

A happy September to all those in the broad and diverse Wesley community!

I have always found this month to be a time of transition, leaving behind the freedom and long days of summer sunlight for the structured discipline of the program year and the cooler, darker days that are to come. As much as it can be a time to get busy, September also provides a wonderful opportunity to look back and use the memories of summer joy to shape our present work and direction.

This past August found me up in Canada, accompanying the Worcester Chorus on a performing tour of old Quebec City. One of our performances was at an Anglican church during their usual Sunday morning worship time. It was a straightforward service, and the effect of such a full choir singing during the service was terrific. I was struck by how incredibly simple everything seemed. There was one hymnal, the congregation was almost exclusively white adults, and the bulletin was as direct as the easy flow of the service.

It was, in short, nothing at all like the crazy blend of people and traditions that marks a typical Sunday morning at Wesley. I found myself having two simultaneous thoughts: the service was refreshingly simple and uncomplicated, and something about it just didn't feel real to me. Whatever part of me might have once appreciated the streamlined simplicity of a homogenous congregation, my years of serving Wesley have fundamentally changed my base preferences.

As much as I have my own biases for direct simplicity, I'm proud of the way in which Wesley is striving to open up its historical identity to embrace the cornucopia of ages, races, and traditions present here today. When I read in the news about the awful violence partaking so much of the world, I often think that at some level it's a matter of a different people coming together in the same space without having a handle on the compromises necessary in being together. How quickly we humans turn to violence when we are uncomfortable.

Here at Wesley, we are taking the challenging approach of making room for all instead of simplifying to appease any one individual or group. It is hard work that involves always seeking outside opinions and perspectives. It means making hard decisions about what good ideas to exclude for the sake of time, and it means being mindful of the overall feeling of one service to try to find balance the next week. This process of thinking beyond my own familiar has created so much growth.

Continued on page 3...

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

The Rose window lighting for September is given in loving memory of Ralph Ellis.

The Tower lighting is given in loving memory of Rev. Blaine Taylor by Lois Taylor.

The altar flowers today on Sunday, September 18th were given in loving memory of Harry and Vi Spencer from their children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

The altar flowers in the chapel on Sunday, September 25th are given in loving memory of Bill Capen from Janice, his wife.

The altar flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 25th are given in loving memory of Muriel S. Gibbs from Brad Gibbs, Donna Grenier, Martha Vigeant, Jeff Gibbs and families.

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ The Davis' family whose mom died forty years ago at the age of 46 and who would have celebrated her 86th birthday on September 18th.
- ✠ Denise who has just received a diagnosis of colon cancer. Pray for strength and determination as she begins treatment.
- ✠ A Colleague and friend of Adrienne Hall-Phillips who recently lost her mother.
- ✠ Steve Boyns Brother, Bob Boyns, who is in his fight with cancer.
- ✠ Ann Fuller whose health is weak and struggling with illness.
- ✠ Remi and Sidney Smith who celebrate the birth of their son, Grayson.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

KEEPING WESLEY BEAUTIFUL... Sunday, October 9th (after church) and Monday, October 10th are the days we will be cleaning. ****Please note the change of date!****

We are still looking for volunteers to wash down and clean the church pews, including the ones in the balconies. This will take a number of volunteers. You can make this a family day! These wood pews have been turning blackish over the years from our hands and from many First Night's, weddings, funerals, and church activities. I will be looking into the best products for cleaning the wood. We will split up into teams, some working the balcony and others the sanctuary, including the pulpits and choir area pews in back of the pulpit. I plan on making this a fun day. Please consider this call of service. Let's keep Wesley Church looking beautiful and clean. Stop by the table in Brewer Hall today to sign up today! *Gerard Piscitelli*

Continued from cover...

While I once appreciated the simplicity, I am now drawn to the feelings of inclusion and wholeness that come when I know more is being offered than that which I myself enjoy. I have found that the more I personally lean into this space, the more my own preferences and tastes can grow to accommodate these new sounds and stimuli. Perhaps it does not instinctively feel like “my” music that I am playing, but when I see people dancing or hear heartfelt singing, that sense of “my” music gives way to a feeling of “our” music.

So as this September rolls along and the program year kicks into full swing, I invite you to consider the ways in which you might hear something differently in our worship services. If something doesn’t speak to you, look around and see how someone else is responding. Can you feel that other person’s joy and holiness? What growth might await you in this Gothic sanctuary of rhythms and melodies?

Brett Maguire, Director of Music

CULTIVATING A SPIRITUAL LIFE FOR FRUITFUL LIVING **Fall Stewardship Worship Series**

Do you long to know the joy of fruitful living? Imagine you are a garden and God is the gardener, and God is preparing to plant seeds for a fruitful harvest. What kind of soil will God find you? This stewardship season you are invited to explore the spiritual practices that will help prepare you as good soil for the seed that God is planting. You will be invited to consider God’s invitation to tend to your life so that you can live fruitfully, reaping the harvest of joy that flows from God’s gracious generosity. Below is an outline of the series themes.

Stewardship 1: 09/25 – Preparing the Soil

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9 “The Parable of the Sower” – On this Sunday, you will be invited to explore and imagine what type of soil God finds in you, and to consider what you can do to prepare your life to be nutrient rich and fertile soil for God’s grace.

Stewardship 2: 10/2 – Nurturing the Seed (and Tending the Garden)

Scripture: Matthew 13:13-23 “The Parable of the Sower”— On this Sunday, you will be invited to consider ways you can tend the soil of your spiritual life and cultivate a nurturing environment for the seed of grace sown in you so that it can have the best possible chance for growth.

Stewardship 3: 10/09 – Discerning the Seed (and Growing Good Crop)

Scripture: Matthew 13:24-30 “The Parable of Wheat and the Weeds” -- On this Sunday, you will be invited to examine any other seeds that have been sown in you along with God’s seed of loving grace, for we can ultimately discern what seeds have been sown in us by their fruit. You will be asked to remain aware of the type of fruit you want to see in your life.

Stewardship 4: 10/16 -- Bearing fruit

Scripture: Isaiah 5:1-7 “Song of the Vineyard” -- In Isaiah, the prophet sings of God who plants a vineyard expecting that it will yield sweet grapes but instead yields sour grapes. Isaiah then explains that God expects justice but instead often sees injustice. You will be invited to consider what God requires of you as you bear fruits of the Spirit.

Stewardship 5: 10/23 – Sharing the Harvest

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11 “Producing a harvest of righteousness” and Matthew 13:31-32 “Parable of the Mustard Seed” – In Philippians Paul teaches that God who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. He then prays that our love may be overflowing, having produced a harvest of righteousness. On this Sunday, you will be invited to consider how God wants to use the fruit produced in you to bless others.

We invite you to worship with us this Stewardship season. We encourage you to bring friends, neighbors, and co-workers so we can be on this journey together.

Pastor Shandi and the Worship Team

CALLING ALL WESLEY YOUTH AND PARENTS

The Wesley Youth Group will resume meeting on September 25th! All middle school and high school students are invited to join, even if they have not attended youth group meetings in the past. We have a calendar of events that will include learning more about living a Christian life, bonding as a group, being a leader in the church, and doing mission activities throughout the year. We will be using a new curriculum called LIVE, which is engaging and informative. We encourage all youth to apply what they have learned during youth group and to discuss it at home with their parents. Our goal is to provide the youth of Wesley with the tools they need to grow as disciples of Jesus and have some fun along the way!

Looking forward to an awesome year,

Anthony, Adrienne and Lisa

MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Children's Mini-harvest Results

\$1286 was collected on Sunday, September 18. Congratulations!

Year to Date Actuals through August 31

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$387,095	\$396,942	\$-9,847
Expense	\$430,130	\$434,565	\$-4,435
Difference	\$ -43,035	\$-37,623	\$-5,412

Although we are reflecting a \$37,623 deficit through August, we are forecasting a deficit of less than \$10,000 for the year. Thank you for your continued support and for keeping your pledges up to date.

Lorna's Fall Activities

The Fall is always so full of administrative tasks! I have just taken over the processing of memorial gifts contributions and have started working on the 2017 budget. The auditor will be coming this Saturday to begin the audit of 2015. Soon, I'll be processing pledges for next year and requests for preprinted envelopes. I will oversee the counting process at the Harvest, and the extra contributions at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Lastly, I'll be getting ready for First Night. Once that is over, I will move into 2017 by closing out 2016, sending out final statements, reconciling all 64 accounts, and completing the annual statistical report. This is a challenging time for me because all of these duties are in addition to my regular job!...and my job is also complicated by the absence of our Building Superintendent. It is not surprising to see me breaking down tables and chairs, or washing the Brewer Hall floor, weeding the flowers outside, or reorganizing the maintenance closet! I have been able (after several attempts) to find a carpenter to take on several small projects that have been on hold, and will begin searching for a temporary 25 hour per week handyman. Please look for more information on this position in the bulletins and future Heralds, and please direct anyone to me who may want to learn more about this position. Again, this will be a temporary position at this point until a final decision has been made on whether or not Phil Johnson will be able to return. Please keep him in your prayers. If Phil is unable to return, the 25 hour a week position will become permanent.

I want to express my sincere thanks to all of my custodians for their assistance during this challenging time. Both April Dylewicz and Tom Friend have taken on the work of setups and breaking down tables and chairs for events and Carty Cupboard, and Mark Flionis has been doing all of the carpet shampooing. Carol Flionis and Gerard Piscitelli are my regular soldiers who take care of cleaning the 65 rooms in the church including 14 bathrooms! Please thank them for their dedication! I couldn't do it without them!

Peace, Lorna

HOW CAN GROCERY SHOPPING PREVENT HOMELESSNESS?

Imagine that you and your family are facing a stark choice -- pay the rent or pay for food and your child's critical medical care. Your landlord is ready to evict you, as this isn't the first month you've fallen behind. You're just \$500 away from being out on the street, looking for one of those very few shelters that accepts families.

Hope for Housing bridges that \$500 gap. with a grant that keeps families in their homes, and keeps them together. Not in the state's inadequate and expensive shelter system.

That \$500 comes from grocery stores, CVS, Dunkin Donuts and Panera. They sell gift cards in bulk to the Central Mass Housing Alliance, and Hope for Housing banks the discount when volunteers sell those gift cards in churches across Worcester County.

Come be part of the solution and prevent homelessness! All it takes is 15 minutes after church as a volunteer sales person, or even less time to buy a gift card for where you normally shop or grab a coffee. Simple! Find out more from Allison Hansen at AChis4788@aol.com, or sign up to volunteer at the table in Brewer Hall.

Allison Hansen

BUILDERS FOR COMMUNITY... Asima Silva, the moderator of the Muslim Panel that presented a program to the United Methodist Women last December, has been asked to host a radio show for WCRN on 830 AM every Saturday at 2 p.m. The program, called Perspectives, invites guests to speak concerning interfaith issues with the intention to create better understanding in the community.

The Metro Boston United Methodist Women read the article concerning the Muslim Panel in Response Magazine and now have asked that their District host a similar panel. The presentation is scheduled for November 5 in Roslindale, MA. For further information, please contact Margaret Watson.

FROM CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

We are looking for a volunteer to take the broken down cardboard to the recycling center in Worcester. The day we take our cardboard to be recycled is Wednesday. We also have another volunteer opportunity...we are in need of a person to do the set up for distribution on Friday mornings. You must be able to lift grocery bags of food, cases of bread and pastries, and produce. The set up time is 8:30 AM and it takes about 45 minutes. If you are interested in helping out with either opportunity please call Nancy Spencer at 508-887-1481.

To everyone who donated backpacks and school supplies we Thank You!

We were able to help several families get there kids what they needed for school!

The following food items are needed to fill our shelves and client's bags at this time:

Meals in a can....like baked beans, pasta
Hearty low sodium soups
Jelly in plastic please

We are now beginning to think about our Thanksgiving Boxes....yes, it's that time again!! This year as in the past we are looking for some specific items and they are...

Turkey Gravy in large cans, not glass please
Turkey Stuffing mix
Muffin or bread mix
Pie filling and pie crust mix

Please remember to check expiration dates when buying food for the food pantry, in the case of Thanksgiving items they must have a date that is past the end of November 2016.

Thank You to everyone who continues to donate to Carty Cupboard Food Pantry.

~ *Nancy Spencer*

MISSION MATTERS

Wesley's IHN Week starts on Sunday, Oct. 23rd... The Mission Committee decided to switch to the 2 shifts per day schedule which most churches use. This means that the first 2 shifts are combined (now 5:30 to 8:30 pm) and a half hour is added to the overnight shift (now 8:30 pm to 6:30 am). If you wish to split the first shift with someone, or pair up, that can be done. Please talk with Mercy Peacock to sign up.

Residents would appreciate our cooking 2 or 3 dinners, if you're up for that. The Mission Comm. will give Big Y Hope for Housing cards to pay for the other meals and house staples during the 10/23 to 10/30 week. If you could donate Hope for Housing cards, please give them to Betsy Pennino. More detailed info than is given below will be sent to all volunteers.

Spotlight on IHN *The Greater Worcester Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) will celebrate 20 years in 2017. For 9 of those years, IHN's day center and offices were housed at Wesley, and over 34 Greater Worcester congregations hosted families overnight. Because of fire code regulations at the various churches, and because it would feel more homelike to have a stable location, IHN started the complicated process of finding and purchasing a home-- 91 June St. The number of homeless families in our area is growing, and the June St. House increased housing capability from 4 to 6 families.*

These are families with children, who have recently lost their homes, and may have also suffered recent job loss, parting with pets, divorce, the costly illness of a family member... As volunteers, our main role is to provide a supportive presence during these stressful months in the families' lives, from 5:30 pm (when the staff leaves) to 6:30 am.

Our 36th Community Supper is on Sept. 24th... Thank you to all who have worked on our 3 years of Community Suppers!! Special thanks to Linda D'Acri and family who have been in charge of about half of the suppers, and who will be bringing our neighborhood another great meal on 9/24/16. The menu will be chicken parmesan, ziti, salad, bread, & beverages. Dessert will be cakes to celebrate the 36th supper, so no additional desserts are needed this month, faithful bakers.

Baby Shower for Department of Children and Families (DCF)... DCF is holding a baby shower on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. You could either attend the shower at DCF, 151 West Boylston Drive in Worcester, or leave gifts in the labeled carton in Brewer Hall. Please donate gifts that are new and unwrapped-- clothing, toys and dolls, baby gear, early development products... More info is posted in Brewer Hall. "Because they are all our babies..." If someone would like to deliver our gifts to the shower, please tell Betsy Pennino.

UPCOMING CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES...

The **New Testament and Old Testament Mass Bible Society's study groups** will begin this week. Debbie O'Driscoll will lead a group in a study of the New Testament (on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m.). Lisa Fagerstrom will be leading a group in the Old Testament study (on Thursdays from 10:30-Noon). Pastor Shandi will be leading a newly forming group in the introductory "What Is the Bible?" study (time and day to be determined--contact Pastor Shandi if you are interested in being a part of this study).

A **prayer team** (looking to open the church building for prayer several times each week and to encourage all of Wesley in our prayer practices) is forming. Contact Lisa Fagerstrom if you are interested in being a part of this group.

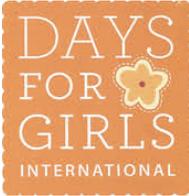
Our **Fall Retreat will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1 from noon-4:30**. The retreat will utilize **Trevor Hudson's book "Questions God Asks Us"**--the book we used for our summer sermon series. There will be time for group discussion, art/music, quiet reflection time, and small group discussions. All are welcome! Contact Lisa Fagerstrom if you would like to sign up for the retreat.

Lisa Fagerstrom

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you to all who made our Children and Youth worship service this past Sunday a success! The children enjoyed sharing their hard work with the congregation. Thanks to all the children and youth, Florence, Lori, Maria, and Jan.

With gratitude, Jean and Lisa



DAYS FOR GIRLS

North Worcester MA Team

United Methodist Women

Lorraine Kronberg, Team Leader

Thank you everyone who donated to DFG and helped our tree blossom with lovely orange flowers. It now sits outside the second floor sewing room and whenever we receive a donation of supplies or money another blossom will be added.

JOIN THE TEAM – WE NEED YOUR HELP

FRIDAY MORNINGS FROM 10:00 TO 12:00

OR SEW AT HOME

Our next sewing Fridays are: September 23, September 30, October 7 and October 21. (No sewing on the 14th.)

“The simple days for Girls hygiene kits have a tremendous impact on women’s and children’s lives. Girls no longer have to miss days of school every month. And when girls are educated, they feed their families and lift the entire society, by breaking the cycle of poverty.”

MAKE IT A REALITY

EVERY GIRL... EVERYWHERE... PERIOD

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

Donated Items Needed

**Take advantage of those BACK TO SCHOOL SALES now
(Staples, Walmart, Target, etc)!**

A crew from Wesley UMC will be going on a mission trip to Guatemala in October. We will be assisting with construction/moving of a preschool. The preschool and health clinic have a wish list of items we will bring with us. There will be a large bin in Brewer Hall in September for collections. Donated items are listed in the boxes below. **Thank you for your support!**

We are also looking for a few **ROLLER/CARRY ON-sized suitcases** (donated) to bring these items. These suitcases will stay in Guatemala. Families use these suitcases as wardrobes/dressers in their homes.

- 6 King-sized flat sheets (beige or light color)
- Cough drops
- Pain relieving cream/muscle rub (small tubes)
- Prenatal vitamins (expiration must be 6-12 months from now)
- Nasal decongestant
- Nasal saline spray
- TUMS
- Pepto chewables

- Post-it sticky notes (all sizes)
- Children's large toothpaste (8 oz). NO mint or cinnamon
- 12 Crayola thick colored pencils (50 packs)
- Elmer's school glue (50)
- Large Pencil Erasers (50)
- Pencils (the octagonal – like yellow Ticonderoga, NOT round) (100)
- Pom-poms (10 bags)
- Pipe cleaners (chenille wire) (500)
- Small white boards (size 8.5 x 11 inches) (25)
- Rulers with inches and centimeters (50)
- Loose leaf paper (50)
- Children's scissors (50)

DID YOU KNOW?

On Sunday mornings many of us enter the chapel and/or sanctuary through the narthex, the “lobby” outside the sanctuary. In our space the narthex is adjacent to the main worship space of the sanctuary but physically separated from it by a wall. The word *narthex* means “enclosure” in Medieval Greek, and its earlier derivation is from the ancient Greek word for “box.” In early Christian worship spaces the narthex was closed to the exterior but opened into the nave (the main space for the congregation) and was defined as a separate space by columns, a railing, or a screen. It originally was a place for the catechumens (those preparing for baptism) who were not admitted into the nave proper. It also became a place where people waited before services began and has evolved into our place for gathering.

Once one enters the sanctuary it is not easy to miss the magnificent beauty of our stained glass windows, but did you ever notice the window that is in the narthex? It is located on the northern wall of the narthex, just above your head on your right if you enter the narthex from State Street (or facing you directly if you are walking down the narthex after having entered from Brewer Hall.) This window comprises three panels. In the center is King David, the psalmist, with his harp; he is flanked in the side panels by two angels with a portion of the text of Psalm 100:4 divided between the two outer panels:

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving... and into his courts with praise

Certainly there are many elements which are central components to worship, including not only praise and thanksgiving, but also homage, reverence, and awe, but it is good to be reminded before we even enter the main worship space that no matter what our circumstances and no matter what is going on in the world, we gather to praise the God to whom we belong and in whose sight we are precious and beloved.



Submitted by, Deborah O'Driscoll

2016 HERALD SCHEDULE

Below are the next Herald mailing dates along with the deadline dates.

<u>Article Deadline Date</u>	<u>Herald Mailing Date</u>
Mon., Oct 3	Wed., Oct 5
Mon., Oct 17	Wed., Oct 19

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

office@wesleyworc.org

ALTAR FLOWERS on Sundays are available for donation in honor, celebration or in memory of a loved one or friend. Stop by the office and reserve the date in the Altar Flower book. You can reserve the chapel or the sanctuary. After church you are welcome to take the flowers home to enjoy or you may leave them to be delivered to a shut-in or member/friend in the hospital or in rehab. The cost for the two arrangements in either the chapel or sanctuary is \$50. Please be sure to complete a form with the dedication and return it to Debi with the payment as soon as you are able.



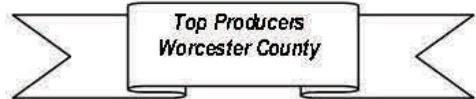
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WESLEY HERALD

SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

***DON'T MISS OUT...
READ THE HERALD TODAY!***

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Rev. Shandirai Mawokomatanda
Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship	Lisa Fagerstrom
Director of Children's Christian Education	Jean Grant
Director of Music Ministries	Brett Maguire
Music Assistant	Deborah O'Driscoll
Toddler Care Leader	Lori Conlon
Building Superintendent	Phil Johnson
Business Administrator	Lorna Mattus-Merrill
Church Secretary	Debi Ritacco
Custodians	Carol Flionis, Gerard Piscitelli, Steve Boyns
Head Usher	David Dagle
Church Council	Tom Ingrassia
Board of Trustees Co-Chairs	Yaw Enyim Gary Robinson
Carty Cupboard Food Pantry	Nancy Spencer
Communion Steward	
Education Work Area	
Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs	Michael Edmunds William Wong
Ghanaian Association	Paul Hayfron
Hospitality Team	Vivian Assie
Layleader	Deborah O'Driscoll
Medical Ministry	Ron Ramsay
Memorial Gifts	Linda Carlson
Mission Coordinator	Betsy Pennino
Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Mark Muncey Gifty Bentum-Asante
Youth Directors	Lisa Fagerstrom Anthony & Adrienne Phillips
United Methodist Women Co-Chairs	Barbara Ingrassia Allison Hansen

