

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY

Agape ~ Koinonia ~ Philadelphia

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way... love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” (From I Corinthians 13)

I’ve appreciated and been challenged by the comments and discussions following last Sunday’s sermon on Paul’s letter to the church at Corinth. First, many appreciated understanding this chapter was written to a church and not for a wedding service! Paul writes to a church that had forgotten what it meant to be the church... a community that had lost sight of the “more excellent way” of love.

What would church look like if we truly lived in the manner described in the 13th chapter of Corinthians?

- What if church made love its aim? Its mission? Its passion? Its purpose?
- What would church look like...what would we be doing...if someone left Wesley’s worship service and told a friend they could not believe how much they felt accepted? You could see and feel how much they care about one another!

What might it mean for Wesley Worcester UMC...what would it look like if we were to rethink church with a passion for this “more excellent way?” A church where ~ *agape* ~ *koinonia* – *philadelphia* ~ were central to our life and ministries?

Let us continue to ponder these three Greek words and make them a part of our identity:

- *Agape*: love that is of God and from God...that is we accept (love) each other as God accepted (loved) us. Not a romantic love (*eros*)
- *Koinonia*: Christian fellowship or communion with God and with one another.
- *Philadelphia*: Brotherly (sisterly) love. Within the community of faith there is a love we have for one another that makes us family... and so we suffer with those who suffer and weep with those who weep.

In Christian Love,

Pastor Vicki

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

LET US PRAY FOR...

- ✠ Janet DeNapoli's brother Walter Scott recently receiving a diagnosis of lung cancer.
- ✠ Praise for Melissa Butler's father graduating with his Master's Degree
- ✠ Matt D'Acri who is still suffering with chronic pancreatitis.
- ✠ Katie, the fiancé of Barb and Tom Ingrassia's nephew, who was in a car accident in Rochester NY.
- ✠ Betty Small now at Fairlawn
- ✠ Rev. Anthony Brima at Fairlawn
- ✠ Lois Johnson at Knollwood.
- ✠ Russell Stone at The Meadows in Leicester.
- ✠ The people of Haiti
- ✠ Mission and Outreach Committee retreat this coming Saturday
- ✠ Leadership Team Retreat with Rev. Rick Black on Feb. 20th
- ✠ Decisions around an Urban Camp in Worcester sponsored by Elm Park Ministries
- ✠ Our youth, young adults and young families (Y3K Group)
- ✠ All the college students returning to college that God may guide them through another year.

OUR SYMPATHY TO...

- ✠ Polly and Steve Boyns on the death of her mother, Harriet Martin, last week.
- ✠ Phil Johnson and family on the death of his uncle, Mike Shannon.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for February is given in loving memory of my mother, Virginia Ross by Christ and Earl Flagg.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS on Sunday, February 7th are given in loving memory of Harry and Bertha Spencer, Sr. by Harry and Violet Spencer, Jr. and family.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS on Sunday, February 14th are given in honor and celebration of Mary Demery with love from Johnnell & JP.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES ~ FEBRUARY 17TH AT NOON AND 7PM

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent; a season of 40 days (not counting Sundays). The season is a time of spiritual preparation for celebrating Easter. This year we will be using the theme “Journey to Hope” to study and reflect on what it means to be an Easter People! Please join us for one of the Ash Wednesday services and watch for other opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal during the season; such as, a labyrinth walk, a Meditation on Forgiveness, Taizé Worship, Weekday Bible Studies, and other opportunities. If you have something you would like to lead or have offered as a part of our “Journey of Hope” please let one of the pastors or Deb O'Driscoll our Lay Leader know.

BECOME A MEMBER OF WESLEY UMC ~ Easter Sunday ~ April 4th 2010

Membership in a local congregation is an important way we live out our baptismal covenant. Membership is a time to renew the covenant we made (or that was made on our behalf \at baptism) and to join a community of faith working together in mission and ministry. Membership is the sharing in the work of the local church upholding it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. If you have not been baptized this is a time when we will also celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for those who will be joining as members of the church.

Pastor Shandi and Pastor Vicki invite you to explore membership by attending four classes on these Saturdays: February 27th, March 6th, 13th, and 20th from 10am till Noon. Childcare will be provided if needed. Attending the classes will be an opportunity to develop relationships with others, understand the basic beliefs of the UMC, understand more fully the commitment you would be making, and to give you enough information to then decide whether or not you wish to become a member. If you have any further questions please ask one of the pastors. We pray that we will have a large class! What an exciting way to celebrate Easter!

REBECCA CIRCLE... The postponed meeting of Rebecca Circle is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16th at 6:30 pm in the John Wesley Room. Martha Vigeant will present “Miss Manners Says.” Dessert will be served.

UMCOR RESULTS... The UMCOR results for Haiti totaled \$2,711.40 through February 3, 2010. Thank you for your generous contributions!

SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE, Continuing Nursing Education (Manchester NH) will be hosting an Introduction to Parish Nursing program on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, from 8:30 am—1:00 pm. For more information to register see the flyer on the bulletin board in Brewer Hall or call Colleen Lagasse at 603-641-7086.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...JOIN US FOR A TIME OF FAMILY FELLOWSHIP... as we celebrate “**Shrove Tuesday**” together! **Tuesday, February 16, 6:00-7:30 pm!** Come enjoy a special pancake supper with all the extra goodies, and special hands-on Lenten activities. All are welcome... great time to bring friends!

UMCOR Health Kits –The children have bundled **56 kits** so far... great job! If you are interested in helping, our greatest need is hand towels. Thanks for all your support!

~ Valerie Jansson

THE FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE **MARCH 1ST - APRIL 30TH**

Dear Folks of Wesley,

The generous Mr. Feinstein is once again sharing his money with agencies that help feed those hungry and in need. All money and each non-perishable food item donated to us from March 1st 2010 through April 30th 2010 will be counted in the challenge.

Mr. Feinstein’s \$1 million will be divided proportionately between all the agencies taking part in the challenge. The more food we collect, and the more money we raise, the more we receive from Mr. Feinstein. If you would like to donate money please make your check payable to Wesley United Methodist Church and note on the memo line that it is for the Feinstein Challenge. Food items may be brought to Carty Cupboard as usual.

For your convenience I have also included a list of the foods we use all the time in our clients bags. We would like to take this time to thank you for your generous donations and support during this challenge and throughout the year.

Sincerely,
Nancy J. E. Spencer ~Carty Cupboard

CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD LIST

Cereal ~ Cold or Hot	Canned Fruit	Grape Jelly
Tomato Sauce	100% Juices	Canned Vegetables
Canned Tuna or Chicken	Dry Pasta	Peanut Butter
Rice	Hearty Canned Soups	
Meals in a Can ~ this can be stew, hash, baked beans, or pasta		

"THROUGH GOD'S EYES"

New England Annual Conference

Church and Society/Methodist Federation of Social Action

Join us for our combined Spring Retreat on

March 27 from 9 AM to 3 PM

at Newbury Court (formerly The Deaconess) in Concord MA..

We will be exploring racism through worship, meditation, and the help of special guest speaker Rev. Kapyra Kaoma, the project director at Political Research Associates. He is the author of U.S. Conservatives, African Churches and Homophobia. Gwen White will lead us through a spiritual process in the afternoon contextualizing racism and social justice. A soup lunch will be provided, and a \$10.00 offering is suggested and appreciated. Please RSVP by March 15 to Leigh Dry at leighdry@comcast.net. See Pastor Vicki if you have any questions.

FOSTER PARENT INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULE

For anyone interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent...

Tuesday, March 9th, @ 6pm

Tuesday May 11th @ 6pm

Tuesday, June 8th @ 6pm

Tuesday, September 14th @ 6pm

Tuesday, November 9th @ 6pm

All meetings will be held at the Worcester DCF office - 121 Providence St. Light refreshments will be provided. Contact Family Resource Unit @ 508-929-2000 for more information.

HOLY LAND TRIP WITH BISHOP WEAVER ~ October 18, 2010

Join Bishop Weaver and The Preacher's Aid Society of New England for 10 Days of Biblical Discovery. The trip will leave from Boston on October 18th and will cost approximately \$3400 (which includes roundtrip airfare, First Class hotels, guided sightseeing, Bible Study Guide, Lecture Series, buffet Breakfast and Dinner Daily).

The trip includes:

- Galilee - cross the waters of the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Beatitudes, where the feeding of the 5000 was said to take place, and more
- Beit Shean, Nazereth, Megiddo and Cesarea
- Jericho, Qumran and Bethlehem
- Jerusalem
- Dead Sea

If you wish to know more there will be a brochure outside the main office or go online at www.eo.travelwithus.com/find_trip Fill in the grey box with: Tour=HL10 Code=101810W.

CARTY'S ITEM OF THE MONTH...

Please don't forget that this coming Sunday the 7th is Carty Cupboard Food Pantry's Item of the Month Sunday. February's item is meal-in-a-can, at this time we are out of baked beans and pasta, like ravioli or spaghetti o's, but stew is fine too. There will be a box marked "Item of the Month" in Brewer hall every Sunday throughout the month of February in case you forget this Sunday or are unable to be at Church.

Next month's Item of the Month will be.....Instant Oatmeal in the variety packs, it can be anyone's brand. The date for the instant oatmeal in the variety packs to be brought in is Sunday March 7th. To all who have brought in items for each month, we are so grateful for your help in stocking our shelves. In the month of January the Carty Cupboard Food Pantry served 322 families, 51 of them were new clients!!

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Western church we commemorate the visit of the Magi on Epiphany, which marks the end of the Christmas season. However, Epiphany, meaning manifestation, in its broadest sense is a celebration of the incarnation and the many ways that God reveals Himself to the world through Jesus Christ. As we move into Ordinary Time, the first Sunday after Epiphany usually celebrates the baptism of Jesus, which is a further revelation of the identity of Jesus. This past Sunday we heard the story of Jesus' turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana, an event which the gospel of John refers to as "the first of his signs" (John 2:11). Beyond that in the coming weeks we will move from the start of his ministry to hear about many other teachings and miracles of his earthly ministry.

The design of the *Te Deum* window (the large stained glass window above the altar) in the sanctuary incorporates many of the early events in the evolution of Jesus' identity. The images in the lowest level of the center of the window depict the visits of the shepherds and Wise Men to see the Christ child, and continue along the lower level to the right to also illustrate the presentation of Christ in the Temple. The further story of Jesus' childhood continues upwards in the central panels—the boy Jesus in the carpenter shop on the left and Jesus' disputing with the teachers in the temple on the right. Finally above those depictions is the baptism in the Jordan and the turning of water into wine. Although the window culminates with its depiction of the resurrected Christ, the ascended Christ, and at the very top, Christ enthroned, all of the earlier events are important for our understanding of who Jesus is.

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.

<u>Article Deadline Date</u>	<u>Herald Mailing Date</u>
Tues., Feb. 16	Thurs., Feb. 18
Mon., Mar. 1	Wed., Mar. 3

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



Welcome!

Here is the topic for the next meeting:

FEBRUARY 19, 2010:

How Becoming a Mom Changes Your Relationship with Family

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 HERALD
FEBRUARY 4, 2010

WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

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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

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Debi Ritacco

Custodians

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