

January 1, 2016

### **New Beginnings for a New Year!**

Greetings my beloved community! In 2016, God is calling us to offer our lives more fully for ministry. “Did you not know that I *must* be about my Father’s business?” These are the first words Jesus speaks in Luke’s Gospel. “I *must* be...” is a divine imperative. We hear this *divine must* throughout Luke’s Gospel. At Asbury our *divine must* is to love God and one another, serve our community, and transform lives!

Last Sunday, I challenged you to write a sentence describing how you will live into that commitment. As we begin the New Year, again I am challenging you to go beyond the usual New Year’s resolutions and discover your individual *divine must*. Prayerfully write your personal mission statement, share it, and live it!

*Respond to the following questions about your identity, vision, and gifts from your heart without overthinking.*

**Identity:** Who are you? Why are you here? What roles do they serve in life? (e.g., mother, son, mentor, friend, doctor, Christian servant, etc.)

**Vision:** What would the world have more of if you were living at your unhindered best? (e.g., peace, beautiful music, well-designed buildings, great meals, etc.)

**Gifts:** What are your strengths and passions? (e.g., teaching, mercy, organization, wisdom, etc.)

**Now pull those thoughts together into your Personal Mission Statement:**

*As a (list your roles), through God’s grace, I partner with God to make a world of (list your visions) by or through (list your gifts).*

May you be richly blessed in this New Year!

Pastor Mills

*My Personal Mission Statement: As a minister of the gospel, through God’s grace, I partner with God to reach those in the margins of society and recreate a world where none are oppressed by using my gifts of preaching, teaching, encouragement, healing and reconciliation.*

NOTE: I will collect and pray over your mission statement. Please put it in the collection plate; drop it in the mailbox near the church office; email it to [asburymail@asburyumcdc.org](mailto:asburymail@asburyumcdc.org) or bring it to the church office.