

Building a Gifts-Based Church

*“For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is in you..”
(II Timothy 1:6)*

God is calling us to build a gifts-based church. By the power of God’s Spirit, we are being formed into a gifted community. Paul, in his letter to Timothy, exhorts and reminds us to rekindle the gift of God. In the Epistle to the Corinthians, Paul teaches about the gifts of the Spirit – how there are many gifts but one Spirit. I believe that the Spirit is calling YOU to now rekindle the gift of God that is in you.

In Ephesians 2:8 Paul teaches that *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”* The primary gift of God is *Grace*. Grace is God doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves. By Grace God sent the Son, Jesus the Christ, to save us from Sin and death in order that we might live – and live abundantly in this world and eternally in the world to come. God’s gift to us was his Son, and in Jesus we continually receive the gift of new life by the power of Christ’s Spirit through faith.

Paul also says that it is by grace you have been saved through *faith*. Our response to the gift of God is faith. Faith is the appropriate response – our thank you – to the Grace of God which saves us. But what is this faith? Is it simply a mind believing? By no means! Jesus says, *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”* Apparently Jesus believes that to be his disciples we actually must be *doing* something. That is why the apostle James writes and teaches in James chapter 2 that *“Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith,”* or that *“Faith that is not accompanied by action is dead.”* [Read James 2:14-26].

Our faith must be an *active* faith. The world cannot know the grace of God if the world does not see that grace of God at work in us through faith. Our faith must be a *living* faith. We must live our lives *trusting* that God is making all things new. And because we are the Church, the body of Jesus Christ himself, then we are his hands and feet and voice in this world. For this reason Jesus gives us his Spirit to lead us. For this reason Jesus teaches:

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. (John 14:15-17)

So, we know that we have the gift of *grace*, and that we have the gift of *faith*. To guide us in our faith, we have the gift of the *Spirit*. Now, the Spirit endows in us gifts to be in ministry and mission in the world, as Jesus was in ministry and mission in the world. Truly, I believe that God is yearning to build a Gift-based Church in us. God is longing to form us into a *gifted*-community that will be in active ministry and mission. Imagine what this church and community would look like if more of us claimed the gifts that God has given us to use in ministry and mission! You are the church. I am the church. We are the church together. Let us join together in *One* Spirit, and rekindle the gift of God in us, that the world may truly know that God’s saving power is indeed active and alive here with us and through us! Amen.

Grace and peace to you!

In Christ, Pastor Shandi

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

LET US PRAY FOR...

- ✠ Andy Ingrassia, now diagnosed with dementia.
- ✠ Sarah Carlson's mother.
- ✠ My grandmother Patricia Cahill was going in for heart surgery and my dog Chloe.
- ✠ Miriam McLandon, mother of Kathryn Edmunds, for strength and healing.
- ✠ Frank Wulff, Jr. (Nancy Wulff's Brother).
- ✠ Addison that he might not be discouraged during his long recovery from an accident.
- ✠ Angela Quitadamo's mother (Kim) who fell and is recovering from surgery.
- ✠ The Clinic at Yulansoni Village (Tanzania).

OUR SYMPATHY TO...

- ✠ Pastor Shandi and family on the death of his sister...
- ✠ Caroline Sherman and family on the death of her mother, Myrtle Douglas.
- ✠ Charles Ato Brown, Ghanaian Music Choir Director, and family on the death of his mother-in-law in Ghana.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE TOWER lighting for September is given in loving memory of Robert L. Banks, Sr. from Tom Banks.

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for September is given in loving memory of David & Lily Oberg, Arthur & Louise Sjosten, Phyllis & Robert Needham and Lisa Johnson by David & Arlene Sjosten and Jerry Johnson.

THE SANCTUARY altar flowers on September 27th are given in honor and celebration of George Kronberg's birthday from J.P. Demery.

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for October is given in loving memory of Heik P. Garabedian by his wife Irene B. Garabedian, daughter and son-in-law Shirley & Robert Demers, 3 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

THE TOWER lighting for September is given in loving memory of Esther and Stanley Salme and Susan Salme Keith by Ruth and Fred Austin and family.

THE SANCTUARY altar flowers on October 5th are given in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Ralph W. Ellis.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009 AT 12:00 NOON

The primary responsibility of the Charge Conference in the annual meeting shall be to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church. Par 247.3 UM Book of Discipline

At this annual meeting, presided over by our District Superintendent, Rev. Ron Wilson, “Breath Taking Disciple Making” will be our theme. We will focus on:

- Connection with God and God’s Purposes
- Connecting with current reality and
- Connecting with God’s future for our church and community.

With the help of modern technology, Bishop Peter Weaver will share a brief message with us. He will outline a few themes from the last Bishop’s Day on the District and Adam Hamilton’s presentation at Annual Conference.

The Church Conference will be different this year because we will not be doing business as usual. We will, however, include on the agenda items of business that do require Charge/Church Conference action (membership report and pastor’s compensation). Written reports will be received, but only the pastor and lay leaders will make oral presentation. The budget will be approved at the December Church Council meeting. Written reports (except trustees and finance) are due in the church office no later than November 22.

CALENDAR & MEETINGS AT WESLEY

As the Fall season begins so do a lot of Committee meetings and groups. Before you set your meeting date and time, please be sure to contact the church office to verify that the date and space is available. You can call Lorna at 508-799-4191 ext. 100.

WORLD COMMUNION WORSHIP AND LUNCHEON ~ OCTOBER 4, 2009

On Sunday, October 4th, the Worcester Korean congregation who worships in Jennings Hall each Sunday, will join us for the 10:30 am worship service. This will be an exciting and meaning service... what a symbol of Christian unity as we join together in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The Wesley Choir, Korean Choir, and Ghanaian choirs will join together... in song and praise. After worship, and prior to our first Pipes Alive Concert, a World Communion Luncheon will be served. Please make this a priority and join together with our Korean brothers and sisters in Christ on this day.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
Mary Ellis Lounge ~ 9:30 am ~ Pastor Vicki

We will be studying and discussing the book “Sacraments and Discipleship: Understanding Baptism and the Lord’s Supper in a United Methodist Context.” It is not necessary to have a copy of the book but if you wish to have the book it can be ordered from Cokesbury (the office can give you the number). The author, Mark Stamm, speaks of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper as God’s grace-filled work, work that elicits a life of responsible discipleship. What is the meaning of discipleship? Why are the sacraments important in our spiritual journey? Join others and learn together. Please do not feel “you don’t know enough to come”....not knowing is why we learn together.

- October 4: The Methodist Way: Sacramental Living in Accountable Communities of Faith.
- October 11: Our Work in the Covenant: Renouncing Our Sin and Professing Our Faith.
- October 18: God’s Work in Baptism: “We are Incorporated Into God’s Mighty Acts of Salvation”
- October 25: Preparation for Communion: Christ’s Invitation
- November 1: Christ’s Present in Our Midst: On the Meaning of the Great Thanksgiving.
- November 8: Harvest (no class)
- November 15: One Loaf: The Missional and Evangelistic Implications of Sharing Communion

IHN VOLUNTEER TRAINING... Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is an agency that shelters homeless families in churches, including Wesley. It is time we update our IHN volunteers on relevant policies and procedures, so even if you have helped in the past, I would like you to attend one of the upcoming training sessions. If you have ever wondered what hosting IHN is all about, this is your chance to find out without making any commitment. There will be a session on Sunday, Sept. 29th after church, approx. 11:45. There will also be training on Thursday, Oct. 1st at 7:00 pm. Each session will last about 45 minutes and you need attend only one. We will be hosting the families the first week in November. Thanks for helping with this outreach program. Nancy Cook (508-393-6076)

STATEMENTS through August 31, 2009 have been mailed on September 22nd. Please contact the Church Business Administrator if you have any questions.

THE WESLEY MEN'S STUDY GROUP begins a new season on Sunday September 27 at 9:30 AM. We meet in the room to the right of Pastor Shandi's office on the balcony level. For the first four weeks we will view and discuss the DVD "The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel. We will also be choosing a study guide book for use in following on sessions. This study is open to all men of the church. Just show up and you're in! Questions? Contact George Proulx or Jerry Warren.

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 pm.

"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." See Emily Smith to sign up and reserve your spot on the bus. It may be possible to get a discounted fee if we have enough people.

WORCESTER INTERFAITH'S 4TH ANNUAL BEGGAR'S BOWL

The Beggar's Bowl, a fund-raiser sponsored by Worcester Interfaith, will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at First Baptist Church, 111 Park Ave., Worcester, MA from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. All are invited to come and enjoy a hearty, homemade soup served in a hand-thrown stoneware bowl that is yours to keep at the end of the evening. Donation: \$50, fully tax deductible. For tickets or more information, call Frank Kartheiser, Lead Organizer of Worcester Interfaith, at (508) 754-5001.

CARTY CUPBOARD ANNUAL MEETING... Calling all Carty Cupboard Volunteers!!!

Carty Cupboard's Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, October 23rd in Brewer Hall at 12:30 pm. A light lunch will be served. Hope to see you there! ~ *Nancy Spencer*

CARTY CUPBOARD NEEDS YOUR HELP! We are in desperate need of Monday night Volunteers. We only have 2 out of 4 or 5 Mondays a month covered. You must be able to use a basic computer, and be able to commit to 1 Monday night a month. Monday night distribution requires 3 people to complete the job. If you can help please call Nancy Spencer at 508-886-6376. Thank you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

As we begin a new Christian Education year together – we give thanks to our dedicated teachers who bless us each Sunday by sharing their faith and amazing gifts with the children and adults! We are also truly blessed and grateful for the faithful leadership of Ann Openshaw, Christian Education Chairperson. It is a privilege and honor to be working along side these leaders whose heart is all for the Lord! New this year we will be leading from a curriculum that follows the lectionary, inspiring us with new ways to think about the Gospel readings. May this support our families faith-filled conversations and teachable moments at home.

Oh, you should have seen all the delicious pancakes... they looked like a piece of art after the children finished putting all the toppings on! Yummy! We also had a special “Drumming Circle” with Brett Maguire. What a great way to begin our year... Ann Openshaw just had one word for our time together, “*spectacular!*”

We are excited to be part of the church wide “Sock Collection”... please bring in a new pair of socks and let’s fill our laundry basket in Wagner Hall!

Please mark your calendars! Important Dates to Remember ~

Sunday, October 11, No Children’s Sunday School Classes

Sunday, November 29, No Children’s Sunday School Classes

*We are grateful for our church family and friends, your encouragement and involvement, supporting our Christian Education Ministry in so many caring ways!
You are who make Sunday school a special place to experience God’s love!*

~Valerie Jansson

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN—INDOOR YARD SALE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2009 ~ 9 AM TO 2 PM ~

Mark you calendar, it’s right around the corner and we need you to be there. You just might find something you can’t live without. Keep gathering your contributions and bring them to church from 9 am to 8 pm on Sept. 30th, Oct 1 & 2. Nothing will be accepted on the day of the sale. No computers. Please call Dot Ellis at 508-829-2384 if you would like to help. Contributions should be in good condition and clean. No large items please; items one person can carry only. We need coat and pant hangers, jewelry, holiday items and nice linens. Thank you. There is a possibility we can pick things up if necessary. Let Dot know if that service is needed.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN... On Sunday, October 4, we will be observing World Communion Sunday. Following the 10:30 worship service, the Korean Congregation and the UMW's Dorcas Circle will sponsor a "World Communion Luncheon." Everyone will be invited at no charge.

FALL CLEANING AT FLORENCE HOUSE . . .

Florence House of Worcester is a transitional living center for teenage mothers. Each year during the month of October Wesley members collect cleaning products to give to the Mom's in that program. Please consider helping us by bringing in some of your favorite cleaning products and adding them to the silver box marked "Florence House" located below the UMW bulletin board in Brewer Hall.

THE POWER OF PRAYER

A one day retreat for Women

Wesley United Methodist Church

114 Main St., Worcester, Ma.

Saturday, September 26, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Please join us for a day of worship, inspiring music, powerful testimony, creative workshops, wonderful food and fellowship.

Guest Speaker Pastor Grace Mazhandu;
Pastor Carol Calhoun officiating Communion
Daycare provided

All daycare reservations must be confirmed by 9/24/09
Please call Chris Flagg @ 508-852-7745 to reserve daycare space if needed

*(Free to all Women but we ask that each person attending
bring one **un-opened** deck of playing cards.)*

Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped support Girl Scout Troop 30838 on their bottle/can drive. With generous donations of bottles and cans from people, the girls raised over \$250 so far. Thank you for your support.

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR...

MONTHLY DRUM CIRCLE BEGINS ON OCTOBER 6TH!

Beginning on Tuesday, October 6, we will be having a drum circle on the first Tuesday of each month from 7:30 – 8:30 PM in Brewer Hall. These circles are open to people of all ages and faiths, so bring some friends from the community. You do not need to have any experience with drumming or music whatsoever to have a great time. We will provide the instruments, walk you through the basics of drumming, and then proceed to get some grooves going!

Drumming is a wonderful experience on so many levels. Whether you're ready for a different kind of musical experience, seeking a new way of connecting with the community, looking for a great way to blow off some stress, or just want to have a lot of fun on a Tuesday night, you'll find yourself rewarded and invigorated. See you on the 6th!

For more information, please contact Brett at 508-799-4191 or brett@wesleyworc.org.

YOUTH CHOIRS FIRST REHEARSAL AND MEETING ON OCTOBER 11

On Sunday, October 11th, there will be a first rehearsal and meeting for all youth choir members and their families immediately following the 10:30 service. We will be meeting in the library on the second floor. This rehearsal will be for youth of all ages, from our youngest singers to our high school choristers. For scheduling purposes, it would be extremely helpful for parents or family members to be present for this first rehearsal.

For more information, please contact Brett at 508-799-4191 or brett@wesleyworc.org.

BOARD GAME NIGHT ~ MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

When you think of board games, do you think of Monopoly, Risk, and Scrabble? Perhaps you're more of the Chess, Go, or Backgammon sort of person. Or maybe you lean towards those new European-style games such as Settlers of Catan, Carcassonne, or Ticket to Ride? How about party games like Taboo, Apples to Apples, and Jenga?

Your music director happens to be nuts for board games and is going to be starting up a Monday evening gaming night, beginning on Monday, October 19th at 7:30 pm in Brewer Hall. As a form of community outreach, both church members and friends from the Worcester area are welcome to attend. Depending on interest level, this could become a weekly event.

If a night of board gaming sounds like fun to you, please contact Brett Maguire at 508-799-4191 or brett@wesleyworc.org.

A LAMENTATION: RACISM

One of earth's deepest “lamentations,” to use Robert Lowry's word again, is the persistent, pervasive sin of racism that is alive and well in many of our hearts, churches, communities and most recently exhibited in our body- politic. We have always had political disagreements in our democratic political processes, which can be healthy, but we have never had a member of congress shout “You Lie” at a President of the United States as he spoke to the Congress about a critical issue in our nation's life. I do not believe it would have happened had the President been white.

Racism happens in our lives when we believe we have the power to act out our prejudices... the power to breach civility... the power to keep others from moving into our neighborhood... the power to shun others who enter our church.

Last week I gathered with fifty or sixty other New England United Methodists for three days of reflecting on racism in ourselves and the systems we are a part of. The Council of Bishops has regularly addressed racism in our own ranks as well as the larger church and society. The first session on racism I remember being a part of was in 1958 when I was a freshman in a highly diverse urban high school... and there have been many, many such times since. And every time I realize more about my own “white privilege” and power... I find myself with confessions from my own heart and for our own church... and I experience the blessing of God's grace that keeps me growing... and making new commitments to be a part of ending racism. For, like you I hope, I truly do want to “love my neighbor as I love myself,” “Do unto others as I would have them do unto me,” and to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.” This is not just a political matter; it is a profoundly spiritual matter.

Again and again, I have learned that each of us has our own personal work to do, and we have the calling from God to confront racism in every form around us... be it in systems, jokes, schools, housing, our politics, etc. And we have the ability to influence others and invite them into this ongoing journey, until lamentations turn to celebrations.

I hope that you are having these discussions in your church, with family and friends. Let God lead us to be the people and church and community that reflect God's will done on earth, even as it is in heaven!

Grace and Peace,

Bishop Peter Weaver

New England Annual Conference

DID YOU KNOW?

A sword might seem to be an unusual symbol in Christianity, which identifies peace as one of the gifts of the Spirit, yet one of the carved statues on the altar of our sanctuary depicts a figure with a sword. Some might wonder if this is the apostle Peter, who took a sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant when Jesus was arrested in Gethsemane. However this figure is actually Paul. Did you ever wonder why Paul might be shown with a sword?

Since the sword was one of the most common weapons in the ancient Near East and Greco-Roman world, it is not surprising that many of the Biblical references to the sword are literally to the sword as a weapon of war, but there are also more figurative uses of the term, most obviously as a symbol for war itself, and by extension to represent conflict and bloodshed in general. In references that go beyond images of battle, the sword is also used as a symbol of judgment and authority, as well as of anything that causes harm.

In both the Old and New Testaments, however, there is also a more positive image of the sword—the sword as the Word of God. This imagery is appropriate in that the word of God penetrates into our very hearts and souls. Paul himself in his description of the armor of God in Ephesians 6 makes reference to “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (v.17b). Probably one of the best known references to the sword as the Word of God comes from Hebrews: 4:12; “Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

As Christian art evolved the sword also became a symbol for saints whose martyrdom involved being beheaded or pierced with a sword. Thus we can see that in the case of Paul, the sword as a symbol is appropriate in two ways — as a reminder of his martyrdom as well as a symbol of his preaching, teaching and writing which still help to reveal the Word of God to us.

*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
Mon., Oct. 5	Wed., Oct. 7
Mon., Oct. 19	Wed., Oct. 21

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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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

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Joseph Wilson

Lay Members Annual Conference

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Medical Ministry

Ron Ramsay

Membership & Evangelism

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Youth Group

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WESLEY HERALD

SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

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