

Dear members of the Wesley UMC community,

The summer has gone by much too quickly. It seems as though the rainy beginning propelled it forward even faster than usual, and before we had a chance to take stock of it all, the shorter August days had arrived. I spent these past three weeks of vacation rock climbing as much as possible, waking up before sunrise to drive to the cliffs and then getting home with just enough time to line up a climbing partner for the next day. If you want to experience time flying by, try that out for a summer.

Now September is here, and the usual activities are coming back to life. For me this means choir rehearsals starting up, handbell ringers learning new music, coming up with new ideas for Children's Church, and finding new repertoire for preludes and postludes. It feels familiar, but things are so different now. It is our first full year with Pastor Shandi at the helm and Music Alive! will be dormant due to the reduction of the Music Director position.

Perhaps most striking of all these changes, however, will be the absence of Ralph Ellis. It is strange to think of working at Wesley without his presence here. When I was practicing Widor symphonies on Monday mornings he would be cleaning up the sanctuary, collecting old bulletins and arranging hymnals in the pews. Walking through Brewer Hall during the week, it was common to see him helping out with Carty Cupboard. He even left his mark on Sundays by putting out the hymn numbers while the choir warmed up. These are only three examples; his commitment to Wesley was far greater than these small but important tasks. I'm sure the entire Wesley community is with me in saying that we will miss him greatly.

Ralph epitomized for me what made Wesley such a remarkable place. This church has so much going on that people give of their time and energy to support its programs and ministries. Of all the churches at which I have worked, I am convinced that Wesley can survive its diminished staffing because of the vitality of its congregation members.

Change has always been exciting for me. I love experiencing the growth and development that accompanies a departure from a previous way of doing things. As I bid farewell to my summer of climbing and swimming hole explorations, I embrace the challenges and joys of a dynamic year ahead.

But I will miss Ralph.

Sincerely yours,

Brett Maguire, Director of Music

## LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

**THE ROSE WINDOW** lighting for September is given in loving memory of Lisa Johnson and Arthur and Louise Sjosten by Jerry Johnson.

**THE TOWER** lighting for September is given in loving memory of my parents by Tom Banks.

**The Sanctuary** altar flowers on September 11<sup>th</sup> are given in loving memory of Ralph Ellis from his family.

**The Sanctuary** altar flowers on September 18<sup>th</sup> are given in honor and celebration of Harry & Vi's 61<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary with love from their children and grandchildren.

### *Let us keep in our prayers...*

- ✠ Dot Ellis and Family as they grieve and prepare for Ralph Ellis' memorial service on Saturday, September 10th at 11am here at Wesley Church.
- ✠ Natalie Gutridge recovering at Jewish Healthcare Rehab Center, Room 414A.
- ✠ Estelle Kay at Holy Trinity Nursing & Rehab Center recovering from a broken hip.
- ✠ Caroline Sherman recovering from surgery.
- ✠ Mary Mockler, recovering from a stroke.
- ✠ Dave Mangus who broke his Collar bone and for his family as he begins to heal.
- ✠ Barbara Houston as she prepares to receive a pacemaker this week.
- ✠ People recovering from storms and for those in the process of repair and recovery.
- ✠ The people of Ethiopia and Somalia and who hunger everywhere.

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### *SAVE THE DATES...*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011...** It's almost harvest season -- time for the annual **HARVEST CELEBRATION** at Wesley Church on Sunday, November 6, 2011. The planning committee for this BIG church fund raiser is asking for your help!! If you would like to help with activities such as the silent auction, the Harvest meal in Brewer Hall or the accounting process for the many Wesley donations and offerings that will be collected on that day, please contact Pastor Shandi, Joseph Wilson, Debi Ritacco, or Jerry Warren. We have many opportunities; please be a part of this once a year event!!  
*~ Your Harvest Planning Committee*

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> ~ CHARGE CONFERENCE**

SPRC will meet at 9:30 AM, Charge Conference will begin at 10:30 AM.

## MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer—I can't believe it is September already!

We were very busy at the Church with summer projects. A renovation of the senior parsonage at 12 Thorndyke Road has just been completed, and the property will be put on the market this week. All of the rooms were stripped of wallpaper, the woodwork was sanded and everything was then primed and painted. The carpet was removed to expose the hardwood floors, and repairs were made to the exterior trim on both the house and the garage. The project took about 5 weeks to complete, and we are very pleased with the results. The house has 3 floors, 5 bedrooms, 1 office, a kitchen, dining room, large living room with a fireplace, a sunroom and a screened porch and 2 ½ baths. It has all new windows and insulation, and a new furnace and water heater. The appliances are all new energy-star rated. The property has a two car garage and a good-sized lot. It is just a few houses down from Thorndyke Road School. For more information, please contact Jeff and Christy Gibbs at Gibbs Realty (508-886-6110).

The second project involved the exterior lighting of the church and the tower. For many years, the lighting has been very dim, and with our capital campaign funds we were able to make some major improvements. Old light fixtures were replaced with newer, brighter ones, and several fixtures were added to the rear of the church to add more light to the parking lot and to create a more secure environment. Nine light fixtures were added to the tower creating a beautiful illumination at night. We hope you will be pleased with these changes!

The Brewer and East Hall floors were refinished—as is always done in August—and they look beautiful as well. Thanks to Phil Johnson (and our volunteer, Nancy Cook) for all of their hard work!

Damage to the chain link fence surrounding the lower parking lot is scheduled for repair, and, lastly, we are in the middle of replacing the deck at Pastor Shandi's parsonage, and this should be done shortly.

There are a couple of other items I want to mention. First, statements will be mailed this month for donations through 8/31/2011. Please let me know of anything that looks incorrect. And lastly, we have had some boxes taken from under the stage that belonged to Carty Cupboard. These boxes are used at Thanksgiving to pack up meals for those who come to the food pantry. They are collected over the year, and it takes a while to accumulate them. If you know of anyone who may have taken them, please urge them to return them as soon as possible.

Regards, Lorna

## MISSION AND MINISTRY FAIR

This year's Mission and Ministry Fair is scheduled for Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:30 AM. This is an opportunity for you to share with the congregation information about your ministry, mission, or work area. It is also an opportunity to reach out to others and invite them to join you in the work you do. Committees, Bible Studies, Small Groups, Mission groups, etc, are all invited to participate. Each group will be responsible for setting up their own table. If you need help with setting up, feel free to reach out to others as the tables are set on Sunday morning. If you plan to have a table set-up for the fair, please let Pastor Shandi or Debi Ritacco in the office know. If God is moving you to coordinate the Mission and Ministry Fair this year, please see Pastor Shandi as well. Thank you!

## CARTY CUPBOARD...

This summer we have seen a **BIG** increase in the number of people seeking food assistance. We served **411** families in August. Unfortunately, our food donations are way down. The same handful of folks (less than 10) continue to bring in the item of the month. To these people I say ***Thank you so much!*** Please think of Carty Cupboard and those in need when you shop. Just one can will help! The Item of the Month for September is: Pasta in a Can, such as ravioli or beefaroni. We can also use canned spaghetti sauce and canned soups. **As always we need...** Paper & Plastic Grocery Bags. Other items we can use are...Hand Crank Can Openers, Children's Books. Thank You! ~ Nancy Spencer

**THE MOPS (MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS)** group would like to announce that they have created a second group that meets on Wednesday evenings (7:30-9:00 pm — no child-care) in addition to the regular daytime group (Fridays, 9:30-11:00 a.m. — with childcare)! We welcome all moms of children aged 0-6 years to attend our meetings. The evening group was created to accommodate working moms or those that cannot meet on Friday mornings. All are welcome & bring a friend! MOPS is a great opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth with other moms who understand exactly how hard it is to be a mom, friend, wife, leader, and disciple of Christ. For more information, refer to the MOPS corner in the Herald and/or inquire with Jean Grant (grantgirl05@yahoo.com or 508-886-6571).

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Wesley Congregation,

Recently, there has been a lot of devastation in and around our local area and the East Coast. The Disaster Coordinator has asked for a list of volunteers that would be willing to assist in the clean up and rebuild of our community and neighbors to assist our ERT's (Early Response Teams).

*Please Help!* See me, Gerard Piscitelli, before or after church or call me (cell: 774-437-9659.) I would love to get you on my volunteer list! *Peace, Gerard*

## MESSAGES FROM EDUCATION

### *REPRINT...*

***Our mission emphasis*** during VBC focused on meeting the needs of the hungry people in our own community. Our teams were excited and energized by the challenge to collect the most food for Carty Cupboard... the children's generous support was overwhelming! We weighed the total collected by each team on the last evening... and the winner was the Purple Team, giving 133 pounds of food, the Orange Team collected 79 pounds, the Green and Red Teams tied at 50 pounds, the Yellow Team contributed 46 pounds, and the Blue Team gave 40 pounds. With a grand total of **399 pounds** of non-perishable food items donated to Carty Cupboard! Just think this amazing amount of food got into the hands of folks who visit our food pantry because our VBC kids cared! You All Made a Difference-Great Job!

***Children's Mini-Harvest, Sunday, September 18***, 11:15AM! Please join us in giving thanks as the children offer a special gift created especially for you... **"Holy Harvest Handkerchiefs"**. Each cloth is uniquely designed with messages of faith with a Bible scripture that is significant to the child who created it. As we prayerful prepare our gifts, it is our hope that you will be blessed and use your "Holy Handkerchief" to praise God this special day as well as Harvest Sunday! May your heart be filled with love and joy in the Lord, as you embrace these special gifts from the children by generously giving to support our Mini-Harvest. Thank you!

***Looking forward to celebrating*** our first day of 9:30 AM Sunday School, September 25! All are welcome to join us for a special treat at 9:30 AM, Wagner Hall, third floor! We have an exciting year ahead of us as we make this a place where your faith will grow with loving and dedicated leaders! Our in-depth studies follow the lectionary each week through *Living the Good News* resource materials. Think about how God has placed on our hearts the importance of sharing our faith with the next generation... come bless us with your support and serve in our Children's Ministry.

*"Do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them."*  
~ Deuteronomy 4:9

~ Valerie Jansson

## WESLEY YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

The **WESLEY YOUTH GROUP** is meeting every Wednesday evening from 7-9 pm. Please join us for an hour of fellowship/praise band practice, followed by an hour of Bible Study/Spiritual Growth. Feel free to bring snacks to share!

**DISK GOLF OUTING:** Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> 12-3 pm. We will have pizza at church before driving to the Newton Hill Disk Golf Course and playing as many holes as we can! No experience or equipment needed.

**NOVEMBER LOCK-IN:** Mark your calendars for the November Lock-In on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be Discovering our Spiritual Gifts, as well as playing games and baking cookies.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

**ALERT!** THE **UMW STEERING COMMITTEE** meeting originally scheduled for this Saturday, Sept. 10, is being re-scheduled to Saturday, Sept. 17. The meeting will begin at 9:15 a.m. in the Mary Ellis Room (note change in location).

The United Methodist Women will participate in the **MINISTRY FAIR** held in Brewer Hall on Sept. 18. Circle Leaders, please note that we will be distributing our literature and information at that time. Thanks for your help..

The **WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD** will be presented on Sunday, Sept. 25. Nomination forms are available at the Welcome Office. Determination of the recipient will be made on Sept. 18 following the morning worship service. Nominations should be submitted prior to that time.

The **Central District of the United Methodist Women** will hold its Fall Gathering on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Fisk Methodist Church in Natick. The theme, "A Place to Lay Their Heads," refers to the needs of housing and hospitality in Massachusetts. The keynote speaker is Rep. James O'Day from the State Legislature. Habitat for Humanity will also give a presentation. Anyone is welcome to attend this event. Please refer to the UMW Legacy posted on the UMW bulletin or inquire of Margaret Watson for further details or registration information.

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

A belated and sincere thank you to all the Good Samaritan's of Wesley for your help when I moved.

~ God Bless, Phyllis Yngve

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY...

**MASS REMEMBERS-VOICES OF HOPE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 at 2PM at Institute Park.** Communities of faith across the interfaith spectrum, along with the wider community are invited to participate in Mass Remembers—Voices of Hope, a statewide commemorative event honoring those who lost their lives, sacrificed and responded to the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

This fall will mark the 10th anniversary of this devastating tragedy in our nation's history. Professional, religious, community and children's choruses from across the Commonwealth will join together in song on Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 2 p.m. at Institute Park, off Salisbury Street, in Worcester, Massachusetts to mark this solemn occasion. Through the solace and transformation of music sung collectively, we will demonstrate the power of community and renew our dedication to a nation that is committed to freedom and justice for all.

*An Invitation to Join*  
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*in Christ*®

We invite you to become part of Companions in Christ, a small group journey that focuses on deepening your relationship with God. Through daily readings, reflection, and weekly meetings, you will be guided in exploring prayer, scripture, vocation, and spiritual friendship as avenues to deepen your faith. We promise that it will make a difference in your life.

For more information or to sign up:  
Call Rev. Erica Robinson-Johnson at  
Epworth United Methodist Church  
508-752-2376

Or email [pastor@epworthworchester.org](mailto:pastor@epworthworchester.org)

**Orientation Session Sunday, September 25, 11:30 a.m.**

*If you are interested in becoming a leader for Companions in Christ for Wesley Church please speak with Pastor Shandi for more information.*

*The time is approaching...*

## ANNUAL DINNER AND TALENT SHOW

**Saturday, October 22, 2011 – 5:00 p.m. in Brewer Hall**

**Join us for dinner and an evening of fun and laughter.**

**Any questions - any talent?**

**Contact: Linda Carlson at 508-853-4264**

**or email me at [lbcpgc@verizon.net](mailto:lbcpgc@verizon.net).**

### DID YOU KNOW?

In the summertime many of us spend time at the seashore and are awed at the power and beauty of the sea. It is thus not surprising that images of the sea figure prominently in the Bible from the cosmic primordial sea of Genesis to the sea of glass in the throne room of God described in Revelation. In the book of Exodus the parting of the Red Sea and the consequent drowning of the Pharaoh and his army are evidence of God's power over evil. In the New Testament Jesus uses similar power to calm the sea during a storm and also to walk on the sea.

Even as we gather for worship each week we are not far removed from nautical imagery. A term for the main part of the worship space where the congregation sits is the *nave* derived from the Latin *navis* meaning ship. The ship was used as a symbol of the church in drawings in the catacombs and reflected the oral teaching of the early church which described the church as a ship voyaging on the waters of life with human souls as passengers and Christ as the captain. Our architecture reflects this in the sense that with a high arched vaulted ceiling the nave of our sanctuary (and of many other churches) is shaped like the overturned hull of a ship. The center aisle which leads us to the altar can be seen as the gangway of that ship.

The Latin word *navis* is also the root of the English word *navigate*. It is the experiences of worship in the hull of the ship which is our sanctuary which enable us to navigate our paths through life.

*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.

<u>Article Deadline Date</u>	<u>Herald Mailing Date</u>
Mon., Sept. 19	Wed., Sept. 21
Mon., Oct. 3	Wed., Oct. 5

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 will begin once again September. We now offer a Wednesday evening group from 7:30-9:00pm (no child care).

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 (MOPS).** Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

**FRI., SEP 9 & WED., SEPT. 14:**

Welcome Back to MOPS! Introduction to "Momsense" theme; "Developing your Momsense"



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**WESLEY HERALD**  
**SEPTEMBER 8, 2011**

## **WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM**

### **Pastors**

Shandirai Mawokomatanda

### **Director of Music Ministries**

Brett Maguire

### **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**

Josephine Num

### **Hospitality/Events**

Gary & Renelle Picard

### **Lay Members Annual Conference**

Mary Beth Dziejewitin

### **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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