

THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF HOSPITALITY

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2*

The last time I wrote to you, I spoke about the schools of forgiveness and reconciliation. From Colombia, I came back with a vision for our church (and churches) to become centers of reconciliation. I truly believe that God, indeed, gave us a mission and ministry of reconciliation. Reconciliation refers to that honored practice for bringing into relationship and fellowship those once estranged for whatever the reason. Christ reconciled us to the triune God and, by forming the faith community we now know as the church, He reconciled us to each other; and, I believe, not just we who are the body, but also reconciling the world to God and to itself. Soon, I will speak to you about my trip to Colombia, but to day, I will speak to you, first, about hospitality.

Reconciliation begins with hospitality. Henri Nouwen once expressed that “If there is any concept worth restoring to its original depth and evocative potential, it is the concept of hospitality.” The meaning of hospitality has changed over the centuries and millennia but its core has remained the same. The core has been about creating a space in the life of a community where *strangers* (however defined) can find welcome and, even, belonging. For us Christians, hospitality is at the core of our identity for Jesus once said, “*I was a stranger, and you welcomed me... in as much as you do it to the least of these, you have done it to me*” (Matthew 25:30-46).

As the history of the practice shows, concerns about hospitality to the needs of strangers gave rise to the development of hospitals, hospices, and hostels. But, what is ironic about these developments is how, in time, these too became more anonymous and distanced ways of responding to strangers. I can imagine many of you can share testimonies of the impersonal nature of some of the hospitals you have visited. It is an easy thing to want to put our strangers in the margins where we cannot be confronted by their need.

I believe that the world is yearning for a witness of a more authentic Christian life in which glimpses of the kingdom of God can be seen; I believe the world hungers for a model of Christian life in which the promise of the kingdom is made real and embodied. The world needs a visible, tangible, palpable portrait of what a life of hospitality and reconciliation could look like. The church is called to be that witness. My hope and prayer is that Wesley UMC can become that witness in our corner of the world.

In the coming season of our life together, we will be talking about our mission and ministry of hospitality (and reconciliation). We will discern how the practice of hospitality touches every aspect of our personal daily life and life together as a church community: from the home, to the committee meeting, to the ministry and mission of the church. Hospitality is a skill to be developed, a discipline to be practiced, a gift to be shared and received. It is a practice which flourishes as other skills, disciplines, and gifts are developed and shared. So, we will also be keen connecting hospitality with our spiritual formation activities of the church, as well as the mundane. God has given us a vision for a future full of hope. Come, and let us be on our way!

Pastor Shandi

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

LET US PRAY FOR...

- † Jean Easterbrooks at Whittier Rehab
- † Prayers of thanksgiving and travel mercy for the Demery's and Click's
- † Thanks for 3 fantastic years of marriage. So far so good. (Phil and Emily Smith)
- † Doris Betterley with hip problems.

OUR SYMPATHY TO...

- † Family and friends of Lou Berthod who died on July 26th.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for July is given in loving memory of Lucy Wallace Simoneau by Dick, Judy and the Simoneau family.

THE TOWER lighting for July is in loving memory of my mother, Mable Marsh, given by Carol, Steve and Jeff Samanen.



THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for August is given in loving memory of Shirley and Edwin D. Wood by their children and grandchildren.

The Tower lighting for August is available. The cost of the lighting is \$40. If you are interested in dedicating the Tower Lighting, please contact Debi in the office.

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 (508-799-4191).

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC SPONSORED BY THE GHANAIAN ASSOCIATION

Saturday, July 31st, Noon to 6 PM. Greenhill Park, Worcester.

Bring food to share with others.

HERALD PUBLICATIONS...

Summer is upon on us and with that our Herald is mailed only once in August. Please be sure to plan your articles accordingly. Our mailing date is: August 25th (deadline August 23rd).

ALTAR FLOWERS...

Have you signed up for Altar flowers for August? If so, please be sure to turn in your dedication form as soon as possible. With the summer upon us, I want to be sure the dedications are in the proper Herald. *Thank you, Debi Ritacco*

BIBLE STUDY IN MARY ELLIS LOUNGE:

Pastor Vicki is leading a study on "Sabbath," Sunday mornings at 9:30. What does it mean to keep the Sabbath holy? Should we refrain from Sunday activities such as: soccer, eating at restaurants, dancing, mowing the lawn? What can we learn about "Sabbath"... join us! On August 8th and 15th Deb O'Driscoll will introduce "Icons and their place in Christian Worship and Prayer." Every Sunday join us for study in Mary Ellis Lounge.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

On behalf of our Mission and Outreach (through our Bessie Carty Living Trust), Wesley UMC sent \$750 to Habitat for Humanity in early June. Our mission is not to just send money but to offer hands-on work as well; so the Mission and Outreach Committee will soon be asking for volunteers to help in the next Habitat for Humanity house built in the Greater Worcester area.

MEALS FOR ELM PARK URBAN CAMP COUNSELORS.

Our church has joined with other churches in our neighborhood to sponsor an Urban Camp in our city. The camp will be staffed by 9 counselors from Camp Calumet (a Lutheran Camp in New Hampshire). An evening meal is needed August 8th through the 13th, and August 15th through the 20th. See Pastor Vicki or Chris Flagg if you can prepare a meal and show hospitality to these young adults! They can come to your home for the meal, or you can bring the meal to Wesley. They will be staying here overnight during this time.

MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

2010 GENERAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLATE OFFERINGS

Below is the status of our pledges and plate offerings through June 30, 2010:

	Budget	Given	Difference
General Fund	\$ 167,498.00	\$ 156,433.00	\$ -11,065.00
Plate Offerings	\$ 8,064.00	\$ 6,231.27	\$ -1,832.73

Because our pledges and plate offerings are \$12,000 less than expected, we have not been able to pay all our financial commitments. Please make every effort to keep up with your pledges during the summer months.

FUNDRAISING EVENT RESULTS

Men's Mini-Harvest – June 27

Income Received	\$ 1,789.00
Expenses	\$ 618.87
Profit	\$ 1,170.13

Summer Nationals – July 2 and 3

Income Received	\$ 1,911.96
Expenses	\$ 392.50
Profit	\$ 1,519.46

Thanks to all who provided leadership as well as all who gave to these events!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN RETAINING WALL PROJECT BEGINS 7/26/2010

We are excited that work will begin Monday, July 26, 2010 on the first of three retaining walls to be replaced. The first wall to be done will be at the far end of the lower parking lot, just past the warehouse, and abutting Elwood Adams Hardware Store's property line. The timber wall will be removed, and replaced with a concrete footing and precast blocks.

This work will take place mostly from the Wesley side of the lot, and we will lose about 8 parking spaces (4 on either side) down by the warehouse and dumpster area. This project will take approximately 3 weeks to complete, and we appreciate your patience in dealing with any inconvenience this may cause.

The second wall (in front of the lower lot wall that faces Main Street), and the third wall (that runs parallel to Gertrude Ave. at the entrance to the lower lot) will be done afterwards. I will give you a better idea of the timing of those two wall projects in the next Herald

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECTS TO DATE

Below is a summary of the projects which have been completed as part of the 2007-2011 Capital Campaign. Thank you to all who have contributed to the campaign and for making these important projects possible. Anyone who has not pledged, may still do so. Please see the Church Business Administrator for more information or to answer any questions.

PROJECTS COMPLETED THROUGH 7/22/2010	Cost
New flat roof and 7 skylights	\$342,958.78
Installation of lightning protection	\$24,728.54
Sealcoating and repair of exterior stonework	\$117,860.00
Tree Removal for Retaining Wall Project	\$5,775.00
Grand Total of Projects to Date	\$491,322.32

OTHER	
Contributions to Wesley UMC \$100,000 Conference Capital Campaign	\$80,000.00
Service Charges on Sweep Account	\$1,073.00
Reconciliation correction	\$329.50

GRAND TOTAL DISBURSED THROUGH 7/22/2010	\$572,724.82
------------------------------------------------	---------------------

INCOME THROUGH 7/22/2010	
Contributions	\$613,341.46
Loan from Endowment	\$120,355.50
Interest earned on checking	\$4,653.82
Total Received	\$738,350.78

Total Disbursed	\$572,724.82
------------------------	---------------------

Bank Ending Balance	\$165,625.96
G/L ending balance	\$165,625.96
Difference	\$0.00

NEW PROJECTS IN 2010	Proposed Cost
Reconstruction of 3 retaining walls	\$130,610.00
Final Contribution to Wesley UMC \$100,000 Conference Capital Campaign	\$20,000.00
Total planned expenditures in 2010	\$150,610.00

Balance after 2010 before future contributions	\$15,015.96
-------------------------------------------------------	--------------------

FUTURE PROJECT IN 2011 AND AFTER	Estimated Cost
Repaye parking lot and Gertrude Ave.	\$75,000.00
Repay endowment	\$120,355.50
Other - to be determined	TBD
Total	\$195,355.50

FROM CARTY CUPBOARD...

Carty Cupboard received 56 ketchups and mustards last month. Thank You to all who brought them in! This month's item is new reusable shopping bags. If you haven't been able to bring one in there is still time. The item for August is canned fruit.

Carty Cupboard is in need of the LARGE size paper grocery bags.

Carty Cupboard is also looking for children's books. During the summer months we see many children coming in with their parents. We think it would be great if we could give them a book as well as food. So if you happen to be cleaning out your kid's rooms this summer we will be happy to take any books that they have outgrown. There will be a box outside of Carty Cupboard with a sign "Children's Books" on it for your convenience.

Thank You! Nancy Spencer

MISSION TRIP TO HAITI

I, Gerard Piscitelli, have recently received an email from Patrick Murphy representing UVMIM. He has asked me to join his team which is heading to Haiti to assist with earthquake recovery. The VIM teams that have come back over the past few months have said it has been physically exhausting and emotionally grueling.

In my conversations with Patrick Murphy, Pastor Vicki and Pastor Shandi, they showed confidence, excitement and support in my plan to take on this call from God to do His work. From now until the middle of November, I will appeal to the congregation at Wesley for your prayers and support to help me make this mission trip to Haiti with my VIM team. I promise God's work will be done whether through my skills in construction or by the fellowship and ministry taught to me here at Wesley. Thank you in advance for your prayers and support.

THANK YOU TO IHN VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped with hosting our Interfaith Hospitality Network guests for an extra week recently, as the scheduled church had to bow out. In addition to hosts coming from other churches, our Wesley volunteers were:

Early morning: Dot Ellis, Marion & Jerry Warren, Chris Kerns, and Nancy Cook.

Dinner: A cookout by Ron Ramsay and his family, assisted by Gerard Piscitelli and Chris Kerns.

Evening: Janet and Jo-Lynne DeNapoli, and Gerard Piscitelli

Overnight: Nancy Cook, Marion & Jerry Warren, Chris Kerns, Megan Click, and Phil Smith.

Nancy Cook, Coordinator

MISSION WALK

Bring your Walking Shoes to Worship

Sunday, September 12, 2010

On Sunday, September 12, 2010, we are going to hold a Mission Walk into our community to acquaint ourselves with the neighbors and the neighborhood around us. Two Sundays ago we read from the passage in Luke 10:25-37; typically known as the parable of the Good Samaritan. Together with the lawyer who questioned Jesus, we shall be asking the question: “Who is My Neighbor?”

We are inviting you to bring your walking shoes to worship that Sunday. As part of our worship service, we will be dividing into teams to walk the neighborhood. We will walk ten (10) minutes out, and ten (10) minutes back. We will begin with worship and conclude with reflection about what we saw. A light lunch meal will be provided during our reflection time.

If you are not able to walk, come still. We will ask you to be in prayer for those who will walk. Let us all pray that we might all have eyes to see, ears to hear, and the hearts to perceive the neighbors we have and the will of God for our community.

Pastor Shandi and Pastor Vicki

Take Time for 10 Things

1. TAKE TIME TO WORK — It is the price of success.
2. TAKE TIME TO THINK — It is the source of power.
3. TAKE TIME TO PLAY — It is the secret of youth.
4. TAKE TIME TO READ — It is the foundation of knowledge.
5. TAKE TIME TO WORSHIP — It is the highway of reverence and washed the dust of earth from our eyes.
6. TAKE TIME TO HELP AND ENJOY FRIENDS — It is the source of happiness.
7. TAKE TIME TO LOVE — It is the one sacrament of life.
8. TAKE TIME TO DREAM — It is the soul to the stars.
9. TAKE TIME TO LAUGH — It is the singing that helps with life’s loads.
10. TAKE TIME TO PLAN—It is the secret of being able to have time to take time for the first nine things.

EARLY RESPONSE TRAINING

August 7, 2010

On June 12, 2010, The New England Conference held its first Early Response Training in Mansfield, MA led by Rick Hill from UMCOR. The response was great as thirteen people were trained and are now eligible to receive an Early Response Team member badge. We need many more trained to deal with the mud-out and mold problems from the 2010 Spring Floods. Gerard Piscitelli from Wesley is now an “Early Response Team Leader.”

A second training session has been scheduled on **August 7, 2010 from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM at the York-Ogunquit UMC in York, ME.**

Most of our UMVIM teams respond to disasters in the recovery stage helping to rebuild and replace what was removed during mud-out. ERTs respond soon after search and rescue is completed to do mud-out (or gutting) of all water soaked and damaged goods and structures as well as clearing roofs and covering them with tarps. Also, once walls are bared to the studding, ERTs treat the studding and other surfaces to destroy and remove mold. Then they sanitize it to help prevent future outbreaks. Their job is to make the damaged house safe, sanitary and secure.

Proper use of tools and proper wearing attire are discussed. At the end of the session you will be tested and if you pass, you will be eligible to receive an UMCOR ERT badge proving you also pass a Safe Sanctuary Background Check.

To register, please contact Dave Stackpole at 603-465-7885, cell 603-244-0713, or via email at vimnecumc@charter.net.

Directions to York-Ogunquit UMC: From the South:

Take I-95 North across the Piscataqua River Bridge from New Hampshire into Maine. You will pass Exits 1; 2; and 3 within just a mile. Then go about 6 miles further to Exit 7. Take Exit 7 (The Yorks / Ogunquit) and at the top of the exit ramp turn right toward the East and Route 1. At the traffic light at the intersection of Route 1, turn left (Route 1 North). Travel 1.2 miles to the first traffic light and continue straight. Go another 1 mile and on the left you will see The Lobster Barn. The next left will take you into the church parking lot.

DID YOU KNOW?

During the summer months we are in the midst of a portion of the liturgical year known as Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time actually consists of two segments of the liturgical year—the two blocks of weeks outside the main liturgical cycles of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost. In some denominations these weeks are referred to by terms such as “time after Epiphany” and “time after Pentecost.” Did you ever wonder what it means to call these seasons “Ordinary Time?” It actually has nothing to do with our sense of the ordinary as everyday, common place, uneventful or boring. What it does reflect is that in the original lectionary system these Sundays were designated by ordinal numbers (meaning “counted”) e.g. 1st Sunday in Ordinary Time, and so Ordinary Time is literally “counted time”.

The two periods of Ordinary Time during the liturgical year are not Winter Break and Summer Vacation for the worship life of the church or for our individual spiritual journeys. In fact, Ordinary time (total of 34 weeks) encompasses more than half of the liturgical year, and during these weeks we must be particularly aware of the work of God in our midst, for the liturgical year exists in part to remind us that Christ sanctifies all of time. As Wendy Wright writes in her book *The Time Between: Cycles and Rhythms in Ordinary Time*:

“The cycles and seasons in which we are engaged during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time are both outward and inward. We participate in the ever-changing, cyclical patterns of the natural seasons...Similarly, we respond to the rhythms of our lives in faith. Interiorly, we grow and change, for as spiritual beings we are not static...To move in response to the Spirit’s prompting is both to realize our innate potential and to be teased into something greater than what is possible in our own little lives. During this lengthy season of the church year we are thus invited to become attentive to the call of discipleship both outer and inner. What are we called to do? What work? With whom? Where? But also: What are we called to be?...”

Please continue to be among us for worship and for the life and work of the church during this Ordinary Time, as we seek to answer these questions for our own individual lives as well as for the congregation of Wesley United Methodist Church.

*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>
Mon., Aug. 23	Wed., Aug. 25
Tues., Sept. 7	Thurs., Sept. 9

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 or 508-886-6571. We look forward to meeting you!



Christy & Jeffrey Gibbs
Your Wesley Family REALTORS®
(508) 886-6100

Our Agency is Committed to Providing...
Full Time Buyer & Seller Representation
Prompt Communication
A Team Approach
Comprehensive Marketing Strategy
High Level of Energy and Enthusiasm
RESULTS

Proudly Servicing All of Worcester County
www.GibbsRealtyInc.com

ALBERT N. CECCHINI
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Business - Individual Taxes
Electronic Filing

Accounting & Cost Accounting

Consulting Services

Notary Public

67 Millbrook Street - Suite 216
Worcester, MA 01606-2835

508-797-0077

Wesley United Methodist Church
114 Main Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01608

Church Phone: 508-799-4191
Fax: 508-799-3725
E-Mail: office@wesleyworc.org
Web page: www.wesleyworc.org

WESLEY HERALD
JUNLY 28, 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

Communion Steward

Earl Flagg

Education Work Area

Ann Openshaw

Finance & Stewardship

Michael Edmunds

Ghanaian Association

Joseph Wilson

Hospitality/Events

Gary & Renelle Picard

Lay Members Annual Conference

Mary Beth Dziewietin

Medical Ministry

Ron Ramsay

Memorial Gifts

Carolyn Bellil

Mission & Outreach Coordinator

Chris Flagg

Staff-Parish Relations

Janet M. Maguire

Youth Group

Phil & Emily Smith

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WORCESTER, MA
PERMIT NO. 236