

## SCHOOLS OF FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

What if you could go to school to learn how to forgive and to be reconciled with others? What if churches were such schools? One Colombian Catholic Priest had such a vision, to offer schools of forgiveness and reconciliation to people most needing it.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>, I will be traveling to Bogota, Colombia with a team of faculty and students from Boston University School of Theology and other seminaries in the greater Boston area. We will be visiting with an organization called, *La Fundación Para La Reconciliación* (Foundation for Reconciliation). *La Fundación* is an organization that offers what are known as Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation (*Escuelas De Perdón y Reconciliación – or ESPERE*).

*La Fundación* and *ESPERE* were established by a Catholic Priest, Father Leonel Narvaez Gomez, who has been involved in negotiating a peace between the Colombian government and two opposition paramilitary groups. Colombia has been involved in a civil war for more than 50 years. The history of the conflict is long and complicated, exacerbated by the drug cartel and drug trade, which now funds and fuels the conflict. Fr. Leonel's work with *La Fundación* grew out of a need to re-integrate into community ex-combatants, many of whom had been a party to terrorizing villages and communities. Motivated by the question of how to welcome back those who have harmed you, Fr. Leonel quickly realized that, it is one thing to negotiate peace between political leaders, but it was something else to facilitate a peace between the common people.

While the church has always taught about forgiveness and reconciliation, Fr. Leonel found that, in his Catholic church, the practice of forgiveness and reconciliation was often inaccessible to the people because of the particular way the church tied it to its sacramental life. Fr. Leonel became convinced that the work of forgiveness and reconciliation needed to move out into the streets, homes, and whole communities; that you didn't always need a priest to practice it; and that the sacramental life of the church needed to engage with people's everyday lives in more practical and meaningful ways. From this conviction, the vision of *ESPERE* came to be.

Fr. Leonel established *La Fundación* to promote the practice of forgiveness and restorative justice to achieve interpersonal reconciliation through the Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation. Through these schools, victims of violence learn how to forgive and use pro-social behavior to resolve conflict. While originally motivated by needs to integrate ex-combatants into communities, these schools have extended to apply to all other areas in people's lives where forgiveness and reconciliation is needed.

Our team from Boston University will be going to learn about the work of these schools; what and how they do what they do, and to learn how we can translate their work in other contexts, such as my own country, Zimbabwe, and the United States. Since its inception in 2001, *ESPERE* has trained over 93,000 women, men, and children, many of whom become trainers and facilitators in their own communities. It is a fascinating phenomenon, one the churches certainly need to take notice of and learn from.

## PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

### *LET US PRAY FOR...*

- ✠ John Mockler at Rose Monahan
- ✠ The Berthod family, especially Lou and Nancy.
- ✠ Cal & Jean Williams, both at the Auburn Life Care Center.

### *OUR SYMPATHY TO...*

- ✠ Beverly Grimshaw and family on the death of her mother.
- ✠ Family and friends of Betty Small who died last week.

## 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.

**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 IN MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Volunteer in a Mission Trip to Providence, RI to assist recent flood victims. If you would like to volunteer your time, meet in the church parking lot on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 am. Please contact Girard Piscitelli at 508-847-3840 if you will be going. Thank you.

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

Statements have been mailed today to all who have contributed to Wesley from January 1 through April 30, 2010. This includes both the general fund and other offerings as well as the capital campaign.

Please note the capital campaign report will show all of the detail beginning in 2007. If you paid your pledge in full by 12/31/2009, you will no longer receive statements.

Please give me a call if you have any questions. *Regards, Lorna Mattus-Merrill*

## **MISSION TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS**

There will be another mission trip to New Orleans later this year to continue the work of helping to rebuild homes after Hurricane Katrina. At this point, 8 people from Wesley have indicated they want to go. There will be a total of 4 opportunities as follows:

October 24 – 30 in Slidell

October 31 – November 6 in Slidell

October 24 – 30 in New Orleans

October 31 – November 6 in New Orleans

The eight people that have signed up already are planning to go to Slidell for the week beginning October 31.

If you wish more information and/or want to come along, please contact Lorna Mattus-Merrill at (508) 799-4191, Ext. 100. Space is filling up fast, so please do not delay if you are interested.

## ***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 17<sup>th</sup> @ 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](mailto:elm_park_ministries@msn.com).

## **PENTECOST**

On Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the parish will celebrate the Day of Pentecost. As part of the celebration, all are encouraged to wear flame colors (red, yellow or orange) to the services that day. Thank you.

## **MUSIC ALIVE! CONCERT THIS SUNDAY**

This upcoming Sunday, May 23, at 3:00 PM, we are having our final Music Alive! Concert of the year. The Choir of First Baptist Church will join the Wesley Choir for a concert featuring the Brahms *Liebeslieder* (Love song) Waltzes and Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*, a setting of poems by Robert Frost. The concert is free and open to the public, so please invite your friends to come along!

## **OUTSIDE FLOWER PLANTERS**

There are 3 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](mailto: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 Moms 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 ~ HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE...**

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](mailto:office@welseyworc.org)) know these names, where he/she is graduating from, and where he/she is onto next.

## **HERALD PUBLICATIONS...**

The next two Herald mailing dates are: June 9<sup>th</sup> (deadline, June 7<sup>th</sup>) and June 23<sup>rd</sup> (deadline June 21<sup>st</sup>). Please plan your articles accordingly. *Thank you, Debi Ritacco*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

***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](http://www.campaldersgate.com) and [www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org). Please see Val Jansson for camp details and scholarships!

### ***Important Upcoming Dates:***

Sunday, May 30... No 9:30 AM Children's Sunday School!

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)

***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.

***Thank you for remembering our VBC snack needs when you are shopping...***  
Oreo cookies, Rice Krispies treats, individual boxed juices, lemonade mix, crackers, pretzels and chips. Please see Val Jansson or Ann Openshaw for more details.

*Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Psalm 150:6 ~ Valerie Jansson*

## UPLIFTING BOOKS FOR LOCAL PRISON INMATES

We are collecting positive, affirming, supportive books for local prison inmates. Books can be new or used. Fiction or non-fiction.

Types of books:

- Self-help: Substance abuse and other recovery/12 step programs; healing from childhood abuse; etc.
- Spiritual: multiple denominations and/or belief systems – Christian (Catholic or Protestant), Buddhist, Judaism, Islam, Native American, etc.
- Uplifting/thoughtful: general “inspirational books” (ex. Chicken Soup for the Soul), poetry, humor, pictures of nature, etc.

Donations can be left in the box in East Hall. This book drive is partnered with the book collection for Ghana. If you are not sure which box to place a book in, (Ghana or "Uplift Inmates"), just drop it in either box, and we will then sort them to go to the appropriate recipients.

Any questions regarding Uplifting Books for Prison Inmates, please contact Kate Devlin at 508-887-3325 or [katedevlin5@gmail.com](mailto:katedevlin5@gmail.com).

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## MESSAGES FROM THE CARTY CUPBOARD...

### FEINSTEIN UPDATE ~ 2010 ~

Thank You to everyone who contributed to Carty Cupboard during the Feinstein Challenge. This was our best challenge yet!! We received **5,696 Food Items**, and yes they all have been distributed to those in need. We also received over \$3,500.00 in cash donations. The clients that we serve are so grateful for everything that we give them.

### 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.

**HAVE EXTRA SHOPPING BAGS?** By all means, please bring in your paper and plastic bags to us. We can always use more!

## YOUTH GROUP

With your help the youth was able to raise over \$300.00 for the Walk for the Homeless on the 16<sup>th</sup>. We had beautiful weather and 9 walkers from Wesley. Thanks everyone for your generous donations. We are making a difference in our community!

### ACTIVITIES COMING UP:

**MAY 21-22<sup>nd</sup>:** Lock-In: Start at 7 pm on Friday, end at 9 am on Saturday. We will enjoy fellowship, games, movies, scavenger hunts, and more! Bring appropriate sleepwear and a sleeping bag and pillow. Bring snacks! Bring your permission slip! We will not let you enter without one! Once you are in the church you cannot leave. Eat dinner before you come.

**JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>:** End-of-the-year Cookout: Meet at Pastor Shandi's Parsonage at 4 pm for games and food! We will end at 6:30. Bring snacks or a beverage to share. We'll be talking about activities for the summer, so make sure to attend!

**EVERY SUNDAY:** Youth Group meets from 12-12:45 in the old library, and participates in the Spirit Choir directly after.

**YOUTH WEB SITE:** <http://sites.google.com/site/worcesterwesleyumcyouth/>

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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW Annual Combined Circle Meeting and potluck will be held on Thursday, June 17, at 6:30 p.m. Our featured speaker will be Dorothy Openshaw, who is a special court advocate for children. Two members of the MOPS Steering Committee, Jean Grant and Wendy Burroughs, will also be attending as our guests. All members of the UMW are invited. This is a planning meeting also, but by popular request, the meeting will be over by 8:30.

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## NEWS FROM THE UNITED METHODIST MEN

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

Come to the meeting on Sunday with your list of good nominees, that includes **yourself!**

## **URBAN CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**AUGUST 2-6 AND AUGUST 9-13**

What an exciting time as nine churches in the Elm Park area partner together to offer an Urban Camp experience for children in the neighborhood. If you have not as yet filled out a form to volunteer for this Christian outreach and partnership please ask Pastor Vicki, Megan Click, Chris or Earl Flagg about how you could help!

- We need nurses (even if you can only be there one day that would be a big help)
- Do you plan to be away for one or both of these weeks and would be willing to offer your home for the staff that is coming from Camp Calumet to provide leadership. For more information about this talk with Pastor Vicki. What a way to participate even if you are going to be away.
- If you are interested in being a Junior Counselor (16 years of age and older) talk with Pastor Vicki.
- Volunteers needed to serve food, cook evening meal for Calumet staff of eight counselors, help register, assist with programs fill out a form.

This is an amazing opportunity for Christian Outreach by our churches; please pray for our Urban Camp and serve if you can.

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**ST. PETER CENTRAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**, 865 Main Street, Worcester will host an Open House on Wednesday, June 2, 2010 from 5:30—7:30 PM. St. Peter's has openings in Grades Pre-K-7. Please visit us on June 2nd or call 508-791-6496 for information or visit our website [www.stpetercc.com](http://www.stpetercc.com).

**ALL FAITHS CEMETERY**, operated by the Swedish Cemetery Corporation, will be celebrating its 124th anniversary on Memorial Day. A Memorial Day worship service will be held as usual at the Pavilion located in the center of All Faiths Cemetery. We would like as many people as possible to enjoy this day with us. The service will begin at 10:00 AM.

**EVERCARE HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE** is seeking volunteers for the hospice program. Inspiring, comprehensive orientation sessions are offered. Volunteers support our patients and families by performing or assisting with social & comfort support visits or calls, letter writing, life review, office support and more. Interested in volunteering? Call Marjie Rochon for info at 781-472-8481 or email [marjorie\\_rochon@uhc.com](mailto:marjorie_rochon@uhc.com).

## **INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK FUNDRAISERS**

IHN is holding two fundraisers this spring - Vacation with a Mission and Ride for a Reason. Below is the information about each fundraiser.

### **VACATION WITH A MISSION**

Who needs a reason to vacation? Well, we've got some great reasons!

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of Greater Worcester is sponsoring a pledge drive with a nice reward: Win a stay at one of our donated vacation homes!

Your \$100 tax deductible donation would provide one of the following:

- ☞ Provide one night accommodations for a FAMILY of five for two NIGHTS, or
- ☞ Transport the children to school and parents to our day center FOR A WEEK, or
- ☞ Move the IHN families from one shelter congregation to the next TWICE, or
- ☞ Provide a week's worth of advocacy & case management for a WHOLE FAMILY

The vacation drawings will be made at the Ride for a Reason celebration picnic on June 12 — you do not need to be present to win. There is more information on the bulletin board outside of the Wesley Office. Information booklets are available at the Welcome Office or call the IHN office at 508-798-6732.

**RIDE FOR A REASON – A BEAUTIFUL, BENEFIT BIKE RIDE** in support of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester (a shelter serving homeless families with children throughout Worcester County). Saturday, June 12, 9:00 am (Registration opens at 8:00 am). Start/Finish at the First Congregational Church of Holden, MA (1180 Main St). Ride either a 30 mile or 15 mile scenic route through the beautiful hills and valleys of Holden, W. Boylston, Sterling and Princeton, alongside rivers and reservoirs, ending with a celebration (complimentary) picnic for all participants. Registration is \$15 (with a commitment of fundraising a minimum of \$200) or \$65/per person. Ride is suitable for older children and adults (under 16 must ride with an adult). Register by May 15 to guarantee free event T-shirt. Register online at [www.ihnworchester.org/event](http://www.ihnworchester.org/event) and for more information call Jan Gregory-Charpentier at (508) 529-9819.

## DID YOU KNOW?

At Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, still present and active in our congregation as in the beginning of the church. One of the most familiar symbols used at Pentecost is a descending dove as a representation of the Holy Spirit. During this season we augment the visual environment of the sanctuary with banners depicting the descending dove. However if you look closely at the Te Deum window above the altar, you will see that this symbolism is also incorporated into the permanent visual environment of the sanctuary, as there are twelve descending doves in the tracery and lancet heads near the top of the window. The story of the first Pentecost in the church as related in Acts makes no mention of a dove. Did you ever wonder how a dove came to be a symbol of the Holy Spirit?

From ancient times in many traditions various animals with wings have been used to symbolize spiritual things because of the universal human tendency to think of the “other world” as being above our heads. Birds of various kinds appear throughout the Bible, and the dove in particular is mentioned with several meanings.

The dove is encountered in the story of Noah's ark in Genesis, the imagery of which gave rise to the use of a dove with an olive branch as a sign of reconciliation and peace. Throughout the Bible, the dove is a bird of sacrifice, especially for the poor who could not afford to sacrifice other animals, from the story of Abraham in Genesis to Mary's offering of a dove in the temple for purification after the birth of Jesus. Also in the New Testament each of the Gospel stories of the baptism of Jesus speak of the Holy Spirit which descends upon Jesus “like a dove”. It is this description of Jesus' baptism which has led to the ubiquitous use of the dove to represent the Holy Spirit in Christian art.

Christian art makes symbolic use of other Biblical images of the dove as well. A dove above water is symbolic of creation. In pictures of dying martyrs a dove symbolizing the soul emerges from the mouth of the victim. Doves appear also in the depiction of some saints to symbolize the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In early centuries the dove was often depicted on burial monuments as a symbol of the innocence of the deceased person, and even in our times a dove with an olive branch in its mouth on a tombstone symbolizes eternal peace.

*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.

<b>Article Deadline Date</b>	<b>Herald Mailing Date</b>
Mon., June 7	Wed., June 9
Mon., June 21	Wed., June 23

If you have an article, please email it as a Word attachment to:

**office@wesleyworc.org**



*Thank you for a wonderful year!*

Mother's of Preschoolers (MOPS) will begin their next session in September.

If you are interested in joining our group or to just find out more, please contact Jean Grant at [grantgirl05@yahoo.com](mailto:grantgirl05@yahoo.com) or 508-886-6571. We look forward to meeting you!



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**Web page: [www.wesleyworc.org](http://www.wesleyworc.org)**

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**WESLEY HERALD**  
**MAY 19, 2010**

## **WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM**

### **Pastors**

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

### **Church Secretary**

Debi Ritacco

### **Custodians**

Mark & Carol Flionis and Gerard Piscitelli

### **Assistant Custodian**

Steve Boyns

### **Administrative Council**

Ron Ramsay

### **Layleader**

Deborah O'Driscoll

### **Board of Trustees**

Harry Spencer III

### **Carty Cupboard Food Pantry**

Nancy Spencer

### **Education Work Area**

Ann Openshaw

### **Finance & Stewardship**

Michael Edmunds

### **Ghanaian Association**

Joseph Wilson

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### **Lay Members Annual Conference**

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