

## GROWING WITH HOPE

Earlier this Fall, the Church Council decided to enroll our Church in a year-long program of discernment, strategic planning and congregational development. The program is called *Growing With Hope*.

*Growing With Hope* is an intentional learning community and process that supports, challenges, and equips teams from local churches wanting to move to a deeper level of living out their mission. During this year-long process we will seek to develop and utilize the gifts within our congregation for vitality. We will seek to be equipped and challenged to take risks for deeper ministry and mission in order that we may engage our local community in new, relevant, and transformative ways.

The program, which began in September, will run through the summer. This year, the program brings together a group of four church teams — with 4-6 people each— to come alongside the HopeGateWay United Methodist Church in Portland Maine. Serving on Wesley's core team will be Pastor Shandi, Lisa Fagerstrom (Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship), Deborah O'Driscoll (Lay Leader), Tom Ingrassia (Staff-Parish Relations Committee rep), and Emmanuel Okrah (President of Ghanaian Association).

The *Growing With Hope* learning and discernment process utilizes a collaborative approach, building on questions, stories, and conversations to encourage creative thinking and courageous risk-taking. Already, in the first quarter of our "homework," we will be looking to do three things: (1) Identify/develop a list of core values for our church; (2) Organize neighborhood walks in our community; and (3) Define our context. These three things will help move us toward an ultimate goal of evaluating the impact that our mission and ministry is having on our community, and toward discerning areas of growth and transformation.

*We will need your help!* Even though we have a core leadership team leading in the work, we are also in the process of building an extended core-team from Wesley to help us facilitate this work. The primary job of the extended core-team will be to help bring the work out to the rest of the congregation by communicating developments and soliciting feedback and input. We hope to present to you these extended core-team members at the All Church Meeting on Sunday, November 22.

Please stay tuned! We will need your involvement and participation and prayers.

*In Faith, with Hope,  
Wesley's Growing with Hope Core-Team*

## ***LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS...***

**The Rose window** lighting for November is given in loving memory of Clifford S. Duxbury, Jr. by Nancy, Beth, Craig, and Tina Duxbury.

**The Tower** lighting for November is given in loving memory of William & Mina Warman by Arline Benoit.

**The altar flowers** on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> were given in loving memory of Natalie Gutridge by Stanley Gutridge.

## ***WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THIS WEEK...***

- ✠ Uncle Bob, a friend of the Hammonds, for healing.
- ✠ Linda Keister who is recovering in rehabilitation at the Jewish Health Care Center
- ✠ Dorothy Norcross who is recovering in rehabilitation at Millbury Health Care Center
- ✠ Taurai Rukunda, for peace and healing
- ✠ Pastor Shandi who was approved and recommended for ordination by the Board of Ordained Ministry. Ordination will be at the next Annual Conference.
- ✠ Those lifted up on All Saints Sunday who have died within the last year...
  - Berwell Ewing (12/22/14)
  - Dorothy Arline Quimby (12/23/14)
  - James N. Norcross (01/06/15)
  - Dorothy A. Palmgren (02/20/15)
  - Donald W. Harris (04/20/15)
  - B. Annabelle Dostoler (05/22/15)
  - Evelyn Lowell (06/03/15)
  - Fay C. Stevens (06/27/15)
  - William E. Brock, Jr. (06/28/15)
  - Doris Betterley (07/27/15)
  - Harry I. Spencer, Jr. (09/23/15)

**HARVEST...** There will be a luncheon held after church on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> in celebration of the Harvest. Please bring a baked good to share at the luncheon.

*Thank you, Esi Korsah*

## ***Mark Your Calendar...***

**Harvest Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30 am** Worship in the Chapel

**10:00 am** Worship in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12 pm**

All Church Meeting

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 pm**

All Church Meeting

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALTAR FLOWERS...**

We are in need of a few volunteers to help with the Altar flowers after services.

One volunteer is needed to coordinate the volunteers that are able to deliver flowers to Wesley shut-ins or people in the hospital or rehab facilities.

Other volunteers are needed to deliver the flowers to shut-ins or members/friends in the hospital or rehab facilities. You would take the flowers off the altar on Sunday after the service, transfer them into the coffee can, then deliver them. There is a book in the front office that you can check to see if the donator is taking both arrangements, or leaving one or both to be delivered.

If you are interested in helping out with this ministry, please speak with Pastor Shandi or Debi in the office during the week.

### **UMW STEERING COMMITTEE - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 8:30 A.M.**

It's budget season again, and we will be gathering in Mary Ellis Lounge at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 7 to settle on a budget for 2016. Starting 15 minutes earlier than usual so we have enough time to discuss our funding priorities and share some circle news too. Circle chairs and officers, please make every effort to attend this important meeting, as we will be talking about some spending proposals that are larger than previous years. If you cannot be there, please send a circle representative.

*Thank you. Allison Hansen, co-president*

### **THANK YOU TO IHN VOLUNTEERS...**

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with hosting at Interfaith Hospitality Network last week. Volunteers were: Gladys Poku, Beth Vietze, Allison and Peter Hansen, William & Michael Kilmer, Cindy and Mark Muncey, Nancy Cook, Chris Kerns, Lisa Fagerstrom, Paul Arsenault, Jerry Warren, Jeanne Dhavale, Betsy Pennino, Mercy Peacock, Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy, and Ron Ramsay.

*Thank you everyone!*

*Coordinator, Nancy Cook*

## **CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT**

### ***Technical Change vs. Adaptive Change***

Imagine two people: both have had to go through heart bypass surgery because of a diagnosis with heart disease. After the surgery, Person A decides to change her lifestyle. She changes her eating habits and begins a healthy diet. She quits smoking and starts to exercise even though she had never exercised before. She knows it is going to be difficult but she makes a commitment to change.

Person B attempts to make similar changes. The shock of having to go through the surgery compels him to try to change something. However, pretty soon he realizes that these changes are just too difficult. They require too much effort and intention. It is a struggle to stay the course, and the results of the changes are not coming as quickly as he would like. So he slips back to old habits and in the end changes nothing.

Which of these two people has a better chance of living a healthier and longer life?

The illustration above helps to illustrate two types of changes necessary for growth and transformation: technical and adaptive changes. The heart bypass surgery illustrates the technical change necessary to address a crisis situation. It is immediate and the results are easily identifiable. However, that technical change alone does not solve the problem. The commitment to change behavior and lifestyle must follow. This is the adaptive change necessary for the long-term health of the person. But, as Person B soon realizes, the results are not immediate and the commitment to stay the course requires more than he is willing to do.

Adaptive change is difficult. It is messy. It is not quick or easy. It can create even more anxiety, and it is exhausting. But those who stay the course do so in hope that in the long-run results eventually come.

As a church council we have been wrestling with discerning a way forward toward growth and vitality. It has been evident that we are struggling with growing our church. Our worship attendance has not been what it used to be, for instance, and our financial and stewardship ministry often leaves us feeling anxious about our future. Something needs to change.

We have made some technical changes in the past, such as cutting down on pastoral leadership and staff hours, or later changing staff positions and creating new ones. These changes alone are not enough. We have brought in consultants like Rev. Rick Black who helped us discern our five areas of passion. We even had Lisa Fagerstrom lead us in a SWOT analysis. And, while we came up with good material on paper, the challenge has been living those things out. We have struggled with adaptive change, and sometimes we

have slipped back to old habits, especially in the moments when things get difficult.

As your leadership team, we ask for your prayers. Please pray that God may give us the wisdom to discern the path forward. Pray that we may find the courage to step into the difficult and messy waters of adaptive change. Pray that we may stay the course even as the rough seas and winds want to push us back.

In Faith, with Hope,  
Church Council Leadership Team

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## Advent Retreat ❁ Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

### “From Sacred to Secular: A Faithful Celebration of Advent and Christmas”

The seasons of Advent and Christmas can be very hectic times for us. Try as we might, we are pulled in multiple directions by competing demands and expectations. In this weekend before the beginning of Advent, you are invited to come and find quiet and joy and breathing space and room for contemplation, and...have some fun!

Join retreat leader Lisa Fagerstrom as we journey together in sharing our Advent and Christmas stories, experiences, and customs; while considering how we want to shape these two seasons this year.

A light lunch will be served as we begin our retreat time with table fellowship. There will be time for worship, prayer, reflection, making Christmas cards, walking the Labyrinth, and other Spiritual Formation opportunities. All are welcome!!

### CARTY CUPBOARD

As of January 1, 2016 Dot Ellis will no longer be accepting clothes, household goods, and books for distribution by Carty Cupboard. She will however be happy to take any 2016 calendars you would like to donate.

The item of the month for November is... **Hearty Canned Soup**. At this time we are almost out of meals in a can and soup so when you are shopping would you please add an extra can to your cart for Carty Cupboard Food Pantry. Thanks!

If you would like to help us fill the Thanksgiving baskets we REALLY need... Turkey Gravy, Yams in the 40 oz. cans and Bread Mixes. We need them by Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> please.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### Publicity, Marketing, and Communications Ministry Team

*“We’ve a story to tell to the nations that shall turn their hearts to the right; a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light.” ~ H. Ernest Nichol, 1862-1928*

This great hymn by H.E. Nichol reminds of how much we have to share already because of what God has done for us. We have a story to tell!

We are looking for a group of volunteers to be part of a ministry team that will help us tell Wesley’s story of what God is accomplishing through us. The team will help tell our story in a variety of ways including:

- ✝ Publicizing ongoing and one-time special events through a variety of media.
- ✝ Gathering impact stories of how our ministries and mission are making a difference in people’s lives and then sharing these stories in creative ways.
- ✝ Identifying public forums/spaces/events where Wesley can be a presence, such as setting up booths or tables at local fairs and carnivals, and then communicating these opportunities to the congregation, inviting participating and involvement.
- ✝ Identifying target groups and audiences with which to share our story and developing relevant resources for sharing the story, such as brochures, flyers, etc.

Diverse experiences, gifts, and skills are welcome! You can help the team with:

- Using Facebook, Twitter and other social media outlets to tell our story
- Taking photos for sharing in publicity and marketing material
- Videotaping events, activities, or personal interviews of people in order to tell their story
- Maintaining and updating our church website
- Writing press releases and other communications about events and activities
- Connecting Wesley to media outlets such local papers, television and radio
- Distributing publicity materials to groups, organizations and community bulletin boards
- And more – your ideas, input and feedback are also welcome

If you are interested in any of these activities, please contact Pastor Shandi at [pastorshandim@wesleyworc.org](mailto:pastorshandim@wesleyworc.org); or call 508-799-4191 x108.

## **From the Pastor's Desk**

### ***Core Values vs. Areas of Passion***

As part of the *Growing with Hope* program, our church has been asked to identify (or develop) a list of Core Values for our Church.

Core values are the guiding principles that dictate or motivate behavior and action. They form the foundation upon which we develop our ministry and conduct ourselves as a community. While we have an entire universe of values, some become so primary and important to us that they form, inform, and transform who we are and what we do. Core values are not descriptions of the work we do or the strategies we employ to accomplish our mission. Rather they underlie our life together as a community. They inform how we interact with each other and which strategies we employ to fulfill our mission. Core values are the ideals that we hold (or should be holding) every day – a lens through which we view everything we do. As values tend to go, they are often unspoken, implicit in the way we live-out our lives.

*What would you say Wesley's core values are?*

In 2009, Rev. Rick Black asked our leadership teams the question: "If Time Magazine were to write an article about Wesley UMC 10 years from now, what would you want the article to say?" Out of this question, and subsequent conversation, came our church's Five Areas of Passion: (1) *Spiritual Growth*, (2) *Hospitality and Welcome*, (3) *Diversity and Multiculturalism*, (4) *Mission and Outreach*, and (5) *Lay Leadership Development*. In 2009 the church leadership team expressed that we wanted Wesley Church to be known for making a difference through these five areas of passion.

*Would you say that these Five Areas of Passion describe our Core Values?*

Whenever we go through a process of visioning and discernment, we often run into the problem of semantics. The problem of semantics confuses the fact that often-times people are talking about the same thing but using different language. So what would you say may be the relationship between core values and areas of passion?

The Church Council and the *Growing with Hope* leadership team have been wrestling with these questions, and will be soliciting your input. We invite you to please share with me, members of the Council, or the Growing with Hope team your sense of what Wesley's Core Values are. Once we have identified these values, we want to be able to evaluate our ministries and mission to see how well we are doing in living them out.

*In Faith, with Hope,  
Pastor Shandi*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month in the Children's Sunday School, we are learning about blessings and birth-rights. As part of our theme verse, "The Lord bless you and keep you" (Numbers 6:24), we are making "**Blessing Bags**" for members of our community who are homeless or live in transitional housing. As we learn about how God blesses us, we will talk about tangible ways we can bless others through simple gifts. These inexpensive items are tied to the daily Bible story and will help the children explore how simple everyday items we may take for granted are actually treasured blessings.

**Please support our mission** by bringing the following items to church and leaving in the marked box:

- **November 8: snack crackers (with individually-wrapped servings/packs)**
- **November 15: a pair of socks**
- **November 22: a toothbrush and toothpaste (packaged)**
- **November 29: baby wipes**

Additionally, **Carty Cupboard is in need of large (40 oz) cans of YAMS and GRAVY** for Thanksgiving boxes. Please bring in by Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> if you can donate.

*Thank you.*

## MISSION MATTERS

**Imagine No Malaria Appeal...** Bishop Devadhar, leader of the New England Conference, has asked every congregation to take up one more collection to battle malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. The international UMC has distributed millions of insecticide-treated bed nets. In partnership with the World Health Organization, we have contributed to establishing medical clinics and educating Africans on prevention. Over a dozen countries have reported zero malaria cases for several years. Our conference needs about \$120,000 to reach its \$1 million goal. The Wesley Mission Committee is making a generous gift. If you wish to make a donation, please leave it in the labeled collection box in the Welcome Office. Beside it will be INM offering envelopes. \$10 saves a life. Malaria is a preventable disease.

**November Community Supper...** Linda D'Acri and team will be providing a turkey dinner on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. While most of us will celebrate Thanksgiving on November 26<sup>th</sup>, for some of our guests, this meal of *turkey with all the trimmings* will be the holiday meal enjoyed with other people. All Wesley folks are invited to add themselves to this fellowship. Donations of pies and other desserts will be much appreciated.

**Community Supper Leaders Needed for Feb., April and Beyond...** Several Wesley groups have talked with Pastor Shandi or Betsy Pennino about stepping up to lead a community supper. Now is the time to choose a month, with most of 2016 available. Perhaps winter is a less busy time for your family or Wesley group? Seasoned supper leaders are also welcome to choose months!

**Volunteer at Dismas House?** Dismas Houses are always looking for volunteers to serve meals at their programs or to mentor former prisoners on their transition back into society-- with life skills and jobs. One Worcester program is at 30 Richards St., just past Clark U. if going south. Many Worcester college students fulfill work study requirements there. Dismas House also runs a farm in Oakham and looks for people to work with residents on the farm. If you feel a calling to any of these roles, please speak with Pastor Shandi or Betsy Pennino. John Wesley showed particular concern for the incarcerated.

**"Next to New" Items for Maine Economic Mission...** A truck carrying gently used household items and clothing will be traveling again to Maine. Just about any useful donation for any age group will be much appreciated. There is a labeled box in Brewer Hall for your contributions, and it contains a list of suggested items. They will be delivered to the Maine truck on November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Clothing more useful to **Abby's House** will be donated to their thrift shop.

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## **DR. SACRA EVENT HUGE SUCCESS**

Thanks to everyone who supported the United Methodist Women's event on October 22 featuring Dr. Richard Sacra's talk on the situation in Liberia during the Ebola crisis: Dorcas and Esther Circle members who prepared the snacks, Margaret Watson and Emily Smith who organized the myriad details in hosting a community-wide event, including securing media coverage both before and after the event, and persuading Mayor Joe Petty that Dr. Sacra was a worthy recipient of the Key to the City, Lorraine Kronberg, who developed the brochure describing the event, Pastor Shandi, who reached out to WAUM church leaders, Debi Ritacco, who created and printed the programs and helped set up the projector, Lisa Fagerstrom, who offered the introduction and benediction in Pastor Shandi's absence, Lucy Wisner, who connected with the Liberian community to boost attendance (and her son Weah, who sold Stop Ebola t-shirts and hoodies), and the Ghanaian choir for their beautiful music to close out the program. The evening raised \$2147.81 for the Thomas Eric Duncan Memorial Scholarship, established by Dr. Sacra's missionary organization, Serving in Mission, to support training healthcare workers in Liberia.

*Allison Hansen, UMW co-president*

# Thanksgiving

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S MISSION BAKE SALE

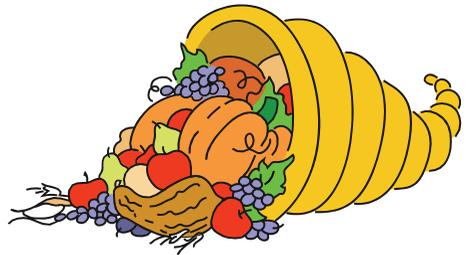
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2015

*To support the following UMW Mission Projects:*

*All profits will go to the ongoing support of  
UMW Mission Programs and  
Summer campships 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.*



### **CHRISTMAS WREATHS FOR DEDICATION...**

Once again this year, we will have 3 wreaths on the outside doors (on Main Street and State Street) that are available for dedication. The cost of each wreath is \$30.

If you are interested in dedicating a wreath in honor or memory of a loved one or friend, please contact me in the office as soon as possible (508-799-4191).

*Thank you, Debi*

## UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS...

Below is the schedule for the Fall Events.  
You can register for any of these at: <http://cmdresourceday.com/>

### Fall Schedule of Events:

#### District-Wide Bible Studies on the Book of James:

**November 5 @ 9:30am-** Christ Church Wellesley MA (Chapter 3)

**November 12 @ 9:30am-** Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Worcester  
(Chapter 4)

**December 3 @ 9:30am-** Centralville, Lowell, MA (Chapter 5)

#### Workshop on Vision, Mission & Strategic Planning

**December 12 @ 9:00am- 11:30am-** Oakdale UMC W. Boylston, MA

#### District Superintendent Listening Sessions

**December 1 @ 7:00pm-** Epworth United Methodist Church in Worcester

#### Seminar on Pastors Coaching Congregations Thru Change

**October 16 @ 9:00am- 12:00pm** location Aldersgate North Reading

Community Bonds: Life Inside Immigration Detention in Massachusetts  
CIVIC presents...

### Film Screening

**Tuesday, November 17, 2015**

Jefferson Building, Room 218  
Clark University  
950 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610  
**5:30—7:30 pm**

**Free Admission**

**Register at: <http://bit.ly/1GJ7af7>**

*Sponsors:*

*Department of International Development, Community, and Environment and the  
Community Development and Planning Program—Clark University*

## John in Ultra-High Context: John 114:8-31

{notes from the Brewer Hall Study Group, Oct. 25-Nov. 1, 2015}

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{Context. After Jesus' ceremonial washing of the feet of his disciples, and the subsequent exit of Judas (13:1-30), Jesus allays the anxiety in his disciples over his impending departure by a series of clarifications to their questions. Thomas was the first to ask a question and receive clarification and encouragement (14:1-7).}

### Clarification and Encouragement – II (to Philip)

(vv. 8-9) Jesus' clarification to Thomas' question about "the **way**" concluded with the statement, "From now ye know him {the Father} and have seen" (v. 7b). This provokes Philip to ask the question, "Lord, show us the Father and it suffices for us", thus serving as the second foil for Jesus' further clarification – in two parts.

(vv. 10-14) The first part is the reiteration of the embedded (dyadic) relationship between Jesus and the Father {cf. 5:21-27, 36-38; 6:37-40, 44-47; 7:28-29; 8:16-19, 23-29, 42-55; 10:14b-18, 25-30}.

This is analogous to the embedded relationship between the members of the later Johannine group, with Jesus as their model.

But if the disciples cannot comprehend the presence of Jesus as the presence of the Father, then at least they should recognize that Jesus' works to this point {the seven signs of self-revelation} are in fact the works of the Father. This segues into the promise that Jesus will accomplish anything for which the disciples ask in his name, thereby honoring (glorifying) the Father in their midst.

(vv. 15-17) The second part begins with the correlation of love {group attachment, loyalty} for Jesus and keeping his commandments, and expands the dyadic relationship to include the disciples {thus making a triadic relationship, if the disciples are counted as one}. This is followed by a promise – that the Father will send a *paráklēton* ("Comforter/Counselor/Advocate"), the *pneûma tēs alētheías* ("Spirit – of truth"). In a legal context, this would be one who stands by the side of a defendant or witness. Jesus is also remembered as an advocate by this author (John the Evangelist) (1 John 2:1), but the advocate promised in the Gospel will link the disciples [and later the Johannine group] to the continued presence of Jesus (v. 16).

The Johannine group knows about this Truthful Spirit because, *par' umîn ménei kai en umîn éstai* ["with you (pl.) he remains and in you (pl.) will be"], i.e., "with you he remains ("attaches") and among you will be" (v. 17b).

(vv. 18-21) Jesus' statement in v. 18 (also later in v. 23) does not refer to Paul's parousia (the return of the Messiah with power), but to the disciples' ASC (vision) experiences. The "world", i.e., Israelite society, will not be able to see Jesus in this way. Only to his followers will Jesus continue to be revealed.

### **Clarification and Encouragement – III (to the other Judas)**

(vv. 22-26) Jesus' clarification to Philip's request about showing the disciples the Father concluded with the promise that the Father would send the disciples a "Comforter/Counselor/Advocate", the "Spirit of truth". This provokes the question by the other Judas regarding the restriction of Jesus' presence to the disciples rather than to the "world", i.e., to all Israel. Jesus' responds that his presence to the world is not restricted on his part, but on the part of those who do not love him – those who don't keep his (the Father's) words (commandments).

Jesus concludes this clarification by repeating the promise of another Advocate – the *pneûma tò ágion* ("Spirit – Holy"), who will teach them "all things", and bring to their remembrance all things that he told them while he was physically in their presence. Essentially, the disciples will continue to experience the presence of Jesus and understand what the Father is doing (as the Johannine group would later realize).

(vv. 27-31) Following the close of Jesus' discussion of his departure (bracketed by the opening and closing phrase, "Let not your hearts be troubled..."; vv. 1 and 27), Jesus again is proactive in allaying the disciples' anxiety ("troubled hearts"). He now offers a promise of **peace** – a UHC term signifying all that they need for a meaningful existence. **Peace, truth, light, and life** are all terms that describe the group's quality of life.

For Jesus' own sake, the disciples should rejoice that he goes to the Father, who is greater than he is (v. 28). Now knowing that his departure is not unplanned should reassure them (v.29). He sees death approaching, but it's not a force in his life (v. 30b). {He understands this as an unambiguous trial that will prove to Israel his love for the Father (v. 31a), and is ready to confront it with courage}: "Rise, let us go hence" (v. 31b).

Marshall, A. *The R.S.V. interlinear Greek – English New Testament. The Nestle Greek Text with a literal English Translation.* London: Samuel Bagster and Sons Ltd., 1958.

Malina BJ, Rohrbaugh RL. *Social-Science Commentary on the Gospel of John.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998. pp. 231-233.

## Did You Know?

As part of our observance of All Saints' Sunday, we had the reading of names of those members of our congregation who died during the previous year. After each name was read, chimes were tolled from the balconies in the sanctuary. The concept relates to the tradition of tolling church tower bells for funerals; this tradition in turn relates back to earlier times when ringing of bells from church towers was used as a means of communication.

Towers, which appeared on churches in the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> centuries, originally served a defensive function. In the Middle Ages stone churches became places of refuge during times of attack, and towers were added to be used as watchtowers and enable defenders to repel attacks. Bells were placed in the towers and could be rung to signal danger of impending siege as well as to call worshipers to church services. Placing the bells high in towers allowed the sound to carry over large distances.

The custom of ringing bells before the start of worship grew out of superstition—the bells were rung to rid the church of demons, which were believed to be driven away by loud sharp sounds. Later in pre-Reformation Germany the custom evolved into ringing bells one hour prior to the start of services so that people might begin to prepare themselves for worship. In 18<sup>th</sup> century England, bells were rung near the end of the service for the very practical reason of notifying the servants at home to begin final dinner preparations!

The tradition of ringing “passing bells” began in 16<sup>th</sup> century Germany, where at the time of a parishioner’s death, the bell was tolled one time for each year of the deceased person’s life. This allowed the villagers to know who had died and afforded opportunity to offer prayers for the person’s soul.

*Submitted by, Deborah A. O’Driscoll*

### ***THE MASTER SINGERS of WORCESTER present the BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL***

**Saturday, December 12 @ 4 PM ~ Wesley United Methodist Church**

Join the Master Singers as they celebrate the winter season with music and revelry in this Renaissance costumed pageant suitable for all ages. With Wesley Methodist Music Director, Brett Maguire, featured on organ, and Bill Garcia as the Narrator. Also performing are the Dapperapper Morris & Sword Dancers, Shrewsbury Ringers handbell choir, and Shrewsbury Youth Singers. A festive reception follows the show. Tickets are \$25-Adults; \$20-Seniors, Students & WOO; \$10-children under 16 at the door. For tickets and more information, visit [www.mswma.org](http://www.mswma.org), call 508-832-1349, or email [info@mswma.org](mailto:info@mswma.org).

## 2015 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., Nov. 16	Wed., Nov. 18
Mon., Nov. 30	Wed., Dec. 2

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

**office@wesleyworc.org**

**2015 ALTAR FLOWER** calendar is now available in the Welcome Office. If you would like to donate flowers on a particular Sunday in honor, celebration or in memory of a loved one or friend, stop by the office and reserve the date. 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. 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.



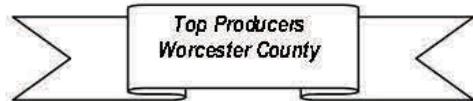
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**WESLEY HERALD**  
**NOVEMBER 4, 2015**

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

**WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM**

- Pastor Shandirai Mawokomatanda
- Director of Music Ministries Brett Maguire
- Ghanaian Choir Master Kwaku Dankwa
- Music Assistant Deborah O'Driscoll
- Director of Children's Christian Education Jean Grant
- Director of Christian Formation & Discipleship Lisa Fagerstrom
- 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
- Administrative Council Ron Ramsay
- Board of Trustees Annelle Benson
- Carty Cupboard Food Pantry Nancy Spencer
- Communion Steward Earl Flagg
- Education Work Area Chris Flagg
- Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs Michael Edmunds William Wong
- Ghanaian Association Emmanuel Okrah
- Events & Fellowship
- Layleader Deborah O'Driscoll
- Medical Ministry Ron Ramsay
- Memorial Gifts Carolyn Bellil
- Mission Coordinator Betsy Pennino
- Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs Brent Drajek Mark Muncey
- Youth Directors Pastor Shandi & Lisa Fagerstrom
- United Methodist Women Co-Chairs Barbara Ingrassia Allison Hansen

