

# The Edge

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOREST HILLS CHURCH, APRIL 2016

## From the *Pastor's Perspective*

Happy Easter! We remember you, Jesus!

And we also remember you, Francis Asbury

Francis Asbury (August 20, 1745 – March 31, 1816) is considered the father of American Methodism. Thursday this week we celebrate the 200th anniversary of his death.

Asbury grew up in England and was apprenticed to a Methodist at the age of 13. He gave his heart to Jesus at the age of 16, and two years later he became a local Methodist preacher. At the age of 22 John Wesley appointed him as one of Methodism's itinerant preachers ("Wesley's preachers" as they were called).

Asbury continued to preach the Gospel as a Methodist preacher, modeling his ministry after Wesley's in England. He would travel from town to town and preach and teach where able (churches, court houses, public squares, or out in the open air!). Asbury became one of the most famous American preachers of all time, and he was the quintessential "circuit rider" preacher. He summed up his ministry: "I am going to live to God, and to bring others so to do."

In 1784 Wesley appointed Asbury and Thomas Coke as the first two co-bishops of the American Methodist Church. Asbury, however, deferred Wesley's appointment, and instead, choosing to do things "the American way," only agreed to be bishop provided the American pastors duly elected him so. The newly formed Methodist Church in America quickly elected Asbury and Thomas Coke their first bishops. Coke, however, eventually traveled abroad on missionary trips, leaving Asbury the leader of American Methodism. (Note: The United Methodist bookstore is named Cokesbury, in honor of these first two bishops.)

## Church Events

- April 1** 6:00 p.m. Feed My Starving Children
- April 2** 9:00 a.m. United Methodist Men
- April 3** 10:15 a.m. Communion Sunday
- April 7** 12:00 p.m. Sarah Circle
- April 9** 10:00 a.m. Breakfast Club  
6:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship
- April 13** 11:30 a.m. ROMEOs/JULIETs
- April 14** 1:00 p.m. UMW Board Meeting
- April 16** 7:00 a.m. Community Care  
8:45 a.m. Leadership Summit
- April 17** 10:00 a.m. Hymn Sing
- April 19** 10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle
- April 20** 6:30 p.m. W.O.W.
- April 23** 8:00 a.m. Highway Clean-Up  
10:00 a.m. Breakfast Club
- April 24** 6:30 p.m. Bible Journaling Class
- April 28** 8:00 a.m. Spring Rummage Sale
- April 29** 8:00 a.m. Spring Rummage Sale

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# *Pastor's Perspective* (continued)

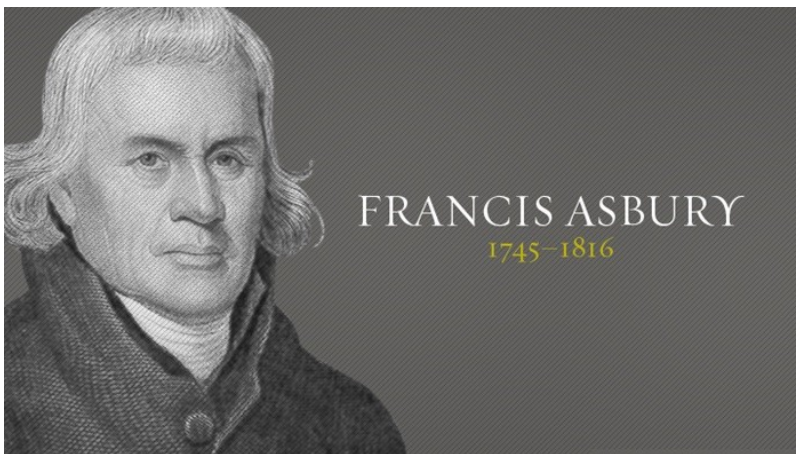
Asbury became known as “The Prophet of the Long Road.” Over the next 30 years, he averaged 6,000 miles a year on his preaching tours, a huge distance on horseback, traveling north and south along the original colonies, as well as traveling west with the expanding country. Under his direction, the Methodist church in America grew from 1,200 to 214,000 members and 700 ordained preachers. Among the men he ordained was Richard Allen in Philadelphia, the first black minister in the United States. (Side note: The USPS is honoring Richard Allen with a postage stamp this spring...be sure to ask for it!).

Asbury “died with his boots on.” He preached his last sermon a week before he died. Asbury is remembered with a life-size equestrian statue, known as the Francis Asbury Memorial, in our nation’s capital. When President Calvin Coolidge dedicated the statue, he said of Asbury, “He is entitled to rank as one of the builders of our nation.”

As we remember this founder on the anniversary of his death, we cannot help but see the link to remembering the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus that Asbury preached so passionately. Asbury would say that it is all about Jesus! Asbury said of his faith passion, “My desire is to live more to God today than yesterday, and to be more holy this day than the last.”

We can celebrate Easter well when we celebrate it alike Asbury. Jesus sent out His disciples on Easter (“As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” -John 20:21). Asbury went to a different world, a different country, to different states, and towns and streets, telling all he met of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We may not be called to leave our homes, but we are sent. Continue to celebrate Easter by sharing the joy of Jesus down the street, across town, with your coworkers, with people you meet every day. We can’t contain the hope of Easter. We, too, are called to be prophets of the long road!

Happy Easter! ~ Pastor David



***“He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The son of man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’”***

***Luke 24:6-7***



# Events and Info

## Adult Fellowship

Adult Fellowship will be meeting on Saturday, April 9th at 6:00 p.m. at Cornerstone Pub & Prime in Wyoming. There's a sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact Rozanne Foster for more information.

## Spring Rummage Sale

The Spring Rummage Sale will take place on Thursday, April 28th and Friday, April 29th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You can start bringing items to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 24th. Large items must contain your name/phone number in case they don't sell. Set-up will start on Tuesday, April 26th from 6-8:00 p.m. and helpers are needed. Please contact Carol Humphrey at 651-464-5370 for more info or to volunteer. Proceeds from the sale are going towards the parsonage windows project.

## Bluegrass Festival Fundraiser— Butter Braids

There's still time to get your butter braids! We're taking orders through April 9th. There's a sign-up sheet in the lobby or contact Paulette Johnson for more info.

## UMM Highway Clean-Up

The UMM will host Highway Clean-Up on Saturday, April 23rd. They'll provide donuts, coffee and juice starting at 8:00 a.m. and clean-up will start around 9:00 a.m. In case of bad weather, Saturday, April 30th will be the alternate date. Hope you can make it!

## Bible Journaling Class

Cassi Betker will be teaching a Bible Journaling Class on the last Sunday of every month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. She will be covering the basics of bringing art and journaling to your Bible study. Come with a Journal Bible or a sketch book and a Bible. Bring any other paints, stickers, letters or other items you would like. She will also have some supplies for you to try out. Contact Cassi at [cassi.betker@gmail.com](mailto:cassi.betker@gmail.com) for more info.

# Worship's Word

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

In this time after our Easter celebration, I am reminded of what Jesus said to his disciples when, after his resurrection, he appeared with them in the locked room. "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone their sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

These disciples in this locked room were scared and confused, they had gone through the trauma of seeing their teacher and friend crucified, and then they had started to hear these rumors that he was alive again! And when Jesus shows up in their midst, he starts by saying exactly what they need to hear. Peace be with you! The disciples needed to see Jesus and to be with him, but they also needed reassurance from him. He didn't offer them a detailed explanation of what exactly had happened to them, although if I had been there I think I would have appreciated a little bit of insight on this whole resurrection thing, instead he offers them peace. He offers them a calming of their nerves and their hearts. And knowing that he wouldn't be able to stay around to lead and guide them he gave them the Holy Spirit to be their comforter and guide.

How many of us are scared and confused? How many of us walk around every day with fear and stress in our hearts? It seems like these things are so overwhelming in our society that maybe a better question would be how many of us don't carry these things with us. But, the message of Jesus resurrection is that resurrection doesn't stop with him. We are offered resurrection from death and from bondage. We are offered this resurrection every day, every day and every moment is an opportunity for new life. I hope that during this Easter season you were able to have an experience similar to what Jesus gave the disciples in that locked room. Whether it was at an Easter worship service or not, I hope that you had an experience of the Holy Spirit and received the message from Jesus, "Peace be with you!"

As disciples of Jesus we also receive the other message that Jesus gave the disciples in the locked room. He said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." We have been given the peace that comes from relationship with Christ, and now we are sent out into the world with the presence and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We have a job to do! We are sent to spread the love and joy that comes with being Jesus disciple, and we are sent to be God's hands and feet in the world. We have an opportunity to do that with Feed My Starving Children at Hosanna Lutheran on April 1st from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, but being Jesus disciple isn't a one time or a once a week thing. It's a way of living, opportunities for being hands and feet are all around us every day. Go and do!

Grace and peace ~ Andrew Buschena

# Spiritual Growth

Having just celebrated Easter I've been reflecting this week on things that bring me new life and resurrection. Sometimes we think resurrection is or has to be a big grandiose type event, a show stopper if you will. But as I get older and go through more and more Easter seasons I am coming to believe that resurrection comes to us over and over again in large and small ways. Sometimes for me, resurrection could be as simple as a great conversation, or an unexpected visitor. Of course there are times that resurrection goes deeper than that and I am set free from something that has been holding me down.

This lent we spent our time getting to know Jesus all over again. We spent time with him through worship, spiritual practices, and outreach. We journeyed with Jesus, and then journeyed with the disciples as we lost him on Good Friday and found him again on Easter Sunday. So now resurrection Sunday has come and gone and it might be easy to begin to forget where Jesus is again. This is why I'm trying to remind myself that resurrection and new life come in big and small ways every day.

So what brings you joy? What are small and big ways you feel Jesus watching over you and delighting in you and the new life you are experiencing? For me playing board games and sports is a way that I find joy in everyday life. These are not my big moments of resurrection but they are my small daily reminders that God delights in me and in creation. Sitting and playing a game with a group of friends, or heading out to play tennis remind me that Jesus's new life is everywhere around me. So, I am challenging myself to "play" more this spring, to embrace the joy and freedom I find in Jesus offering me these moments of childlike play in my life.

So I'll ask again, what brings you joy? What brings you new life and freedom? I know it can be difficult to see and hold onto new life at times but I also want to challenge all of you this spring to find one small "resurrection" activity that brings you joy and begin implementing it into your life. I promise to ruthlessly fight for time to play and to delight in the goodness that God offers me, what will you ruthlessly fight for in your busy lives?

Grace and Peace ~ Amelia Buschena

## Kid's Korner

Whew.

For me, Easter is by far the greatest day of the year. I would be nothing without the salvation bestowed upon me by our resurrected Jesus. He is alive and well...and so am I.

As we continue to revel in the reality of our eternal lives, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate some of the things happening in our Awana program.

Awana has been around for decades and Forest Hills has been involved for years. Awana provides a Scriptural foundation for kids as they memorize God's words and become familiar with the Gospel. This year we have seen some wonderful growth happening in our classes. Not only have students been inviting their friends to join, but we have seen changes in behavior as well as kids displaying a greater understanding of who God is, why sin is a problem and how Jesus solves it.

Our program this year has been vibrant and exciting! Our students look forward to coming back each week! None of these realities would have developed if it were not for our outstanding team of teachers and leaders. I am so proud of our crew:

Dinner: Nancy Daschel  
Pre-school: Vicky Keintz  
Kindergarten: Lois Werhan  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Louis James  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Steve Ruter

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Tracy Bonsell  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Angie Carter  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Andrew Bonsell  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade/Administration/details: Jason Keintz

Awana will be wrapping up at the end of next month, but there is still plenty of teaching to do. I would ask, if you are reading this, to take some time to lift this program up in prayer. Pray for our students and our teachers. Pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to move in our classes. And when you see one of our teachers, please thank them for their service. They are the sowers planting seeds for the next generation.

For the King ~ Andrew