

HOLY HABITS...SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

*“Thus says the Lord:
‘Stand at the crossroads, and look,
And ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies;
and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’”
Jeremiah 6:16*

The prophet Jeremiah addressed a people “who were exhausted and despairing... a people who saw nothing new, who hoped nothing new, and who could speak nothing new”. (Brueggemann). In 587 B.C.E. Jerusalem was destroyed, and with it all that held life together for the people. What do you do, where do you go, who do you turn to when you are so deeply in crisis that it appears that even God has deserted you? Jeremiah said it simply: **“Ask for the ancient paths.”** In the “ancient paths” a new world can and will emerge.

“In the latter part of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to John Wesley, in London, deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption.” (from Book of Discipline, 2008, p. 72). I might say these persons were also spiritually exhausted and despairing. To address their need, John Wesley appointed a day that they might come together for guidance and direction... and out of this was a rise of the United Society (with each society divided into classes, with a class leader). Some of the guidance and accountability for their spiritual lives came in the form of the General Rules. Simply stated there were **three rules**: Doing No Harm, Doing Good, and Attending to the Ordinances of God.

I am reminded as well that the disciples asked Jesus for guidance and instruction as they sought to stay close to God. Teach us to pray they asked him. And Jesus taught them how to pray. (Luke 11:1). Another time a lawyer asked Jesus which commandment in the law was the greatest? Jesus replied, “You shall **love the Lord** your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22:36-40).

We all need a way to keep us faithful to God ~ a way to stay in love with God ~ a way to be restful in our soul. I love the idea of choosing the ancient paths. For me the ancient paths include: (1) prayer (2) scripture reading, and (3) offering hospitality. Let us ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies.

Pastor Vicki

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

LET US PRAY FOR...

- ✠ Rose Nelson
- ✠ John Mockler at Christopher House.
- ✠ Betty Small at Auburn Life Care Center
- ✠ The Berthod family, especially Lou and Nancy.
- ✠ Joyce Sutherland, her healing is taking longer than expected.
- ✠ Family in Liberia and around the world.
- ✠ For speedy recovery for Lucy Wisner following knee surgery.
- ✠ Thanksgiving for the people who brought back the water in the Boston area.

OUR SYMPATHY TO...

- ✠ Family and friends of Marilyn Otto who died on April 23rd.
- ✠ Family and friends of Gayle Green who died on April 27th.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for May is given in loving memory of Dorothy Aho by Nancy Aho, Heidi O'Leary and family.

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

The Sanctuary altar flowers on May 2nd were in loving memory of Verna Dowling and Hazel Wojtanek given by their daughters Robin Dowling and Lynne Paradise.

The Chapel altar flowers on May 9th are in loving memory of Mrytle Douglas given by The Sherman family.

The Sanctuary altar flowers on May 9th are in loving memory of Mrs. Florida Gutridge and Mrs. Estelle Clemons given by Natalie and Stanley Gutridge.

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.

HELP WANTED... Volunteer opportunities are available for July 2, 9 or 16.

ELM PARK MINISTRIES (*The cooperative effort of several churches in the Elm Park area, focused on developing opportunities to serve our neighborhood*) will for the third year in a row, be hosting the “4RKids” Summer School Extension Program this year. If you would like to share your interest in music, art, or sports and spend a fun filled morning with the children from Elm Park Community School, then we would love to have you join us on Monday May 17th @ 7:00 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church 114 Main St. for a combined churches Volunteer information/ coordinating session.

Please speak with Earl and Chris Flagg or one of the Pastors to get more information about this wonderful opportunity to be in service to our Lord and to the children of Elm Park Community School or feel free to contact us directly at elm_park_ministries@msn.com.

OUTSIDE FLOWER PLANTERS

There are 5 planters outside the church doors which are available for dedication for that special someone. If you are interested, the cost is \$30 per planter. The dedication is for the spring, summer and fall. Please call the church office and speak with Debi or email her at office@wesleyworc.org. Thank you.

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.*

MISSION CENTRAL DISCUSSION, MAY 16 9:30 AM IN MARY ELLIS LOUNGE

Come listen to Gerard Piscitelli and Carol and Mark Flionis talk about their trip Mission Central in Pennsylvania during Spring vacation.

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@wesleyworc.org) know these names, where he/she is graduating from, and where he/she is onto next.

HERALD PUBLICATIONS...

Summer is quickly approaching. With that in mind, the Herald mailing dates for May and June are as followings: May 19th (deadline, May 17th); June 9th (deadline, June 7th) and June 23rd (deadline June 21st). Please plan your articles accordingly.

Thank you, Debi Ritacco

DINNER AND A MOVIE... Friday, May 14, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Mary Ellis Lounge

We'd love to have you be part of our new Adult Bible Study. We meet once each month, enjoy a pot-luck dinner together while we watch a great blockbuster movie and then during dessert we use a scripture based study guide to discuss the film.

For more information and to sign up, visit us in Brewer Hall or contact Earl or Chris Flagg @ 508-852-7745, you can also reach us via e-mail at ERF115@MSN.COM.

**Please be sure and let us know if you are planning to attend so that we can plan accordingly.*

INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON 2010

What a success, again! Renelle & I want to thank the many people who donated food and time to make this annual event one of the most important fellowship ministries we do. From the volunteers that came in early Sunday to set up the tables, the volunteers who kept the food in the kitchen running and the people who remained after to clean up and break down the tables and chairs. There was unfortunate concern that we had this year, as more people brought food than was required and in some cases without telling us. We will address this next year and apologize if your food did not get put out. It is such a great feeling to see everyone enjoying each other's company and food at the same time ~ 7 years in a row!

Thank you everyone for your help and assistance. We look forward to 2011.

Gary & Renelle Picard., Hospitality & Events

MESSAGES FROM THE CARTY CUPBOARD...

The final total for the Carty Cupboard food item of the month for April is 57 jars of Grape Jelly. Thank You! Please don't forget May's item of the month is **canned fruit**.

Carty Cupboard is in need of VOLUNTEERS!! We really need some more help on Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:15. If you have some free time and would like to help those in need **please** call Nancy Spencer at ~ 508-886-6376.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

We hope all were blessed by the special gift the children made for Children's Harvest! With each bag there was an Easter lily made from the children's traced hand, a card created by the children, a child homemade chocolate candy shaped in a flower, cross, and Bible, a stone magnetic with the children's artwork, a delicious cupcake creatively decorated by the children, and a blooming pansy that each child planted in a special cup, just for you! And some had an extra surprise gift in them. This was all done with a heart of thanksgiving, and we give thanks for your support! Huge thanks to our Harvest helpers, Natasha Boateng, Munah Wisner, Kendra, Kristina, & Edward O-Tetteh, and Ann Openshaw. And an extra-special thanks to Beth Vietze, Katie & Brian Mangus, for the great cupcakes, Liz Burrows, for the beautiful candies and magnetics, and Mercy Peacock for the gift certificates.

Vacation Bible Camp 2010! ***"Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God!"***

Board the starship *Galactic Praise* to see our awesome universe —
and our awesome God — in a whole new way!

The fun begins Monday, June 28 and ends Thursday, July 1 from 6-8 PM here at Wesley Church, with Brett Maguire leading our music program! VBC is for all ages, there is something for everyone, adult Bible study to Preschool/Toddler care, in this adventure combining faith and fun bringing us into a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

We want you part of the excitement, so be sure to save the date, and begin thinking about where you would like to serve... recreation, discovery, crafts, music, decorating, mission, assembly, food, hospitality, publicity, provide transportation, set-up & take-down, donate supplies, cadet leader, preschool, and Bible story time. Most of all we ask that you partner with us in prayer! We will be holding a special leader training event for all involved to learn about this Galactic Blast program.

We have started to gather items for our themed decorating needs and would like to request your help! 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. All items will be stored in a locked classroom on the third floor. Please see Val Jansson or Ann Openshaw for more details.

Sunday School Continued...

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!

Christian Overnight Camp... Please check-out the exciting summer week-long programs at Camp Aldersgate in North Scituate, RI and Rolling Ridge in North Andover, MA, giving the children and youth an extraordinary faith experience! Visit them on the web at www.campaldersgate.com and www.rollingridge.org. Please see Val Jansson for camp details and scholarships!

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

MUSIC ALIVE! **COMBINED CHORAL CONCERT ON MAY 23, 3:00 PM**

Please mark your calendars for the final Music Alive! concert of the year on Sunday, May 23rd, at 3:00 PM. This was originally scheduled for Mother's Day, so be sure you have the correct date.

The choir of First Baptist Church, directed by William Ness, will be joining the Wesley Choir for a performance of the Brahms *Liebeslieder (Lovesong) Waltzes* and Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*, a setting of seven Robert Frost poems. It will be an afternoon of beautiful poetry and song, so please come and bring a friend along with you!

**Review of Wegter-McNelly lecture & discussion,
“A Meta-Introduction to the Science-and-Religion Debates:
Beyond the Conflict Model” 25 April 2010**

Lecture (3:08-4:02pm). The lecture explored eight main points. Selected illustrations:

1. **Science’s view of itself and of religion.** Laws of nature are absolute – there is no room for miracles, and few physical phenomena that cannot be rationally explained.
2. **Religion’s view of itself.** The conservative view emphasizes belief over action (however, the neoconservative view finds political action useful). The liberal view emphasizes action over belief.
3. **A way forward (multiple ways of speaking the truth).** Novels (such as Marilynne Robinson’s paired novels *Gilead* and *Home*) can convey truths about the human condition that cannot be reduced to brief declarative statements.
4. **Speaking religious truth in a scientific age.** The central responsibility for religion in a scientific age is to move beyond conservative orthodoxy vs liberal orthopraxy – to link belief and action to the human quest for a meaningful world view and personal identity.
5. **Ian Barbour’s contributions to moving beyond the conflict.** This physicist-turned-theologian was the first to systematically explore the conflict, most notably in his books *Issues in Science and Religion* (1966), and *Religion in an Age of Science* (1990).
6. **Biblical truth vs scientific theories.** The truths that are embedded in Biblical stories inform us about the human condition, whereas scientific theories per se provide neither such truths nor a related world view.
7. **“We’re all religious now”.** One example is the UC/Berkeley student group SANE (Students for a Nonreligious Ethos), whose meeting with Richard Dawkins incorporated elements of a religious revival (sermon, testimonies, personal commitments).
8. **Exploring the world beyond conflict.** The conflict between science and religion is essentially a conflict between different approaches to meaning.

Discussion (4:02-4:40pm). The discussion focused on ten topics:

1. Much of science was incubated in a largely Christian world view, yet a conflict of science vs religion (Christianity in particular) has developed.

2. Scientific theories are works in progress, not final answers. New evidence either corroborates, expands, or demolishes existing theories.
3. A science philosophy bias (“modernity”) is perceived against religion in primary and secondary public school curricula.
4. Contrary to the earlier notion of “pure” science, science has always been “messy”, i.e., lines of investigation are influenced by profit and political motives.
5. The new threat to religion is not so much the physical sciences as it is the social sciences.
6. Regarding how Dr. Wegter-McNelly (from a Dutch Reformed Church background) sees the United Methodist Church in this conflict, his view is largely influenced by his UM students, who have voiced concerns that the UM Church is declining in the Northeast.
7. Regarding his understanding of Jesus’ view of his own (Judean) traditions on creation, Dr. Wegter-McNelly’s view is that Jesus used these traditions to advance truths indirectly (like truths embedded in a novel).
8. Regarding his view on resurrection, Dr. Wegter-McNelly’s view was that Jesus’ resurrection was more than a miracle – it was the “the first fruits of the new creation”.
9. The scientific commitment to measuring and understanding objective reality renders it unable to address non-measurable subjective reality (e.g., love).
10. Regarding his view of string theory, “grand equations do not answer human truths. Stephen Hawking once observed, “What breathes fire into the equation?” (i.e., why is there something rather than nothing?). Dr. Wegter-McNelly is collaborating with physicist Dr. Raymond Chiao (University of California, Merced) on evidence that the universe may not have had a unique origin in time, but may in fact be eternal.

Evaluations. Fifteen evaluation forms were taken, and seven were returned at the time. All were positive, but none suggested topics for future lectures.

We wish to note with gratitude the contributions of Valerie Jansson in providing coffee and delicious treats, and managing child care for five (one child per every five attendees).

– Lectionary Study Group, 2 May 2010

~ *Charles Kiefer*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Very Fancy Tea held on May 1 was a smashing success. The fashion parade and accompanying narrative were stunning as women (and, yes, men too) from Ghana and Liberia displayed clothing unique to their countries. The tea was well attended. Thanks to Chris Flagg and her committee for all their hard work.

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

BISHOP'S DAY ON OUR DISTRICT SATURDAY, MAY 22 AT OXFORD UMC

Bishop Weaver will meet with Laity and Clergy beginning at Noon for those who wish to share lunch (a \$6 donation collected at door and reservation required by calling the district office at 508 853 1895 or email at cmadistrict@charter.net). The Theme for the time is "Mission Leap." At our 2009 Annual Conference each church was challenged to begin one new mission project for 2010. Bishop Weaver will present Biblical and theological perspectives on our call to share the Good News and will offer practical guidelines/applications on how to connect to our local communities. For those able to walk - wear your walking shoes - as we will be taking a short "mission walk" around the church area. For those not able to walk, we will continue our discussion and be in prayer for the walkers. (Let Pastor Vicki or Pastor Shandi know if you plan to attend)... we are hoping for representatives from our church!

CAMPFIRES AND HEARTS STRANGELY WARMED *from Bishop Peter Weaver*

We have an outstanding summer camps program here in the New England Conference. It is one of the best ways for young people (and adults) to experience the joy of Christian community, growth in faith, and preparation to follow Christ into serving the world. In my own life journey, there has been nothing else like it. Camp was one of the places I made memorable commitments of my life to Christ, and finally decided to become an ordained minister instead of a lawyer. (We need good lawyers, too.) We have four great camps plus Covenant Hills in Vermont now joining of team of camps (see their wide variety of camp week programs at www.neumc.org/camps). *Encourage your youth to go to camp! Make sure your church gives "scholarship help" so kids can afford to go. Find ways to invite youth from your community to also go....great outreach. Remember that your church contributing 100% mission shares supports our camps.....and young people.*

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 texts of the hymns in the *United Methodist Hymnal* derive from many sources and expose us to centuries of Christian theology. One example is the hymn which was the opening hymn of praise this past Sunday: "All Creatures of Our God and King". Although the English text by William H. Draper, a British clergyman, dates from the early 20th century, it is actually an adaptation of a portion of a text which was originally written in the 13th century. The original poem written by St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) had 33 verses! "Canticle of the Sun" belongs to a medieval form of poems known as *laudi spirituali* (spiritual praises), non-liturgical devotional songs whose texts were written in the vernacular of the people and sung to simple melodies. (Note that the tune to which we sing this hymn derives from a German Catholic hymn tune of the 17th century.) It is believed that Francis' poem was the first religious song lyric written in the vernacular language of Italian.

Francis himself was the founder of the Franciscan order of monks who live by a rule of poverty, penance and preaching. He is generally known for his affinity for the world of nature, which is reflected in the text of this hymn. His love for animals and nature also led him to celebrate Midnight Mass in 1223 in a stable where people and live animals re-enacted the entire Nativity scene, an event which contributed to the widespread use of the Christmas crib or *crèche*. In addition, Francis is the attributed author of "The Prayer of St. Francis" which is also included in our hymnal (#481).

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 17	Wed., May 19
Mon., June 7	Wed., June 9

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:

MAY 14TH

How becoming a mom changes your relationship with God.

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

MAY 5, 2010

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