
THE WESLEY HERALD

January 2025

Special Prayers for these Wesley Family, Friends, and Others...

Carolyn Bellil, Debbie Plant, Ruth Wentzell (friend of Elaine Peterson), Sandra O'Driscoll, Melissa Houlihan (friend of Bill Robbins), Alice Douglas, Deborah Plant, Barbara McLaren, Cathy (sister-in-law of David Potts), Rich Reynolds, Grace Woode, Beverly Grimshaw, Rosamond Hammond, Linda Keister, Pinamang Boateng, Joseph Boateng, Stephen Boyns, Anne Burrows, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Jim & Judy Hoffman, Don Johnson, Charles Kiefer, Dorothy Norcross, David Samanen, Janet Terzian, Donald Tremblay, Barbara and the Vietze Family; Peter Woodcock, Laura Zoldak, Susan (friend of David Potts), Margie (Linda Keister's sister), Page (Allison Hansen's sister), Libby T. (friend of Phyllis Yngve), Neil Ashton (past member), Paula and Calvin Kelly (sister and brother-in-law of Linda Dylewicz), Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Margaret Wissell, Matt and Ed, and family on the death of her husband and father, Edward Wissell on December 26, 2024. Services are being held privately. Cards can be sent to Matt at 517 West Center Street, West Bridgewater, MA 02379.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Rose Window lighting for January is given in loving memory of Mrs. William B. Smith by the United Women in Faith.

The Tower lighting for January is given in loving memory of my parents, Mary & Normal Fletcher, and my brother, David Fletcher by Barbara Fletcher.

Announcements

AN ALL-CHURCH MEETING

will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025, following worship.

Wesley's Annual UWF Meeting on January 12th after church at 12 noon will occur in East Hall and include a light luncheon and fellowship. Please bring a finger food dessert like cookies or brownies to share. Our Annual Booklets will be available, devotions, recognition of new officers, requests for your input for future programs and our annual recognition of members at Wesley who have passed away this year.

If you can help provide a side dish or some food our lunch, please contact me by email at: sandramcmanus1@gmail.com or when you see me in church. Linda D'Acri will also be another person to contact.

Faithfully, Sandy McManus

From Carty Cupboard Food Pantry...

Over the course of 2024, we at Carty Cupboard Food Pantry assisted over 6,400 families totaling over 27,400 adults and children. The current volunteers have given their time and effort for many years, and in a few cases decades to help those in need. We couldn't serve all the people that we do without the support of all of you. A huge THANK YOU to all the people of Wesley and our partner churches who have donated food and money to help make this mission possible.

In January we need jelly and hot cereal in variety packages please.

May your New Year be a bright and healthy one.

Nancy

Gift Cards Can Prevent Homelessness!

Do you buy groceries? Stop by CVS? Grab a coffee at Dunkin, Starbucks or a meal at Panera? If you do, pay with a gift card instead of cash or credit. Buy your card at Wesley and your purchase will help a family threatened with homelessness actually remain in their home.

Allison Hansen will be selling cards in Brewer Hall after church on the following dates and will accept orders by email at ACHis4788@aol.com. Please give her advance notice if you want to place a larger order.

January 26 - plan ahead for Valentine's gifts!

February 23

March 16 - stock up now for Easter baskets!

Gently Used/New Coats, Hats & Gloves are Needed

Do you have a gently used winter coat that you no longer wear? We are collecting gently used or new coats, hats and gloves for the people who come to the monthly Sunday Breakfast. During this season of giving let us help keep our neighbors warm.

Thank you, Linda D'Acri

February 2025 Herald: *There are extra copies of the Herald in the Narthex by the Welcome Office.*

The February Herald will be part of the February 2nd bulletin. The deadline for articles is Monday, January 27th at 11 am. Thank you for your cooperation.

Debi

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR IHN (IN HOUR OF NEED)

IHN works in partnership with The Faith Community, groups and individual volunteers to provide shelter and assistance to families with children who are experiencing homelessness. They house up to six families, located at 91 June Street in Worcester.

We are looking for volunteers for 2 shifts for the week of January 26th – February 1st, Sunday – Saturday, time slots:

Evenings 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Overnights 8:30 pm – 6:30 am (a room is provided for you)

You can sign up in Brewer Hall on the bulletin board under "Mission". Please provide your name and phone number for contact.

Please contact me for more information or with any questions.

Gerard Piscitelli (774-253-7362)

GOD MOMENT

If you could share a story of seeing God's work in your life, please tell me or email it to me. The story can be anonymous or signed, and all are invited to participate. Betsy (betspenn35@hotmail.com)

God Moment from Lorraine Kronberg

A God Moment - - You are my Sunshine

It has been almost four years since I moved to Kingsport, Tennessee. I have found a home here with my daughter Kris and her family. It was not an easy decision to make because I had lived in Worcester for most of my life and attended Wesley for all those years. Music has been something I have enjoyed from a young child. My husband George and I sang in the Wesley Choir for more than 50 years. I have such wonderful, wonderful memories of those years with my dear friend LeRoy Hanson. The other group I miss is the "Sunshine Girls" and our singing at nursing homes and for shut-ins.

My new church is Harvest Community Church where my daughter is an associate pastor. I love everything about Harvest and singing only praise music with our very talented band. But I do miss singing hymns which I have loved since I sang them with my grandmother at St. James Methodist Church in Springfield MA as a child. Once every few months I attend Crossroads Methodist for their traditional service. A few weeks ago, I needed my 'hymn fix' and went to the 9:00 service where two of the hymns we sang were "Precious Lord, take my Hand", and 'The Hymn of Promise'.

After the service a very friendly woman who had played the Prelude of hymns on the piano that morning reached out to me. She asked if I would like to join a singing group that met at the Senior Center every week to sing hymns with others who love to sing. Well, I thought it over and went on Tuesday. I had a wonderful morning and met such lovely people. At the end of the morning Amy announced which nursing home they would be singing at on Thursday. Surprise! They sing at a different nursing home every week. She gave me a binder with over 100 hymns to keep and bring with me.

Thursday morning, I drove to the Holston Nursing Home and joined the other members who were going to sing that day. I was given the list of hymns for the morning. After an opening prayer we stood to sing our first song which was not on the list. It was "You are my Sunshine" which the Sunshine girls always sang at the beginning of their programs. I felt my heart open up and knew that God had brought me to this group to fill a place in my life that had been empty. What a joy! On Tuesday and Thursday mornings I will be singing the hymns and remembering the music and friends I loved at Wesley.

"We have shared together the blessings of God"

Philippians 1:7

DID YOU KNOW?

Our worship on Epiphany Sunday included hearing the story from the Gospel of Matthew of the Magi's following a star to the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem, where they worshiped him and offered gifts to him. Throughout Advent and into Christmas and Epiphany the image of stars has been prominent in our sanctuary. Several different types of stars are found on the Chrismon tree.

Although the star that led the wise men to Jesus is the star of the Bible with which we are most familiar, there are many more references to stars throughout the Old and New Testaments. Some of these references are to the stars as heavenly bodies and as part of creation that includes images of transcendence and glory. Stars also are used as symbols of people, culminating in the image of the ascended Christ as the "bright morning star" of the book of Revelation.

The imagery of stars is also found in hymnody. A more contemporary hymn which uses the symbolism of a star for Jesus is "Star-Child" (TFWS 2095). During our Christmas Lessons and Carols we sang selected stanzas of that hymn. Dean McIntyre of the General Board of Discipleship explains the somewhat challenging text of this hymn in the following way¹:

Each verse begins with paired images followed by a short description:

- "Star-Child, earth-Child": The capitalized Child refers specifically to Jesus, son of God the creator of the universe, yet born on earth fully human; juxtaposes images of the Jesus of heaven and the Jesus of earth, both divine and human, a "go-between" or intercessor between God and humans.
- "Street child, beat child": There are people -- children and adults -- without homes and families, living on the streets, in the cold, beaten down by life's circumstances, "no place left to go."
- "Grown child, old child": Even older people with a lifetime of memories, are children of God.
- "Spared child, spoiled child": There are people of privilege and comfort, spared the struggle of the streets, spoiled by all that they have, yet "wanting more."
- "Hope-for-peace Child": Jesus born on earth is a "stupendous sign" from God that we can hope for peace.

Each verse continues with a second pair of images and a second short description:


- "love Child, Christ Child": Again capitalized, referring to Jesus. As "heaven's lightning rod," Jesus is God's means of entering into our human, earthly existence, quickly, dramatically, powerfully, as lightning in a storm.
- "hurt child, used child": As with its paired "street" and "beat child," there are those among us on the edges of society, people we may not even want to know or acknowledge.
- "sad child, lost child": There are those who suffer and hurt, have no direction, no goal, no joy, whose life stories are "told in tears."
- "wise child, faith child": And there are people whose lives have led them to maturity and wisdom in the faith.
- "down-to-earth Child": Amid all these images of humans, good images and unfortunate images, Jesus, as the divine star-Child, has come to earth to live among us and in us. He is the bright "Star of stars that shine."

¹ Dean McIntyre, "Hymn Study: *Star Child*," <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/star-child>, accessed December 31, 2018.


As images of mystery that demonstrate God's awe-inspiring creativity, stars help to proclaim the ways God comes to us. The refrain of the hymn reminds us that there are some people who have never experienced the joy of Christmas. As McIntyre observes, "The prayer that this year Christmas will come to all is a prayer that everyone will know, recognize, and experience the coming of the Christ child in the many and varied circumstances of their lives." As we move from Christmas and Epiphany, may the way we live our lives shine the light of Christ, the true Star of Christmas, into the world.

Submitted by,

Deborah A. O'Driscoll



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Pastor	Rev. Byungmoo Lee	Education Committee Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
Organist	Ronna Davis	Youth Bible Study	Ivy Hammond
Chancel Choir Director	David Potts	Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs	Joseph Fletcher
Ghanaian Choir Director	Desmond Cheetham	Financial Secretary	William Wong
Director of Children's Ministries	Rhianna Burke	Church Auditor	Peter Hansen
Church Business Administrator	Matt Crane	Ghanaian Association	Earl Flagg
Church Secretary	Debi Reynolds	Hospitality Chair	Cynthia Fletcher
Building Superintendent	Phil Johnson	Medical Ministry	Paul Hayfron
Custodians	April Dylewicz	Mission Coordinators	Linda D'Acri
Head Usher	Gerard Piscitelli	Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Ron Ramsay
Communion Steward	David Dagle	United Women in Faith Co-Chairs	Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy
Wesley Tech Team	Earl Flagg	Music Committee	Donna Hirtle
Sunday Security	Mark Muncey	Worship Committee Chair	Chris Flagg
Church Council Chair	Adam Flagg		Judy Hoffman
Co-Lay Leaders	Brent Drajesk		Barbara Ingrassia,
	Gifty Bentum-Asante		Sandra McManus, Cordelia Ferdinand
	Joseph Fletcher		Debbie O'Driscoll
Board of Trustees Chair	Gary Robinson		Debbie O'Driscoll
Carty Cupboard Food Pantry	Nancy Spencer		