

Happy New Year, members of the Wesley community!

I hope 2010 has gotten off to a good start for all of you. For many people I know, 2009 was a difficult year, one with financial hardship, failed relationships, and the death of loved ones. Whatever your feelings about 2009 were, it has been and gone and we are now welcoming in a brand new year. Personally, I am excited for the many changes and new beginnings 2010 brings.

With all of the talk of rethinking church, I have made a New Year's resolution to compose more music. With the exception of a descant here or a hymn arrangement there, I've never felt that there were tunes in me just waiting to burst forth. It's time for me to rethink this attitude. In centuries past, all musicians composed, whether they were inspired composers or not. Like anything else, it is a skill that gets better with practice. I may not be writing the next Mozart Mass in C Minor, but I will be looking forward to sharing with you some of my own artistic endeavors in the upcoming year.

Another thing I've been doing is using music to help take control of my mood and attitude. Usually, I listen to music that reflects the mood I'm in, and there were plenty of moments in 2009 when that mood was more somber than cheerful. Lately, though, I've been starting each day as I walk to church with an uplifting melody. Mozart allegros are great, but songs like Daydream Believer and Piano Man have also made their appearance. By the time the second chorus of a truly happy song rolls around, it's easy to forget what the previous mood was and just accept the new, upbeat one. I can't encourage you enough to give this a try.

Wishing you all the best for a bright and happy 2010!

Brett Maguire, Director of Music

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

LET US PRAY FOR...

✠ Marilyn Otto now at home.

SYMPATHY TO...

- ✠ Wesley UMC extends their sympathy to the Bisnette family and Worcester Police Department on the death of Mark Bisnette.
- ✠ Nick & Debi Ritacco and family on the death of his uncle, John ‘Jack’ Wickson last week.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for January is given in loving memory of Mrs. William B. Smith by the United Methodist Women.

THE TOWER lighting for January is given in loving memory of my mother, Mary Fletcher, and my brother, David Fletcher, by Barbara Fletcher.

THE SANCTUARY altar flowers on Sunday, January 10th are given in loving memory of Dale and Jessie Fair by their friends.

THE SANCTUARY altar flowers on Sunday, January 17th are given in loving memory of Mrs. William B. Smith by the United Methodist Women.

2010 CALENDAR FOR ALTAR FLOWERS is now available in the Welcome Office. Please stop by and pick the Sundays 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.

SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH CLOSING

A decision will be made by Saturday night or early Sunday morning if worship will be held. It is possible that the 8:30 service will be cancelled and the 10:30 service held. To know if services are happening call the church office at 508-799-4191 for an updated recorded message announcing a cancellation.

The message will indicate immediately whether or not worship has been cancelled. Our church IS NOT listed on the television station closings. There are several Wesley United Methodist Churches in our area so when you read “No Services Wesley United Methodist” it is not Wesley in Worcester.

REMEMBERING DALE AND JESSIE FAIR

Church and community friends will gather to remember and celebrate the lives of Dale and Jessie Fair on Sunday, January 10th, beginning at Noon in East Hall at Wesley UMC. The Fair's daughter Christina is planning to attend.

Light refreshments will be served. If you have pictures of Dale and Jessie and would like to share them, a table will be available for display. Memorial Envelopes will also be made available for those who wish to honor the Fairs through a memorial gift. Wesley United Methodist Church friends look forward to offering this opportunity to share in gratitude and thanks for all that Dale and Jessie meant to the church and community.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE IN OFFICE BY JANUARY 15, 2010

All Committees and Groups in the church are encouraged to turn in an Annual Report celebrating the highlights for your group for 2009 and your hopes for 2010. A booklet of Annual Reports will be assembled and ministries will be celebrated early in 2010.

JANUARY 24, 2010 ~ ALL CHURCH POTLUCK... We will celebrate the ministries of 2009 and look to God's call upon our church for 2010. Lay leadership will be celebrated and 2009 Annual Report booklet will be distributed. Mark your calendars!

Don't know what to do with all those calendars you receive? Leave them in the church office for Carty Cupboard. Thanks.

FROM CARTY CUPBOARD...

Due to the weather on Sunday January 3rd Carty Cupboard Food Pantry only received 8 jars of Peanut Butter. For your convenience, the baskets will be out again next Sunday to collect the Peanut Butter that we missed Sunday the 3rd.

The item for next month Sunday the 7th of February will be Meals-in-a-Can...which can be Canned Pasta, Baked Beans, or Stew.

Thank You to All of you who help to feed the hungry!

~ Nancy & the Carty Volunteers

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at Wesley church on Tuesday, January 19th at 6:30 pm. Margaret Wissell is the co-hostess and Bea Daby will lead devotions. The program, "Miss Manners Says", will be presented by Martha Vigeant. Questions? Contact Lorraine Kronberg or Donna Grenier. We welcome new members.

Be the Change that Christmas Brings!

(A message shared on Christmas eve)

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14,16

On this holy night, on this blessed eve, we come to the threshold of Christmas. For four weeks we have been in advent, waiting – watching. In advent we expected the one who was promised, we anticipated the salvation he would bring. And, now, here we are at the threshold of Christmas but we wonder still: What hope does he bring? What peace does he give? What joy does he share? What love does he inspire? I answer and say, look within and look around to see what the Lord has done.

He who was in the beginning with God, born of the Holy Spirit, became flesh and lived among us. Full of the Holy Spirit he walked in our midst and became God's very presence for us. In his life, indeed, his very body, the world would come to know God and grace would be outpoured upon all. And now, we are here to remember the good news of a life that changed many lives. But, what do we do with this precious gift we receive – this Christmas gift?

Be the change you want to see in the world. These are words Mahatma Ghandi is known to have taught, but today I say them anew. Be the change that Christmas brings. Although he is the Light, he makes us light after himself and says to us, "you are the light of the world." So, this Christmas eve, what response will you give for the gift we receive? What gift will you give in return?

Be the change that Christmas brings. Begin at home. Begin at work. Begin in the community. Begin in this very church. Why? Because you are now his witnesses! You are the hope that Christmas brings - do not let the despairing of this world discourage you! You are the peace that Christmas brings - do not let the turmoil of this world suppress you! You are the love that Christmas brings - do not let the hate of this world repress you! You are the joy that Christmas brings - do not let the sorrows of this world retrain you. You are the light of the world - do not let the darkness of this world overcome you. Amen.

Pastor Shandi

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST MEN PRESENT:

SHILOH

Gospel Acoustic Music

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2010

Coffee & Dessert at 6:30 pm, Concert at 7:00 pm

No admission charge--invite your friends!
Freewill offering will be taken during intermission.

Need more information? Check www.shiloh-band.com
or speak with Jerry Warren, George Proulx, or Steve Boyns.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW Annual Meeting and Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, Jan. 17, following the 10:30 worship service. Our guests that day will be Valerie Jansson, Sunday School Superintendent, and children who attended camps this past summer. The children will present a brief program on their camp experiences. A memorial service will be held to honor the memory of Wesley women who experienced death in 2009. Emily Smith is organizing the luncheon, which will be served at 12 noon. Annual reports will be presented by Circle Leaders and Officers, and officers for the year of 2010 will be installed. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

We are issuing a call to all Circle Leaders and Officers to submit their annual reports at this time. The deadline is Sunday, Jan. 10 for submission. You may give these directly to Margaret Watson or put them in the UMW mailbox in the reception office. Thank you. The reports will be collated during the week of Jan. 10 and distributed at the general meeting of Jan. 17.

GAMES AND PIZZA NIGHT ON JAN. 23RD

When cold winds are blowing and cabin fever is setting in, it must be time for Sarah Circle's Annual Games and Pizza Night:

Saturday, Jan. 23rd, 4 to 7 pm

\$4/ individual, \$12/ family for the pizza, salad, beverages, and dessert

Everyone is invited. Please bring your favorite board games, especially if you or your child would enjoy a quieter activity than relays, runaround toys, etc. Questions? Call Betsy Pennino (508-829-7131).

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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Giving thanks for all who were part of our special Christmas program on the snowy Sunday, December 20. As we gathered we were warmed by the sounds of instrumental music, thanks to Brett Maguire, Jacob Arsenault, Cora Arsenault, and Debbie O'Driscoll.

The children did a great job stepping into their roles as the story of Jesus' birth came alive through the reading of the scriptures by Brian Mangus, Michael Kilmer, Natasha Boateng, and Isaac Boateng... *Angels*: Abigail Adams, Julia Bellil, Gracie Burke, Akosua Dankwah, Katie Mangus, Rosemary May, Lydia Twiddy... *Shepherds*: Ben Butler, Ethan Butler, Michael Butler, Matt Carroll, Ben Dziewietin, Sam Dziewietin, Elliott Wong, Quinton Wong... *Innkeepers*: Gabby Adams, Delany Hansen, Bella Piscitelli... *Mary*: Lexi Burke, Nicole Bellil... *Joseph*: Molly Sjoberg... *Wise Ones*: Olivia Piscitelli, Jacob Sjoberg, Emma Sjoberg.

We were truly blessed by Deanna Wong as she led the children in bell ringing, "*Still, Still, Still*". Just amazing!

Special thanks to Phil Johnson, Michael Butler, Bill Kilmer, Gerard Piscitelli, David Twiddy for set-up and sound. Thanks for the extra kitchen help from Brian Jansson, Brad Jansson, and Jerry Warren. With great appreciation to Ann Openshaw, Melissa Butler, Liz Burrows for their leadership for helping with all the details and making this a truly memorable moment! And we loved the sugar cookies the children made for all of us!

We are excited to share that the Sunday School children have contributed almost \$82.00 through our Advent Coin Collection for Heifer International. Way to go! You will have an opportunity to add more coins one more Sunday - and as an added bonus I will match the total amount collected by the children. The children have already started to vote for which animals they would like to purchase for their gift... so please come to Sunday School this Sunday and cast your vote!

God's Blessing for our journey together this New Year, Valerie Jansson

CHURCH LEADER TRAINING
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2010

First United Methodist Church of Hudson, 34 Felton Street, Hudson

SCHEDULE

9:00 AM REFRESHMENTS

(Provided by The United Methodist Foundation of New England Annual Conference)

9:30 TO 11:30 AM ADMINISTRATIVE WORK AREAS

- Trustees: Led by Amy Altzhauser, NE Conference Trustee
 - Staff-Parish Relations Committee: Led by Ron Wilson, CMA District Superintendent
 - Finance Committee: Led by Bonnie Marden, UM Foundation
- Lay Academy Introduction : Led by Bruce Dewitt

12-1 PM LUNCH DISCUSSION (Sandwiches available for \$6)

Welcome by Ron Wilson

“The Role of Lay Minister” by Linda Stetter,
Pastor of FUMC Marlborough

“Leading Effective Meetings” by Vicki Woods,
Pastor of Wesley UMC Worcester

1:00 TO 3:00 PROGRAM WORK AREAS

Worship: Led by Bob Moore, Pastor of FUMC Acton

Education: Led by Leslie Hastings, Associate Pastor of FUMC Wilmington

Youth: Led by Rosanne Roberts, CE Director of FUMC Hudson

Lay Academy Introduction: Led by Bruce Dewitt

REGISTRATION: Call 978-562-2932 or e-mail info@hopeforhudson.com to register by January 16th. Workshop is Free. List name, e-mail address, choice of seminar and whether or not you will want to purchase lunch. Seminars without three or more participants will be cancelled

LOST AND FOUND... We have quite a few items in the Welcome Office that have been found over the last couple of months... earrings, rings and watches, a backpack, doll, sweaters, umbrellas and much more. Please stop by to see if anything belongs to you or one of your family members. Thank you.

Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Beautiful poinsettias, including the lovely cross, again graced our sanctuary and chapel for Christmas. A special thank you to the floral designers: Chloe Sundberg, Jeanne Dhavale, and Nancy Ellis for all their time and work. All the festive decorations for the Christmas season are always a group effort.

*God Bless, Renelle Picard
Worship and the Visual Arts*

At this time I would like to say a personal THANK YOU so very much to all of the Carty Cupboard Volunteers for their very hard work over the past year!! To those who help bring in the food, donated or purchased, you have helped move 91,488.25 pounds of food!!! To those who work on distribution days you have helped pack and have given out a total of 100,498 meals to our clients in need. This does not include the 227 complete Thanksgiving meals that we also distributed to our clients.

A very special *Thank You* to Dot who once again has made sure that each person that came in during December received a gift from the mitten tree and from her “special stash” of wonderful things.

So to Dot, Russ, Solomon, Carolyn, Ann (who has flattened and sorted even more bags!) Janet, Barbara, Margaret, Susan and Bill, Millie, Bill W., Marion and Jerry, Becky, Sandy, Isaac, Munah, Kate and Libby, Jean, Eliana and Don and their Children, Debi, Brianna, Nick, George, Betty and Dick, Phil D., Chris and Earl, Ming, Joe and all of the Foreign Exchange Students, Jill and Jeff, Luv, Nancy C., Greg and Joan, Julie and her Boys, Jan, Ray and his Guys, Martha and the Gibbs Children, Cordelia, the Girl Scouts of Troop 30838, Judith and Rebecca, Carol and Michael and Danny, The Teachers and Students of Bancroft School, The Staff and Students of the Mercy Centre, Sharron, Paul, Patrick, Mackenzie, Steph, Kim, Phil, Kurt, Erin and Harry...

*Thank You, Thank You for your generosity, kindness,
and time in our mission to fight against hunger.*

Fondly, Nancy J. E. Spencer

NURTURING PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 – 9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

A life changing and enriching day for clergy and laity of the New England Annual Conference. Keynote address by Bishop Peter Weaver.

Workshops to nurture your spiritual journey and transform the congregation:

- Internet as a Tool for Nurturing Spirituality
- Keeping Sabbath in a Busy World
- Children and Spirituality
- Food and Faith, Personal and Global Connections
- Slow Down: Savoring All of Life
- Developing a Rule of Life that Frees and Guides

Leadership from New England Conference and Vermont, including Meri Blanchard, Sara Ewing Merrill, Evie Doyon, Rev. Larry Peacock, Carol Jean Sutor, Rev. Kee Boem So

Closing Communion with Bishop Weaver

Sponsored by the New England Conference Spiritual Formation Initiative and Rolling Ridge Retreat & Conference Center. More information and registration coming soon

WILD WANAKEE WOMEN Weekend (for Women 18+)

at Wanakee United Methodist Camp

Wanakee United Methodist Center
75 Upper New Hampton Road, Meredith NH 03253

Need that break from the family and job? Need to be rejuvenated? Come be a Wild Wanakee Woman and enjoy a different side of Wanakee! Be a couch potato without guilt or get out in the snow with your cross country skis or snow shoes. Enjoy wintery Wanakee with a cup of cocoa, a friend and a blazing fire. Hike in the woods or down to the water. No matter what the weather, you will enjoy the company of other women and grow in faith and friendship.

Register by calling 603-279-7950 ~ Cost: \$75 ~ Leader: Lynne Lemay

DID YOU KNOW?

The liturgical season of Christmas ends with Epiphany on January 6. In the Western Church, this festival commemorates the manifestation of Jesus to Gentiles in the form of the Magi. One of the best-known hymns of Epiphany is “We Three Kings” (UMH 254). This hymn often finds its way into worship earlier in the Christmas season, as it often is used as a “Christmas carol” in carol services and Christmas pageants. Both text and tune were written in 1857 by Rev. John H. Hopkins, Jr. an American Episcopal theologian and musician. The great American hymnologist Erik Routley identified this hymn as “the first modern American Christmas carol.”

In the Bible, the story of the visitation of the Magi is related only in the Gospel of Matthew (Matt 2:1-12), and many of the traditions related to the visitation by the Magi are not based on the Biblical account, but are traditions that have evolved later. By the middle of the 2nd Century, the sages from the East were identified as kings, at least in part to emphasize fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies of homage to the Messiah by Gentile kings. It is believed that in the 3rd Century Origen (one of the Greek Fathers of the Church and one of the earliest Bible commentators) was the first to propose that there were three bearers of gifts based on the fact that there were three gifts offered. By the 6th Century the kings were given names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. It is believed that these names evolved from yet another tradition: an ancient custom of blessing homes at the beginning of each year on the day of the feast of the Epiphany. A blessing was spoken in Latin—*Christus mansionem benedicat* (May Christ bless this home)—and the first letters of each word C-M-B were written above the doorway of the home. The names of the kings were a mnemonic device for remembering the words of the blessing. The legends surrounding the kings became even more widespread when a subgenre of “three kings plays” became popular among the “Mystery Plays” of the Middle Ages.

Hopkins’ hymn incorporates all of these traditions and takes the form of a narrative to be sung by the kings. In the tradition of the dramas of the Middle Ages, Hopkins included instructions in one of the early editions of this hymn for the stanzas to be sung by the kings—all together on the first and last stanzas, and individual kings on each of the other stanzas—Caspar st. 2 (gold), Melchior st. 3 (frankincense), and Balthasar st. 4 (myrrh) with the congregation singing the refrain each time. In our times, in the context of most worship services the entire hymn is generally sung by the congregation.

Submitted by,
Deborah A. O’Driscoll

2010 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., Jan. 18	Thurs., Jan. 21
Mon., Feb. 1	Wed., Feb. 3

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



Welcome!

Below is the topic for the next meeting.

JANUARY 8, 2010:

Book Study Focused on Motherhood

JANUARY 29, 2010:

How Becoming a Mom Changes a Marriage

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. We look forward to meeting you!



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Wesley United Methodist Church
114 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

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

WESLEY HERALD
JANUARY 7, 2010

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

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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

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Custodians

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Lay Members Annual Conference

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