

Dear members of the Wesley United Methodist Church community,

The summer is drawing to a close, and I'm actually relieved to say goodbye to the incessant rain and humidity. I'll miss the relaxed pace, but I'm more excited for the crisper weather and excitement of the music program kicking back into gear.

It's an exciting year as it marks the start of my second full year with you here as Director of Music. At the choir party earlier this summer, we went around the room and everyone volunteered something they liked about the previous year and something they would want to see changed for the upcoming year. I thought I'd take this opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts on these questions.

One of the best aspects of my first year here was the feeling of support for the music program from the church, be it congregation members, participants in the choirs, and the staff. With so many people who strongly value music here, I feel like I can pour my efforts into the music ministries and have it all be worthwhile.

Much of my focus this past year was on the Widor project, performing all ten Widor symphonies for the Pipes Alive! series. It gave me plenty of time to get a feel for what is needed. I'm most looking forward to adding elements to the music program that will give more people opportunities to participate. I know there are some of you out there who would love to play the drums, and it's about time we start to hear more of the African drums in worship! Stay posted as plans for a drum circle evolve. I have also heard from enough people that we will be getting the Wesley Instrumental Ensemble up and running, playing in worship every six weeks or so.

As always, I am happy to work with anyone who is interested in participating in the music program but doesn't necessarily know the best way to get involved. Rest assured that there *is* a place for you. Choir rehearsals are at 7:30 PM on Wednesday nights, beginning on September 9th. Why not try showing up and giving it a try?

With best wishes for the last weeks of the summer,

Brett Maguire, Director of Music Ministries

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

LET US PRAY FOR...

- ✠ Elaine Dunn now at Rose Monahan Hospice Home.
- ✠ John Mockley (Mary's husband) at St. Vincent Hospital after a fall.
- ✠ All of those worshipping with us for the first time. The children and all families.
- ✠ All students leaving home to go to school.
- ✠ All those with immigration papers and problems.
- ✠ Frank Wulff, Jr. (Nancy Wulff's Brother).
- ✠ Ruvimbo Munjoma undergoing treatment for cancer. (Pastor Shandi's sister in Canada).
- ✠ Prayers of thanksgiving that Lorna is back in office after a serious fall.
- ✠ Stan and Natalie Gutridge. We miss their not being able to come to worship.
- ✠ Rea Cragg, Debi Ritacco's grandmother.
- ✠ The voice of the church to be heard in the Health Reform debate.

WE CELEBRATE...

- ✠ The birth of Zackary Bailey (John and Jill Bailey and big brother Cade)
- ✠ The birth of Henry Grant. (Christian and Jean Grant and Big brother Ewan).

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for August is given in loving memory of Shirley and Edwin Wood by their children and grandchildren.

ALTAR FLOWERS... Floral arrangements on the altar during worship is a special gift we offer as part of our praise and worship. The arrangements are dedicated in celebration of or in memory of a loved one. After church you may take the flowers home to enjoy or they will be delivered to a shut-in. If you are unable to join us in church, arrangements can be made for the flowers to be delivered to you at home. A calendar of available dates and order forms are available in the Welcome Office. The cost for altar flowers is \$50. Please call Debi in the office if you have any questions.

CHARGE CONFERENCE, DECEMBER 5, 2009

SPRC Meeting and Lunch begins at Noon

Charge Conference will begin at 1pm

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REGARDING PURCHASING, REIMBURSEMENT AND COLLECTION GUIDELINES

As we begin the new program year, I would like to highlight a few things regarding the purchasing of items and the reimbursement process for the various committees and programs here at Wesley. I would also like to go over the process of collecting money for various activities.

Purchasing

Whether it be coffee cups, craft supplies or food, please keep in mind that the Church office may be able to purchase items at a reduced rate. As a non-profit Organization, we receive discounts on various items, and we are tax-exempt. Please give Debi Ritacco a call when you are purchasing items to see if we can get you a better price and eliminate the need to pay tax.

Reimbursements

When purchasing items, it is best if the vendor sends us an invoice for payment. If the vendor will not or cannot invoice the church, you can pay by your own personal method (cash or credit card) and seek reimbursement through your Program's budgeted account. All reimbursement requests must be submitted as follows:

- Use a purple check request form (available in the Welcome Office)
- Complete the information and attach the appropriate receipts
- Have the appropriate committee chair, Treasurer or pastor approve the request.
- Submit the request to the Church Business Administrator

Check requests are processed on the Thursday following receipt by the Church Business Administrator.

Money Collection

All money solicited from church members or the proceeds for various events or programs must be deposited into the church checking account through the office of the Church Business Administrator. Wherever possible, the member's name and envelope number should be identified so they can be given credit for their donation. Committees who hold their own checking accounts will be given a check back from the operating budget for the amount of the collection. This will insure that funds are tracked correctly through the accounting process, and that the church has a complete understanding of both income and expenses. It will also insure that members are given credit for all of their donations.

Please call me at 508-799-4191, Ext. 100 if you have any questions.

Lorna Mattus-Merrill
Church Business Administrator

PRAYING OUR FUTURE (AS WESLEY UMC) INTO BEING

Throughout these past few weeks Pastor Shandi and I have talked about God's call upon our church to take time to ask where God is calling us in our work and ministry. The congregation at Wesley has not come together for a time of visioning and planning for over 10 years. The congregation has changed, the staff has changed, the needs of the world have changed, and our neighborhood has changed... what is the transformation that needs to happen in our lives and in our ministries.

This is an exciting time. You will hear more about our coming together for times of prayer and visioning. We must be active and bold in our prayer as we begin this time of seeking and searching. *"Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need"*. (Hebrews 4:16).

"History belongs to the intercessors, who believe the future into being. If this is so, then intercession, far from being an escape from action, is a means of focusing for acting and of creating action. By means of our intercessions (for Wesley UMC) we veritably cast fire upon the earth and trumpet the future into being." (Walter Wink, The Powers That Be).

The program Staff (Val, Brett, Pastors Shandi and Vicki) invites you to join us in praying our future into being.

Pastor Vicki

MISSION TEAM FROM WESLEY HEADED TO LOUISIANA

During the first two weeks of November 2009, there will be teams of volunteers working with Southeast Louisiana Disaster Recovery. Each team will consist of about 40 members, and anyone willing to consider taking part in this special ministry is invited to get in touch with any of the following members of The Leadership Team, Mary and Jim Todd, Jane and Dick Thompson, or Mary Ann and Skip Danforth. As in the past, each volunteer will be responsible to get her/himself to New Orleans and back. Because of the scope of work to be done, we have always felt that anyone willing to serve will find more than enough tasks that s/he will be able to fulfill.

Each volunteer is expected to contribute \$240 for the team expenses while in The Gulf Coast. One team is already filled, but there are still two teams with openings: Nov 1-7: 1st week in Slidell – has 3-4 openings; Nov 8-14: 2nd week in Slidell (Wesley people signed up for this team) that had 15 openings. *Airfare is not covered*. Scholarship money is available; see Pastor Vicki. Call first to see if there are still openings then see Pastor Vicki for Scholarship support for your trip. Scholarship money is available through the Bessie Carty Mission and Outreach Budget.

If you are interested and want to consider being part of one of these teams, please get in touch (by Email or phone) with any of the leaders listed. Mary and Jim Todd at mtodd75@comcast.net or 978-687-7864. Jane and Dick Thompson at spotanpuff@aol.com or 860-647-7099. Mary Ann and Skip Danforth at kitesky@comcast.net or 508-430-0778.

CHURCH CALENDAR AND SPACE RESERVATIONS

This is just a reminder that all events must be scheduled into the church calendar through the Church Business Administrator. This includes all committee meetings and activities requiring church space. Setup sheets must be submitted at least one week in advance. Thank you very much for your cooperation in keeping our calendar up to date!

BORROWING CHURCH CHAIRS

In the past, church members have been allowed to borrow folding chairs for personal events. Over time, we have seen a decline in the number of chairs at the church, and we would like to remind you that any church property that is borrowed must be returned as soon as the event is over. Also, this is just a reminder that if you wish to borrow chairs, you must arrange this through the Church office. Thank you for helping to protect the church assets!

EXTENDED GHANAIAAN WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday, August 30th after the 10:30 worship there will be an opportunity to continue worship in the Ghanaian tradition with praises, offerings and preaching in Akan languages. All are invited to join in this worship experience.

GHANAIAAN ANNUAL PICNIC at Greenhill Park will be on Saturday, September 5th from 2 to 9 pm. Mark this on your calendar and come enjoy the food, music and fellowship.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS... MINISTRY FAIR ~ SEPTEMBER 13TH

The program staff (Val, Brett, Shandi and Vicki) is excited as we anticipate anew the upstart of so many activities in the life of our church. Sunday School begins for all ages, choirs start singing and ringing, MOPS gather to teach and support one another, committees begin to find ways to involve the church in mission and ministry, as we live out the ministry of Christ. Although many ministries have continued through the summer (thanks be to God), September 16th marks a time when we invite all persons to think again about where God is calling you to participate in the life of the church.

From serving coffee and donuts, volunteering for Medical Ministry or Carty Cupboard, praying at all times for the church and our concerns, to working with the finances of the church, there is a place for you! Everyone is needed to participate in our Ministry and Mission.

Leaders are reminded to set up a table in Brewer Hall on Sunday, the 16th, and all invited to join in the ministry and activities of Wesley UMC!

ATTENTION YOUTH!

Our first activity of this year is the kick-off cookout at Pastor Shandi's on Sunday, August 30th. We will be meeting right after church to drive there. Phil and Emily will each be driving but help is appreciated! Pick-up is from the parsonage at 3:30 pm. We'll be discussing the coming year as well as playing fun games and eating tasty food! Youth from grades 6 – College are welcome. Contact Phil and Emily for any questions. Also don't forget to come to the Youth Table at the Missions Fair in September to sign up for the rest of the year!

HEIFER FARM TRIP – OCTOBER 4

The Wesley Youth Group is sponsoring a trip to Overlook Farm on Sunday, October 4th. This is a chance for all members and friends to learn about Heifer and their great missions around the world (which we support as a church). We will charter a bus and leave from and return to the church. The trip will be from 12:30 until 3:30.

“Explore the homes in the Heifer Global Village to learn about traditional harvest celebrations in Peru, Poland, Kenya and more. Take a horse-drawn hayride to the gardens and enjoy other activities such as face painting, crafts and a hay maze. Purchase local pumpkins and browse Shop@Heifer that features fair trade and unique hand-crafted items from around the world. Throughout the day, learn about Heifer International as you meet many of Heifer’s animals including water buffalo, a yak, llamas and traditional farm animals such as pigs and goats. Admission:\$5.00 per person / Children 12 and under are free.”

Please come to our table at the Missions Fair to sign up and reserve your spot on the bus. It may be possible to get a discounted fee if we have enough people.

MUSIC PROGRAMS STARTING UP

It's almost time for the various ensembles to get back to rehearsing! Please note the following dates that they will begin:

Wesley Choir: September 9, 2009, 7:30 PM

Wesley Ringers: September 9, 2009, 6:00 PM

Sunday Ringers: September 20, 2009, after church

Additionally, there will be a meeting for all children, youth, and their parents after church on Sunday, September 13th. We'll meet in the chapel at 12:00 noon, so you should have enough time to look around the Ministries Fair beforehand. The purpose of the meeting is to find out how many children and youth will be singing, how many choirs we will need to accommodate them, and when the best time for rehearsals will be. If you cannot make this meeting, please call me at (508-799-4191) or e-mail me at brett@wesleyworc.org. I'm looking forward to a great year of music making with everyone!

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF HOPE

Relay for Life of Central South County for American Cancer Society

Lemansky Field, Auburn, MA ~ September 11th and 12th

Needed: Sponsors, Relayers and Survivors

Polly Boyns, member of Auburn Webster Elks Team will be accepting donations and selling luminaries in Brewer Hall on Sunday morning, August 30th. Help support Cancer Research and many services provided by the American Cancer Society. Any questions or to make a donation, contact Polly Boyns at 508-987-0248. Thank you for your generous support!

“Lord, Teach Us To Pray!”

(Luke 11:1)

You have heard Pastor Vicki and myself share that we are now entering a period of discernment and visioning for the church. I am of the conviction that at the heart of discernment and visioning and, frankly, at the heart of all living is prayer. We are called to live prayerful and prayer-filled lives. As I was reading through my old devotional journals this past week, I ran into the following entry, which I wrote on prayer some 10 years ago. It speaks volumes to me today, as it did years ago, and I hope it speaks to you as well.

“Praying is about *communicating with* God. It is the most intimate way we can relate with God and come to know God. I often make prayer a one sided means of communication (me talking *to* God) when it should be two way. Indeed, through prayer, God listens to us and to our heart. But, the most important thing to remember, really, is the simple truth that God speaks to us as well through prayer. I have often spent most of my prayer time chattering my mouth away when I have rather needed to spend the majority of it listening to God. *Prayer, like any art, is not mastered through study, but through practice.* Daily prayer, daily devotions, will yield better results in coming to know God and hear God speak to your heart. We pray that we may be closer to God and God, in turn, is on the other side trying to tell us what we need to do in order to get closer to Him. This is what we often do not get to hear by not listening.”

God knows our hearts. And God is steadfastly working to respond to our needs. Perhaps the way to begin our visioning and discernment process in prayer is to begin by giving thanks for what God has already done and is now doing. Let us give thanks for this opportunity to pause in the life of the church. Let us be grateful that we have been given the chance to listen and to hear God more clearly. Pausing to give thanks over what God has done is, for me, the first step to listening for God’s voice in our midst. In giving thanks over *what* God is doing we find hope for what God *will* do in the times ahead.

So, as we go about our daily work, we must be attentive to do everything in and by prayer. Prayerful listening, prayerful conversations, prayerful engagement in ministry: may this be the foundation of our worshipful work together.

God’s grace and peace be with you!

Pastor Shandi

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED...

The Carty Cupboard is in need of volunteers on Monday nights to distribute food. For more information please speak with Nancy Spencer at 508-886-6376.

We are also in need of plastic bags and reusable grocery bags for food distribution.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Summer Overnight Camp ~ Thanks for all your support... we celebrate nine children and youth attending the United Methodist summer overnight camp programs offered at Rolling Ridge in North Andover, MA and Camp Aldersgate in North Scituate, RI. We are grateful to the members who generously sponsored our campers, with special appreciation to the United Methodist Women (UMW) and Worcester Area United Methodist (WAUM) cluster churches for providing generous scholarships, making this experience possible for all!

Vacation Bible Camp 2009 “*Camp E.D.G.E.- Experience & Discover God Everywhere*” was an amazing spirit-filled experience with families from First Baptist Church, Park Congregational Church and Wesley UMC! Our leadership team began prayerfully planning our VBC well over seven months ago, and it is by God’s grace 72 children & youth and over 50 volunteers were brought together to experience our loving God in new ways!

I can’t think of a better way to celebrate our time than by sharing the words from our *Leaders Evaluation Form*, completed by one of our members who participated for the first time. ***“It was all fun, inspiring, and well-planned. Everyone had a great time!! The Bible stories were great! I loved the re-enactment and I think it really helped the children to understand the stories. It was great that they could participate in them as well. Isaac Berko and David Goff were amazing!! I think the children really, really liked the rock wall too. IT WAS GREAT!! I’M SO EXCITED FOR NEXT YEAR!! Thank you for everyone’s hard work to plan it all out – you all did a great job!!”*** And another member who has participated for several years said, ***“My daughter and her friend had an awesome time; we all thought it was the best VBC ever!”***

We are so blessed to have leaders who have a heart for God and eagerness to share His message with the children. Because of them our children were engaged in active learning in a Spirit-filled atmosphere of love, care, and respect! Let us give thanks... please take a moment and thank them when you see them!

Opening and Closing Assembly time was full of fun and humor with our camp leader, Linda Bogosian, as Blaze, and, David Goff, as Sparx the Fox, as they helped us get ready for the evenings adventure!

Bible Stories led by Valerie Jansson, came to life each evening through powerful drama, thanks to Isaac Berko, David Goff, and Mark Peacock with the help of the children, as they had a special role in becoming part of the Bible story!

Music was just incredible under the direction of William Ness, Minister of Music First Baptist Church. What a joy for the children to work with such a gifted musician. Our closing evening music celebration by the children was outstanding!

Crafts thanks to Sarah Carlson, was not only a time for the children to express themselves creatively through hands-on activities, but more importantly a faith-building time! Please take a

moment to read the thoughtful responses from the children as she asked them, “God loves Me because...” Special thanks to her helpers, Lisa Lindquist and Dee Dorsey.

Mission led by Megan Click, brought the children’s understanding to a whole new level. We are grateful for how she helped us think of new ways of serving God through caring of others. We give thanks for all our VBC families who responded to our Mission Project – “Socks for our friends at Friendly House”. We collected a large basketful of new socks that were donated to Friendly House!

Discovery time offered the children an opportunity to explore how their faith relates to science through hands-on experiments, thanks to Heather Kattan and her helper Ann Ming Samborski.

Recreation was energized by the help of Tim Click, Brian Jansson, Rebecca Ayers, and Stephanie Harvey.

Adult Bible Study led by Rev. Dr. Gary Shahinian, helped his group look at familiar stories to discover a new perspective on God’s ways - with such moving discussions that the participants didn’t even want to take a break!

The Trek/Camp Leaders who played such an important role, guiding our children with the utmost care from activity to activity, we are so thankful... Belinda Adams, Erin Barrows, Liz Burrows, Melissa & Michael Butler, Ama Dankwah, Kathryn Edmunds, Cordelia Ferdinand, Carol Flionis, Terry Fisher, Jill Jansson, Mary Lowell, Jim Openshaw, Gerard Piscitelli, Holly Proulx, Beth Vietze.

We celebrate our youth who did a great job as **Jr. Trek Leaders**: Abbegail Adams, Gabrielle Adams, Anastasya Babb, Rebecca Barton, Natasha Boateng, Akosua Dankwah, Danielle Ferdinand, Rachel Ferdinand, Amy Finecountry, Brittany Fisher, Katie McBrayer, Rebecca McBrayer, Irene Mensah, Portia Mensah, Olivia Piscitelli, Joseph Rose, and Munah Wisner.

The helpers at our **Welcome Table** did a great job with registration of all our families each evening... Ann Openshaw, Sarah Carlson, Jill Jansson, Polly Boyns, Linda Bogosian, Isaac Berko, Linda Harris.

Supper & Snacks - each evening we enjoyed a meal together before our program began, thanks to Emily Smith, and kitchen helpers, Paula Harvey, Judy Devoe, Mark Dorsey, Kathy Rose, Nancy Curtis, Shirley Albee.

Photos ~ Thanks to Ron Devoe for capturing a special picture of each child! Also, we appreciate Bill Kilmer sharing his photos.

Special thanks to Ann Openshaw, Education Chair, her continued dedication, never-ending enthusiasm and support helped make this important ministry such a success!

Children’s Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 20, 9:30 AM! Important! Registration is Sunday, Sept. 13, 9:30 AM, with a special children’s activity in East Hall!

*As we discovered and experienced God in new ways at VBC, let us always remember,
“God is with me! God guides me! God teaches me! God loves me! God sends me!”*

~ Valerie Jansson

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW Steering Committee will meet on Saturday, Sept. 12, for fall program planning and sharing of announcements. Circle Leaders and UMW Officers are asked to attend. Thank you.

The sharing of ministries will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13. The UMW will have a table and will distribute materials to all who are interested in the work of the UMW. The annual brochure of programming will be available at that time. If Circle Leaders have printed material to share, they may be brought in at this time.

The presentation for the UMW annual award for Woman of the Year will be made at the 10:30 Sunday Service on Sept. 27. Nominations will be accepted through Sunday, Sept. 20; note extension of this deadline. Forms can be found in this mailing and also at the Wesley Office.

YARD SALE ~ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009 ~ 9 AM TO 2 PM

Wesley United Methodist Women ~ Indoor Yard Sale (to help meet our Mission Pledge) in conjunction with First Unitarian Church.

Gather up your contributions and bring them to church from 9 am to 8 pm on Sept. 30th and October 1st and 2nd. Nothing will be accepted on the day of the Yard Sale. No computers and no large items please; items one person can carry.

If you would like to help, please call Dot Ellis at 508-829-2384. We need coat and pant hangers, jewelry, holiday items for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas; also, nice linens. All items should be in good condition and clean.

There is a possibility we can pick things up if necessary. Let Dot Ellis know. Thanks so much for your help in our march towards meeting our Mission Pledge.

UNITED METHODIST MEN
GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Sunday, August 30th, 9:30 AM
East Hall

2009-2010 Calendar of Events will be presented and plans will be discussed; new members are most welcome; our events and projects are well planned and require only a small time commitment and as the old adage goes: “many hands make light work.”

Dear Parishioners of the Wesley Methodist Church,

My name is Thomas Annunziata and I am the case manager for the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester, located in the lower level of this church. We are a homeless shelter that assists families find housing, secure employment and continue education.

As a homeless shelter we rely heavily on the generosity of the kind people in the community. The most commonly donated items are clothing and personal hygiene products. From time to time furniture donations are made and we are more than happy to accept them. They afford us the ability to help families furnish their own apartments once they transition into them.

However, we currently find ourselves at a cross roads as we no longer have a location to store the furniture that we receive. We would benefit greatly by having a space sizeable enough to store our furniture as well as be able to store future donations. We would love to hear from you or anyone you may know who would be able to help us with our situation.

We want to continue our work re-establishing these families into the community and into their own apartments. Not having the burden of buying furniture and other house hold items would be great for the families working to achieve their goal of independent living.

*Thank you for your generosity and God Bless,
Thomas Annunziata*

START SAVING... GIRL SCOUT TROOP 30838 (which meets here at Wesley) will be having a bottle/can drive on Saturday, September 12th, from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM in the St. Charles parking lot (June Street, Worcester). Start collecting your bottles and cans and be sure to stop by and drop them off. If you need them to be picked up, call Debi Ritacco at 508-414-8315. The girl scouts of troop 30838 are hoping to go to Europe in July of 2010. Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide on September 12th.

CAR WASH... *Does your car need a good washing?* Well stop by Christ the King Church on 1052 Pleasant Street, Worcester on Saturday, August 29th from 10 am to 1 pm and have the girls from Girl Scout Troop 30838 wash it. They do a great job! Donations are being accepted and all donations will be put towards their trip to Europe.

CLASSES AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

THE BUSINESS OF LIFE/END OF LIFE PLANNING WORKSHOP

On **Saturday, September 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon a free workshop will be offered at All Saints Church** to help people with discussions in their own families about how to better prepare for the end of life. All Saints is located at the corner of Pleasant and Irving Streets in Worcester (parking available in the All Saints parking lot off Pleasant and at the Worcester Schools Admin building on Irving Street next to All Saints). The goal is to help you to begin pro-actively making arrangements, legal and otherwise, that will ease burdens often faced when people seek to provide appropriate care for loved ones who are in crisis and/or dying. Presenters include an estate lawyer, professor of nursing, parish clergy, and hospice volunteers.

Brief presentations on the following three sections will be provided:

- ☞ “Medical Directives, Proxies, and Hospice” informs you about the use of health care proxies, helps you direct your medical treatment if you are incapacitated, and introduces you to hospice care as an option
- ☞ “Planning Your Services” helps you design a funeral/memorial service for yourself that can be a reflection of your life, a message to loved ones about your values and what was important to you.
- ☞ “Preparing to Write Your Will” guides you through the essentials to consider as you write or amend your will so that it reflects the values you want to convey.

In each of these presentations, forms and materials will be given out to help you assemble the information you and your loved ones will need if you or they are incapacitated and/or die. For more information, and to sign up, please contact The Rev. Kevin Bean at 508-752-3766, ext. 13 or at kevin@allsaintsw.org.

STRATEGIES FOR AN EFFECTIVE JOB SEARCH – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

The Episcopal Churches of greater Worcester are presenting a day-long intensive workshop for the parishioners and the wider public, entitled “**Strategies for an Effective Job Search**” from **8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 17 at All Saints Church** (corner of Pleasant and Irving Streets) in Worcester (parking available in the All Saints parking lot off Pleasant and at the Worcester Schools Admin building on Irving Street next to All Saints). This is facilitated by career counselors Terry Chapman Ph.D. and Sam Davenport, and therapists Jennifer Berton Ph.D. and Ray Demers LCSW. Cost: \$20 (includes materials and lunch). To sign up and for more information, contact Kevin Bean at 508-752-3766 Ext. 13, or at kevin@allsaintsw.org

Topics include: Developing an Effective Resume; Successful Networking—Figuring out whom to approach; How to Succeed at Interviewing Communicating your value to potential employers; and (woven through the day) Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction.

DID YOU KNOW?

“Wisdom From On High” was the sermon title earlier this month as the lectionary scripture readings included the story of Solomon’s request of the gift of wisdom. Did you know that some of the books of the Bible are known as “wisdom books”? In the Old Testament the books of Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are referred to as wisdom literature, contrasting them with the historical narratives and the prophetic books. The Apocrypha include two other additional wisdom books—The Wisdom of Solomon (or Book of Wisdom) and Sirach (also sometimes called Ecclesiasticus).

Wisdom literature is not unique to the Judeo-Christian tradition, but it is in fact a genre of literature common to many cultures of the ancient Near East. In general wisdom literature consists of recorded sayings about divinity, the universe, and the ways of human beings. What distinguishes the wisdom literature of the Judeo-Christian tradition from that of other traditions is the focus on God as the central force in life.

The wisdom books of the Bible are associated with the group of people known as “sages” who played a role distinct from that of the priests and prophets in the society of Ancient Israel. These sages gave advice to kings and instruction to the young and were concerned about the more practical and philosophical questions of life. Thus the wisdom literature of the Bible applies godliness to all of everyday existence. Proverbs, for example, gives practical advice on how to live everyday life, whereas Job probes the meaning of suffering and Ecclesiastes explores the apparent meaninglessness of life in the absence of God.

While not classified as wisdom literature as such, portions of several other books of the Bible have share features common to wisdom literature. Portions of Lamentations, and Song of Solomon can also be classified as wisdom literature on the basis of their graphic figures of speech and highly stylized forms. Portions of Ruth, Esther, and Daniel also fall within a broader definition of wisdom since they too deal with subtler aspects of the meaning of existence. Many Psalms as well as the parables told by Jesus have features in common with wisdom literature.

In the book of Proverbs Wisdom is a personified celestial being who describes her assisting God from the beginning of creation. Eventually, Sapientia (Latin) or Sophia (Greek), came to be represented in visual art as a figure of a crowned woman. In the New Testament Jesus, described as the pre-existing Word in the opening verses of the Gospel of John, fills the role of Wisdom, thus our singing of “O come, thou Wisdom from on high” during Advent (and at other times of the year as well!) as we prepare for Jesus’ coming.

Submitted by Deborah A. O’Driscoll

2009 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
Tues., Sept. 8	Thurs., Sept. 10
Mon., Sept. 21	Wed., Sept. 23

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



Welcome. Below is a schedule and topics for the first couple of weeks.

SEPTEMBER 25:

Mini-brunch welcome; topic: "I'm a mom, now what? Parent/Caregiver Relationships"

OCTOBER 2:

Alternative childcare

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 or Jill Bailey at bluejillfish@gmail.com or 774-745-0294. We look forward to meeting you!



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508-797-0077

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 and Gerard Piscitelli

Assistant Custodian

Steve Boyns

Administrative Council

Scott & Mary Beth Dziewietin

Layleader

Deborah O'Driscoll

Board of Trustees

Harry Spencer III

Carty Cupboard Food Pantry

Nancy Spencer

Education Work Area

Ann Openshaw

Finance & Stewardship

Michael Edmunds

Ghanaian Association

Joseph Wilson

Lay Members Annual Conference

Mary Beth Dziewietin and Johnnell Demery

Medical Ministry

Ron Ramsay

Membership & Evangelism

Gary & Renelle Picard

Memorial Gifts

Carolyn Bellil

Mission Coordinator

Jerry Warren

Chris Flagg

Music & Worship

Staff-Parish Relations

Janet M. Maguire

Youth Group

Phil & Emily Smith

Wesley United Methodist Church
114 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

WESLEY HERALD
AUGUST 26, 2009

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

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PAID
WORCESTER, MA
PERMIT NO. 236