



SEPTEMBER 2025

ASBURY

Update

VOL. 37 | NO. 9



SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Takoda Abbott
Alexa Schlimmer | 9 Khloe Alexander | 16 Bill Jahn | 22 Pat Ciccodicola |
| 2 Pam Karacostas
Kathi Lovelady
Nancy Saltsman | 10 Tiia Strong | 17 Marilyn Leigh
John Marich
Greg Martin | 23 Orion Alford
Danny Lewis |
| 4 Phyllis Carlino
Delores Ellis
Cathy Solomons
Gloria Stahle
Jason Zimmer | 11 Mark Barner
Madeline Kelso
Hank Little
Will McGowan | 18 Ryan Boland
Adele Packert | 24 Roy Hill |
| 6 Sherry Moore | 12 David Tanner | 19 Bob Chvatal
Todd Nolan | 25 Mary Ellen Campbell
Lauren Page |
| 7 Jill Walther | 14 Kimmi Sampieri
David Shackley | 20 Dottie Kluttz
Mike Matheny | 26 Deb Gibson |
| 8 Ed Jones | 15 Kathy Bradley
Amy Jenkins
Carol Klein | 21 Judie Jones
Sarah Povie
Bryan Sikes | 27 Doug Povie |
| | | 29 Janie Atkinson | 30 Geri Spears |



SEPTEMBER

Anniversaries

2nd
Warren & James
Heilman

4th
Jan & Sam
Durham

4th
Gerry & Marlon
Harman

12th
J.J. & Parker
Collins

25th
Jan & Bob
Corey

29th
Catherine Gilbert
& Sandy Golden

September 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
	7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO		5:30p Youth Group 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	6:00p Spirituality & Grief Support Group 7:00p Men's Group		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial 6:00p Second Sunday Seekers	5:30p SING Rehearsal @ AMC 7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO	11:00a Memorial Service for Gordon Baker 6:30p Ministry Round Table Meeting	5:30p Youth Group 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	6:00p Spirituality & Grief Support Group 7:00p Men's Group		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial 12:30p Ministry Fair 1:00p W.O.K.E. @ WO	5:30p SING Rehearsal @ AMC 7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO	6:30p Finance Committee Meeting	5:30p Youth Group 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	6:00p Spirituality & Grief Support Group 7:00p Men's Group	6:00p 3 rd Space Event	10:00a Sacred Activism Workshop @WO
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial 1:00p W.O.K.E. @ WO	5:30p SING Rehearsal @ AMC 7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO		5:30p Youth Group 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	12:00p Sisters in Faith 6:00p Spirituality & Grief Support Group 7:00p Men's Group		
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
9:30a Wesley Oak 11:15a Asbury Memorial 1:00p W.O.K.E. @ WO	5:30p SING Rehearsal @ AMC 7:00p SMART Recovery @ WO		5:30p Youth Group 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	6:00p Spirituality & Grief Support Group 7:00p Men's Group		

GET TO KNOW OUR MINISTRIES



Many of the Ministries of the Church and a little about them -
from Rev August Alderman and Candace Jenkins, Connectional
Ministries Coordinator



We are so thankful for the many ministries and educational opportunities of our church! We are looking forward to this fall and seeing these ministries continue to grow, flourish, and glorify God. We hope you find that these endeavors support the church and our community. These ministries also need you. Please contact Rev. August or Candace with questions about these ministries and groups and we will connect you. What do you have to add to these? Where do you imagine yourself growing with the church? Are you called to these ministries? We are here to support you in your callings and hope that you receive spiritual nourishment here.

The 10 O'Clock Hour Invites You To Learn, Pray, and Enjoy Fellowship



The 10 O'Clock Hour Sunday School class has become a meaningful part of the life of Asbury since it first began meeting on September 15, 2024. The purpose of the class is simple yet profound: to grow together in knowledge and faith, while also strengthening relationships and community.

Over the past year, participants have explored a variety of thought-provoking resources. They began with the video series *Living the Questions*, where leading scholars addressed themes such as "Restoring Relationships" and "The Prophetic Jesus." The group then spent several months studying *The Last Week* by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg, taking a close look at the final days of Jesus' life. During the summer, the class turned to the video series *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith*, which sparked rich conversation about how faith continues to evolve.

Looking ahead, the group has chosen to study Marcus Borg's classic *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, beginning on August 31. This book invites readers to reflect on the historical Jesus and the heart of contemporary faith. One chapter, "Jesus, Compassion, and Politics," promises particularly lively discussion as the class considers what Borg's insights mean for Christians today.

**The 10 O'Clock Hour meets each Sunday in Holliday Hall,
Gathering time begins at 9:45 a.m. and class starts at 10:00.
All are welcome to join this circle of learning, prayer, and fellowship.**

Children's Ministry and the Nursery:

A CALLING TO LEAD AND NURTURE

To be a leader in Children's Church or the Nursery is more than just volunteering your time — it is a calling within the life of the church. Leaders have the special opportunity to walk alongside our youngest members as they grow in faith, discover God's love, and begin to form their spiritual lives.

For many, the role becomes deeply personal. In guiding children, you may find yourself becoming the kind of leader you once needed as a child. Preparing lessons and activities is not only an act of service, but also a chance to deepen your own faith, knowledge of Scripture, and understanding of the Gospel.

Both Children's Church and the Nursery are in need of passionate, caring adults who can help create meaningful and memorable experiences for our children. By offering your presence, you give children a foundation of love, belonging, and joy within the church community.

If you feel called to serve in this way, consider joining the team that helps nurture the next generation in faith.



The Choir of Asbury Memorial: Joyful Voices, Joyful Hearts

If you ask members of the Asbury Memorial Choir, they might tell you theirs is the most fun ministry in the church! Being part of the choir is not only about making music — it's about making connections, building friendships, and sharing in the joy of worship.

Choir members will tell you that a sense of adventure and a good sense of humor are all you need to fit right in. Along the way, you'll develop your musical skills and help lead the congregation in expressing God's joy through song.

The choir rehearses each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m., and their music is an integral part of worship throughout the year. They also play a central role in the beloved God On Broadway series each October and frequently bless the wider community by singing at special events, including J.U.S.T.

Whether you are an experienced singer or simply someone who loves to lift your voice, the choir offers a place of belonging, laughter, and inspiration.

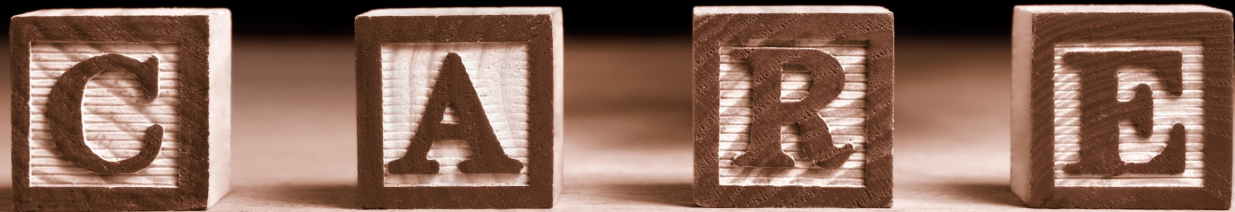


Wesley Oak Chancel Choir

Come & Join In!

The CHANCEL CHOIR rehearses on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. each week. If you are interested in being a part of the music at Wesley Oak Church, please connect with J.J. COLLINS, director. We would LOVE to have you join us!

CONGREGATIONAL



Congregational Care: Sharing God's Love Through Support

One of the most meaningful ways we live out our faith at Asbury Memorial is by caring for one another. The Congregational Care ministry extends compassion, encouragement, and presence to members of our church family in times of both joy and difficulty.

This ministry reaches out through visits, phone calls, cards, meals, and prayer — simple yet powerful ways of reminding others that they are not alone. Whether someone is celebrating a new baby, recovering from illness, grieving a loss, or just needing a little extra encouragement, Congregational Care helps embody the love of Christ in tangible ways.

Those who serve in this ministry often say they receive as much as they give. Offering care deepens relationships, strengthens our community, and makes Christ's love visible in everyday acts of kindness.

Congregations In Service: Faith Communities Working Together

Twice each year, Asbury joins with multiple faith communities in Savannah to take part in Congregations In Service — a day devoted to serving others both inside and outside the church.

This ministry offers a wide variety of opportunities to make a difference. Participants might help with cleaning, painting, yard work, or even dog walking. Others may assemble care packages, pack boxes at the food bank, or take part in other hands-on projects. Whatever the task, the focus is the same: coming together in love and service to meet real needs in our community.

The day usually begins with a brief worship service, followed by a morning or afternoon of work, and then concludes with a delicious lunch. Along the way, volunteers get to know people from different congregations, share in fellowship, and discover the joy of making a difference together.

This ministry only asks for one day of your time, but the rewards — for both those served and those who serve — last much longer. Join us next time and see how good it feels to “do good” with Congregations In Service!





The Flower Ministry

Sharing beauty and brightening days

A Ministry of Fragrance and Fellowship

The Flower Ministry offers a unique way to share God's love and beauty with members of our church community. Like the warm welcome of our Hospitality team, the Flower Ministry uses the gift of flowers to brighten lives and lift spirits.

How It Works:

- Beautiful flowers are donated each Sunday.
- Our talented team transforms them into smaller, personalized arrangements.
- These bouquets are then delivered with love and care

Each week, the stunning floral arrangements that grace our Sunday service are given a new life. Our dedicated Flower Ministry carefully repurposes these displays into smaller, heartfelt bouquets. These tokens of beauty are then delivered to our elder members on birthdays or special occasions. If someone is feeling unwell, recovering from surgery, or navigating a difficult season, a beautiful flower arrangement is lovingly delivered to bring a moment of joy and a reminder that our church is thinking of them.

Join the bloom brigade and make someone's day brighter!



The Green Team: Stewards of the Earth

*"The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."
- Psalm 24:1*

The Green Team is more than just a ministry; it's a **commitment to stewardship** of the Earth, guided by our faith. We believe that caring for the natural world is a fundamental part of our spiritual journey. Our mission encompasses education, action, and advocacy, all rooted in the principles of love, justice, and responsibility.

Our Initiatives

- Community Education
- Special Worship Services
- Energy Audits
- Solar Panel Installation
- Waste Reduction Programs
- Building Partnerships

We engage our community through educational programs that highlight environmental issues and practical solutions. Our special worship services integrate themes of creation care, reminding us of our role in God's plan. We offer energy audits to help members reduce their carbon footprint, and we've facilitated the installation of solar panels to promote clean energy. Our waste reduction programs minimize our environmental impact, and we actively build partnerships with local organizations to advocate for environmental justice for all.

The Green Team strives to integrate faith with environmental action. From community education to solar panel projects, the ministry provides many opportunities to serve and protect creation. Get in touch to find out how you can get involved - church@asburymemorial.org



WELCOMING ALL: THE HEART OF ASBURY'S HOSPITALITY TEAM

At the very core of the Gospel is a simple, powerful invitation: "Welcome." Hospitality is more than just a warm smile or a cup of coffee—it is a living expression of God's love, a way we create the loving realm of God here on earth. At Asbury, our Hospitality Team embodies this spirit, making every gathering a place where all feel seen, valued, and embraced.

A Ministry of Warmth and Service

The Hospitality Team's work is both joyful and essential. Once a month, they host our beloved Big Coffee Hour, transforming the fellowship hall into a space filled with laughter, conversation, and delicious treats. These gatherings are more than just a chance to enjoy a snack—they are opportunities to build relationships, welcome newcomers, and strengthen our church family.

In the spring and fall, the team also prepares and serves Wednesday night suppers. These meals are a highlight for many, offering nourishment for both body and soul. Whether it's a comforting bowl of soup or a homemade dessert, every dish is served with a generous helping of kindness.

Behind the Scenes and Center Stage

The Hospitality Team's work doesn't stop there. From special events and celebrations to memorial receptions and holiday gatherings, they are always ready to lend a hand. Their efforts often happen behind the scenes—setting tables, brewing coffee, washing dishes—but their impact is felt by everyone who walks through our doors.

A Place for Everyone

Being part of the Hospitality Team is hard work, but it's also fun and deeply rewarding. Volunteers come from all walks of life, each bringing their own gifts and talents. Some love to bake, others enjoy decorating, and many simply love to greet people with a friendly hello. Every role is important, and every volunteer is valued.

Join Us in Welcoming the World

If you've ever enjoyed a cup of coffee after worship or felt at home at a church supper, you've experienced the ministry of hospitality. We invite you to consider joining this vital team. Whether you can help once a month or once a year, your presence makes a difference. Together, let's continue to create a church where everyone is welcomed, loved, and nourished—in body, mind, and spirit.

JUSTICE UNITES SAVANNAH TOGETHER

Working for equitable policies in our community



J.U.S.T. (Justice Unites Savannah Together) is a powerful community organization comprised of diverse congregations across Savannah. We unite in our shared commitment to pursuing justice, addressing pressing community problems through respectful and sacred conversations, and advocating for equitable policies that benefit all members of our society.

Our Mission

At the heart of J.U.S.T. lies a deep commitment to collaborative action. We believe that by working together, we can create meaningful change and build a more just and equitable Savannah for everyone. Our approach is rooted in:

- **Sacred Conversations:** Facilitating respectful dialogue to understand diverse perspectives on critical issues.
- **Equitable Policies:** Advocating for policies that address systemic inequalities and promote fairness.
- **Community Partnership:** Building strong relationships with community leaders, organizations, and residents to ensure our efforts are community-driven.

Asbury Memorial's Enduring Support

Asbury Memorial has been a steadfast supporter of J.U.S.T. since its inception. Their unwavering commitment to social justice and community engagement has been instrumental in our success. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing partnership and dedication to our shared mission.

Expressing Gratitude

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the congregations, leaders, and individuals who contribute to J.U.S.T.'s vital work. Your passion, dedication, and tireless efforts are making a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals and families in our community. Together, we are building a stronger, more just, and equitable Savannah for all.

Men's Group

Building Connection and Conversation

On Thursday evenings, a group of men from Asbury gather not in a church classroom, but on Zoom – from their living rooms, kitchens, and studies. Though the setting is virtual, the connection is very real. This is the Men's Fellowship Group, a group where faith, curiosity, and camaraderie come together each week.

The format is simple: a time of fellowship and conversation. Discussions often start with what's on someone's mind – a theological question, a recent book, or a headline from the news – and soon the group is sharing perspectives, laughing together, and wrestling with meaningful ideas.

"It's not about having all the answers," says one member, "it's about having a space where we can think, talk, and grow together." The conversation is always engaging, sometimes challenging, and often deeply encouraging.

More than a discussion group, Men's Fellowship is a place where friendships are formed and community is strengthened. For men looking to connect, make new friends, and enjoy good conversation, this group offers a welcoming and enriching experience – all from the comfort of home.

The group meets Thursdays from 7:00–8:30 p.m. on Zoom



Second Sunday Seekers:

A Place for Honest Questions and Open Hearts

Are you searching for a space where you can ask honest questions, share your thoughts, and explore faith in a welcoming environment? The Second Sunday Seekers Group might be just what you're seeking.

This group meets on the second Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the home of Parker and J.J. Collins. It is open to anyone interested in discussing spiritual and theological topics. Conversations may range from wrestling with sacred mysteries to pondering ethical dilemmas or simply hearing different perspectives on faith and life.

There is no set agenda, no required reading, and no expectations – just a group of people gathering with open hearts and open minds. All that's asked is that you bring humility, curiosity, and kindness. Every voice is valued, and every question is welcome.

If you're longing for meaningful conversation and genuine community, consider joining the Second Sunday Seekers. Together, we'll journey through life's big questions with honesty and grace.





Sisters

IN FAITH: FELLOWSHIP, FUN, AND FRIENDSHIP

At Asbury Memorial, community is more than a value — it's a way of life. Nowhere is that spirit more alive than in the women's group, Sisters in Faith.

This vibrant circle of women gathers regularly to share meals, enjoy outings, and delight in the gift of fellowship. Whether seated around a table at a favorite restaurant, exploring a local activity, or simply sharing conversation, Sisters in Faith is rooted in connection.

Friendships are nurtured here. Laughter flows freely. Faith is deepened as women walk alongside one another through the joys and challenges of life.

For those seeking connection beyond Sunday worship, Sisters in Faith offers a warm and welcoming space to belong. It's not just about fun and fellowship — it's also about encouragement, support, and growing together in faith.

AN OPEN INVITATION

All women are invited to be part of this special group and experience the joy of shared meals, shared experiences, and shared faith.



- **MONDAYS 7:00P -8:30P**
- **WESLEY OAK CHURCH, 3124
E. VICTORY DRIVE,
SAVANNAH, GA 31404**
- **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

SMART RECOVERY: SUPPORT FOR A BALANCED LIFE

Wesley Oak Church is proud to host SMART Recovery meetings every Monday evening from 7:00–8:30 p.m. SMART Recovery is a program designed to help individuals overcome harmful habits and addictions through practical tools based on cognitive and motivational psychology and addiction research.

Unlike traditional 12-step programs, SMART takes a science-based approach that emphasizes self-reliance, self-resilience, and self-empowerment. Participants are encouraged to become the experts on their own recovery journeys, choosing strategies and supports that fit their needs. Topics may include relationships, substance use, gambling, eating, spending, and other behaviors that can impact well-being.

There is no requirement to commit to a lifetime of meetings. Instead, participants decide when and how long they wish to be involved, making SMART a flexible and welcoming community. The program also recognizes that individuals may benefit from participating in more than one support group, and it values collaboration rather than exclusivity.



Stephen MINISTRY

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

The Blessings of Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry multiplies blessings throughout the church and community:

- Congregations carry out Christ's commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12 RSV) in a powerful and practical way.
- Pastors have a team of gifted, trained, and committed lay caregivers ready to minister to hurting people.
- Laypeople nurture and use their gifts in meaningful ministry, growing spiritually as they serve others.
- People who are hurting have a caring Christian presence to provide emotional and spiritual support.
- In short, Stephen Ministry helps carry out the mission of the church.



Sound & Tech Ministry



Behind the Scenes: The Tech Team at Asbury Memorial

Every worship service has its own rhythm — the music, the prayers, the message — and behind it all is a dedicated group making sure everything runs smoothly. Meet the Tech Team, the unseen yet essential heartbeat of our worship experience.

The Tech Team oversees the soundboard, livestream, and other technology that bring our services to life. From ensuring that microphones are balanced to making sure online worshippers feel

fully included, their work touches every aspect of our gatherings. Always exploring new tools and techniques, the team embraces innovation as part of ministry. They're the ones who help us grow in how we share worship, both within our sanctuary and far beyond its walls.

The Tech Team's role extends past Sunday mornings. They also support special events, concerts, and community gatherings, helping create experiences that are engaging and meaningful for all who attend.



An Invitation to Join

If you have a knack for technology — or simply a desire to learn — the Tech Team needs you! Whether your gifts are in sound, video, livestreaming, or just a willingness to help, there's a place for you in this exciting ministry.

Come discover how serving behind the scenes can make a big impact.



Cook and Connect with Creativity

Joy Cottage at Wesley Oak

On every fourth Sunday, friends from Asbury Memorial (Savannah) and Wesley Oak (Thunderbolt) meet at the Joy Cottage at Wesley Oak to cook, connect, and celebrate creativity. We prep and share a simple, delicious meal together—swapping recipes, stories, and plenty of laughter. After dinner, the spotlight opens for anyone who wants to share a gift: read a poem, sing a favorite song, show a craft, or offer another creative expression. No stage fright needed—this is a gentle, joyful space to belong and be yourself. Whether you love to chop veggies, try new dishes, or cheer on others, you'll find a seat at the table.

Wisdom Seekers

This ministry is simple and rich: we read, reflect, and practice curiosity together—then we get out into the community to share a meal, enjoy a field trip, or try something new. Whether you're a faithful regular or just Wisdom-curious, you're welcome at the table.

Come to either gathering—or both. Bring your questions, your stories, and a friend. As always, all are welcome.

Our Regular Rhythm (resumes in September):

- **2nd Monday — Zoom Discussion at 12:30 p.m.**
 - A relaxed, book-or-topic conversation where every voice matters.
- **4th Monday — Social Outing at 12:30 p.m.**
 - Lunch, a local field trip, or another low-key adventure together.

W.O.K.E.

WESLEY OAK KNOWLEDGE EXPLORERS



SUNDAYS AT 1:00 PM | JOY COTTAGE

ARE YOU CRAVING DEEPER CONVERSATIONS ABOUT FAITH, LIFE, AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH? WOKE IS A WELCOMING GROUP OF SEEKERS AND THINKERS WHO GATHER EVERY SUNDAY TO EXPLORE BIG IDEAS AND ASK MEANINGFUL QUESTIONS. TOGETHER, WE DIG INTO THOUGHT-PROVOKING TOPICS THAT HELP US GROW—BOTH SPIRITUALLY AND PERSONALLY. BRING YOUR QUESTIONS, YOUR CURIOSITY, AND YOUR OPEN HEART. LET'S GROW TOGETHER.

ANGELLS YOUTH GROUP

Radically inclusive. Seriously fun. Deeply real.

Wednesdays, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Asbury Memorial campus

Angells Youth Group is where middle and high schoolers find a safe, joyful space to be themselves, make friends, and explore big questions—all through the lens of God's expansive love. **We're a radically inclusive community that celebrates every teen exactly as they are.**

What We Do

Community Projects: From service drives to hands-on neighborhood work, we put compassion into action.

Real Talk: Guided conversations about what teens are navigating—faith, identity, school, stress, hope—done with honesty and respect.

Game & Movie Nights: Low-key fun that builds trust and laughter.

Excursions & Trips: Local outings plus 2–3 trips per year for learning, serving, and bonding.

Why It Matters

Adolescence is a wild ride. Angells offers a steady place to land—friends who listen, mentors who care, and a church family that means it when we say all are welcome. We practice kindness, curiosity, and courage. No perfect answers required.

Jump In

Whether you're new to church, grew up here, or are just youth-group curious, there's a seat for you at Angells Youth Group!

Come help us shape a community where teens lead with heart, serve with joy, and know they belong.





Spirituality & Grief

Support Group

Supporting you through your grief journey.
Discover healing through activities, spiritual practices,
and compassionate community.

Thursdays
6:00 pm

Asbury Memorial Church
1008 E. Henry St
Savannah, GA

— **Sept 18th - Oct 30th** —

Join us for a 7-week support group designed for those who are at least 6 months out from the loss of a loved one. Together, we'll explore spiritual practices, grief tools, and shared experiences through guided activities and discussion.

Facilitated by Rev. August Alderman & Kathy Hodges

Meets weekly for one hour at Asbury Memorial Church.

Register today: revaugust@asburymemorial.org



\$25

**TICKET
DONATION**

"Hope Has Many Voices"

Concert

**Sunday, September 21st
at 5pm**

FEATURING

VOICES FROM OUR LOCAL CHURCHES

VENUE - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SAVANNAH

223 BULL STREET - SAVANNAH, GA

Doors open at 4pm

Concert Fundraiser Tickets



Use QR code to purchase tickets

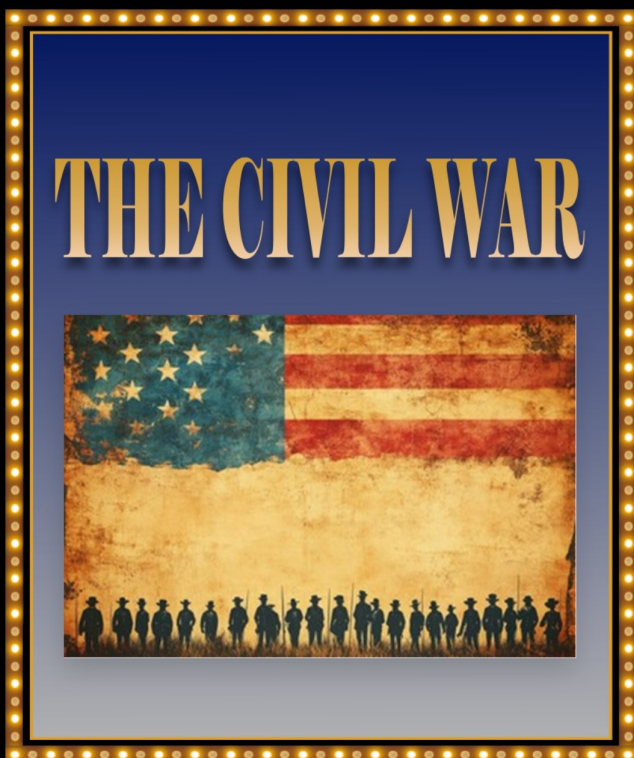
www.justsav.org

GOD ON BROADWAY

WORSHIP SERIES 2025
SUNDAYS AT 11:15 AM



COMPANY
OCTOBER 5TH



THE
CIVIL WAR
OCTOBER 12TH

Monitored parking available behind the church

GOD ON BROADWAY

WORSHIP SERIES 2025
SUNDAYS AT 11:15 AM



SUFFS

SUFFS

OCTOBER 19TH



MARY POPPINS

MARY POPPINS

OCTOBER 26TH

with The Gretchen Greene Dancers

Monitored parking available behind the church



Congratulations

Ms. Georgia Senior World 70's

LINDA REDFERN SOCKS

What inspired you to enter the Ms. Georgia Senior World Pageant?

I needed a goal and something to focus on. I really get bored easily and my mind is constantly racing. Being retired, I do volunteer work, but I wanted to do something for myself that would give me a challenge and make me work on improving myself. I think that's because of my Type A personality. I always want to do more. After not doing pageants for quite some time, I decided to go for it and do one more before I'm out of the age category. There's a lot of stress even though it's fun competing, and I also wanted to see if I was up to it because of the Lupus. I'm supposed to live stress free and regulate my involvement in activities...ha-ha.

Have you participated in pageants or similar competitions before, or was this your first time?

I've done a couple of pageants before and enjoyed the competitiveness and the preparation. I participated twice in the Ms. Senior Georgia America pageant. My first go round, I placed 1st runner up in 2019. On the 2nd go round, I did not place, so the bug was there to try something different one more time. To me, the excitement is in the preparation. I also did two bodybuilding shows, one at age 57 and another at 59 and placed 1st in the Masters division and 5th place in the Masters Figure Division at 59. So, the bug to compete remains within regardless of the type of competition.

What does being crowned Ms. Georgia Senior World 70s mean to you personally?

I am excited to represent Georgia in the 70-year-old division and want to be an example showing other seniors that aging can be graceful and rewarding. I did not have to compete to be awarded the Ms. Georgia Senior World title, however, I did have to complete a lot of paperwork in hopes that they awarded me the title to go to Nationals, which I accepted.

How has your faith journey and connection with Asbury influenced your outlook during this experience?

Asbury has been so supportive of my experience thus far. My immediate family is extremely small and not local, so having the congregation route for me and having Billy and Cheri show so much excitement for my journey makes me feel so special and proud. It makes me want to even try harder to not let anyone down, although competitions can be subjective based on judges, contestants, etc. So, if you do your best, that's all you can ask for in regard to being crowned. I thank God everyday that I feel great and up to this challenge, because Lupus can hit at anytime and change my direction for competing.

Is there a message from your Asbury family you carried with you into the competition?

Yes, God is with you, no matter the consequences. He is your biggest supporter, and if I do my best, that's all God wants me to do. I am blessed to be able to represent senior women, and I will be thinking about your thoughts, prayers and well wishes as I step foot on the stage.

What was the most memorable part of the competition?

This does not apply, since I did not compete against anyone but myself and my preparation to request entry into the National pageant.



Did you have a favorite talent, outfit, or segment of the pageant that you especially enjoyed?

Not with this pageant. When I did the Ms. Georgia Senior American pageant, I played the piano for my talent. Having 14 years of classical piano training, helped me prepare for the talent segment. I took portions of a classical piece with a jazz piece to make my own compilation. I thought I did great, since I love both genres of music. My other favorite segment was the evening gown portion. I love to get dressed up. I mean, really get dressed up, because I live in sweats and workout clothes 99% of the time.

Were there any surprising or funny moments that happened behind the scenes?

Since there was not a preliminary pageant the surprising moment for me was when I received the award letter in the mail, that they accepted me as a representative in the 70s division for Georgia. I was so excited and had a hard time keeping it a secret for a while. I just wanted to make sure everything was good!

How are you preparing for the national competition?

Because this pageant is not just a beauty pageant, but a pageant recognizing senior women in grace, excellence, and community service, there is quite a bit of work involved. To prepare: Working out (being fit is important). I'm training a lot harder than I normally do. I measure my food for consumption. I feel like I'm competing in a bodybuilding show. Shopping for various outfits (we need quite a few) is challenging. The availability of great shopping outlets for pageants is minimal in Savannah. So, shopping is done online in hopes that things fit, and with a lot of returns or giving them to my granddaughters. It's trial and error. All segments of the pageant require a different wardrobe: Interview, evening gown, what you wear to stay fit, opening number, walk the runway, queen's ball, finale, orientation, registration, and dress rehearsals. Also, walking in high heels instead of athletic shoes is crucial. I go to the gym's aerobic room with mirrors after I work out to practice walking. I also practice at home in the hallway. Luckily, I'm in the oldest division, so they give you some grace in heel height. I am also practicing the different walks: runway (model walk), and evening gown walk. I've been watching videos on walking (100's). I'm on my phone every night watching videos. I hired a coach to work with me on answering interview questions, gown selection, and pageant consulting in whatever area I need help. We are interviewed individually by 7 judges. We must hire a photographer to do a photo shoot for the program book and people's choice award, which means hiring a makeup artist too. People will have the opportunity to vote for their choice as it gets closer to the pageant. This, however, does not have any effect on the pageant's outcome. On the administrative side, I've been visiting different establishments to get ADs for the program book and sponsors to help with the cost of competing, which runs thousands of dollars. Preparing for the questions from the judges is important, since the interview counts for 30% of your score. I've been reading over my resume constantly, because as you age you forget what you did (smile). Finishing reading a book and working on my platform and community service, which all ties in to "Seniors shine in strength and self-love," my platform for the pageant. My platform coincides with my community service of teaching 150 classes a year plus preparation to seniors at the Salvation Army. I have been doing this for over four years, starting at Generation One for Memorial Hospital. I've also presented at a couple of lunch and learns discussing health and wellness.

What do you hope to share or represent on the national stage?

Through this pageant, I want to represent senior women and show the world that you are golden at any age. Seniors can do many challenging things and are ready, willing, and open to begin new experiences. I want to encourage and spread my nutrition and fitness lifestyle and education to seniors around the world, especially to women for them to shine in fitness, and use strength training and other fitness disciplines to enhance their living in the years remaining. If you feel good about your capabilities and yourself...you have self-love.

What message would you like to give other women (and men) about embracing life at every age?

The first step is to take accountability for your happiness. Do something creative, get moving, and include exercise and new experiences to foster self-love. By adding strength training, seniors can develop muscle mass, which we lose about 30% by the age of 50. I want seniors to know that as we age, we can fight the elements that may hinder us from aging gracefully through fitness disciplines and self-love. We can reduce becoming frail and the possibility of falls and fractures. We can remain independent longer. I'm really focused on strength training because it may help prevent 13 types of cancer, which include breast cancer, and if you have cancer, reduce its severity. One workout can cut cancer cell growth by 30%. Strength training may prevent osteoporosis and osteopenia and reduce severity. Embrace your body and take care to promote your well-being. It's never too late to start, no matter what your age. As an example, training consistently has helped in managing my Lupus for over 40 years. Just because we have so many years behind us does not mean we can't increase and improve the years ahead with action and self-love.

What advice would you give to others who may be hesitant to step into something new later in life?

Take a deep breath and just go for it. Think about the worst thing that can happen if you do something out of the ordinary. Either you succeed, you may have fun, or it does not work out, you don't have fun, but the experience has made you an even better person. Regardless, you are still here and ready to try again. What do you have to lose? Also, think that your experiences can set an example to your family and peers and show that at any age you can make things happen. A great example for the younger generation, too. Taking the initiative and doing something out of the ordinary will not cause harm to you. Just don't try skateboarding

When you're not preparing for pageants, what brings you joy day-to-day?

I love working out. It's my saving grace, my solitude, my everything besides family. If I'm down and out, I train. If Lupus starts to show its ugly head...I hit the gym. If I have no energy, I go to the gym because working out gives me energy. I enjoy volunteering, teaching classes to seniors at the Salvation Army. They are like my family. The group averages 25 - 50 seniors a class, so it's great fun and we've really become a cohesive group. I like to play pool, but I don't do it often because there are no pool places that don't smell like smoke, when they could smoke indoors. I love listening to contemporary jazz and all genres of music. I'll hit the piano occasionally just for giggles. Love decorating and reading AD architectural magazines. Watching ION TV. Line dancing and blasting the music at home to dance around the house.

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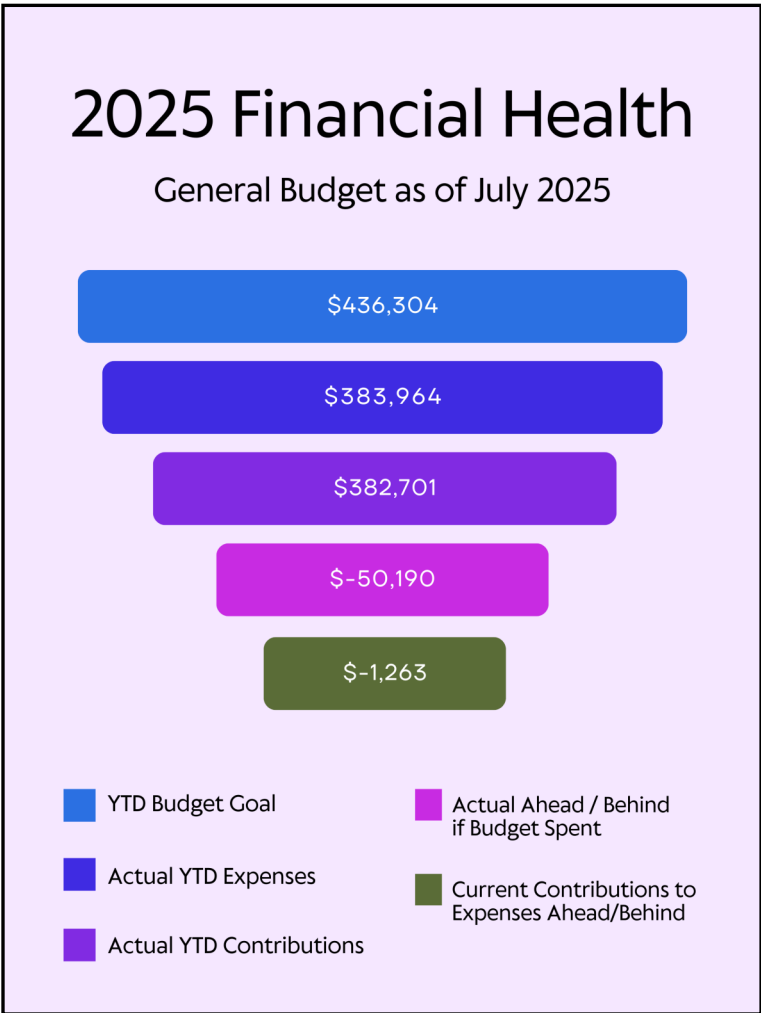
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IN MEMORY OF DR. GORDON N. BAKER

A Celebration of Life

Tuesday, September 9 at 11:00 AM
Asbury Memorial Church, Savannah, GA
A luncheon will follow the service

Kindly RSVP by Monday, September 1 to Tom Lewis for planning purposes

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to contribute to the
Gordon Newton Baker Memorial Fund at Asbury Memorial Church
www.asburymemorial.org

WESLEY OAK SEPTEMBER LINEUP



Memorials

Gifts have been given in memory
of Gordon Baker
by

Betty Foster
Glenda Anderson
Charlotte Olson
Samuel Eason
Jackie Smith
Gloria Copeland
Janice Price
The Franklin Family
Heidi Hoffmann
Andrew Manderson



2025
STEWARDSHIP

Please search your heart
& plan your gift

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY

HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH A SANCTUARY CHAIR DEDICATION

Each Sunday as we gather for our services, there's a sense of sacred connection that fills the sanctuary. This connection is made even more meaningful as we notice the names of loved ones carefully etched into the nameplates on our beautiful sanctuary chairs. These nameplates are more than just engraved markers—they tell stories of love, remembrance, and enduring faith.

Seeing the name of a cherished family member or friend serves as a tangible reminder of their presence, legacy, and the role they played in the life of the church community. It's a beautiful way to honor their memory while contributing to the spiritual life of our congregation.

If you would like to remember or honor a loved one in this special way, we invite you to complete an order form and submit it to the church office. Forms are conveniently available both in the church narthex and the office.

The cost of \$250.00 goes directly towards the upkeep and maintenance of our beloved sanctuary, helping to preserve this sacred space for generations to come.

By dedicating a chair in honor of someone special, you participate in a tradition of generosity and love that supports our worship environment and celebrates the lives that have touched us so deeply.

A Beautiful Way to Remember or Honor a Loved One

We encourage you to prayerfully consider this opportunity. If you have any questions or need assistance with the form, please do not hesitate to contact the church office. Thank you for being part of this meaningful act of remembrance and for supporting the spiritual heart of our community.



Prayer Requests

Congregants of Asbury Memorial & Wesley Oak

DiAnne Amerson, Roger Amerson, Pat Annel, Jim Burris,
Randy Canady, Phyllis Carlino, Sheri Coffey, Marty Coolidge,
Sam Durham, Delores Ellis, Ray Ellis, Katie Farmer, Deb Gibson,
Cynthia Herold, Sandy Hoecherl, Bubba Hughes, Carolyn Ingram,
Marion Manigo, Virginia Moryadas, Gloria Moses, Frank Ramsey,
Jim Schlimmer, Pat Stewart, Gail Thomas, Dave Thompson,
Julie Tisinger, Rev. Bob Townsend, Curtis Veal, Kenn Waters,
Shirley White, Debbie Wright

Family Members and Friends

Layla Fuller, Fred Hawker, Dalton Henry, Nimrod Mehari,
Clyde Parker, Charlie Taylor, Donna Weaver

WE HAVE MULTIPLE WAYS FOR YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT OF ASBURY MEMORIAL
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS!



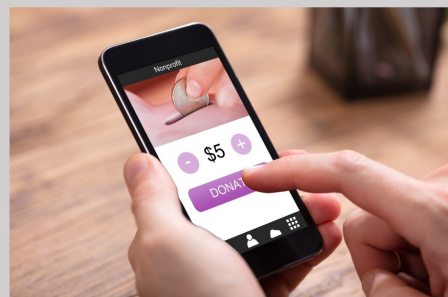
Mail:

Mail your contribution by check to:
Asbury Memorial Church
1008 East Henry Street
Savannah, GA 31401



Website:

- Log on to our website: www.AsburyMemorial.org
- Click on the Give Now button
- Complete the form as directed.
- You can set it up to be a recurring donation!



Text Giving:

- From your mobile phone:
- Send your contribution amount to 833-690-5966
- Donate anytime, anywhere
- Use easy debit/credit card registration
- Make a one-time gift or set it up to be recurring

Asbury Memorial Church

1008 East Henry Street
Savannah, GA 31401-7128

INT.ID 206896

Office 233-4351 Fax 233-5026

www.asburymemorial.org

Return Service Requested

Flowers in the Sanctuary

Supplying the flower arrangements for the worship service is a wonderful way to commemorate a date that is important to you or a loved one. Please check the Flower Chart in the narthex and sign up. The cost is \$70.

For more information call the church office at 233-4351.

Special Funds

One way to honor or to remember a loved one is with a memorial or an honorarium to some of our different funds such as the Properties Fund, General Fund, Piano/Organ Fund, Family and Children's Ministries Fund, Youth Ministry Fund, Laura Angell Scholarship Fund, Pet Memorial Fund or one of our Mission Funds.

Newsletter Information

If you have an announcement for "The Asbury Update," please email Chris Kincade at ckincade@asburymemorial.org.

Mission Statement

Asbury Memorial is a place where all people can develop their spirituality, use their talents, and grow in faith as we seek to love, serve, and celebrate God, each other, and our community.