

STEWARDSHIP 2009

New Every Morning is God's Love and Mercy

Each year we take time to examine ourselves and invite God's direction as we consider how we will give in response to God's great love and mercy to us.

During these next weeks, I join you in praying about what my giving will be in light of God's love and mercy. As we pray, may God's Spirit prompt us to new levels of faithfulness and generosity. We are a people blessed by God to do God's work. Whether we are young or old, rich or poor, a long-time participant in this congregation or newly arrived, we all are invited to share in the mission and ministry God has placed upon our hearts here at Wesley. Everyone has something to give!

Above the Main Street entryway are these words: "To the Glory of God and to the Service of Man". Over eighty years later our commitment to these words remains. We are here to give glory to God and to be of service to all God's people. Your giving, volunteering, prayers, and witness make this possible.

In the next few weeks you will receive a letter with a "giving commitment card" enclosed. Please fill it out and return it, either during worship on October 25th or by mailing it to the church office by October 23rd. Everyone has something to give!

May God bless you richly as you partner with Wesley United Methodist Church.

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

~ Lamentations 3:22-23

In Christ, Pastor Vicki

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

LET US PRAY FOR...

- ✠ Andy Ingrassia
- ✠ Frank Wulff, Jr. (Nancy Wulff's Brother).
- ✠ My cousin Carmen hospitalized with difficulty breathing (Beth Vietze)
- ✠ Munah Wisner who fractured her foot on Thursday at school in ballet class. Pray for healing. (Lucy Wisner)
- ✠ Lance. Living Water International Volunteer who was injured while drilling a water well in Tanzania (Jerry Warren)
- ✠ Scott and Patricia on their one year anniversary (Scott Shankett)
- ✠ The people of Indonesai, Somoa, Tonga and American Somoa after earthquake and Tsunami

OUR SYMPATHY TO...

- ✠ Lyle Coghlin and Jane (Coghlin) Hill, families and friends of Diane Coghlin who died on October 5th. Calling hours are Thursday, October 8th from 5 to 8 pm at Nordgren Funeral Home, Lincoln Street. A service will be held Friday, October 9th at Wesley UMC at 1 pm.
- ✠ Alyssa Hansen and family on the death of her mother, Joan LeBlanc.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

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 October 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 11 are given in loving memory of my grandparents, Amy and Roland Polhamus by Carol Flionis.

COMMUNITY IMMUNITY DAY IN WORCESTER:

SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION DAY

Where: Worcester Senior Center **When: Saturday, October 10, 2009**
129 Providence Street 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
Worcester, MA 01604

Adult Worcester residents with a special concern for those over 50 years of age and under 50 years of age with a medical condition, chronic illness or healthcare workers are welcome to come get their flu shots this day.

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2010

A new confirmation class is being formed for 2010. I have already been approached by some seeking confirmation. This is a first general call for interest. Once we have received a sizeable number of interested youth, classes are likely to begin in January of 2010. If you are interested and feel God has prepared you to enter into this new relationship with the church, please see Pastor Shandi. Thank you!

A GOOD OLD FASHIONED SOCK HOP IS COMING TO WESLEY!

On Saturday, October 24, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. the Missions and Outreach committee will sponsor a sock hop at Wesley United Methodist Church. The sock hop is in support of Worcester Fellowship which brings the gospel of Jesus Christ to the homeless each week on the Worcester Common. In support of this mission, we will be collecting **new pairs of socks** during the sock hop for distribution throughout the Worcester area. So come and enjoy the dancing, fun, and fellowship and support this great cause! For more information or to donate socks visit the sock hop booth in Brewster Hall or email Melissa Butler (mebutler@clarku.edu).



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,” (Matthew 25:34-36)

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.

Thank You, Chris Flagg, UMW

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN DINNER, GAMES/CRAFTS AND PARADE

Get those costumes ready and step out to Sarah Circle's Halloween Dinner, Games/Crafts, and Parade: **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 5 TO 7 PM IN BREWER HALL**

Prices are \$6/adult, \$3/child, or \$12/family for the lasagna/macaroni and cheese, salad, and dessert. **Fun for all ages!** If you wear a mask or costume, it should not frighten very young children. Tickets are on sale at the door.

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

FINANCIAL RESULTS YEAR-TO-DATE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income from Pledges	\$242,514.73	\$263,750.00	-\$21,235.27
Total Budgeted Income	\$443,811.30	\$458,478.00	-\$14,666.70
Total Non-Budgeted Income	<u>\$ 14,374.34</u>		<u>\$14,374.34</u>
Total Income	\$458,185.64	\$458,478.00	-\$ 292.36
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$448,804.40	\$477,457.00	-\$28,652.60*
Total Non-Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$ 10,358.96</u>		<u>\$10,358.96</u>
Total Expenses	\$459,163.36	\$477,457.00	-\$18,293.64
Profit/(Loss)	-\$ 977.72		
Add back Unpaid Mission Shares	<u>\$ 22,611.00</u>		
Total deficit	-\$23,588.72	-\$18,979.00	-\$ 4,609.72

* Includes \$22,611 in unpaid mission shares.

As we come to the end of the year, please make every effort to complete your 2009 General Fund pledge.

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.

WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARD...

On Sunday, September 27, the UMW Woman of the Year award was presented to Chris Flagg and Sandy McManus. Chris has done an outstanding job as the UMW Missions Coordinator, organizing the women's prayer retreats and working for the UMW missions. Sandy is a member of the Wesley choir; she assists with the Herald and Carty cupboard, and most recently held a flu vaccine clinic here at Wesley. We congratulate these two outstanding church members for their recognition. They set an example for the rest of us.

YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUNG FAMILIES: NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Do you consider yourself a Young Adult? The Young Adult Network of the United Methodist Church designates as young adults, persons who are between the ages of 18 and 35. If you consider yourself a young adult (and here at Wesley we will be flexible), I wish to present to you two new ministry and fellowship opportunities.

The Young Adult Ministry & Fellowship Group is a group welcoming all young adults (married or single) for a ministry of fellowship, study, and service.

The Young Families Ministry & Fellowship Group may be a subgroup of the Young Adult Fellowship welcoming all young families. You may be married without children, married with young children, or single with young children. You may even be beyond the age of 35 but with young children. This ministry and fellowship opportunity is for you! You are welcome!

We will be holding an initial meeting on **Sunday, October 11 at 11:45am** in Mary Ellis. This first meeting is for us to get acquainted, explore potential meeting times, and discern activity interests. ALL young adults and young families are invited.

“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the good will of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46-47. This is my vision for these two ministry opportunities. I look forward to our future together!

Pastor Shandi

Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

I would like to Thank everyone for selecting me as a recipient for the UMW Woman of The Year award. It has been and continues to be, a great honor for me to be among those who live their faith so fully at Wesley and in our World. 1st Peter 4:10 says that each of us should use whatever gifts we have received to serve others, being at Wesley makes that so much easier for me to do because of the stones already laid on the path by so many of you. So, while I thank you all for this award, I must also Thank God and each of you from the bottom of my heart, for the path.

And as Pastor Lisa always said... I am looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us next!

Sincerely, Chris Flagg

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Our children and youth are vital members of our church and we are blessed with a strong faith community of leaders in our Children's Sunday school program ministering to them! We believe it is important to invest our time and resources to minister to each and everyone at their appropriate age level. Our Christian Education Ministry serves to reinforce and provide instruction and spiritual support, knowing the primary responsibility of faith development resides within the family. We appreciate you entrusting your children with us! Our 9:30 AM program... High School leaders are Phil & Emily Smith; Grades 7 & 8, Susan Yi-Millette & Sarah Poku; Grade 5 & 6, Polly Boyns & Ann Openshaw; Grades 3 & 4, Melissa & Michael Butler; Grade K, 1, 2, Liz Burrows & Cordelia Ferdinand & Dorothy Adams; Preschool, Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy, Natasha Boateng, Erin Barrows, Brian Jansson; Toddlercare, Lori Conlon & Tim Click; Nursery-care, Irene & Portia Mensah. Our 10:50 AM program... Joseph Fletcher & Valerie Jansson. We welcome you to be part of our ministry; there is a need for those who have a heart for children and a passion to share God's love! Come visit us on the third floor in Wagner Hall to learn more.

Hey kids – through our Sunday School “Sock Mission Project” we have collected 30 pairs of socks! Great job! Our goal is 50 pairs by the end of this month... keep ‘em coming, let's fill our laundry basket in Wagner Hall!

Reminder... This coming Sunday, October 11, No 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School Classes!

“Whoever welcomes in my name one of these children, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not only me but also the one who sent me.” Mark 9:37

~Valerie Jansson

REMINDER: ADULT BOARD GAME NIGHT ~ MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 7:30 PM

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2010

This year we are asking everyone who wishes to have offering envelopes sign up for them using the form below. We are hoping to avoid waste (by not printing envelopes for those who no longer want them) and ensure that we have an accurate list for submission to the printing company. We will only print envelopes for those who return this form. The deadline for returning this to the office is October 23, 2009.

Once the order is submitted to the printing company, we cannot submit any more requests unless we have a minimum of 50 boxes. So if you wish to have envelopes for next year, it is important that you meet the deadline because we may not accumulate another 50 requests after the first submission.

Thanks for your help!

Lorna Mattus-Merrill
Church Business Administrator

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH REQUEST FOR OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2010

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

My envelope number is: _____

or

I do not have an envelope number at this time _____

Return to the Church Business Administrator by 10/23/09. Thank you.

IHN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

During October there will a sign-up sheet in Brewer Hall for those people willing to help with hosting the Interfaith Hospitality Network families from Nov 1st thru the 7th. People are needed early in the morning (6 a.m.) to set out breakfast, make coffee and assist families with starting their day.

Someone needs to provide a hot supper each evening. This can be shared by two persons, since the volunteers cover the cost of the meal. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. and can be prepared at the church or brought from home.

Evening hosts stay from 7 to 10 p.m. and can help with homework, visit with the families, play games, etc. as the situation allows. Having two people is preferred in case there is an emergency.

The overnight host should arrive at church no later than 10 p.m. and stay until the morning person arrives. Again, two people is preferable, but usually only one is needed, as everyone is asleep.

On Sunday, November 8th two or three volunteers are needed at 8:00 a.m. in Wagner Hall to help return the area to its normal setting for church school use.

Being homeless is a difficult situation for the families and our help is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions contact Nancy Cook (508-393-6076).

HARVEST SUNDAY ~ NOVEMBER 8TH

*“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.
Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”*

Psalm 50:14-15

Plans are well underway for Harvest Sunday ~ this is a day you do not want to miss. From the moment we enter the sanctuary we will be praising God and offering our gifts of prayer and song. It is not too early to begin planning for this exciting day.

What will you bring for the silent auction or the auction that takes place during our worship time. What talent has God blessed you with and now is the time to offer that back to God through the Harvest Celebration.

Kofi and Ama Offering. On what day of the week were you born? Join others who share that same birth “day” and help become the day of the week that wins.

Appeal for Funds. We have heard about some Ghanaian Churches much smaller than Wesley who received over \$35,000 during their Harvest this year. We need to remember this service is all about our praising God... offering a sacrifice... giving not just what is easy to give... but out of our deep gratitude and thankfulness to God. The Appeal for Funds giving will begin with an asking of \$1,000 (perhaps you can give this amount). Everyone has something to give... give boldly and proudly whatever amount you are able.

Serving as a Chairperson or Supporter. In the next few weeks we will learn what it means to serve as a Chairperson or Supporter. This is yet another way to participate in Harvest 2009.

Harvest Envelopes can be given to members of your family, neighbors, workplace, etc. First, this is a great Sunday to invite others to experience this exciting service. Second, we are a church that serves the Greater Worcester Community. Ask others to give this day and thereby share in making possible the programs that happen at Wesley: Carty Cupboard, Eye and Hearing Clinic, Stand Up for Kids, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Girl Scouts, and so much more.

Finally, “the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Mt. 9:37). Laborers are needed for this day: persons to work on the silent auction, counters to collect funds as they come in on that day, volunteers to bring light refreshments to share at the end of the service. Members of the Ghanaian Association will have a table in Brewer Hall for you to sign up as well as to receive envelopes to share with your friends. Do you believe we can receive \$60,000 on this day? Pray for the Harvest. ~ *Pastor Vicki*

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND WESLEY UMC

Have You Heard of Greenwashing?

In previous issues of the Herald I have mentioned that Wesley Church is a member of Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light. In a recent issue of their newsletter, I came upon an article on a new term called ‘greenwashing’. While we may be impressed with how many companies are becoming ‘green’ in their practices, it is also true that some of the information they are sharing is not quite what it seems to be.

Here are some examples from the newsletter that I want to share with you:

Some energy companies claim they have gone green by investing in alternative energies, but in fact are primarily invested in fossil fuels. British Petroleum is a prime example of an energy company that spends a lot of money trying to create an environmental public image. It has a new advertising campaign trying to brand itself as “Beyond Petroleum” and emphasizes its investments in alternative energies, despite having these investments pale in comparison to its fossil fuel investments. The Beyond Petroleum ad campaign was a huge marketing success. BP’s brand awareness rose from 4% in 2000 to 67% in 2007. Despite claims of going “beyond petroleum,” BP invested only 7% of profits into renewable energies in 2008, a number that has since declined.

Other oil companies have done much less, but still try to brand themselves as caring about renewable energies. For example, an ExxonMobil commercial states that “It’s going to be vital that we develop all sources of energy to fuel the future growth of the world economy and its growing population. It’s going to be oil, and gas, coal, nuclear, wind, and solar. We’re going to need them all.” On their website they even claim that “ExxonMobil is committed to operating throughout the world in a way that protects the environment.” Despite these claims of environmental passion, ExxonMobil spent less than .025% of their profits on renewable energies in 2008. By comparison, ExxonMobil spent three times that on lobbyists and campaign contributions.

Companies can also greenwash by promoting a product as greener than it really is. For example, a company may claim that its fruits and vegetables are green because they are harvested by hand rather than using fossil fuel burning machines. However, if they are grown in South America or Asia, the fossil fuels required to bring the products to the United States may be greater than the carbon emissions saved by natural harvesting. Clean coal is another product that is advertised as greener than it really is. They call it clean, even though such coal still emits 23% of the harmful pollutants it used to. Considering coal is one of the dirtiest burning energy sources on the planet, this is certainly not clean.

It is important not to give in to greenwashing for several reasons. First, if you believe something is greener than it actually is, then you may be tempted to buy more of the product and end up hurting the environment. You may pay more for the product, when it should actually cost less. And, if you are able to determine which companies are greenwashing and which companies are authentic, you can support the true environmental companies and help keep them in business.

Food for thought,
Regards,
Lorna Mattus-Merrill
Church Business Administrator

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 Presence 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

DID YOU KNOW?

Each month as we celebrate Communion during worship, we are reminded of the important symbol of bread. As Christians, we recall Jesus' words at the institution of the Lord's Supper, "This is my body" and for us it becomes the bread of life. However, since bread was a basic staple of life in biblical times, it is not surprising that we find many other images of bread in the Bible. Did you know that the name ***Bethlehem*** means "house of bread"?

Because bread was so important in the diet of biblical peoples, oftentimes it is used to designate food in general. In a practical way, bread was often a sign of hospitality. In addition, bread also played an important role in the religious rituals of Old Testament times—bread was one of the traditional sacrificial offerings to God in Temple worship, and 12 loaves of bread "showbread" or "bread of the presence" were kept on a table before the Holy of Holies. Unleavened bread has been used to commemorate the Passover since biblical times.

Miracle stories show us that the ultimate source of bread is God—from the provision of the manna in the wilderness and Elisha's feeding of hungry men in the Old Testament to the New Testament stories of Jesus' feeding of thousands. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray for "our daily bread," a phrase with both literal and symbolic meaning.

Bread is indeed a potent and pervasive symbol in the bible and for us as well. The *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* (IVP, 1998) summarizes it this way:

"Bread is one of many biblical images that...yields a picture of salvation history and biblical doctrine in microcosm...bread as a staple of life that comes to all people from God's providence, miraculous sustenance of life of God's chosen people in their wilderness wanderings at the time of the Exodus, the spiritual reality of faith in Christ and his atoning death, and the participation in the coming eschatological messianic banquet."

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. 19	Wed., Oct. 21
Mon., Nov. 2	Wed., Nov. 4

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.

OCTOBER 23:

Kids Crafts ~ Spiritual Influence

NOVEMBER 20:

Alternative holiday gifts to make the holiday special; Florence house project/gift

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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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

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Mark & Carol Flionis and Gerard Piscitelli

Assistant Custodian

Steve Boyns

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Joseph Wilson

Lay Members Annual Conference

Mary Beth Dziewietin and Johnnell Demery

Medical Ministry

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WESLEY HERALD
OCTOBER 7, 2009

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