine Soulliard	16	Becca VanArnam
2	Miriam Blaisdell	16	William Betts
2	Alexis Kitchmire	16	Peggy Kolasa
3	Heather Costomiris	18	Nicholas Conley
3	Blake Hager	18	Tim Bouch
4	Charles Mrowczynski	22	Laurie Bouch
5	Elina Matthews	23	Anne Simpson
5	Maggie Bouch	23	Don Canning
6	Helen Waters	24	Mary Begley
7	Mark Knight	24	Anthony O'Toole, Jr.
9	Barbara Cunane	24	Scott Ryan
9	Holly Focht	25	B.J. Matthews
10	Allison Betts	27	John Bowdoin
12	Kevin Fennimore	27	Lynn Groves
12	Tracy Schnyer	29	Sam Arcaini
13	Bill Stephens	29	Tracy Bradshaw
13	Rose Arcaini	30	Joan Vitarelli
15	Maryellen Hager	30	Amanda Batchelor

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

1 Maryellen & Dean Hager

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.

It is time for another...

Church Flea Market & Bake Sale!

Saturday, April 1st

8am-1pm

NEEDED: Volunteers to...

- Collect and sort donations Sunday, March 26th and Wednesday, March 29th
- Set up for Flea Market Friday night
- Work Flea Market Saturday morning/pack up after
- Haul stuff to Goodwill after Flea Market (vans, SUVs, etc.)
- Pray for all our workers

Contact Paula Zane ASAP to volunteer!

WANTED: Donations of items in good condition that you no longer want or need for our Flea Market and BAKED GOODS (particularly breakfast items such as muffins)

Drop-off for Flea Market Donations:

Sunday, March 26th—after church 'til 1:30pm
Wednesday, March 29th—TBA

Baked Goods Drop-off:

Friday, March 31st—6-9pm
Saturday, April 1st—7-9am

Please NO items at church prior to March 26th

From Diane Stanley, Director of Discipleship & Evangelism

Are you looking for an opportunity to grow in your faith and help others?

Then I may have an opportunity for you. One of my hopes for AUMC is that we could establish a Stephen Ministry at our church. A Stephen Ministry is a program that equips a lay person to provide Christian one-on-one care to those who are experiencing all kinds of life needs and circumstances. Stephen Ministers are volunteers who receive quality training through Stephen Ministries and then are commissioned as Stephen Ministers. After commissioning they volunteer one hour a week to visiting another person. Thousands of churches nation wide have Stephen Ministries. I am hopeful that we could start one here. To do that we need some volunteers. Would you make a good Stephen Minister? Take the questionnaire and find out!

Would You Make a Good Stephen Minister?

Yes____ No____ Do you enjoy helping others and making a difference in their lives?

Yes____ No____ Do you have the gifts of mercy and compassion?

Yes____ No____ Are you a good listener and natural encourager?

Yes____ No____ Do you enjoy visiting and talking with others?

Because I feel so strongly about establishing a Stephen Ministry here I have arranged for some information sessions.

February 26 & March 5

“The Heart of Stephen Ministry” a 10-minute informational video will be shown in Conover polor following the 10:30 worship service

March 12

“Stephen Ministry: An Opportunity for Caring” a presentation by a leader from the Stephen Ministry at the Haddonfield United Methodist Church to be held immediately after the 10:30 worship service.

Annual Church School
Breakfast

Sunday, March 19th
9am

Come enjoy a good breakfast and
fellowship. All Boy and Girl Scouts and
their leaders will be honored. All are
invited!

Due to the snowstorm on February 12th this
event has been moved to March 19th. Hope
you can come.

* * * * *

Church Spring Cleaning Day!

Saturday, March 25th

Look for details in the bulletin.

Bethany Christian Services

Your efforts to share about the needs of waiting children are making a difference! I have recently learned that 3 boys whose stories sent had families inquire about adopting them **because they saw the Child's story at their church!** An update on Blair, who has Downs Syndrome, waiting in Hong Kong, and there is a family in the process of adopting him now. Ernestas had a family who saw his poster and inquired about adopting him but the details did not work out, and Ernestas is still waiting for a family. We are still encouraged that families were still seeing his need and considering adopting because they saw his poster. Roman, has a family who saw his poster and is very eager to complete the adoption process to bring him home!

Audubon Auxiliary to the Collingswood Manor

Spring news and activities from
the Audubon Auxiliary to the Collingswood Manor.

There will be an Executive Meeting at the Manor for all of the Auxiliaries on Tuesday, March 14th at 1 P.M.

The Auxiliary will have a luncheon meeting at Edith Ward's home on Tuesday, March 28th to plan for our Spring Activities.

The Showers of Blessings will be our very special activity on Tuesday, April 11th.

Each Auxiliary will present gifts to our friends at the Collingswood Manor.

Audubon's gifts will be talc and band-aids. We would really appreciate our Church members helping us collect these items.

Your response last year was very gratifying.

Thank you and "Happy Spring" from the Audubon Auxiliary to the Collingswood Manor.

Edith Ward, President

P.S. We will have a box in the Narthex for folks wishing to contribute.

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

March Events

5th: Small group sit-ins Grades 7,8: Conover Parlor

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

12th: Regular Meeting!

19th: Summer Mission Trip Vision!!! Bring your interested parents
(and their checkbooks!)

26th: Regular meeting!

Important contact information:

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

Elaine's cell: 609-280-4792

Email: JOENPARIS@comcast.net for Paris
bemj1@comcast.net for Elaine

Remember the date

APRIL NEWSLETTER deadline is:
SUNDAY, MARCH 12th

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 March, please remember Helen Waters - 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. ☺ Helen's Birthday is this month - March 6th.

Helen Waters
Collingswood Manor, Apartment 304
460 Haddon Avenue
Collingswood, NJ 08108
(856) 869-8715

* * * * *

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

***2nd Sunday of every month:
Food Pantry Week!***

***on
March 12th, 2006***

If your family's last name begins with:

A-F ***please bring*** **Paper Products**
(1 Pkg. Toilet Paper, 1 Roll Paper Towels OR 1 Box of Tissues)

G-R ***please bring*** **2 cans of Soup**

S-Z ***please bring*** **2 cans of Veggies**

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

From Pastor Walt

“Things We Take for Granted”

John Lennon said, “Life is what happens when you are making other plans.” How true! We take so much for granted in this life and are shocked or surprised when the unexpected occurs. I’ve seen it over the years in my ministry. Most all the churches I’ve served had heating system failures on Sunday morning of the coldest day of the year (knock on wood). Folks took for granted that they would have a warm church to worship in on cold Sundays (if they felt like coming out at all on such a day). My flock was not impressed with having to wear topcoats in the choir loft. One lay leader exclaimed to me “Guess you will have to cut your sermon short today.” I threatened to preach longer to generate more hot air! Heat is great on a cold day when you have it.

If I believed in luck, I would say I must be bad luck on sewer systems in parsonages. I had one sewer pipe freeze solid and two others break in winter (not to mention a well run dry) in my 29 years in ministry. We come to expect that when we flush the toilet, it will go somewhere other than back into our house. Though previous generations of my family were well acquainted with “outdoor plumbing,” the break in the parsonage sewer line this January allowed my family and I to continue that tradition until the sewer line was repaired. We are grateful the church was only a few doors away and thank those members of AUMC who offered the use of their “facilities.” I took for granted the blessing of indoor plumbing and was made keenly aware how important it has become to me.

When we are young, we think we are indestructible. Thoughts of cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and the like were probably far from our minds unless we caring for older or infirmed family members. But then the years start to add up. You lose your hair, get arthritis, find high school classmates names in the obituaries, or see how very old *The Rolling Stones* have become and realize life is moving on. Then comes the rude awakening we have taken so much for granted. “If only I had...”

How about our Christian lives? Perhaps we have taken for granted that the church will always be there for us when we need it. Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) says “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” But too many folks have done just that assuming the church will be there for them when they want it... weddings, baptisms, holidays, times of crisis, etc. But are **we** there when the church wants us? When the church gathers together it is not for a performance, spiritual entertainment, or spiritual rites of passage. It is not even there to “make us feel better about ourselves.” We gather to worship and to encourage one another in our Christian faith. We need to be here. But we can’t take for granted the church will be here when we want it. The church needs all its member and friends to get involved. Someone once said, “The church is always one generation away from extinction.” For the Church of Jesus Christ to “be there” for us, we need to “be there for the church.” We do this by witnessing to our personal faith in Christ, by educating young and old alike about God’s Word and the Christian life, by giving to God’s work both at home and on the mission field, by getting involved in what the church is doing, and *by simply showing up when the doors are open!*

Audubon United Methodist Church has been around for 100 years thanks to the faithfulness of our Lord and His people. God is still at work in our church and community. Sure, we take so much for granted in life and shaken when things change. My prayer is that our faith and church will never take for granted God’s greatest gifts to us, Christ and His Church. For the church to be there for us, let’s be there for the church.

See you in church!

Pastor Walt