

Dear members of the Wesley community,

It's not often that I write the Herald cover twice in a row, but an especially exciting weekend is coming up in the musical life of the church. On the weekend of **October 15 and 16**, prominent Ghanaian composer Newlove Annan will be visiting Wesley to help lead the choirs in a retreat. We will celebrate his presence and his gifts by sharing with the community a prayer service and a concert.

Wesley is no stranger to hosting well-known composers for festive weekends. Recall the Wesley Choir singing "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" or "I Am His Child." Those are Moses Hogan compositions, and a photo of his visit still hangs near the choir room entrance. Natalie Sleeth, who composed "There'll be Joy" and "In the bulb," is another such composer who has paid us a visit. It is an honor to bring the creators of timeless, beautiful music to our space, and it forever changes the way you hear and sing their works.

Newlove Annan first came to my notice because of his prominence as a Ghanaian composer. However, a joy of music is that it can leap across cultural and national boundaries with reckless ease. I came to realize that this composer of anthems for the Ghanaian Choir is a musician of great significance. His anthems and praises are among the best out there. Two of my favorite pieces of his are "Amman Ma," which the Wesley Choir has learned as well and sung on multiple occasions, and "When the Morning Gilds the Sky," a piece I had the Ghanaian Choir sing both last spring and this fall because I liked it so much.

Perhaps you were here a few weeks back when Newlove was with us in worship. Some of you may not realize that we have a familial connection to this dignified composer in our congregation: Felicia Annan is Newlove's mother. While he was in town he spent a Saturday working with the choir and played for us that Sunday. I do my best to shepherd the Ghanaian Choir, but having someone so steeped in the Ghanaian tradition brought the music to life and dancers to their feet in a spectacularly memorable way.

A portion of next weekend's retreat is intended just for the choirs, to nurture their growth together and strengthen their skills as musicians. But another significant portion of the weekend is intended for you, the congregation, as well as those in the broader community who will doubtless want to come.

*Continued on page 3...*

## LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

**The Rose** window lighting for October is given in loving memory of Heik P. Garabedian and Robert Demers by Shirley and family.

**The Tower** lighting for October is given in loving memory of Esther and Stanley Salme and Susan Salme Keith by Ruth and Fred Austin and family.

**The altar flowers** in the chancel on October 9<sup>th</sup> are given in loving memory of our parents and grandparents by Dick and Betty Nevers.

## WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

- ✠ Ann Fuller in the Lutheran Home.
- ✠ Duane Kidwell at home.
- ✠ Caleb who is going through a difficult time.
- ✠ Alida Bloem facing health issues.

### 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](mailto:ACHis4788@aol.com), or sign up to volunteer at the table in Brewer Hall.

*Allison Hansen*

*Continued from cover...*

On **Saturday, October 15**, from **1:30 – 3:30 PM** there will be a time of community music learning, exploring praises both familiar and new. Everyone is welcome to attend, even if you have never been a choir member. Then at **4:00 PM**, there will be a prayer service in the Ghanaian tradition. For the Ghanaians in our midst, this is an opportunity to experience a familiar form of worship, and to enjoy having such an outstanding guest musician help lead. For the rest of the church, it is a chance to experience something new that stretches you beyond your known space. It will change how you hear some of the music on Sunday mornings. I like to think that it provides some of the perks of travel without the need to figure out how many socks to bring.

Morning worship should be especially lively on **Sunday, October 16 at 10:30 AM**. Then please plan on coming to a concert that afternoon at **4:00 PM**, which will feature both our home choirs and an amassed concert choir from the community.

It will be an exciting weekend of music, growth, and learning. If you are willing to invest a little bit of time, you will be rewarded with the warm glow of music and a changed perspective that will bring added joy to your Sunday mornings in the future. I hope to see you all then!

*Brett Maguire, Director of Music*

**Please mark your calendars; all events are in the sanctuary:**

Oct. 15, 1:30 – 3:30 PM	Praise rehearsal
Oct. 15, 4:00 PM	Prayer service
Oct. 16, 1:30 – 3:30 PM	Concert practice for amassed choirs
Oct. 16, 4:00 PM	Concert

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children's Christian Education is seeking childcare workers to assist Lori (or be substitutes) in the infant-preschool childcare room. CORI checks are required. This is a paid position. Love helping out with the littlest members of our church? Drop Jean an email [grantgirl05@yahoo.com](mailto:grantgirl05@yahoo.com). Thanks!

## OPEN TO THE WESLEY COMMUNITY

**Join Us To Meet Our New Neighbor!**

**Saturday, October 22... 1:00 pm ... Brewer Hall**

**Wesley UMW will host Heather Wightman, Executive Director of RIA House (Ready Inspire Act)** RIA House is renting office space on Wesley's Lower Level (Conference Room A) – a small portion of the space formerly rented by IHN.

**RIA House (Ready Inspire Act):** *A Sisterhood for Change* is a 501c 3 nonprofit organization supporting and standing with women who have experiences in the commercial sex industry, sexual exploitation, and/or sex trafficking.

**RIA House** trains and educates various local groups, offers case management/mobile peer counseling and accompaniment, and supports community efforts.

Staff includes survivors and allies in recovery from addiction, DV, sexual trauma and exploitation; professional staff members specialize in trauma and substance abuse recovery.

Now, thanks to a *Mission Possible* special projects grant to RIA House from Wesley UMW's Isabel Smith funds, this important mission project has established a home base in Worcester.

**Join us to learn more about the vital work RIA House is doing in Worcester.**

*Submitted by Barbara Ingrassia*

## UPCOMING CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES...

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.

*Lisa Fagerstrom*

## **Thank You, Thank You, THANK YOU!!!**

Ann Fuller sends her heartfelt thanks for the beautiful prayer quilt from Wesley. She deeply appreciates the time and talent involved—and for all the prayers.

*Submitted by Barbara Ingrassia*

### **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.

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.

*~ Nancy Spencer*

## MISSION MATTERS

### **Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Week starts on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>...**

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 October 23—30 week. If you could donate Hope for Housing cards, please give them to Mercy or Betsy Pennino. **Check out the IHN info on the Spotlight on Mission bulletin board (on the pillar nearest the stage).**

**Community Supper on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>...** The Ghanaian Association will be providing a meal of Hamburgers/Turkey burgers, fries, salads, beverages and dessert. *To Community Supper bakers:* your dessert contributions will be much appreciated.

### **ATTENTION ALL KNITTERS/CROCHETERS**

**The Worcester Public Schools Coats for Kids Program** is holding its annual coat drive. ***THE PROGRAM NEEDS HATS AND MITTENS.***

Over 3,000 new winter jackets, hats and mittens are distributed annually to infants through high school students in Worcester. The program's mission is to "foster comfort and confidence in our students to increase attendance and participation in school."

Your handmade hats and mittens and tax-deductible financial donations to purchase new jackets make this program possible.

**For more information: Please contact Dolores Augustus at 508-799-3194 or Liz Vecchio at 508-799-3479 Monday- Friday. Thank you!**

*Submitted by Barbara Ingrassia*



**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: October 7 and October 21. (No sewing on the 14<sup>th</sup>.)**

***“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**

## DID YOU KNOW?

As we began our worship series for this year's stewardship season with the theme "Fruitful Living" our opening hymn for the first Sunday was "For the Fruits of This Creation" (UMH 97). The full text of this hymn not only expresses gratitude for God's bounteous gifts but also preaches the social gospel, reminding us to care for and share generously with our neighbors. This theme of social justice pervades the hymns of Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), an ordained British Methodist minister.

Green was considered by his colleagues to be the leader of the 'hymn explosion' in England, the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> C surge of new hymn texts. He is the author of 15 hymns (and contributed to 3 others) in our United Methodist Hymnal. Among those are some that are perhaps somewhat more familiar to our congregation such as "When in Our Music God Is Glorified" (UMH 68) and "Christ Is the World's Light" (UMH 188). The great American hymnologist Erik Routley viewed him as the most significant hymnist in Methodism since Charles Wesley!<sup>1</sup>

Throughout our stewardship season we will be using the third stanza of this hymn as our doxology at the time of the presentation of the offering. In a commentary on this stanza professor of church music C. Michael Hawn, notes explicit connections between Green and Charles Wesley, in terms of both theology and poetic style:

Perhaps the most stirring part of the hymn is the last half of the final stanza:

*For the wonders that astound us,  
For the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us,  
Thanks be to God.*

This amazing tercet (three successive poetic lines that rhyme) not only displays a poetic tour de force, but also, perhaps, a sort of homage to one of the great hymns by Charles Wesley. Note the transcendent mystery that characterizes both poets. Wesley concludes "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (UMH 384) with these familiar lines:

*Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love and praise.*

Both poets display a Wesleyan wonder at the love of God manifest in creation (Pratt Green) and in the Incarnation of Christ (Charles Wesley) using a language that goes beyond the literal to the awe-inspiring.<sup>2</sup>

As Methodists we have inherited a tradition of theological depth of our hymn texts as well as a tradition of robust singing in worship. May we be good stewards of those gifts.

*Submitted by, Deborah O'Driscoll*

<sup>1</sup>*Companion to the United Methodist Hymnal*, Carlton R. Young, ed., Abington, 1993, 758.

<sup>2</sup>C. Michael Hawn, History of Hymns: "For the Fruit of This Creation," <http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-for-the-fruit-of-this-creation>

## 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 17	Wed., Oct 19
Mon., Oct 31	Wed., Nov 2

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.



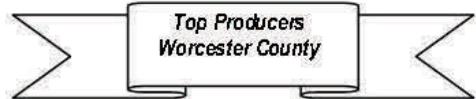
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**WESLEY HERALD**  
**OCTOBER 5, 2016**

***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
- 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 Yaw Enyim  
Co-Chairs 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

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