

FAITH AND COVENANT

The season of Lent is upon us! Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, that began as a period of preparation for the celebration of Easter. Lent began first as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism for converts, and it eventually grew to be a time for penance for all Christians. Lent is thus a time in which we are reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and culminates with Holy Saturday. On Ash Wednesday we are drawn into an encounter with two realities: sin and death. Ash Wednesday invites us to confront our own mortality and to confess our sin before God within the community of faith. We use ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance, an image drawn from the scriptures we read for the day. The imposition of ashes is thus a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. Above all, this is all done in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ, which means that hope pervades our encounter and experience.

During the season of Lent, the worship planning team has prepared what we hope will be a transforming and nurturing Lenten journey. Our theme for the season will focus on our call to faith in a covenantal relationship with God. Following the Old Testament strand of lectionary scripture readings, we will have a preaching series that will lead us to reflect on the nature and content of our covenant with God and the faith which we are called to live. You will also hear faith testimonies and witness from members of the congregation, young and old, illustrating this theme of faith and covenant.

As your pastor, I am therefore inviting you to journey with me this season of Lent. I invite you to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; by the practice of spiritual disciplines and spiritual practices of holy living; and by reading and meditation on God's Holy Word. I invite you to make a new beginning, to renew your covenant, and reaffirm your faith. Embrace whatever spiritual disciplines you may need to help you experience a true Lent and bring you closer to your God. Then know this: although the season of Lent ends, the journey does not. The Lenten journey leads us to an Easter journey where we are invited to live, truly, as a resurrection people.

Come! Let us walk humbly with our God.

*Grace and peace to you,
Pastor Shandi*

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE FEBRUARY ROSE WINDOW lighting is given in loving memory of my mother, Virginia Ross, by Chris and Earl Flagg.

THE SANCTUARY altar flowers on Sunday, February 19th are given in loving memory of Janette C. Hedenburg by Ken Hedenburg and family.

THE SANCTUARY altar flowers on Sunday, February 26th are given in honor and celebration of the birth of Matthew Laurent Pennino, our grandson, by Bruce & Betsy Pennino.

LET US KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS...

- ✠ The Ferdinand family as they mourn the death of their matriarch, Nellie Ferdinand Yangs, who is the mother of Spencer & grandmother of Donroy, Sean, and Suzette Ferdinand
- ✠ The Wisnieski family as they celebrate the life of Sylvia, Emi Smith's grandma, called to her heavenly home
- ✠ Mr. Mensah Arlun on life support in North Carolina
- ✠ Sue & Art Richard dealing with health struggles
- ✠ David Robinson struggling with alcoholism
- ✠ Judy Biney recovering from knee surgery
- ✠ Those who feel alone and unloved this Valentine's Day whether they are single or in difficult relationships
- ✠ Pray for the children that are lost, for the hungry, the homeless, for Africa, and all who need prayer in the name God
- ✠ Prayer of Thanksgiving for Kasey, Kimberly Lindsey-Amoah's son, who is home and feeling much better



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On February 7th Wesley UMC received a certificate of appreciation from Habitat for Humanity for our support of the Boylston build project. The framed certificate was presented to Jerry Warren for Wesley UMC during a men's breakfast held at the First Congregational Church of Boylston. Sue Olsen, one of the Habitat leaders from Boylston, presented the certificate as part of a building wrap-up report to the men's group. The duplex home is now complete and the two families have moved in. We should have an opportunity to help with final landscaping in the spring.

The **UMW STEERING COMMITTEE** will meet at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday, March 10th in the Mary Ellis Room (note change in location). This will be an important meeting; we will be reviewing our financial situation and planning for spring events. UMW Circle Leaders and Officers are asked to attend.

~ Margaret Watson

A GIFTED AND PASSIONATE PEOPLE

“What is all the fuss about spiritual gifts?”

“I don’t have any spiritual gifts.”

“I don’t want to take the spiritual gifts class because then I will be asked to serve.”

“I don’t need to take a spiritual gifts class because I am already serving.”

“I have already taken a spiritual gifts class and I know my gifts but I don’t know what to do with them.”

Do any of these statements sound like you? If so, then this is for YOU!

It is our hope and prayer that God can lead us in building a gift-based church; that is, to be a church that does what it does best. The grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit has equipped us to be the body of Christ. As Christ’s body, we have a covenantal responsibility to serve as a living witness to the grace of God in our lives. To equip us for the work, the Holy Spirit has given each of us gifts of the Spirit for our witness. It’s scriptural!

Many spiritual gifts classes lead people to learn about spiritual gifts and to help them discover their own gifts, and then they stop. Here at Wesley we are going a step further. Not only will you learn about your spiritual gifts, you will also learn about *how* and *where* your gifts can be used. The curriculum we are using will help you discover your personal style, which describes *how* you best work; and, it will help you discover your Passion, which describes *where* you will serve best. Our hope is that you will be empowered and freed to do *whatever* God has equipped you to do!

Please join us in participating in one of two offerings on Discovering your Spiritual Gifts: **Thursdays, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm** for 6-weeks, or for a **One-Day Retreat on March 31st, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm**. For any questions, please contact Pastor Shandi at pastorshandi@wesleyworc.org.

2012 OPERATING BUDGET THROUGH 1/31/2012

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Income	89,666.50	96,103.51	6,437.01
Expense	<u>52,490.50</u>	<u>50,555.35</u>	<u>-1,935.15</u>
Net Profit	37,176.00	45,548.16	8,372.16

INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON ANNOUNCEMENT

For the past 8 years Renelle & I have coordinated the International luncheon event. We have decided that this year is the opportunity for someone new to coordinate this event if it is to happen. If someone would like to volunteer to coordinate this event, Renelle and I would be glad to assist. Over the years we have streamlined the process to make it easier for someone to step up. We can share those details with you. If you would like further information please contact Renelle at 508-450-4516 or myself at 508-277-7582.

~ Gary & Renelle Picard

THE FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE MARCH 1ST - APRIL 30TH

Dear Folks of Wesley,

The generous Mr. Feinstein is once again sharing his money with agencies that help feed those who are hungry and in need. All money and each non-perishable food item donated to Carty Cupboard from March 1st 2012 through April 30th 2012 will be counted in the challenge. Mr. Feinstein's \$1 million will be divided proportionately between all the agencies taking part in the challenge. The more food we collect, and the more money we raise, the more we receive from Mr. Feinstein. If you would like to donate money please make your check payable to Wesley United Methodist Church and note on the memo line that it is for the Feinstein Challenge. Food items may be brought to Carty Cupboard as usual. For your convenience I have also included a list of the foods we use all the time in our client bags. We would like to take this time to thank you for your generous donations and support during this challenge and throughout the year.

Sincerely, Nancy J. E. Spencer, Carty Cupboard

CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD LIST

Cereal ~ Hot or Cold	Canned Fruit	Grape Jelly
100 % Juices	Pasta Sauce	Canned Vegetables
Canned Chicken or Tuna	Dry Pasta	Peanut Butter
Rice	Hearty Canned Soups	Hash, Baked Beans, Pasta
Meals in a Can ~ like Stew	Complete Pancake Mix & Syrup	

Thank You also to everyone who has answered the call for more food!! We have received a good number of hearty soups and meals in a can... they will be gone by the end of next week so the need is still high, but I really appreciate all that you folks continue to do for those in need...**Please keep it up!!!!** **Thank You Again!!!!!!**

~ Nancy Spencer

FROM THE SPRC ON THE OPEN POSITION OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP

The Staff Parish Relations Committee would like to announce the hiring of Kate Devlin as our *Interim* Director of Christian Formation and Discipleship (DCFD). Kate is a member of Wesley and will serve in this capacity while the SPRC continues with its search for a person whom God is calling to join us in this position. Below is a job description of the position:

The *Director of Christian Formation and Discipleship* will have oversight of our formation and discipleship ministries, and will work with the pastor, lay leader, the lay leadership team and other program staff in providing leadership, guidance and resourcing for existing and emerging ministries of formation and discipleship, encompassing all ages and stages in one's life. This includes:

- a. Developing and strengthening our programs of Nurture, Outreach and Witness (N.O.W.), and relating them to our Five Areas of Passion: (*Spiritual Growth; Welcome and Hospitality; Diversity and Multi-Culturalism; Mission and Outreach; Lay Leadership Development and Empowerment*)
- b. Providing leadership in creating opportunities for forming Christian disciples who are equipped to serve and lead in our programs of nurture, outreach and witness. For example, offering training workshops for lay speakers, liturgists, Bible study facilitators, mission volunteers, etc.
- c. Leading formation opportunities that enable the laity to discern their calling, gifts and passion, as well as identifying opportunities for discipleship and service. This may include leading spiritual gifts and new member classes.
- d. Resourcing the Committee on Nominations and Lay Leadership in identifying, designing, and implementing leadership development programs.
- e. Developing Ministry Profiles for the various working groups and ministries in our church and community to accompany the Spiritual Gifts curriculum.
- f. Attending other church committee meetings as necessary to help develop and evaluate their ministry profiles.
- g. Attending Church Council meetings once a month, and staff meetings as they are scheduled.

We welcome Kate and are so grateful that she has been called and accepted the call to serve with us in this transitional time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jan Maguire (SPRC chair), or any member of the committee. The SPRC is the administrative body of the church where staff and congregational interests come together to focus on the mission and ministry direction of the church.

JANUARY REPORT: UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

On Sunday, January 22, the United Methodist Women held their annual organizational meeting and Memorial Service. The Nominating Committee presented the slate of UMW officers for the year 2012. Pastor Shandi formally installed the new officers. Wesley Youth reported on their experiences at the Methodist Youth Conference held at Purdue University last summer. Phil and Emi Smith presented slides illustrating the report. A Memorial Service was then held to honor Wesley women who were deceased in 2011.

On Sunday, January 22, the United Methodist Women sponsored the tower lighting and floral displays for the sanctuary in memory of Mrs. William Smith (Isabel).

Sarah Circle held a Games and Pizza Night on Saturday, January 21. This event was well attended; the Halloween Dinner and Parade of last fall had to be cancelled because of the snow storm.

The United Methodist Women's Annual Report is available to anyone who is interested. The annual report contains budget information and reports from UMW officers and circle leaders on their activities during 2011. If you wish to have a copy, please check with Margaret Watson.

*Respectfully submitted, Margaret Watson
President, United Methodist Women*

THANK YOU TO IHN VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped with hosting our Interfaith Hospitality Network guests recently. Volunteers were:

Overnight: Chris Kerns, Marion and Jerry Warren, Mark and Cindy Muncey, Dave Samanen, and Peter Hansen who all stayed overnight and through breakfast the next day. **Early AM:** Phil Smith **Dinner:** Martha Vigeant and her nieces, Val Jansson and youth, Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy, Chris and Earl Flagg, Caroline Sherman and her family, and Jan Maguire and Janet DeNapoli. One evening the IHN families were pleased to be able to cook their own meal. Since most guests were Hispanic our members made an effort to serve their kind of food. Thank you to people for this thoughtfulness. **Evening:** William and Michael Kilmer, Erica Rioux, Kate Devlin, Jeanne Dhavale, Donna and Amelia Hirtle, Allison Hansen and first-timer Scott Shackett.

Thank you everyone. I will let you know when IHN moves into its new home.

~ Nancy Cook, Coordinator

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Shrove Tuesday Celebration, February 21, 6PM

All are invited to come enjoy our traditional pancake supper with all the extra goodies! This year we are blessed to offer a special time for discussion about observing a Holy Lent for the adults, led by Pastor Dan Wilson from Aldersgate UMC, with help from Kate Devlin. The children will join Valerie Jansson and Ann Openshaw for hands-on Lenten activities on the third floor. Special thanks for all the support from Sarah Circle members in helping host our Christian Education Ministry. Please support our children's mission project, "Change for Compassion"... bring your loose change and fill our bucket!

Re-scheduled Presentation...Sunday, March 11, 2012!

Kathy Roukema-Swan will share about her amazing trip to Tanzania where she taught at the Full Dimension Preschool in Yulansoni Village. Come learn about the children who received the special "*Faith Handprints*" banner prayerfully created by our Wesley Sunday School children that Kathy and Jerry Warren presented to the preschoolers from us and now hangs in their classroom. You will be inspired by her experience through the heart of God as we are reminded "We Are One In The World" (Tunamoja na Mungu)!

Join our Children's Sunday School for a
Special Presentation by Kathy Roukema-Swan
"WE ARE ONE IN THE WORLD"
Sunday, March 11, 2012, 9:30 AM
Third Floor, Wagner Hall

Kids Together in Mission... celebrated sharing God's love with a special visit to our friends at the Lutheran Healthcare Center after church this past Sunday, giving out Valentines beautifully created by all of our Sunday School children! Our young people blessed so many and brought great joy to all they greeted! Special thanks for the families who joined me in hosting our IHN guests with a delicious dinner last Wednesday evening, Sandra Toffay, Shawna Marrero & Michael & Jovuan, Jessica Seem & Elliot & Casey, Beth Vietze & Katie, Isaac Boateng, and Bev Vassell.

Thanks to all who continue to support our Children's Sunday School with your presence and your prayers! We are always grateful for those who remember us with snacks and treats for the children!

In the spirit of sharing God's love, Valerie Jansson

YOUTH GROUP

The WAY – Worcester Area Youth

“We praise God, care for others, share our beliefs, connect to each other, and develop our faith.”

Weekly Meetings: **Wednesday evening from 7-9** in the Youth Room on the 2nd floor.

We have small group time, Bible Study, topical discussions, homework help, and time for just hanging out. Any high school student is welcome to join us on these evenings!

Upcoming Events:

February 18th: **White-out dance!** Bring a black light and wear white as we gather **7-10 pm** for an evening of music and dancing in Brewer Hall. Please bring a snack to share. Invite your friends!

March 3rd: **Service with a Smile at Mardi Gras!** We will be serving the spaghetti dinner. All tips earned will go toward our summer mission trip.

April 14th: **Epworth Spaghetti Dinner!** We will prepare and serve a free meal at Epworth UMC.

April 22-29: **Painting the Youth Room!** We're going to spruce up our space (finally!). Come help us paint our room and get your handprint on the wall.

Summer 2012: **Mission trip to Maine!** Details coming soon ...

Sept. 21-23: **RezLife is here!** Get pumped. Details coming soon ...

Contact Phil or Emi Smith with ideas, questions, or chocolate.

Help Needed with Jr. High:

As we grow and expand our youth ministries here at Wesley, we are searching for a dedicated person to lead a Junior High Youth Group. Since our core students are all in high school, we desire to expand our ministry to include younger church members. If you feel called to minister to our young people, please see Pastor Shandi, Phil or Emi Smith for more information. God can use you no matter what!

~ *Phil & Emily Smith*

IN CONTEXT

Gospel Lectionary selection, Transfiguration B (February 19, 2012): Mark 9:2-9

+++++

Jesus took the inner three of his core group (Peter, James and John) up a high mountain, which would have indicated his desire to be alone in prayer. In these circumstances, Mark tells us that the disciples had a visionary experience. In the Mediterranean world of antiquity, the solution to concerns and problems often came in altered-state-of-consciousness experiences (dreams, trances, visions, &c), which are mentioned throughout the New Testament. As summarized in v. 7, this particular experience assured the disciples of Jesus' identity ("This is my Son, the Beloved;..."), and exhorted them to bond closer to Jesus ("...listen to him!") more so than to Moses (representing the Law) or Elijah (representing the Prophets).

As God's Son, Jesus would have revealed something of the divine in his behavior and activity. His primary loyalty would have been to God. This title is stated at the very beginning of Mark's gospel (1:1), at Jesus' baptism (1:11), in this passage (9:7) as Jesus' career is drawing to a close, and finally at the end (15:39) by the centurion witness to the crucifixion.

+++++

Reference

Malina BJ, Rohrbaugh RL. *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis:Fortress Press, 2003. pp 183-184.

~ Charles Kiefer, for the Lectionary Study Group

AROUND THE COMMUNITY...

MUSIC AT TRINITY ~ SPRING 2012

Harmonie Transverse

Sunday, March 4 at 4 p.m.

This flute ensemble takes their name from the word Harmonie for *wind band* and Transverse for *side blown flute*. Celebrating their tenth anniversary in 2012, the group is comprised of performers, teachers, parents and artists who play flutes in all sizes ranging from the piccolo to the tall Contrabass Flute. The concert will include a variety of works written and transcribed for flute ensembles.

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester
There is no admission charge for these events; a free-will contribution is welcome.
A reception follows each event.*

DID YOU KNOW?

The weekly scripture readings of the lectionary generally include three lessons as well as a psalm. Usually the first lesson is from the Old Testament, the second from an Epistle, and the third is always from a Gospel, with selections chosen to follow the sequence of the Christian year. While these lessons function as proclamation, the psalm is generally meant to function as a response and is often sung or read responsively as a prayer of the people. Although the Hebrew title for the book of Psalms translates as *praises*, the very title that we use in English for the book Psalms refers directly to music. It comes from the name given to the book in the Greek translation of the Old Testament and is derived from the word *psalmos*, originally referring to stringed instruments such as the harp and lute, but eventually referring to songs accompanied by string music. Many of the individual psalms have subtitles that refer to singing, or tune names or musical instruments, and some of the words for which we do not know the exact interpretation (such as *Selah*) are believed to relate to specific methods of performance. In Christian worship a trinitarian Christian doxology such as the *Gloria Patri* often is sung after the reading of a psalm as an affirmation that the God of the Old Testament Hebrew tradition is the same God manifested in Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Psalms appear in the current *United Methodist Hymnal* in several different guises. Most obviously, the Psalter found at the end of the hymnal contains texts from 100 of the 150 psalms as well as musical responses referred to as antiphons (from the Greek word *antiphonos* = responsive). In addition the text of each psalm text is “pointed,” referring to marks which enable the chanting of the psalm, the method of singing the psalms which dates from Christian liturgies in the 4th Century, and which in turn derives directly from the methods of cantillation, a form of heightened speech used for reading of the Scripture in the Jewish synagogue.

The texts of psalms also appear in our hymnal as hymns in a form known as metrical psalmody. A metrical psalm is a translation of all or part of a psalm into vernacular strophic verse, meant to be sung as a hymn. This form came into being at the time of the Reformation to allow congregational singing of psalms in the vernacular language. Some of these metrical psalms and paraphrases are more easily recognized than others. For example most people would recognize Psalm 23 in “The Lord’s My Shepherd” (UMH 136) or Psalm 100 in “All People that on Earth Do Dwell” (UMH 75).

On the other hand, it perhaps is not quite as obvious that “Joy to the World” (UMH 246) is based on Psalm 98. Lest we think that the use of Psalm texts as the basis for hymns and worship songs belongs to the distant past, it should be noted that many contemporary worship choruses also find their roots in the texts of Psalms. Examples would include “He Has Made Me Glad” (TFWS 2270) based on Psalms 100 and 118 and “As the Deer” (TFWS 2025) based on Psalm 42.

No matter the form of expression, from ancient chant to contemporary chorus, our use of Psalms links us to the oldest forms of worship and sacred music in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Submitted by, Deborah A. O’Driscoll

2012 HERALD SCHEDULE

Below is the next Herald mailing date along with the deadline date.

Article Deadline Date	Herald Mailing Date
Mon., Feb. 27	Wed., Feb. 29
Mon., March 12	Wed., March 14

Please note the deadline date.

If you have an article,
please email it as a Word attachment to:

office@wesleyworc.org



CORNER

MOPS offers our Friday group from 9:30-11 AM (with childcare).

If you are interested in joining, please contact Jean Grant at grantgirl05@yahoo.com or by phone at 508-886-6571.

WELCOME MOTHER'S OF PRESCHOOLERS
Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

Fun Mom Game Day!

FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH

Calm & Joy

Altar Flowers

Beautiful floral arrangements on the altar during Sunday worship is a special gift we offer to God as part of our praise and worship. The arrangements are usually dedicated in celebration of or in memory of a loved one. By your choice, you may take the flowers home to enjoy or you may request the flowers be delivered to a shut-in or member/friend in the hospital. If you are unable to join us in church, arrangements can be made for the flowers to be delivered to you at home after the service.

A calendar of available dates and order forms are available in the Welcome Office. The cost for altar flowers is \$50. If you are not able to come to church but would like to dedicate flowers, please call Debi in the office (508-799-4191).



Christy & Jeffrey Gibbs

Your Wesley Family REALTORS®

(508) 886-6100

Our Agency is Committed to Providing...

Full Time Buyer & Seller Representation

Prompt Communication

A Team Approach

Comprehensive Marketing Strategy

High Level of Energy and Enthusiasm

RESULTS

Proudly Servicing All of Worcester County

www.GibbsRealtyInc.com

Wesley United Methodist Church
114 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

Church Phone: 508-799-4191
Fax: 508-799-3725
E-Mail: office@wesleyworc.org
Web page: www.wesleyworc.org

WESLEY HERALD

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Shandirai Mawokomatanda
Director of Music Ministries	Brett Maguire
Music Assistant	Deborah O'Driscoll
Sunday School Superintendent	Valerie Jansson
Interim Director of Christian Formation and Discipleship	Kate Devlin
Building Superintendent	Phil Johnson
Business Administrator	Lorna Mattus-Merrill
Church Secretary	Debi Ritacco
Custodians	Mark & Carol Flionis, Gerard Piscitelli, Steve Boyns
Head Usher	David Dagle
Administrative Council	Ron Ramsay
Layleader	Deborah O'Driscoll
Board of Trustees	Harry Spencer III
Carty Cupboard Food Pantry	Nancy Spencer
Communion Steward	Earl Flagg
Education Work Area	Ann Openshaw
Finance & Stewardship	Michael Edmunds
Ghanaian Association	Josephine Num
Hospitality/Events	Gary & Renelle Picard
Medical Ministry	Ron Ramsay
Memorial Gifts	Carolyn Bellil
Mission & Outreach Coordinator	Chris Flagg
Staff-Parish Relations	Janet M. Maguire
Youth Directors	Phil & Emily Smith
United Methodist Women	Margaret Watson

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WORCESTER, MA
PERMIT NO. 236