

As I put words to our “Kids together in Mission” visit to the Lutheran Home on Saturday, it should simply be called love...quite literally, the children were living out Sunday’s Bible lesson, Matthew 22:34-46, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ” Indeed, our neighbor up the hill received the love of God from our group of young people that was an expression from their hearts. True compassion was evidenced as we made our way through the halls greeting and giving treats to over forty folks. Together we joined in their morning exercise program, making it much more fun for them. We left them with the blessing of the children’s voices in song.

For a few in our group this was their first time experiencing the sights, sounds, and smells of a nursing home, I was sensitive to how they were taking it all in. I witnessed the spirit giving them a tender heart for all they had been a part of. Our group was so moved by the residences stories, tears of joy, and laughter, our young people enthusiastically expressed interest to return.

In our reflection time together we thought about how God uses us, that even in the simple faith of a child, people will see God’s love shining through and in us. I would like to pass along a few ideas I shared with the children to help us get started living for Christ from *Be a Faith Hero*, by Karen Leet.

- ~ *Think!* Think before you speak. Is that what God would want you to say? Is it true? Will your words hurt someone? Is it something that needs to be said?
- ~ *Pray!* In prayer, ask God to guide you each day. Ask God to help you serve God and people each day. Pray for the people around you, your church, and for the world.
- ~ *Look!* Look for ways to help. Get involved. Whether it’s helping feed hungry people in your community, or holding the door open for someone whose arms are full, every thoughtful act is honoring to God.
- ~ *Tell!* Let people know you are praying for them. Ask what they would like you to pray about. Write down their requests, then be sure you do the actual praying.
- ~ *Believe!* Be ready to share what you believe. If you aren’t sure, talk with parents, church teachers and leaders. Then be confident to talk about your faith in God through Jesus Christ with others.
- ~ *Remember!* Remember, others are watching you. Younger siblings, friends, classmates, neighbors – people may be looking to you as an example of faithful living. Let God’s love show through your choices and actions.
- ~ *Encourage!* Speak a good word. Praise people who are doing a good job or trying hard. Encourage those who seem down. Let people know you appreciate them.
- ~ *Trust!* Be a faith-builder. Trust God and let others know that you do. Talk about times when God has answered your prayers. Tell people how much God loves you and them.

In our commitment to encourage a spirit of service in our children, we have devoted a special time in helping them grow in active faith, applying our Sunday school lessons in new ways. Join us every Thursday evening, 6:30-7:30 PM, for “Mission and Music.” Also, watch for Adult studies offered at the same time.

We live our lives for God today, shining a light for the world to see God’s love! ~ Valerie Jansson

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for November is given in loving memory of Clifford S. Duxbury, Jr. by Nancy, Beth, and Craig Duxbury.

THE TOWER lighting for November is given in loving memory of William & Mina Warman by Arline Benoit.

LET US KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS...

- ✠ Robert Doyle, a friend of Mark & Cindy Muncey, as he battles with Cancer.
- ✠ Susan Williams' children, Laurel Wood, Mark Benoit and Karen Guenette. Pray for peace and healing as they struggle with health concerns.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING...

- ✠ To the congregation for the thoughts and prayers during Kimberly Lindsey-Amoah's convalescence and back surgery.
- ✠ To David Burah for successfully completing his MBA.
- ✠ To the congregation for the beautiful prayer quilt and all the thoughts and prayers for Charlotte Elizabeth Braun, granddaughter of Michael and Tracy (Tremblay) Braun. She has completed her first week at home, although on oxygen 24/7. This is only one of the many milestones she has faced since her birth September 14th. She will still need constant follow-up appointments in Boston for many years, but we all have our tiny little miracle to be thankful for this year.



CALENDAR ITEMS TO MAKE NOTE OF...

- ∞ **HARVEST SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH** ~ Worship will begin at **10 AM** for this week only. Please make sure you mark your calendars.
- ∞ **ALL SAINTS DAY** will be observed on Sunday, November 13th due to the Harvest on November 6th.
- ∞ **ALL CHURCH MEETING ~ SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 12-1 PM**
- ∞ **ALL CHURCH MEETING ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 12-1 PM**
- ∞ **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE ~ FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH** All Annual Reports are due to Debi in the office no later than this date.
- ∞ **SPRC ~ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 9:30 AM** Meeting before Charge Conference.
- ∞ **CHARGE CONFERENCE ~ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 10:30 AM**

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The Stewardship campaign for 2012 “Giving For N.O.W. ~ Because He Lives” is well underway. Pledge Sunday was held on October 16th with excellent results with Rev. Anne Robertson delivering the sermon. We are still seeking additional pledges to reach our 2011 campaign levels in participation and giving as the table below highlights.

Year	Pledging Units	Pledged \$'s	Ave Pledge \$'s
2012	101	\$219,470	\$2,173
2011	146	\$287,633	\$1,970
YOY Comparison	45	\$68,163	\$1,514

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR CHARGE CONFERENCE

Please turn in your Annual Report to me *no later than* Friday, December 9th. You may email your report (as a Word document please) to office@wesleyworc.org. Questions? Please ask.

Thank you, Debi Ritacco

IHN NEWS

In addition to hosting families during IHN week, other ways you can help IHN include donating cleaning supplies for use in their daytime area, or being a “secret Santa” by adopting a family, past or present, to furnish a few Christmas requests. (A wish list and clothing sizes will be furnished.) The IHN program needs gas cards or monetary donations for gas or repairs on their van. Finally, household items are needed when families get their permanent housing. They usually need everything, from beds and a kitchen table, to linens, dishes, lamps, etc. If you are moving or have items you no longer use, see me about sharing them with IHN.

~ Nancy Cook

CARTY CUPBOARD

The Item of the Month for November is...Hearty Canned Soup

Carty can also use the following items: **28 oz. Cans** of Corn or Green Beans, and **1 lb. Cans** of Ground Coffee, Preschool Children’s Books. And as always...plastic and paper grocery bags. *Thank You!*

~ Nancy Spencer

CLASS ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO START SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

Starting on Sunday November 13th, we will begin offering a class in Discovering our Spiritual Gifts. Spiritual Gifts are those gifts given by the Holy Spirit to each believer for the benefit of the Body of Christ (Romans 12:1-8.) What does that mean, from a practical standpoint? It means we have all been gifted and equipped to help the Church be the best it can be, but we might not yet know what our specific and individual contribution is supposed to be.

We will spend 6 weeks helping you discover what your giftedness and passions are and how those gifts can match up and enhance the various ministries here at Wesley and help you find a meaningful and energizing way to glorify God and serve others.

We will be offering this class in the Mary Ellis Lounge at two separate times: Sundays 9:30-10:30 AM between services, OR Sundays 12:00-1:00 PM following the 10:30 am service. You can choose either of these times, depending on your schedule and preference. If you would like to come to the 12-1 PM class and need childcare, please contact Laura Cassidy-Moffatt through the church office or laura@wesleyworc.org.

The class will be discussion, DVD and workbook-based, and will provide opportunities to get to know others and their giftedness as well. Laura Cassidy-Moffatt will be leading the class. Please join us!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Remember the Thanksgiving **Bake Sale on Sunday, November 20th**! Linda D'Acri and Carol Samanen have volunteered to coordinate the Bake Sale. Dot Ellis and Dorothy Palmgren have volunteered to coordinate the craft table. A big Thank You to these four members who have stepped up to the plate. Circle Leaders, please remind your circle members to bake and contribute craft items.

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the **UMW Christmas Program on Tuesday, December 6**. This will be a spiritual program, presenting the Life of Christ through Scripture and works of art. You won't want to miss this presentation. The program will take place at 6:30 p.m. in Brewer Hall. Priscilla Circle will offer coffee and desserts.

WHAT IS THE HARVEST AUCTION?

Harvest is a celebration to give thanks to God for the year, and an occasion for a major annual fund raising event in the life of the church. Harvest is always characterized with excitement, dancing, euphoria and happy enthusiasm of ecclesiastical dimension. It is the third most important church festival after Easter and Christmas. The auction segment of harvest was the original activity in the tradition of the Ghanaian church harvest.

What is Harvest: It is a time of the year, when farmers, fishermen, and hunters brought to church a portion of their harvest (actually the best) to church to be auctioned to raise the necessary funds needed to build their churches, and to do missionary work.

Auctions became necessary because of the limited availability of money in the Ghanaian economy in the early 20th century. Parishioners were encouraged to bring whatever they could, even if they had no money, so it could be sold and the funds placed in the church coffers.

Why The Auction in the Sanctuary: Traditionally, the auction is characterized with the singing of hymns, praise choruses, and dancing. Remember, church members bring these items as a thanksgiving offering to God, for watching over them, and their households throughout the year.

Church members buy these items at much higher prices than they would pay for them if they went to the market place -- all in the spirit of raising funds needed by the church for its' activities.

Ebenezer, hitherto God has brought us. We are fourteen days away from this year's harvest, and hence, fourteen days away from the auction. I implore all Wesleyans here to participate fully in all the activities of this year's annual harvest on Sunday, November 6, 2011.

Praise the LORD, David Burah



REMINDER...

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Don't forget... Saturday, November 5th before you go to bed be sure to turn your clocks back 1 hour.



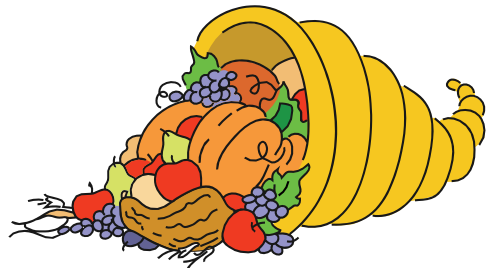
**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S
MISSION BAKE SALE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2011**

To support the following UMW Mission Projects:

*All profits will go to the ongoing support of
UMW Mission Programs and
Summer camperships for Wesley youth.*

COOKIES BREADS PIES CAKES... AND MORE!

*Support the UMW in this
Mission fund-raiser and
enjoy "home-made"
baked goods for your
Thanksgiving Celebration.*



IN CONTEXT

Gospel Lectionary selection for November 6, 2011 (Matthew 25:1-13)

In first century Palestine, families practiced patrilocal marriage, meaning that the bride moved into the home the groom had prepared, which would have been in or adjacent to that of his father. The key moment in the long wedding celebration was the point at which the groom goes to the family house of the bride, with his relatives, to bring her back to his house, where the remainder of the wedding festivities would take place.

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The setting is the Mount of Olives, and Jesus' discourse to the disciples (beginning in 24:3) about the forthcoming destruction of the political system in Israel (some forty years in the future). Today's lectionary selection is a general parable about that impending destruction, and the arrival of the kingdom of heaven.

In v. 1, the parable introduces ten bridesmaids (PARQENOIS, *parthenois*, "virgins"), specified in v. 2 as five wise (FRONIMOI, *phronimoi*, "prudent") and five foolish (MWRAI, *moorai*, dull-witted). In v. 3, it is noted that they all carry LAMPADAS (*lampadas*, "torches", or more precisely, wedding torches). [One could see nothing outdoors with a first century lamp (LUCNON, *luchnon*, "lamp", as in 6:15)]. They appear to be waiting for the bridegroom, bride and wedding party to arrive back at the bridegroom's home (v. 5), where they are expected to greet him and his party with lit torches (v. 6-7), and then take part in the merriment inside. But the foolish did not plan for the greeting task and were thus shut out of the festivities (v. 8-12).

As a parable about the soon and sudden coming of the Messiah and the kingdom of heaven, the point is to be ever prepared for this event (v. 13).

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Reference: Malina BJ, Rohrbaugh RL. *Social-Science Commentary on the Synoptic Gospels*. 2nd ed. Minneapolis:Fortress Press, 2003. pp 122-123.

- Charles Kiefer, for the Lectionary Study Group. For weekly context analyses of Lectionary selections, you are always welcome to join the Lectionary Study Group table in East Hall, Sunday mornings at 9:30.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY...

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR
“THE ADVANTAGES OF PLANNING AHEAD”
November 16th - 4:00 to 6:00 pm
Epworth United Methodist Church
64 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA

Guest Speakers:

Wayne M. LeBlanc
Attorney, Glickman, Sugarman, Kneeland & Gribouski

Gary Melville, ChFC
Director of Development, United Methodist Foundation of New England

Creating a good estate plan is an important part of becoming a “good and faithful steward” of the property that God has entrusted to you, but an estimated 70% of Americans don’t even have a will.

This free seminar will guide you through the basics of creating or updating your estate plan so that you can be proactive in providing for those you love and protecting both you and your family in your senior years. You will also learn about opportunities for creating a Christian legacy by blessing others in need with a portion of your lifetime “increase” in property.

The seminar is open to all, and light refreshments will be served.

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NOTRE DAME ACADEMY, 425 Salisbury Street, Worcester is giving an **Entrance Exam** on **Saturday, November 5th at 8:30 am**. ALL 8th grade girls are encouraged to pre-register. NDA is a college preparatory school for young women in grades 9 through 12. For more information contact Admissions at 508-757-6200 x229 or go to www.nda-worc.org. Thank you.

VENERINI ACADEMY, a private Catholic elementary (PK-3 to Grade 8) school located in Worcester, will be hosting a fall **Open House** on **Tuesday, November 15th** from 9-11am. We invite you to meet our parents, students and teachers and tour our facilities. There are currently limited openings in each grade. Please call the Admissions Office at 508-753-3210 or visit www.veneriniacademy.us for more information. Thank you.

2011 HERALD SCHEDULE

Below are the next couple of Herald mailing dates along with the deadline dates for each mailing.

Please note that the deadline date is Monday at 9:00 AM unless otherwise specified.

Article Deadline Date	Herald Mailing Date
Mon., Nov. 14	Wed., Nov. 16
Mon., Nov. 28	Wed., Nov. 30

If you have an article, please email it as a Word attachment to:
office@wesleyworc.org

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).



MOPS begins their new season with two meeting times. We now offer a Wednesday evening group from 7:30-9:00 PM (no child care) as well as 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:

FRI., NOV. 4 & WED., NOV. 9
"Respect: A Momsense Quality"

WED., NOV. 16 & FRI., NOV. 18
"Consistency: A Momsense Quality"



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WESLEY HERALD
NOVEMBER 2, 2011

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Shandirai Mawokomatanda
Director of Music Ministries	Brett Maguire
Music Assistant	Deborah O'Driscoll
Sunday School Superintendent	Valerie Jansson
Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship	Laura Cassidy-Moffatt
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

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