

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK:

Vitality and Growth

{Jesus said} “I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.” ~ John 10:10 (CEB)

A few years back, the United Methodist Church began a strategic campaign and denominational conversation around developing vital congregations. Understanding that the mission of the UMC is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” the campaign makes the case that, our “mission is achieved through vital congregations that equip and empower people to be disciples of Jesus Christ in their homes and communities around the world.”

As the UMC looked at the research on vital congregation, they learned that, vital congregations are:

- Spirit-filled, forward-leaning communities of believers that welcome all people (Gal.3:28)
- Places where disciples of Jesus Christ are made through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:18-20)
- Communities that serve like Christ through justice and mercy ministries (Micah 6:8, Luke 4:17-21)

They also learned that vital congregations have the following markers or signs of vitality:

- Inviting and inspiring worship
- Engaged disciples in mission and outreach
- Gifted, empowered and equipped lay leadership
- Effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership
- Small Group ministries
- Strong children’s & youth ministries



This may not have been evident to some, but Wesley has been operating under these basic assumptions about vitality and growth. We certainly have a long way to go, but we also have already experienced a great deal of transformation.

Continued on Page 3...

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

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

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

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ Angel Chapman and her family, who are dealing with serious complications from chemotherapy treatment.
- ✠ A family who is grieving the loss of their 14 year old son to suicide.
- ✠ Struggling marriages.
- ✠ The family of Mark Salsman as they grieve his passing and struggle to come up with finances for the funeral.
- ✠ Aunty Christiana Amoah as she recovers at home from her surgery.
- ✠ Felicia Annan who will be returning to Ghana permanently this week.
- ✠ The victims, families, and all those who are impacted by the shooting in Las Vegas.
- ✠ The people of Puerto Rico who are dealing with the terrible aftermath of the hurricane.
- ✠ Loved ones and their families who have been diagnosed with cancer.
- ✠ Tapuwa and Tatenda Katsidzira who welcomed their first baby and the baby who's been experiencing some complications and is under observation.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS...

Thank you, Lori!!

After almost twenty years of working in the Wesley United Methodist Church nursery, Lori Conlon is taking a well-deserved retirement. We are deeply grateful for the love, care, and compassionate commitment Lori has shown to more than a generation of Wesley infants and children. We will have a formal time during coffee hour to thank Lori later this fall. However, we did not want to let her leave us upstairs without saying a heartfelt thank you.

With much appreciation and love,

Jean, Lisa, and all of us in the Wesley Christian Education ministry

From the Pastors Desk continued...

Inviting and inspiring worship: One of the very first things we started working on was to make worship inviting and inspiring. To accomplish this, myself, the lay leader, and the program staff have worked together as a worship planning team to help create worship experiences that are meaningful and relevant for our gathered community.

Engaged disciples in mission and outreach: The missional and outreach life of the congregation has also been undergoing transformation. The mission committee, the United Methodist Women, the Youth, and the Sunday School ministry, and others in our community have sought to engage people in practical acts of service to our neighbors.

Gifted, empowered and equipped lay leadership: We have seen different laity step into new leadership and service roles in the life of our church. Two of the programs that, in the past, have helped to draw out new leadership for the church were the Mardi Gras offerings and the Spiritual Gifts classes. We discovered gifts and passions in people that we had not known existed during these times. In addition, the Director of Christian Formation and I continue to have one-on-one conversations with people to help them identify their sense of calling, passion, and gifts. Although we have a lot of work to do in developing and equipping new lay leadership, those who have been serving have demonstrated their gifts and their passion in ways that are improving the vitality of our congregation.

Effective, equipped and inspired clergy leadership: The Staff-Parish Relations committee has continued its annual conversation with the District Superintendent and myself as they discern the kind of clergy leadership that Wesley needs for growth and vitality. For clergy to be effective, equipped, and inspired we often have to tap into our own passion, sense of calling, and spiritual gifts. Inspiration can come when we take advantage of continuing education opportunities and times for spiritual renewal. I have some work to do in this area, no doubt. If ever this congregation feels that my particular gifts are no longer a match for what the congregation needs to move forward, I just want to remind you that, our polity provides you the space to make a request to the D.S. through the SPRC for a pastoral change.

Small Group ministries: Opportunities for people to gather in small group settings to share in fellowship, study, and spiritual support is an essential component of vital congregation. As human beings we want to be connected – to God and to others. Small groups are one of the most effective ways of doing this. Here at Wesley we have seen a variety of small groups (both short term and long-term) start. Our prayer and goal is to help more and more of our church membership and community members be connected to a small group for fellowship, learning, and support.

From the Pastors Desk continued...

Strong children's & youth ministries: Although our Sunday School program is in a current state of transition, we have seen a revitalization of the Sunday School program over the last several years. In addition to strong staff leadership, the key to a vital ministry with children and youth is a strong ministry of leadership and support from parents and other adults. We are grateful for all those who are already serving and leading, but we continue to make appeals to the general laity to help support our ministry with children and youth. Because of our commitment to developing gifted, empowered, and equipped laity, please know that the staff and I are here to help you live into your gifts and to equip you for your service. We are in this together, and we will be with you to support you in our common work.

Vitality and Growth are possible, and I pray and hope that you will do your part to help us live into this vision of growth and vitality.

*In faith and hope,
Pastor Shandi*



RAISING PEACEFUL CHILDREN IN A VIOLENT WORLD--A NEW CLASS FOR PARENTS...

A new Adult Sunday School Class is beginning on October 22nd. Meeting at 9:30 in the old Prayers and Squares room (on the second floor right above the dish room), the class is open to parents and grandparents who have children living with them. Our first primary text will be the book "Raising Peaceful Children in a Violent World."

"Raising Peaceful Children in a Violent World" is an action book for parents who want to end violence and create a safe, peaceful environment for children – in the home, in school, and in the community. It is brimming with creative suggestions and down-to-earth examples for teaching children to become peacemakers.

The text includes such things as: 10 key responses to potentially violent situations; peaceful ways to resolve conflict; peace-compatible strategies for discipline; suggestions for peaceful books, toys and games; as well as family activities that promote peace.

If you are interested in being a part of this new class, please contact Lisa Fagerstrom (508-799-4191, ext. 106) and let her know so that we can have enough books for everyone. We look forward to working and learning together, the ways to peace.

Judy Hoffman (860-965-2573) & Jim Hoffman (jhoffman24661@yahoo.com)

CLEANING THE CHURCH... The Esther Circle will be cleaning the church on October 18th and would appreciate any help from the congregation. We will begin at 9 am. Please feel free to reach out to Gladys Adu-Poku at 508-615-2037 if you would like to join us.

FROM THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Year to Date Budget Results through September 2017

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Total Income | \$470,468 | \$483,543 | \$-13,075 below budget |
| Total Expense | \$506,780 | \$503,479 | \$ 3,301 over budget |
| Net Loss | \$-36,311 | \$-19,935 | \$-16,376 more than budget |

Pledges thru September:

| | |
|------------|------------------------|
| Actual | \$224,228 |
| Budget | \$249,055 |
| Difference | \$-24,827 below budget |

As we enter the Fall months, it is important that we bring our pledges up to date, and also to have a successful Harvest in order to improve the results for 2017. Thank you for all of your contributions to Wesley UMC. Statements will be mailed during the week of October 16th. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

UTILITY BILLS – ELECTRIC

My intention going forward is to highlight areas of the budget related to fixed costs, to help everyone understand some of the challenges we face with expenses. This issue will focus on electricity at the church.

We currently pay electric bills for 114 Main Street, and 16 Gertrude Ave (the warehouse). Our warehouse bill had been paid by our former snowplowing vendor, Dan Faulkner as part of his building use contract, so this cost essentially netted to zero. Our new snowplowing vendor will do the same.

Our main electricity bill is also subsidized by donations made to the Tower Lighting, and the Rose Window in memory of family who have passed away. This year, we have received \$880 to date.

From the Business Administrator continued...

Our electricity vendors are National Grid for delivery, and SFE Energy for our supplier. Each year we review the rates and decide whether or not to go with a fixed rate or a variable rate when the contract renews. Interestingly, I have seen very little difference in the results when the total costs for the year are calculated using each method, so we typically have gone with the fixed rate.

So, how much do we pay annually for electricity? I have compiled the costs for the total year from 2013 through September this year, and here are the results for 114 Main Street:

| | | |
|------|----------|--------------------------------------------|
| 2013 | \$ 9,560 | The forecasted amount for 2017 is \$12,914 |
| 2014 | \$11,747 | |
| 2015 | \$15,165 | |
| 2016 | \$14,523 | |

We have made several attempts to lower our electric bill with audits from Mass Save, which have replaced at least 50% of our light fixtures and ballasts over the years, and with updated appliances that are energy-star rated. We replaced all of the sanctuary light bulbs a few years ago, and now continue to replace bulbs throughout the church with LED's. Despite the fact that we use the ovens and stovetop for cooking for both the monthly breakfasts, and community dinners, we have still been able to see a downward trend in our bills.

So, how can you help?

If you are the last person leaving a room, please make sure to shut off the light(s). If you are the last person leaving the building, please shut off the stairwell lights using the switch next to the doors at upper and lower Gertrude Avenue. We will be looking to add additional sensors to other spaces in the church to help facilitate this activity, but, in the meantime, please keep these actions in mind. Every little bit helps!

The topic for the next Herald will be: Heat

*Thanks and peace,
Lorna*

UMW at Wesley – Road trip to Maine!

Calling all women of Wesley -- if you would like to attend the October 20-21 New England Conference annual meeting for United Methodist Women up in Bangor, Maine, there's a seat in the Wesley van with your name on it! The theme is Maternal and Child Health and our very own Margaret Watson will be honored at the meeting for her work encouraging interfaith understanding. There will be an in-gathering of school supplies for the Maine Economic Ministry.

We will leave Friday afternoon, October 20 and spend the night at the Country Inn at the Mall in Bangor before heading to the meeting Saturday, October 21. We will drive back to Worcester Saturday evening.

Registration for the Saturday meeting is \$15 for lunch and is **due by October 10**. Please fill out the form below and mail to Marcia Hoyt. The block rate for the hotel ended October 2, but call 207-941-0200 to see what's available. Breakfast included. Each room has two beds, so split the cost of a room with a friend!

Interested? Let Allison Hansen know at AChis4788@aol.com.

REGISTRATION FORM New England Conference UMW Annual Meeting

Name _____ Church Wesley UMC

District Central Massachusetts

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

UMW Office: Local X District ____ Conference ____

Special food considerations: _____

Child care needed? _____ Other special requests _____

Please return registration form and luncheon fee of \$15.00 to:

Marcia Hoyt, 8 Bacon St., Natick, MA 01760, before October 10, 2017.

Checks should be payable to *NECUMW*. For more information, contact Marcia Hoyt by email at marciahoyt@aol.com or by calling her at (508) 655-0077.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES AT WESLEY

Three New Small Group Opportunities for the Fall—

1) *Spiritual Formation : A Wesleyan Paradigm*—Based on a book of the same name by Diane Leclerc & Mark A. Maddix, this group's invitation is to help faithful disciples grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, while learning more about Wesleyan spiritual practices.

2) *Living in Sacred Balance*—Are you soul-weary? Do you struggle to make time for God in the midst of a packed schedule? In their book *The Cycle of Grace: Living in Sacred Balance*, Trevor Hudson and Jerry P. Haas invite participants to utilize practical spiritual exercises and devotional times to restore/keep balance and to live grace-filled lives.

3) How can we help transform the world? *Make a Difference* draws upon biblical wisdom to provide practical guidance to help people connect their passion with the world's great need. Real stories of how real people found their place to serve will inspire and encourage you to do the same.

Interested in leading or being a part of one of these small groups? Please contact Lisa Fagerstrom or sign-up on the sheets provided in Brewer Hall.

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The **Adult topical Sunday School class** is reading and discussing the book "One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are" by Ann Voskamp. Stop by the John Wesley room on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. if you'd like to be a part of this intriguing and engaging study. All are welcome!

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New Sunday School Class for Families Raising Children...

This new class, led by Judy and Jim Hoffman, is beginning on October 22nd at 9:30 and is open to parents and grandparents who have children living with them. Our first primary text will be the book "**Raising Peaceful Children in a Violent World.**" Please see the amplified article in this Herald for additional information.

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### **Fall Retreat: *Let Your Life Speak* ~ Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 12- 4:30 p.m.**

This retreat will encourage participants toward a sense of meaning and purpose in making a difference in the world. With the help of concepts and themes from Parker Palmer's book of the same name, we will explore the gap between "the life I am living and the life that wants to live in me." Sign-up at church on Sunday, or by leaving a message for Lisa Fagerstrom at the church office. A light lunch will be served at noon, with the retreat beginning at 12:30.

## CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY

We are in desperate need of a person that can lift 30 lbs to work Friday morning's distribution from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm. If you can help please call Nancy Spencer at 508-887-1481.

The Items of the month for October are: Turkey Gravy, Turkey Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce, and Bread Mixes. We need your help to fill our Thanksgiving Boxes. I would like to thank everyone who continues to support our mission to help feed those in need.

One thing everyone can help with is Plastic Grocery Bags... we are in desperate need of these. Please recycle by bringing your bags to me! *Thank You! ~ Nancy*

## MISSION MATTERS

**October 28<sup>th</sup> Community Supper...** Edith Isaac and Sandra Toffay are in charge of the October 28<sup>th</sup> Community Supper. The menu is spaghetti with meatballs or vegetarian sauce, garlic bread/rolls, salad, beverages and dessert. Bakers, donations of pies and cookies would be welcomed, to be served with ice cream.

**October Community Supper Begins the 5<sup>th</sup> Year...** Our first Community Supper was in October, 2013. Special thanks again to those who have given their time, effort and generous spirit to lead more than one supper in any of the 4 years--Linda D'Acri and family, Esther Circle, the Youth Group, Kimberly Lindsey-Amoah and Lisa Fagerstrom. They and others have already signed up to lead 2018 suppers through May!! The suppers are on a roll, so to speak. And Debi Ritacco also deserves much credit for producing all of our signs and flyers for distribution at the suppers, Carty Cupboard, and neighborhood shelters. Thank you, everyone, for doing God's Work in Worcester!

**Wesley's IHN Week Starts October 22<sup>nd</sup>...** We are responsible for coverage and some meals at the Interfaith Hospitality Network house, Oct. 22 - 28. The chart showing which shifts are available is posted on the Mission Spotlight bulletin board. To sign up, please see Mercy Peacock or Betsy Pennino.

## GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

Once again I am heading on a Guatemala Mission trip from October 28<sup>th</sup>—November 5<sup>th</sup> with a crew from other New England churches. We will be helping at a preschool run by the Salud Y Paz program. The vision of Salud Y Paz is to provide healthcare and education (via a health clinic) to the community, and early education to preschoolers (nutrition, hygiene, and education tools), to equip the people of the rural area with the tools needed for health and wellness. Our project will involve manual labor at the preschool—painting, construction, etc., while the children are in between sessions (on break).

As we have done in the past, we are collecting school items that are needed to help the school continue to stay open and progress into the future. Please see below the items needed. Any donations may be placed in the suit case located in Brewer Hall. All items need to be here by Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. (You may drop items off during the week between 9 AM and 3:30 PM.)

Canon Color Ink (CL-244)

Canon Black Ink (PG-243)

HP Ink (110)

HP Ink Color (61)

Colored Paper

Sharpie Permanent Black Markers

Sharpie Permanent Color Markers (Fine point)

Black Dry Erase Markers

Stickers

Puzzles & Memory Games

Toys to Learn

Small Stuffed Animals

Children's Clothes—pants, shirts, socks

Preschool Size backpacks (no bigger than 10 1/2" x 4" x 14" please)

Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated to help with the cost of construction fees and supplies. If you would like to make a donation, please make the check out to **Wesley UMC**, and place "Guatemala" in the note field. Monetary donations will be accepted until October 27<sup>th</sup>.

We appreciate your prayers. For more information, visit <http://www.saludypaz.org>.

*Many thanks! Gerard Piscitelli*



## WESLEY CHURCH TEAM DAYS FOR GIRLS

*Leaders: Violet Ansah, Deb Bock, Lorraine Kronberg*

### **KIT DAY WAS A SUCCESS!**

*We filled over 100 kits ready for shipping!  
Grateful Thanks to All who made the day possible!*

- ♥ **United Methodist Women for their generous initial donation from Isabel Smith Funds.**
- ♥ **All who volunteered their time and talents to work on this project.**
- ♥ **The Wesley Congregation for their donation and encouragement that helped us to reach our goal.**
- ♥ **\*\*Our incredibly hard-working team of Deb Bock and Violet Ansah who have been a blessing to me.**
- ♥ **Lastly, my grateful thanks for the wholehearted support from Caroline Sherman. She was our first volunteer after the informational meeting on May 13, 2016. She sewed many of the drawstring bags we filled on Kit Day and continued to encourage us during her illness. We dedicated the day to her memory.**

*Lorraine Kronberg*

**EVERY GIRL...EVERYWHERE...PERIOD**

## **Living in the Spirit:**

### **New England Conference Spiritual Formation Event**

**What:** a day of worship, fellowship and workshops devoted to nurturing passionate spirituality. Sponsored by the NEUMC Spiritual Formation Team.

**When:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017, 8:30am-3:30pm

**Where:** Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center, North Andover, MA

**Workshop topics** (You will choose 2):

- ◆ Mystery of the Icon
- ◆ Art for the Soul: Zentangle
- ◆ Prescriptions in the Bible: Spiritual Practices for Healing
- ◆ The Spiritual Practice of Presence with “the Other”: Creating compassionate and effective ministry together, even when we disagree
- ◆ Men’s Spirituality: Carving Out Daily Spirituality
- ◆ Liturgical Dance

Please note that Janice England and Lisa Fagerstrom are among those presenting workshops.

**Cost:** \$40, early registration (\$60 after October 10), includes coffee and pastry on arrival as well as lunch

**Registration:** online at <https://neumc-reg.brtapp.com/LivingintheSpirit> or you may call Rosemary McNulty at 978-682-7676 x201

A brochure with a full description of the workshops and schedule is available in the church office. Please feel free to contact Debbie O’Driscoll or Lisa Fagerstrom if you have questions.

## DID YOU KNOW?

This past Sunday the Wesley Choir along with choirs from 3 other churches sang in a festival choral evensong at First Baptist Church. One of the featured choral works was a setting of the *Te Deum* by 20<sup>th</sup> C Anglo-Irish composer and conductor Charles Viliers Stanford. Members of the Wesley Choir felt a special affinity for this piece since its text on which it is based is the inspiration for the images in the large stained glass window above the altar in the sanctuary at Wesley (which is thus often referred to as the “*Te Deum* window”).

The *Te Deum Laudamus* (We praise you, O God) is the text of a very ancient hymn which is not only a testimony of praise and thanksgiving but also an expression of the faith of the church. The full text of this hymn can be found in the *United Methodist Hymnal* No. 80, *Canticle of the Holy Trinity* (UMH 80). In addition the hymn *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* (UMH 79) is a metrical English version of this text. While most scholars agree that the text of the *Te Deum Laudamus* dates from the beginning of the fifth century and most likely originally was used in the context of a Mass of baptism, the exact origin and authorship is unknown. Tradition in the past attributed the hymn to St. Ambrose, 4<sup>th</sup> C Bishop of Milan who is also sometimes called the “Father of Western hymnody” (and who is depicted in the window along with the other three original “Doctors of the Church”) but more likely the text is a compilation.

The text itself is divided into three main sections. The first section is largely a hymn of praise to God the Father, although it concludes with a Trinitarian doxology. The second portion is Christological, a hymn of praise to Christ as Redeemer and Judge. The last section is a litany of short passages derived mostly from various psalms and contains elements of supplication as well as an expression of confidence and trust in God. As a “Hymn of Thanksgiving” (as it is termed in modern liturgical books), it long been sung during worship in thanksgiving to God.

Many of the phrases of the text are actually written in words in the window, but much more striking are the visual images depicting the text. Included are events in the life of Christ from the Annunciation and Nativity through the Resurrection, Ascension, and Enthronement. The window also contains images of saints throughout the ages: Old Testament patriarchs and prophets, New Testament apostles, martyrs and other leaders of the early church. The overall effect of this collection of images inspired by this great hymn of the historic church serves to remind us of our connection to the church universal through time and space, a very fitting reminder for the week in which we have celebrated World Communion Sunday. As we gather for worship each week may we always remember that we are connected to the “holy church throughout all the world” in offering our praises to God.

*Submitted by, Deborah O’Driscoll*

## 2017 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. 16                | Wed., Oct. 18              |
| Mon., Oct. 30                | Wed., Nov. 1               |

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 \$60. Please be sure to complete a form with the dedication and return it to Debi with the payment as soon as you are able.



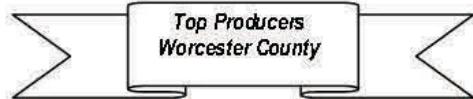
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**114 Main Street**  
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**Church Phone: 508-799-4191**  
**Fax: 508-799-3725**  
**E-Mail: [office@wesleyworc.org](mailto:office@wesleyworc.org)**  
**Web page: [www.wesleyworc.org](http://www.wesleyworc.org)**

**WESLEY HERALD**  
**OCTOBER 4, 2017**

***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 Music Ministries                   | Brett Maguire                                     |
| Director of Children's Music                   | Nan Gibbons                                       |
| Asst. Director of Ghanaian Choir               | Wesley Hall                                       |
| Music Assistant & Layleader                    | Deborah O'Driscoll                                |
| Toddler Care Leader                            | Lori Conlon                                       |
| Building Superintendent                        | Tim Murphy                                        |
| Business Administrator                         | Lorna Mattus-Merrill                              |
| Church Secretary                               | Debi Ritacco                                      |
| Custodians                                     | April Dylewicz<br>Tom Friend<br>Gerard Piscitelli |
| Security                                       | Steve Boyns                                       |
| Head Usher                                     | David Dagle                                       |
| Church Council                                 | Tom Ingrassia                                     |
| Board of Trustees<br>Co-Chairs                 | Yaw Enyim<br>Gary Robinson                        |
| Carty Cupboard Food Pantry                     | Nancy Spencer                                     |
| Communion Steward                              | Linda D'Acri                                      |
| Finance & Stewardship<br>Co-Chairs             | Michael Edmunds<br>William Wong                   |
| Ghanaian Association                           | Paul Hayfron                                      |
| Hospitality Co-Chairs                          | Vivian Assie<br>Kimberly Lindsey-Amoah            |
| Medical Ministry                               | Ron Ramsay                                        |
| Mission Coordinator                            | Betsy Pennino                                     |
| Staff-Parish Relations                         | Gifty Bentum-Asante                               |
| Youth Directors                                | Lisa Fagerstrom<br>Anthony & Adrienne Phillips    |
| United Methodist Women<br>Co-Chairs            | Barbara Ingrassia<br>Allison Hansen               |

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