

December 2009

WESLEY
FAMILY
NEWS



Wesley United Methodist Church 8412 Richmond Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22309-2328

Advent Events

Monday, December 7
6:30 PM UMM Dining Out
Mount Vernon Inn

Sunday, December 20th
10:00 AM Christmas Cantata

Thursday, December 24th
6:00 PM Christmas Organ
Music Concert
6:45 pm Christmas Carol
Singing
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Volunteer Opportunity

United Community Ministries Needs YOU!

Do you have an hour or two you can donate to making a child's Christmas just a little brighter? UCM is looking for volunteers to help sort toys and gifts being donated this year.

If you have an hour or two to donate, please call Christine Fiske at 703 768-7106x 328.



Remember Those in the Military

Wesley Family news is a monthly publication of the Wesley United Methodist Church staff in Alexandria, VA . It is published to convey information with the members and friends of the church about The Virginia Annual Conference, The Alexandria District and the program offerings of Wesley as a connectional member of the United Methodist Church.

Bishop: Charlene Payne Kammerer
District Superintendent: Alan Reifsnyder

Wesley United Methodist Church Staff Members

- Tony Forstall**, Pastor wforstall@cox.net 703/780-5019
- Chris Johnson**, Minister of Music teach2win93@yahoo.com 703/780-5019
- Kym Clark**, Office Manager WesleyChurch@Verizon.net ... 703/780-5019
- John Kovak**, Youth Director kovjoh@bethel.edu 703/780-5019

Preschool Staff

- Darlene Spurlock**, Pre-School Director: wpsdirector@gmail.com 703/360-9082
- Brenda Denham**, 3 year old teacher 703/360-9082
- Chong Tae Christensen**, Pre Kindergarten..... 703/360-9082

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 am. - Noon

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As we see Christmas decorations being hung and we prepare for the festivities of the holiday season we are filled with anticipation of the joy and celebration of the Nativity of Jesus. We also look forward to seeing family and friends that we love and miss, but do not get to see as much as we would like. I pray that for each of you this is a time of great delight and comfort in Christ.

I also hope your season will be filled with a different understanding of Jesus birth. It isn't new, but Christmas isn't just remembering Jesus birth. It is remembering who Jesus is even now. Jesus is now and has always been eternal, even in the mystery of the Incarnation. Because Jesus is eternal it means that even in this moment he is being born. Jesus is being born anew in hearts and minds that are opened to him all around the world.

Hearts and minds are opened as they come to the end of their resources to cope, understand and improve their situations. There are people who are searching because of their unending pain and they cry out for help. People who are frightened and anxious also seek some solace. There are people who are angry and frustrated and yearn for justice. There are countless numbers pleading for peace and civility. All of these pleas have fallen upon the hearing and

heart of God and Jesus responds by the power of the Spirit to their cries.

As you ponder this fact, I invite you to anticipate this different kind of birth in your life. For as much as Advent is a time to prepare for the holiday, it is even more a time to prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus to be reborn in us by the power of the Spirit. It pinches us a little because in the deepest, most authentic parts of our souls, we want all that Jesus brings and offers us. We want to be righteous (right with God) and we want to be holy and pure (right with others and our selves). We are also savvy enough to know that this gift of Jesus comes at a price. It is a price we can pay, but it isn't one that is easy to pay. We know that to let Jesus be born anew in us is very likely to change us, transform us, and that is too high a price to pay. To pay that price means we forsake our freedom to do as we wish, to be the person we want to be and become the person God made us to be. That is giving up too much control.

I pray you give up control of your life and let Jesus guide your every thought, word and action. As the child Jesus was born in Bethlehem lives of so many were changed. The miracle of Christmas is not that Jesus was born 2000 years ago. The miracle of Christmas is that Jesus is born now in the hearts and lives of those who call upon, rely, upon, and trust in Him. I pray Jesus is born anew in me, my family, in you and your family, in our church and in our community.

Merry Christmas, Pastor Tony

Wesley United Methodist Women (UMW)

CALLING ALL LADIES OF THE CHURCH

Join us Monday December 7 at 6:00 PM for our annual Dining Out at the Mount Vernon Inn. It is a fun evening of good food and good friends enjoying the atmosphere of the holiday spirit at the Inn. Please let Gayle Besemer know if you plan on attending, 703-780-7624.



UM Women
Night out

Giving Tree



United Methodist Women Annual Gift Tree

Remember less fortunate children by taking a paper ornament with a child's age and gender on it from the Christmas tree in the narthex. Bring the presents during December and the United

Methodist Women will take the gifts on Sunday, Dec. 13th. They should be new and not wrapped. Put some happiness in a child's heart.

January Collection of Clothing

For a number of years, our congregation has given clothing items for young elementary children at some of the local schools. This year, the United Methodist Women would like to collect socks and underwear for a local elementary school. Bring assorted sizes, and place in the narthex.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Dennis and Annetta Matthews

Dennis and Annetta became members at Wesley UMC in March 2008. Dennis found Wesley on a walk with his son, Brian who is a senior at Mount Vernon High School. As they passed the church on Richmond Ave., Brian said to his Dad, “there is a church – a beautiful church – why don’t we go there?” Dennis then noticed it was a United Methodist Church just like his home church - Jawlee Lewis United Methodist Church in Sierra Leone, West Africa. In his home country Dennis worked as a seaman and navigator of Merchant ships and also a radio operator for a fishing company.

Because of the 10-year war in their home country of Sierra Leone, Dennis, Annetta and family were forced to become refugees in the neighboring country of Guinea from 1999-2004. Fortunately, their daughter, Modupeh was already in the United States and was able to help them move out of the refugee camp into an apartment. Their daughter who works for IMF (International Monetary Fund) was then able to get them to the U.S. in December of 2004.

Getting work, among other challenges, was the first order of business for the Matthews when they arrived in the United States. Transportation to get to a job was a major hurdle. Dennis currently works at the Greenspring Retirement Community in Springfield and Annetta is a Nurse (CNA) at Paul Spring Retirement Community located on Fort Hunt Road in Alexandria. She wants to become a live in nurse in the future. Dennis is looking for a second job as a security guard.

Dennis shared that the U.S.A, is a surviving country and you can live here if you can work. They are very happy to be here but do miss their home country. Returning to Sierra Leone (Freetown, the capital city of approximately 2 million) would be desirable and many family members remain there. But in his words, “the hardship is still on” (the after affects of the 10-year war). It will be many years of recovery.

Dennis and Annetta are very pleased to be at Wesley. Dennis called Wesley a church where people love and care for one another and the congregation is made up of very joyful people. Dennis asked an important question – “in the United States, why do people, as they get older move to retirement communities?” In their country of Sierra Leone, family members care for the aging in their homes. It’s a family’s responsibility.

Take the opportunity to visit personally with Dennis and Annetta and their sons, Brian and Florizel.

Interview by Coleman Harris

**BI-DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY
JANUARY 9, 2010**

The United Methodist Church in Northern Virginia

RESURRECTING EXCELLENCE :

Shaping Faithful Christian Ministry

Saturday, January 9, 2010, 8 AM - 2:30 PM

Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus

Registration: \$25 (Oct. 15-Dec. 18) OR \$60 at the door. Register on-line with your credit card or via mail with your personal check.

For more Information <http://www.novaumc.org/ltd.html> Please see the grid on the website for recommended classes and more information.

Questions? Call 703-820-7200 or email programsecretary@novaumc.org



\$5750.00

**Capital Campaign
Challenge Update**

Final Contributions must be received by the church office by December 31, 2008 to be posted to the 2009 giving year. Any contributions received after December 31st will be posted to 2010.

Wesley Family News Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles/items of interest for the Wesley Family News is at **Noon, the 15th of each month**. Please submit all items in writing. When possible, please send them via email to WesleyChurch@verizon.net



Wesley UMC Alexandria VA

Dec 2009 (Eastern Time)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 First Sunday of Advent 9am - Christian 9:30am - Kid Venture 10am - Worship @ 11am - UMYF @ 12pm - All Nations	30 10:30am - Bible Study 7pm - Bell Choir 7pm - BS Troop 993 @	1 6:30pm - CS Tiger @ 6:30pm - CS Webelos I 7pm - SPRC Meeting 7pm - Women's Step	2 6:30pm - CS Wolves @ 6:30pm - Neighborho 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - UMYF @ Youth	3 5:30pm - GS 2426 @ 6:30pm - Service Unit 7pm - Nominations 7pm - Webelos II @ 7:30pm - Harmonica 8:30pm - AA @ FH #1	4	5 12:30pm - GS Service 5pm - Moore Private 6pm - All Nations
6 9am - Christian 9:30am - Kid Venture 10am - Worship @ 11am - UMYF @ 12pm - All Nations 12:30pm - GS Cookie	7 10:30am - Bible Study 6pm - UMW Dining 7pm - Bell Choir 7pm - BS Troop 993 @ 7pm - Venture Crew	8 10am - ROCK @ 11am - William Corbin 6:30pm - CS Tiger @ 7pm - Women's Step	9 6:30pm - CS Wolves 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - UMYF @ Youth	10 10am - Meals On 5:30pm - GS 2426 @ 6:30pm - GS Service 7pm - CS Bears @ 7pm - Trustee 7pm - Webelos II @	11 2:30pm - Troop 4700	12 10:30am - GS Troop 5pm - MZCA Holiday 6pm - All Nations
13 9am - Christian 9:30am - Kid Venture 10am - Worship Pre- 11am - UMYF @ 12pm - All Nations 12:30pm - GS 849 @	14 10:30am - Bible Study 7pm - Bell Choir 7pm - BS Troop 993 @ 7:30pm - Finance	15 10am - Circle Meeting 7pm - Women's Step 7:30pm - Administrati	16 5pm - Staff Meeting 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - UMYF @ Youth	17 5:30pm - GS 2426 @ 7pm - Trustee 7:30pm - Harmonica 8:30pm - AA @ FH #1	18	19 10am - CS PACK 876 6pm - All Nations
20 9am - Christian 9:30am - Kid Venture 10am - Christmas 11am - UMYF @ 12pm - All Nations 12:30pm - GS 849 @	21 First Day of Winter 10:30am - Bible Study 7pm - Bell Choir 7pm - BS Troop 993 @	22 6:30pm - CS Webelos I 7pm - Venture Crew 7pm - Women's Step 7:30pm - BS 993	23 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - UMYF @ Youth	24 Christmas Eve 6pm - Organ Concert 6:45pm - Carol 7pm - Christmas Eve 8:30pm - AA @ FH #1	25 Christmas	26 6pm - All Nations
27 9am - Christian 9:30am - Kid Venture 10am - Worship @ 11am - UMYF @ 12pm - All Nations 12:30pm - GS 849 @	28 10:30am - Bible Study 7pm - Bell Choir 7pm - BS Troop 993 @ 7pm - Trtnity Circle	29 7pm - Women's Step	30 7pm - Adult Choir 7pm - UMYF @ Youth	31 New Year's Eve 5:30pm - GS 2426 @ 7:30pm - Harmonica 8:30pm - AA @ FH #1	1 New Year's Day	2 8am - UMMen 6pm - All Nations

*Wesley Preschool and Kindergarten
December 2009*

Christmastime at Wesley is short and intense! The season is as rich as it is brief, and worth our best efforts to keep it holy. Advent is meant to be a time spent growing in love and growing in God’s image. Christmas is a time to prepare our hearts and spirits for the celebration of Jesus’ birth; the true “reason for the season.” Here at Wesley Preschool we are getting ready for Jesus’ birth. You will see Advent wreaths, stars, nativity scenes, Christmas trees and a multitude of other Christmas wonderment in the preschool halls this month.



**We will have our annual Christmas Program
December 18th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
Please join us for a celebration of the birth of Christ.**



- Please bring a plate of goodies to share after the program.
- Punch will be provided.
- Shh! I also know for a fact that we will have to accommodate parking for a sleigh and 8 tiny reindeer! So remember to bring your cameras!

**Wesley Preschool’s Christmas Vacation begins on December 18th
And we return to school on January 4th.**

Advent is a wonderful time to start great traditions with your children. My daughter since age two has always helped me make a birthday cake for Jesus on Christmas Eve. She is now 23 and the tradition is still strong. Make an Advent wreath or keep track of the days with an Advent calendar. Let your children be actively involved with the Christmas preparations. You won’t regret the experience.

GOOD READS FOR CHRISTMAS

<u>“Come Worship With Me”</u>	by Ruth Boling
<u>“Christmas Eve”</u>	by Edith Thacher Hurd
<u>“Aaron’s Christmas Donkey”</u>	by Lois Walfrid Johnson
<u>“The Legend of the Poinsettia”</u>	by Tomie dePaola
<u>“The Gift of the Magi”</u>	by O. Henry

“Every crib is a manger lowly,
Every home is a stable dim,
Every kind word is a hymn,
Every star is God’s own gem,
And every town is Bethlehem,
For Christ is born and born again,
When His Love lives in the hearts of men.”
WD Dorrity, 1909

Somehow, not only at Christmas
But all the long year through
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you!
John Greeleaf Whittier

**Let His love live in your heart at Christmas and throughout the year!
The Wesley Preschool Staff**



12/02 Marvin Beach
 12/03 Edward Oliver
 12/04 Millie Yuhas
 12/05 Edith Hall
 12/06 Don Pomerening
 12/07 Patricia Calloway
 12/08 Nancy Anderson
 12/09 Ashleigh Tullar
 12/13 Robert Shellhouse
 12/16 George Talbot
 12/18 Tracy Ciuba
 12/18 Christina Smith

12/19 William Carbin
 12/21 John Harris
 12/22 Sydney Nixon
 12/23 Aaron Grigsby
 12/24 Gary Denick
 12/24 Matthew Convery
 12/25 Jody Taylor
 12/25 Dave Restifo
 12/27 Odell Wareham
 12/29 Harry Swartz
 12/31 Susie Shimek

12/05/2004
 12/06/1986
 12/11/2004
 12/18/1960
 12/30/1989
 12/31/1985

Charles & Cathy Hinkle
 Steve Walker & Dixie Eng
 Bill Long & Rhonda Reeves Long
 Coleman & Jean Harris
 Tom & Gwen Loftus
 Jeff & Susie Shimek

December In-Service

12/06/2009					
Acolyte	Lector	Childcare	Counters	Coffee Hour	Sunday School
Olivia Pryor	Kym Clark	Mary & Olivia Pryor	Bill Convery & Charles Anderson	Nora & Gene Rudd	Ken Denham & Bud West
Communion Stewards: Margaret Minney & Jean Hayden					
12/13/2009					
Acolyte	Lector	Childcare	Counters	Coffee Hour	Sunday School
Jack Skidmore	Jean Harris	Dixie Eng & Roni Walker	Lou DeVaughn & Jeff Nees	Gayle Besemer	Bud West & Jeff Nees
12/20/2009 Christmas Cantata					
Acolyte	Lector	Childcare	Counters	Coffee Hour	Sunday School
Elizabeth Forstall	Patty Calloway	Shirley King & Rosemary Salak	Watson Pryor & Steve Skidmore	Connie Dohm	Jeff Nees & Tom Swartz
12/24/2009 Christmas Eve Service					
Acolyte	Lector	Childcare	Counters		
Joseph Forstall	Volunteer!	Christina & Erika Swartz	Mike Adams & Corey Tullar		
12/27/2009					
Acolyte	Lector	Childcare	Counters	Coffee Hour	Sunday School
Matthew Grigsby	Nora Rudd	Connie & Marina Dohm	Linda Baublitz & Dave Restifo	Cookie Share	VOLUNTEER

REPORT ON CONGREGATIONAL GOALS

Charge/Church Name: Wesley United Methodist Church District:

"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Local Churches provide the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs." The *Discipline*, Paragraph 120

"We envision churches where all God's people are welcomed at table, nurtured, and transformed to be Christ to others in the World." -- *Virginia Conference Vision Statement*

1. Members received by Profession of Faith:

2003 0	2004 8	2005 4	2006 14	2007 1	2008 4
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2. How will you make disciples by welcoming new people to Christ through the church? (List goals related to the areas of hospitality and evangelism.)

Making worship the best hour of the week – establishing measurable goals to ensure success

Successfully implement our new Church administrative structure to put a focus on ministry, and to improve communication among the leaders and members of the church

Establish "follow-up" mechanism to ensure we will "do what we say we are going to do"

3. How will you make disciples by nurturing persons in their faith? (List goals related to the areas of education, worship, Christian formation, membership care, small groups, and stewardship.)

Building enviable youth program

Celebrating 5th Sundays by offering alternative service formats and inviting surrounding community to worship and pre/post worship special events

4. How will transformed disciples be Christ to others in the world? (List goals related to the local and larger community ministries of compassion, justice and advocacy.)

Wesley continues its strong community program by participating in the VIC Hypothermia Project, Crop Walk, MK Choir Festival, Walk for the Homeless, Fannie Mae, Healthy Families, Heifer Project, ROCK Kitchen, Kits for Conference, Serving on the Rising Hope Board,

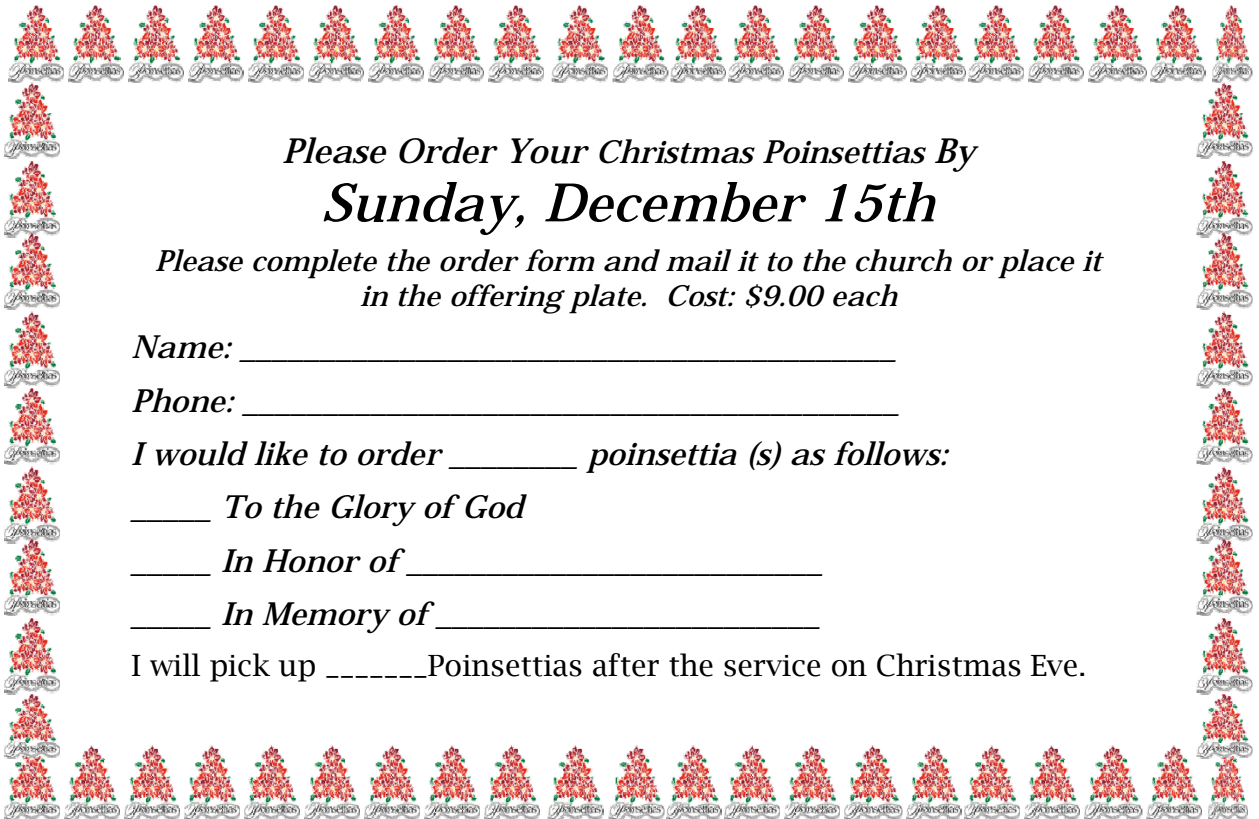
opening our doors for Wesley Pre-School, AA meetings, the Harmonica Club and our Vacation Bible school, and outstanding scouts program.

Wesley United Methodist Church

8412 Richmond Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22309-2328

Non-Profit
Organization
Postage Paid
Mount Vernon,
Virginia 22121
PERMIT #1

Address Correction Requested



*Please Order Your Christmas Poinsettias By
Sunday, December 15th*

*Please complete the order form and mail it to the church or place it
in the offering plate. Cost: \$9.00 each*

Name: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to order _____ poinsettia (s) as follows:

_____ *To the Glory of God*

_____ *In Honor of* _____

_____ *In Memory of* _____

I will pick up _____ Poinsettias after the service on Christmas Eve.