

## LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY

I see the two words every morning on my drive into church... they are posted in large and colorful letters on a billboard just before my exit off of 290W.

### COMFORT AND JOY

It is of course an advertisement for the holiday season ...yet not for the church but for a restaurant. I don't doubt that this popular restaurant serves up a good portion of "comfort and joy" but I do find it interesting that they have chosen words from a Christmas hymn to catch our eye. I am thankful that I am reminded every time I pass by the billboard where the true "comfort and joy" of this season is to be found.

Our Advent Candle response, written by Brett Maguire, is with me each day: "Jesus comes unto us, and as we light these candles we watch and pray". We watch and pray as we prepare to celebrate anew God's coming unto us, a babe in a manger, bringing comfort and joy.

Where will you find "Comfort and Joy" this Advent and Christmas season?

*God rest you merry gentle one let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

Pastor Vicki

### RE-THINK CHRISTMAS ~ RE-THINK CHURCH

|                   |                                   |                                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Advent I</b>   | <b>(November 29<sup>th</sup>)</b> | <b>Re-Think Promises</b>              |
| <b>Advent II</b>  | <b>(December 6<sup>th</sup>)</b>  | <b>Re-Think the Gift of Salvation</b> |
| <b>Advent III</b> | <b>(December 13<sup>th</sup>)</b> | <b>Re-Think Repentance</b>            |
| <b>Advent IV</b>  | <b>(December 20<sup>th</sup>)</b> | <b>Re-Think Servanthood</b>           |

## PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

### *LET US PRAY FOR...*

- † Jack Pantanella, Susan Richard's father.
- † Drew, brother of Donna Hirtle.
- † Dwight Miniard, a friend of Linda Dylewicz.
- † Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan who were separated from families over Thanksgiving.
- † Barbara Ingrassia and family upon the death of her mother, Helen Combes.
- † Mildred Olson
- † Health Care available to all
- † Thanksgiving for the work of Heifer International
- † We pray for our church in this time of re-thinking and re-imagining who God is calling us to be

### LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

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

**THE TOWER** lighting for December is given in loving memory of Stanley England by The Wong Family.

**THE CHAPEL** altar flowers on December 6<sup>th</sup> are in loving memory of my sister, Ann and the 80th anniversary of her birth given by Dorothy Norcross, Jim and Lorraine Norcross, and Laurie, Brent, Sam and Danny Drajesk

**THE SANCTUARY** altar flowers on December 6<sup>th</sup> are given in loving memory of Leon Horne by Barbara & Donald McLaren and Emily Horne.

**THE CHAPEL** altar flowers on December 13<sup>th</sup> are given in loving memory of my mother, Alda Wulff, by Nancy Wulff.

**THE SANCTUARY** altar flowers on December 13<sup>th</sup> are given in loving memory of Stanley England by the Wong family.

**2010 CALENDAR FOR ALTAR FLOWERS** is now available in the Welcome Office. Please stop by and pick the Sunday's you would like to remember or celebrate a loved one. These flowers decorate the altar each week, then after church you can take the flowers home to enjoy or donate them to be given to a shut-in or Wesley friend.

**REMINDER... CHARGE CONFERENCE ~ DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 PM**

**2009 TOTAL HARVEST RESULTS FROM 1/1/09 – 11/30/09**

|                                    |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Income from all sources</b>     | <b>\$ 37,186.46</b>       |
| <b>Balance due on pledges</b>      | <b><u>\$ 4,440.00</u></b> |
| <b>Total Income</b>                | <b>\$ 41,626.46</b>       |
| <b>Less 10% Tithe and Expenses</b> | <b>\$ -4,621.00</b>       |
| <b>Total After Expenses</b>        | <b>\$ 37,005.46</b>       |
| <b>Budget</b>                      | <b>\$ 36,000.00</b>       |
| <b>Amount in Excess Of Budget</b>  | <b>\$ 1,005.46*</b>       |

**\*Assumes all Harvest pledges are paid in full**

**FOR SALE...** Wesley Church plates “Serving Christ and Community in the New Millennium” are for sale for \$5 each. Please see Dot Ellis if you’d like to purchase one. You can see a plate in the Welcome office.

**MEMORIES OF DALE AND JESSIE FAIR**

People wishing to share memories of Dale and Jesse Fair will be together on Sunday, January 10, 2010 from 12 to 2 pm in East Hall. If you wish to participate in some way, please call Carolyn Bellil (508-798-9848) or Ralph Ellis (508-829-2384).

**2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are in and are now available in Brewer Hall. Please stop by to pick up your box of envelopes on Sunday before or after church.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

*Bible Sunday was a special moment...as the children carried in the light symbolizing “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”* The following students received their Bibles with a promise to read, ask questions and pray about the new things they learn ~

**Third Graders** received *The NIV Adventure Bible* thanks to the Wood Family: *John Babb, Ethan Butler, Donroy Ferdinand, Jr., Charlotte Flionis, Delaney Hansen, Charles Kennedy, Emma Kiniry, Afia Somiah, Yaw Somiah, Shane Thacker*. We are blessed each Sunday by Melissa and Michael Butler for their faithful commitment to teaching and making the Bible real to our third & fourth grade Sunday school students. Special thanks to Polly Boyns for creating beautiful bead bookmarks for each of the students to use with their new Bibles, each bead has a significant meaning to telling the story of Jesus’ life! I so appreciate all the third graders who came on Saturday evening for our special Bible time!

**Kindergarten children** received the *Beginners Bible* thanks to the Eleanor Kidwell Memorial Fund: *Ainsley Moran and Lydia Twiddy*. Special thanks to Liz Burrows for sharing God’s love through her teaching each Sunday. We give thanks to our members and friends for your continued commitment to our young people, offering support and guidance in this important step as we grow in our love for God’s Word. Thank you for bringing your Bibles to church!

*Special thanks to Isaac Boateng, Rufina Ketter, and Munah Wisner as they shared their gifts of dance and song to this meaningful faith moment!*

**CHILDREN’S ADVENT MISSION PROJECT...** we are celebrating our time in getting ready for Jesus with **“Advent Coins”!** Each week during Advent, the children are invited to place coins in their Advent container. On Sundays, they will bring their container back to Sunday School to fill our “I Can Help” can. Collectively our Advent Coins will go to help others by adopting an animal through our support of Heifer International. During our Living Nativity program, Sunday, December 20, our Advent Coins will be presented as our Sunday School gift to Heifer. Also, as part of celebrating our Living Nativity we will offer a simple lunch and special craft activities for the children!

*Looking forward to sharing the wonder of Advent with your Children!*

*Valerie Jansson*

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW Christmas Program will be held in Brewer Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 8, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Featured will be the Trinity Brass ensemble. Our own Chloe Sundberg is a member of this well known musical group. An important business meeting will follow the concert. Refreshments will be provided by the Rebecca Circle. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

The bake sale on Sunday, November 22, was a great success. A special thank you goes to Margaret Wissell and Sue Proux, coordinators of this event. Thanks also to all who baked, bought, or participated in any way.

---

**TIRED OR TOO BUSY TO BAKE FOR THE HOLIDAYS?** Let us do the baking for you! The MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers) group will be taking orders December 13th for baked goods (cakes, pies, cookies) for your Christmas celebrations. "Carol-o-grams" from Jill Bailey are also available- she will go to the house of your requesting and sing some holiday carols for them. Come place your orders on Dec 13th. Quantities are limited, so don't delay. Pick-up on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions or wish to place an order directly, call Jean Grant at 508-886-6571.

---

### HOLIDAY POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

The United Methodist General Board of Church and Society is urging people to take part in the Interfaith Immigration Coalition's "Holiday Postcard Campaign." The campaign will run through December and involves sending postcards to members of Congress urging them to take steps to "keep families together this Christmas."

This quoted paragraph from "Who is my neighbor?", a Faith Conversation on Immigration explains why it is important that we notify our Congressmen and Senators that they must act to pass a better immigration law. "It is nearly impossible for Immigrants already living here to get documentation. 85% of the permanent residency options available require applicants to be in their country of origin when applying and another 13% are reserved for those facing political persecution. Only 2% of permanent status is conferred on those already here and it is to those who have been here 10 or more years and are facing deportation."

Here at Wesley, Rebecca Circle is requesting that you join in this campaign. We will have printed postcards available on Sundays, Dec. 6, and 13 in Brewer Hall for you to sign and address to your Congress person.

## Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

**F**irst of all let's give thanks to the Almighty God for giving us all these wonderful things this past year as a church. Individually, I know everyone of us here in this church will have a reason to say thank "U" God, for something he did for you last year. And that is the reason why we had a very successful Harvest.

I personally will say a very big thank you to all the church members for helping us to achieve our budgeted goal. Thank you, God Bless you, and may the almighty God quadruple four times whatever you give.

*Fred Konadu  
Chair, Harvest Committee*

**A** heartfelt thank you to all the bakers and buyers who contributed to the success UMW Thanksgiving Bake Sale. We earned \$616.50.

*~ Margaret Wissell & Sue Proulx, UMW*

### **MARY AND MARTHA BREAKFAST A SUCCESS!**

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! We are delighted to report that the Mary and Martha breakfast was a huge success. We appreciate the support of our church for this very important fund raiser. Thanks to you all we were able to earn \$1,500. This money will go towards the women's pledge to the 2009 church budget in the amount of \$12,809.

Many hands made this outcome possible and we would like to thank all that helped and most especially those that sewed the lovely aprons. Thank you to: Cora Arsenault, Ann Burrows, Jan England, Lorraine Kronberg, Betty Nevers, Sue Richard, Judy Simoneau, Emily Smith, Susan Thomas, Marion Warren and Sue Williams.

And a great thank you to Paul Arsenault and Dick Simoneau for their invaluable help on the morning of the breakfast.

AGAIN THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS. (We do have a few aprons left...they make wonderful Christmas gifts. See one of the committee if you would like to purchase an apron for \$20.00.)

*Jan England, Lorraine Kronberg & Judy Simoneau  
Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry*

# MISSION TREES AT WESLEY

***T***he mission tree tradition continues this year at Wesley Church. You are invited to participate in this tradition and help others during the Christmas season.

**THE “MITTEN” TREE...** This “Giving” tree stands in Brewer Hall displaying colorful and practical decorations. The hats, mittens, scarves and gloves which you bring and hang on its branches will add a bright festival touch. Later, these same warm winter articles will be given to those who are helped by Carty Cupboard. Your gifts here indeed serve a dual purpose.

**THE “MEMBER” TREE...** Each of the ornaments on this tree represents a Wesley family. Is your family included here? If not, please select a symbol, bring it to this tree in East Hall and add it to our interesting and varied collection. (There are hangers available under the tree.) All of these treasures will be carefully removed, packed and stored so that they may reappear in the future years.

**THE “RED BIRD” TREE...** This slender “Alpine” tree, stands on a table in Brewer Hall and marks the location of a basket into which labels from Campbell’s and Betty Crocker products may be placed. These will be sent to the Red Bird Mission in West Virginia where they will be exchanged for needed articles.

**THE CHRISTMAS CARD TREE...** You can send greetings to Wesley friends and families and support mission projects as well. Bring a single card with a check (for the amount of postage saved by not sending individual cards to all your Wesley friends.) or simply a donation and place it in the “Christmas Card Tree” envelope in the Welcome Office. The cards will be displayed on the special tree in Brewer Hall for all to see and the monies received will be given to the Interfaith Hospitality Network for gasoline purchase for their van which is used to transport clients to the carious churches providing housing for them.

***Have A Wonderful Holiday Season!***

*~ Chloe Nester Sundberg*

## Did You Know?

This past Sunday we began a new liturgical year as we observed the first Sunday of Advent, the liturgical season which developed in the Western church as a preparation for the festival of the nativity as Christians came to see that Christmas and Epiphany needed a preparatory season analogous to Lent in the Easter cycle. The word “Advent” is derived from a Latin root meaning “coming” or “arrival”.

Do you ever feel that some years Advent seems shorter than others? It actually is not just your imagination. The Advent season begins four Sundays before Christmas and thus can be between three and four weeks long, depending on what day of the week December 25 happens to be in a particular year. The first Sunday of Advent can occur any time from November 27 to December 3, and the fourth Sunday of Advent can be as early as December 18, an entire week before Christmas, or as late as December 24! Technically Advent lasts from the first Sunday in Advent until the afternoon of December 24, since Christmas Eve marks the beginning of the Christmas season.

To mark the passage of time through the season of Advent, we light candles on the Advent wreath. You may have noticed that on the Advent wreath in the sanctuary there are small embroidered purple banners which hang below the candles. These banners elucidate the symbolism of each of the Sundays of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

As we progress through the Sundays of Advent, we watch the candles diminish in size and also see the accumulation of light as we keep watch for the approach of the Light of the World.

Submitted by,  
Deborah A. O’Driscoll

## **CARTY CUPBOARD DONATE A FOOD ITEM SUNDAY EACH MONTH**

On Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday of December and the non-perishable food item for this day is a can of vegetables; this can be green or wax beans, carrots, peas, corn, or mixed vegetables, a regular 14 to 15oz. can is perfect. Thank you for your help in our mission to fight hunger!

## 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.

| <u>Article Deadline Date</u> | <u>Herald Mailing Date</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mon., Dec. 14                | Wed., Dec. 16              |
| Mon., Jan. 4                 | <b>2010</b> Wed., Jan. 6   |

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 next couple of weeks.

### DECEMBER 4:

Infant CPR/Choking

### DECEMBER 18:

Mom's Ever-Changing Roles

If you are interested in joining our group or to just find out more, please contact Jean Grant at [grantgirl05@yahoo.com](mailto:grantgirl05@yahoo.com) or 508-886-6571 or Jill Bailey at [bluejillfish@gmail.com](mailto:bluejillfish@gmail.com) or 774-745-0294. We look forward to meeting you!



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

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

*Proudly Servicing All of Worcester County*  
[www.GibbsRealtyInc.com](http://www.GibbsRealtyInc.com)

**ALBERT N. CECCHINI**  
**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT**

*Business - Individual Taxes*  
*Electronic Filing*

*Accounting & Cost Accounting*

*Consulting Services*

*Notary Public*

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

508-797-0077

## WESLEY 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**

**Church Phone: 508-799-4191**  
**Fax: 508-799-3725**  
**E-Mail: [office@wesleyworc.org](mailto:office@wesleyworc.org)**  
**Web page: [www.wesleyworc.org](http://www.wesleyworc.org)**

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