

“HOPE THAT DOES NOT DISAPPOINT”*(Romans 5:5)*

This is the final herald article you will receive before the New Year. In light of this, I thought it was appropriate to have our eyes turned toward the New Year and what awaits us. I pray and ask that we do so with hopeful anticipation.

In the last two worship services, I shared two quotes with you passed on to me by Pastor Erica Robinson-Johnson. The first quote by Tom Steagold states that, “In Advent, we celebrate the spiritual discipline of waiting. When accompanied by prayer, waiting becomes hope. When accompanied by service, hope becomes incarnation.” The second quote by David Howell states that, “hope does not disappoint us, but keeps us alert to the many other ways God may be working beyond our imagination or preference.” I would like us to keep these in mind, together with the scripture from Romans that states, “In hope we are saved, now hope that is unseen is not hope... but if we hope in what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” (Romans 8:24)

We are completing a year whereby we experienced some exciting ministry, but we also complete it finding ourselves in a challenging situation. At a time when our financial outlook does not seem hopeful for 2011, God has been calling us, all through Advent, to live in hope. On January 9, there will be an all-church meeting after worship to discuss changes in our ministry and prepare for another charge conference where we will vote on our budget. The Staff Parish Relations Committee will present a scenario of staff changes forthcoming in 2011. It is important that we all share in this meeting. Your voice, your presence, your wisdom is appreciated.

In the midst of uncertainties about the unseen future, can we still hope? Absolutely! I believe we can. In Romans Paul reminds us that “hope does not disappoint us.” Picking up on this, David Howell challenges us to keep alert to the many ways God may be working beyond our imagination or preference. What lies ahead may be beyond our preference but the Holy Spirit continues to *inspire* us to re-think and re-imagine church, even in the midst of staff and budget changes. And, because we hope for what we do not yet see, we can wait with patience. Waiting in the Christian tradition is not a passive endeavor – it is wholly active. With prayer, waiting becomes hope, and when accompanied by service, our hope is incarnated; that is, it takes on flesh – made to be manifest in and through you.

In your membership vows, you made the covenant that “by your *prayers*, your *presence*, your *gifts*, and your *service*,” you will support the ministry of this church. This year, we experienced an exciting ministry because many of you embodied this very covenant and embraced God’s call for you. The future is hopeful as long as there are people committed to the call of incarnating the hope God *breathes into* you. And so let us live in hope and move forward into the New Year trusting in God’s grace for the joy of the Lord awaits us! Amen.

~ Pastor Shandi

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

LET US PRAY FOR...

- ✠ Mary Mockler
- ✠ Evette Walters at home and still suffering from back problems.
- ✠ Mark Muncey's aunt recovering from pneumonia after her surgery
- ✠ Jo Bennett having back surgery on Friday.
- ✠ Vicki's mother as she prepares for travel and travels to Worcester this Thursday from Indiana
- ✠ Georgina Amoah recovering from surgery

SYMPATHY TO...

- ✠ The Nelson and Spencer Families on the death of Rose Nelson on December 8th.
- ✠ Mary Jett and Bill Woodring and family on the death of her brother, Dr. Karl Dimlich.
- ✠ Joe and Janet DeNapoli on the death of their brother-in-law Donald Brien on Dec. 5th.
- ✠ Joe and Janet DeNapoli on the death of his brother Herbert DeNapoli on Nov. 14th.

WE CELEBRATE...

- ✠ The blessing of Caitlin Rose and Douglas Miceal. Congratulations to sister Caitriona and Don and Sheila Houston and grandmother Barbara Houston.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for December is given in loving memory of Alice R. (Kokernak) Rand, Wesley B. Rand, Mildred A. Kokernak and Henri H. Kokernak by Henry Rand.

THE TOWER lighting for December is given in loving memory of Calvin H. Williams by Jean Williams and family.

The **CHAPEL ALTAR FLOWERS** on December 26th are given in loving memory of Spencer L. Gutridge by Stanley and Natalie Gutridge.

The **SANCTUARY ALTAR FLOWERS** on December 26th are given in loving memory of Stanley England by Bill, Deanna, Quinton and Elliott Wong.

2011 Altar Flower calendar is in the front office. Stop by and pick that special Sunday you'd like to celebrate or remember a loved one. The cost of flowers are \$50 for the two arrangements in either the Chapel or Sanctuary. Interested in dedicating flowers but can't get into the office? Please call Debi during the week to make arrangements. Thank you.

MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

First, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and holidays filled with joy!

As we approach year end, I want to remind you about a couple of things.

Please be sure to date your checks in December for anything you want credited to your statement for 2010. All donations must be received or postmarked by the end of December to be applied to your pledges and other funds. Any checks received in January will be applied to your 2011 donations.

Also, as we enter the new year, please remember to write 2011 on your checks—many checks get returned because folks forget to write the new year on them. Thanks!

The 2011 envelopes are available in Brewer Hall. If you do not find a box under your name, please let me know. If you are requesting envelopes for the first time, please fill out the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Office and we will prepare them for you.

Lastly, please see the poster in Brewer Hall of Gerard Piscitelli's mission trip to Haiti. We received information and pictures on a daily basis, and we are happy to share it all with you!

Peace and blessings,
Lorna Mattus-Merrill

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

ALL CHURCH MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2011 AFTER CHURCH.

GAMES AND PIZZA NIGHT ON JANUARY 22, 2011... We'll soon be filling up those new 2011 calendars with their seemingly great expanse of time... If you're interested in the Games and Pizza Night, please add it to Saturday, Jan. 22nd (4 to 7 pm, sponsored by Sarah Circle). All are welcome.

PIPES ALIVE! SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2011 AT 12:30 PM

Brett Maguire will perform a half-hour recital of solo organ music on the great 1927 E. M. Skinner pipe organ. The concert is free and open to the public. There will be a light lunch served in Brewer Hall at 12:00 PM for a nominal fee of \$4 per person.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christmas Pageant – Performance, Sunday, December 19, 9:30 AM, Brewer Hall.

Join us as we go back to Bethlehem and meet “*Aaron, the Allergic Shepherd*” and experience Christ’s birth through his eyes!

Rehearsal Schedule – All are welcome to be part of this special time!

Saturday, December 18, 10:00 AM-1:30 PM, Brewer Hall.

“Kids together in Mission” ~ small hands making a big difference! Join us...

Saturday, December 18, 12:30 PM, we will be serving lunch and sharing the message of our Savior’s birth by presenting the Christmas Pageant for our friends and we are inviting our neighbors from Abbey’s House, Florence House, and IHN families.

We celebrate the fourteen children and youth who joined Liz & Jeff Burrows, Michael Butler, Beth Vietze, Brian Jansson, and me for a special afternoon of caroling on Saturday, December 11. All were blessed by this special time shared in song! Special thanks to Liz and Jeff in helping make this possible. Special appreciation to the Ferdinand family for warmly welcoming us for an after caroling party. Great memories for all!

Reminder: No 9:30 AM Children’s Sunday School classes on...

Sunday, December 19 – Come join us in Brewer Hall for the children’s Christmas Pageant Performance!

Sunday, December 26 – Christmas Break

Advent Blessings, Valerie Jansson

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW Christmas Program was a great success in spite of the wind and cold weather. A big thank you to the Ghanaian Choir of Wesley who helped to make this a memorable evening. Thanks also go to the Dorcas Circle for their assistance. A blessed season to all!

The UMW Annual Meeting & Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011 at 12 noon. Our guest speaker, Brenda Lopez from Springfield, will give a talk on immigration. Brenda comes to us highly recommended by the UMW District Conference. A light luncheon will be served. Please mark your new 2011 calendars and reserve this date.

Thank you, Margaret Watson

CARTY CUPBOARD...

Dear Folks of Wesley,

Thank you to everyone who donated food or money to Carty Cupboard Food Pantry during November. Because of your generous donations we were able to give over 260 families in need a Happy Thanksgiving.

In addition, last month we also served 383 families and singles. This breaks down to 1,235 individual adults and children. **In total in the month of November 2010 the Carty Cupboard Food Pantry Volunteers brought in over 12,895 lbs OR over 6 tons of food which provided 3,707 meals.** To those of you who continue to support Carty Cupboard's mission to help end hunger, either by donations or volunteering, you are a blessing to those in need.

Thank You All!! ~ Nancy Spencer

****The December food item of the month for Carty Cupboard Food Pantry is...
Hearty Canned Soups. January's item of the month will be...Canned Pasta Sauce.

CALENDARS – If you have extra calendars for 2011, please leave them in the office for Carty Cupboard. Thank you.

A WANAKEE WEEKEND FOR ADULT WOMEN!

JANUARY 28-30, 2011

Cost: \$75.00

Leader: Lynne Lemay

Want a break from the family and job? Need to be rejuvenated? Come be a Wild Wanakee Woman and enjoy a different side of camp! During the weekend we'll spend time enjoying time away: enjoy wintery Wanakee with a cup of cocoa, a friend and a blazing fire. Be a couch potato without guilt or take out snowshoes or bring your skis and explore the hills, meadow and lake in winter.

No matter what the weather, you'll enjoy the company of other women and grow in faith and friendship. Wild Wanakee Women will stay in Wanakee's Homestead Retreat, a cozy log cabin in the woods! Arrival at 7pm on Friday with a departure at 11am on Sunday.

To Register: Call Wanakee United Methodist Center at 603-279-7950 or email mail@wanakee.org to request a registration form.

SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY...

In the event of bad weather, please call the church office (508-799-4191) to hear updates about services and programs.

For worship services a decision will be made by Saturday night or early Sunday morning if worship will be held. It is possible that the 8:30 service will be cancelled and the 10:30 service held. To know if services are happening call the church office for an updated recorded message announcing a cancellation. The message will indicate immediately whether or not worship has been cancelled.

Our church IS NOT listed on the television station closings. There are several Wesley United Methodist Churches in our area so when you read “No Services Wesley United Methodist” *it is not* Wesley in Worcester.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM (One State St., New Haven, CT)

The Knights of Columbus Museum’s annual Christmas crèche exhibition this year features Asian Nativities from the Holy Land to Japan, including China, Korea, Vietnam, India, Russia, and the Philippines. *Christmas in Asia* will be on display Nov. 19—Feb. 13, 2011.

Open daily from 10 am to 5 pm. Closed for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day but open New Year’s Day. For more information call 203-865-0400 or visit kofcmuseum.org. Admission and parking free.

The museum will also host its popular Christmas Tree Festival in December.

Mother Theresa: Life, Spirituality and Message has been extended to April 3, 2011.

HEALTH KITS & SUPPLIES FOR HAITI..

A big **THANK YOU** to Val Jansson and all of the children in Sunday School for making up the 37 Health kits for Haiti. While I am in Haiti with the Mission Team, we will be handing out these kits to the many people who need them. I am so thankful and I know the Haitians will be too for your kind generosity and thoughtfulness. Thank you so much Wesley for all your support. See you when I get back.

~ Gerard Piscitelli

Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for the final words and cards following my mothers death. And a special thank you to Pastor Vicki for a beautiful service to celebrate a beautiful life.

David Dagle and family

DID YOU KNOW?

The hymns in our hymnal come from a variety of sources and reflect the traditions of Christian worship across the centuries. One of our familiar Advent hymns *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (UMH 211) is a metrical paraphrase of what are known as the “O” Antiphons. (An English translation of the Latin text of the actual antiphons is printed in the hymnal on the page facing the hymn.) The seven “O” Antiphons are ancient texts dating from the ninth century. In the medieval monastic tradition these texts were sung during evening prayer in the last week of Advent leading to Christmas. In the context of the service the antiphons were sung before and after the *Magnificat*, Mary's song of praise (Lk 1:46-55) when she told her cousin Elizabeth of Jesus' coming birth.

The antiphons themselves recall the prophecies associated with Mary's calling to be the mother of Jesus. Each begins by addressing Jesus by one of the great scriptural titles (in the case of the first verse *Emmanuel* = God with us) and ends with a plea for Christ's coming. They are filled with imagery and phrases derived from Biblical texts (including the Pentateuch, Psalms, Prophets (both major and minor), the Apocrypha, Gospels, Epistles, and Revelation). The antiphons elaborate on various names of Jesus and remind us that we know Jesus by many names and in different guises. The stanzas of the hymn emphasize the element of petition and add the recurring refrain of praise “Rejoice”.

The final Advent Prayer Around the Cross service in the chapel on Wednesday, December 22, at 6:15pm, will focus on these antiphons and the hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* as we enter our final spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Submitted by,
Deborah A. O'Driscoll

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., Jan 3, 2011	Wed., Jan. 5, 2011
Tues., Jan 18, 2011	Thurs., Jan. 20, 2011

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



Welcome Mother's of Preschoolers (MOPS). Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

January 7, 2011 – Welcome Back!
Introduction to the Community Circle –
The Three Rings of Community

Jan 21 – Understanding Acquaintances,
Family and Friends

If you are interested in joining our group or to just find out more, please contact Jean Grant at grantgirl05@yahoo.com or 508-886-6571. We look forward to meeting you!



Christy & Jeffrey Gibbs
Your Wesley Family REALTORS®
(508) 886-6100

Our Agency is Committed to Providing...
Full Time Buyer & Seller Representation
Prompt Communication
A Team Approach
Comprehensive Marketing Strategy
High Level of Energy and Enthusiasm
RESULTS

Proudly Servicing All of Worcester County
www.GibbsRealtyInc.com

ALBERT N. CECCHINI
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Business - Individual Taxes
Electronic Filing

Accounting & Cost Accounting

Consulting Services

Notary Public

67 Millbrook Street - Suite 216
Worcester, MA 01606-2835

508-797-0077

Wesley United Methodist Church
114 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

Church Phone: 508-799-4191
Fax: 508-799-3725
E-Mail: office@wesleyworc.org
Web page: www.wesleyworc.org

WESLEY HERALD
DECEMBER 15, 2010

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastors

Vicki Woods & Shandirai Mawokomatanda

Director of Music Ministries

Brett Maguire

Ghanaian Choir Master

Charles Ato Brown

Music Assistant

Deborah O'Driscoll

Sunday School Superintendent

Valerie Jansson

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

Joseph Wilson

Hospitality/Events

Gary & Renelle Picard

Lay Members Annual Conference

Mary Beth Dziewietin

Medical Ministry

Ron Ramsay

Memorial Gifts

Carolyn Bellil

Mission & Outreach Coordinator

Chris Flagg

Staff-Parish Relations

Janet M. Maguire

Youth Directors

Phil & Emily Smith

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WORCESTER, MA
PERMIT NO. 236