

“ONE IN CHRIST”

What does it mean to be a multicultural church? In a few weeks, we will be celebrating the holy day of Pentecost. At Pentecost, we celebrate the formation of the first multicultural faith community. In Acts 2 we hear how the Spirit fell on the gathered disciples. “*All of them were filled with Holy Spirit and began to speak other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. There were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. At this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.*” (Acts 2:4-6). The Pentecost narrative is often presented as the reversal of the Tower of Babel story. But, is it? In Genesis 11 we hear how “*the whole earth had one language and the same words.*” Then we hear how, God scattered all the nations, confusing their languages. In response to the city the people had built, God says, “*Look, they are one people, and they have all one language... nothing that they propose to do will be impossible now.*” (Gen.11:6). So God scatters the people and spreads them across the earth, fashioning a multicultural world. What was going on here? In Genesis, multiculturalism appears to be the result of a punishment where as in Acts multiculturalism is a gift and blessing.

Theologian, Gustavo Gutierrez has explained how in ancient times, a tower represented a fortified city – it is from a city’s tower that you would watch out for enemies approaching. It was the practice that such cities were built using forced and slave labor. So those who were building the city and tower of Babel were trying to impose their identity on others to “*make a name for ourselves*” (v.4). What God did for Babel was rather a blessing than a curse. Much like God freed the people of Israel from Egypt’s oppression, it was God’s intent that people of different identities live free of oppressive relationships and according to their cultures and tradition.

While the Babel story reminds us of the diversity God created, it also reminds us how the world often prefers to live in divided communities and in oppressive conflict. But, God desires peace. It is easy to want to live separately and co-exist in a diverse world, whereas God also wants us to commune together in community. Pentecost, for me, fulfills God’s intention of the scattering at Babel. Pentecost illustrates how we are to live in the midst of our diversity. God created a multicultural world, and the church is called to witness to how we can live peaceably in our multicultural diversity.

Eric H.F. Law, a noted theologian on leadership in multicultural communities, has noted how two miracles took place at Pentecost: a miracle of the tongue and a miracle of the ear. There were those who were able to speak other languages as the Spirit gave them ability; and there were those in the crowd who were able to hear each in their own language. I believe that, as a church, we have often neglected the miracle of the ear. How do we listen anew to the work of the Spirit in our midst? Eric Law goes on to explain how, in multicultural communities, this has something to do with power dynamics. The Babel story had to do with those who wanted to impose their power on others. At Pentecost, the church received the power by which it lives and with which it witnesses. How, then, can we share in the power of the Spirit?

In Galatians, Paul writes that “*As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourself with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek... slave or free... male and female; for all of you are one in Christ.*” We are called to live as one – to find unity in our diversity. But, what does it mean to clothe ourselves with Christ? What does it mean that we are one in Christ? These are pertinent questions for us as we seek to live out of our call to be a multicultural church. I have raised more questions than answers. This is because I desire to learn together with you. Shall we discern together what it means to witness to the kingdom of God by our multicultural diversity?

Pastor Shandi

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

LET US PRAY FOR...

- ✠ John Mockler at Christopher House.
- ✠ Joyce Sutherland home following additional surgery
- ✠ Betty Small at the Auburn Life Care Center
- ✠ Rose Nelson at UMass Memorial
- ✠ Mining towns of West Virginia
- ✠ People of China following the earthquake.
- ✠ Stand Up for Kids and their events at Wesley on April 23th & 24th

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for April is given in loving memory of Doris Tremblay by Tammy, Tracy, Allison, David, Nancy and families.

THE TOWER lighting for April is given in loving memory of Margaret A. (Swan) Fuller by David, Kathy, Nancy and grandchildren.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS on April 25th are given in loving memory of Walter N. Daby by Beatrice C. Daby.

ALTAR FLOWERS... Beautiful floral arrangements on the altar during Sunday worship is a special gift we offer to God as part of our praise and worship. The arrangements are usually dedicated in celebration of or in memory of a loved one. By your choice, you may take the flowers home to enjoy or you may request the flowers be delivered to a shut-in or member/friend in the hospital. If you are unable to join us in church, arrangements can be made for the flowers to be delivered to you at home after the service. A calendar of available dates and order forms are available in the Welcome Office. The cost for altar flowers is \$50. If you are not able to come to church but would like to dedicate flowers, please call Debi in the office.

VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED FOR OUTDOOR PLANTERS

We are looking for a volunteer or volunteers to plant and maintain flowers in the large pots at the outdoor entrances to our church. It has been our custom to have planters throughout spring, summer, and fall seasons as a sign of welcome and beauty as people enter the church. You would not have to purchase the plants as they are “sponsored” by friends and members of the church. There are so many ways you can volunteer and help with our mission and ministry; this is an important way to serve. If you are interested please call the office and give Debi Ritacco your name and we will be in touch with you.

~ Pastor Vicki

EASTER DONATION RESULTS

The Easter collection came to \$6,443.50. versus a budget of \$6,616. While we were just shy of making our budget number, we are grateful to all for your generosity!

KOFI & AMA ~ APRIL 11TH

Sunday	\$ 14.00	
Monday	44.00	
Tuesday	13.32	
Wednesday	57.00	**Winner**
Thursday	32.00	
Friday	48.00	
Saturday	<u>23.00</u>	
Total	\$ 227.32	

TALENT SHOW AND SPAGHETTI SUPPER GREAT SUCCESS

What a great night of fun and fellowship! Who would have known some of the hidden and not so hidden talent that was shared. From story telling and poetry, juggling and dancing, rock band and singing, piano and clarinet solos, a clown and clowning around (and oh yes, ask about the grand finale)...this was a night that is sure to be repeated! All was made possible by the hard work of Linda & Paul Carlson, and Lori, Matt & Zachary Conlon! From cooking the dinner, to making tables ready, to washing pots and pans and mopping the kitchen floor, to lining up the amazing acts, to a great MC... they worked hard to give everyone a great night! Thanks also to the youth group, under the leadership of Phil and Emily Smith, who served the meal and helped clean tables. Thanks to all who participated... especially those who shared their talent! The United Methodist Women made \$400 toward their mission budget.

SPRING CLEANING AT FLORENCE HOUSE . . .

Florence House of Worcester is a transitional living center for teenage mothers. Every Spring members of Wesley UMC 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

**Mops, Buckets and Brooms are especially useful,
but all of your favorite cleaning products are needed.*

GRADUATES... We are collecting names of people within our church family who are graduating from high school or college. Please let Debi in the church office (office@welseyworc.org) know these names, where he/she is graduating from, and where he/she is onto next.

**WESLEY UMC IN WORCESTER AND
STANDUP FOR KIDS* ARE CHANGING THE WORLD!**

7:00 P.M. FRIDAY APRIL 23RD - 7:00 P.M. SATURDAY APRIL 24TH

This weekend Volunteers from StandUp For Kids plan to raise awareness about the homeless and at risk youth population in our city by hosting our 2nd annual "24 Hours on the Street" event. Several activities have been planned throughout the event including a talent show, team trivia, a candlelight vigil, a picnic, a scavenger hunt, and a sleep out on Wesley's front lawn.

Everyone is invited to join us, whether you come for one event or plan to spend the entire 24 hours with us, come and help us to... Change the World!

\$2.00 admission fee or a donation of canned prepared meals will be collected.

**StandUp For Kids (www.standupforkids.org) was founded with the mission to help homeless youth. We do this every day by going to the streets to find, help, and stabilize homeless and at risk youth. Wesley Church has been home to the StandUp for Kids Worcester program since 2008.*

MESSAGES FROM THE CARTY CUPBOARD...

There is only 1 week left for the Feinstein Challenge, it ends on April 30th. If you would like to donate via a check please remember to make the check out to Wesley United Methodist Church and put **Feinstein Challenge in the memo**, otherwise it can not be counted. You may also bring donated food to Carty Cupboard as usual.

The Carty Cupboard food item for April is Grape Jelly and the food item for Sunday, May 2nd will be Canned Fruit. If you are in a food buying mood, or you see a good sale, there will be 2 items for Sunday June 6th, Ketchup and Mustard. We rarely get these items in and our folks really like to have them. Thank you for thinking of those in need when you shop!

Carty Cupboard is in need of plastic bags any size.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Children's Mini-Harvest, Sunday, April 24! The children will be offering 100 special gifts that they have created with sweet surprises for all, for just \$20! The children and youth are invited to come Saturday, April 24, 4-6 PM, Wagner Hall to help prepare our special treats!

Vacation Bible Camp Decorating Event – Thursday, April 29, 7-9 PM, Wagner Hall.
“Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!” Come with your painting clothes as we create our themed backdrops and props for VBC. It is always an evening of fun and fellowship with friends and family!

Please remember our wish list for our themed VBC decorating needs... Here is a list of some of the items (remember borrowed items will be labeled with lender's name and phone number to be sure it is returned)... telescopes, black lights, silver disco balls, glow-in-the-dark stars, artificial vines/greenery, aluminum foil, aluminum pie plates, old CDs, stuffed animals, space-related posters and books, model rockets, and clean shoe boxes (we need seventy-five more). All items will be stored in a locked classroom on the third floor.

Also, please help us with our VBC food needs... Oreo cookies, Rice Krispies treats, individual boxed juices, lemonade mix, pretzels and potato chips. Please see Val Jansson or Ann Openshaw for more details.

New!! Children's Faith and Mission Group! We are offering an exciting ministry for the children to experience putting their faith into action! Come join us for our first meeting, Sunday, May 23, 11:45 AM-12:30 PM, Wagner Hall, for the children to learn how they can make a difference in our church, our community, and our world. Your leaders Liz & Jeff Burrows, Ann Openshaw and Val Jansson are looking forward to sharing life-changing moments together!

Important Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, June 6... Last day of 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School!

Sunday, June 20... Children & Youth Celebration Sunday!

Monday, June 28... Vacation Bible Camp begins! 5:30-8:30 PM (June 28-July 1)

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Psalm 150:6

~ Valerie Jansson

VOLLEYBALL SPORTS NIGHT AT WESLEY UMC ON FRIDAY, MAY 7TH

Join us for a night of Volleyball, fun and fellowship in Brewer Hall, May 7th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. If you are planning on attending please contact: Youl Bellil at youlbellil@gmail.com or 508-829-7817.

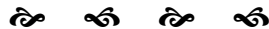
Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

As in past years, the music segment of the Sundberg Memorial Concert was only part of the evening event. The reception was — and always is — a vital and enjoyable finale to what was planned to be a happy and uplifting experience for members, friends and the general public at Wesley Church. Because of the kindness, service and expertise of Wesley friends, the 2010 reception was a triumph—a joyful and delicious ending to this Wesley event.

A very special thank you to all my Wesley friends who baked, prepared, arranged and set up food—who served and poured, who washed and kept the kitchen area organized. It was a lot of work and you graciously performed these tasks. I want you to know that your efforts and time are most sincerely appreciated.

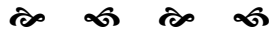
Thank you again for your participation in hosting yet another of Wesley's legendary receptions.

*Blessings to all of you,
Chloe Nester Sundberg*



Easter is always a beautiful time at Wesley. A special thank you goes to Nancy Ellis and Patricia Asiedu for their help in designing and arranging the flowers with me in the chapel and sanctuary for our celebration. God bless you for sharing your gifts and time.

~ Renelle Picard, Worship and the Visual Arts



Thank you to our Wesley family & friends for your prayers, cards, condolences and support during these past few months of traumatic family losses. We especially wish to thank the Prayers & Squares ministry group for the lovely prayer quilts made for Tom's Dad and Mom, and Barb's Mom. The quilts--and the knots of love tied on them -- were a great source of strength for our families. Your loving concern has made our time of extended mourning more bearable. To quote Helen Keller, "It is better to walk in the dark with a friend, than to walk in the light alone..."

~ Tom & Barb Ingrassia

A Very Fancy Tea

SATURDAY MAY 1, 2010

2:00 P.M.

hosted by the United Methodist Women of
Wesley United Methodist Church
114 Main St. Worcester, MA.

tickets \$5.00 each

all ticket orders must be received by April 28, 2010
purchase tickets in Brewer Hall on Sunday mornings or
call Chris Flagg @ 508-852-7745 to reserve.

**Join us for tea and some Very Fancy desserts
while you enjoy a program filled with the
Traditions of our Ghanaian sisters.**

All Things Fancy, encouraged!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW Finance Committee will meet on Saturday, May 8 at 9:15 in the John Wesley Room. We have several important financial matters to discuss. Officers please plan to attend. Thank you.

The Talent Show was a huge success. A big THANK-YOU goes to Linda Carlson, who coordinated this event. The audience was enthusiastic, and the participants were talented. Thanks to everyone who attended, participated and helped. It was a lot of fun.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

3RD ANNUAL MOTORCADE TO WRIGHT'S CHICKEN FARM ON SUNDAY, MAY 16.

Sign up with George Proulx on Sunday Mornings in Brewer Hall.

Adults \$17. Children (3-10 years old) \$10.

Pre Payment by May 9th is required; checks should be made payable to UMM.

We will leave Wesley at noon.

GENERAL MEETING/NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS, SUNDAY, MAY 23, 11:30 AM

Be thinking of good nominees-that includes **yourself!**

DID YOU KNOW?

The designated weekly readings of the lectionary generally include three lessons as well as a psalm. Perhaps one of the best known and most well loved Psalm is Psalm 23. Did you know that in all three years of the lectionary cycle the Psalm reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is always this familiar psalm? In addition, the gospel reading for each year consists of various portions of John 10, all of which contain references to the shepherd and his sheep. These passages are the basis for the use of the title "Good Shepherd" to refer to Jesus, and the fourth Sunday of Easter is thus known as "Good Shepherd" Sunday. This designation is not just an invention of the modern lectionary system but represents recovery of an ancient practice, as it is known that the Easter sermons of Augustine (354-430) utilized the Good Shepherd theme (although the timing was slightly different, with this theme occurring on the Third Sunday of Easter.)

Sheep are in fact the animal mentioned most often in the Bible, due to the importance of sheep in the everyday lives of Biblical people as well as the qualities of shepherds and their sheep which allow metaphors for spiritual life. The images used in the Bible include leaders as shepherds, the chosen people as God's sheep and God as a Divine Shepherd for individuals. In addition, the Messiah is depicted as both shepherd and lamb. Even though we do not live in an agricultural or nomadic society, these images still speak to us. As summarized in the *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* (IVP, 1998), the "sheep-shepherd relationship...stresses the care and compassion of the divine shepherd and the dependence of people on God to meet all their needs."

*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
Mon., May 3	Wed., May 5
Mon., May 17	Wed., May 19

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:

APRIL 23RD

How becoming a mom changes your relationship with the world .

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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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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WESLEY HERALD
APRIL 22, 2010

