



WESLEY FAMILY NEWS

January 2009

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

2009 Wesley Church Year is Set!

At the December meeting of the Council of Ministries the calendar for 2009 was established. It features some old favorites and some adventurous additions. We can anticipate some of our favorites and regular events such as these:

Activity	Date
Martin Luther King Choir Festival	January 18th
Boy Scout Sunday	February 8
Girl Scout Sunday	March 8
Ash Wednesday Service	February 25th
Maundy Thursday	April 9 th
United Methodist Men Pancake Breakfast on Easter	April 12 th
Graduate Sunday	June 14 th
Vacation Bible School	June 22- June 26
Peach Festival	August 8
Rally Day	September 13th

We anticipate that we will have the International Festival on March 14th but are awaiting the final word from the UMW. (Continued on Page 7)

Current Special Needs:

UCM---tomato sauce, pasta, rice, beans, canned vegetables and fruits, Enfamil with iron, canned tuna, juice boxes, small-sized snacks and large size diapers

Rising Hope---microwaveable macaroni and cheese, vienna sausage, spam, tuna, pasta, tomato sauces, peanut butter, jelly, single-serving canned fruit, cup-of-noodles, rice baby cereal, baby formula, baby food, and diapers all sizes



Baptized on November 23, 2008

Ryan Alexander Kusterbeck

born on October 2, 2008

Son of

Shawn & Lauren Kusterbeck

Grandson of

Dave and Karola Scarce

Jozef Thomas Shultz

born on February 10, 2005

Son of

Michael Shultz

Grandson of

Dorothy and Robert Shultz

Nephew of Eric Shultz

Do we have your Current mailing and/or email address?
If not, please contact the church office to make any changes.

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.

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District Superintendent: Alan Reifsnyder

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Message from Pastor Tony...

The hectic days of Christmas preparation followed by the excitement of the holiday itself are nearly done. Most of us look upon the cessation of activity with relief. We enjoy the holiday but we also like our normal routine. We are glad to go from turbulence to stillness.

This quiet time is short lived, but valuable. Why? Because the stillness and the quiet of our post Christmas lives allows us to evaluate what we are about, who we are, and what we hope for in the days, months, and years to come. It isn't so much that we want to start the New Year of right, though there is nothing wrong with feeling so. Rather it is realizing that God is still at work in our world and in us and the final chapters have yet to be written and God isn't finished with us yet.

So in the stillness and quiet of our post Christmas lives I invite you to examine your heart and mind to see where God is still causing a disturbance in your life. Little eddies of motion highlight where God might be asking you to step out in faith and change something that needs to be changed, or do something that needs to be done, or fix something that has been damaged. That is, after all, what the season of Christmas was all about and still is to this day.

The work of God in Jesus is not finished with the birth of a child. This work continues in the lives of God's children for the rest of their lives as God's work for the world (and us) continued in the growing, maturing Jesus. That work is one of forgiveness and healing (fixing what has been damaged), Making holy what has been unholy (our lives) and acting to challenge and fight injustice and sin and evil and to share God's love with those who suffer from injustice and sin. It may be comfortable to say that these tasks aren't of importance to ourselves, that we don't need to do them, or think about them, or consider them,

or even bother with them. Sadly, if we believe that we deny the very reason of our celebration of Christmas.

We had better ask ourselves some tough questions. Such as, "Where in my life am I demanding forgiveness from another before I forgive?" Do I seek to receive forgiveness more than I seek to offer forgiveness to others?

Do I accept impure thoughts and unholy acts in myself and condemn them in others? Do I continue to practice actions and entertain thoughts that God has called me to set aside on my growth as a Christian.

Do I see unjust acts and words and remain silent? Do I demand justice for myself and my interest, but refuse it for others when it might cost me money, or respect, or status?

These questions are another way of stating what has always been the basic Methodist understanding of the Christian life:

First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced

Secondly: By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men:

Thirdly: By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are:

The public worship of God.

The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded.

The Supper of the Lord.

Family and private prayer.

Searching the Scriptures.

Fasting or abstinence.

How are you living these each day of your life? What help do you need to do them? What keeps you from practicing them, or even accepting them?

Wesley United Methodist Women (UMW)



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.

The Teddy Bear ministry is in need of teddy bears ONLY (not any stuffed animal) new or like new to continue its service to the sick and shut-in. There is a basket in the narthex where you can place the teddy bears. Any additional questions or concerns please contact Gwen Loftus at trlggl@cox.net.



Teddy Bear Ministry

Staffing Update

The contract for Antonio Ellis, our Youth Director, has not been renewed for the upcoming year. If you know of any potential candidate for this position, or would be willing to fill this position on an interim basis, please contact Pastor Tony or Lou DeV Vaughn, Chairman of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

Wesley Family News Deadline Has Changed

The deadline for submission of articles/items of interest for the Wesley Family News is at **Noon, the 2nd Friday of the Month**. Please submit all items in writing. When possible, please send them via email to Wesley-Church@verizon.net



Advent Workshop Fun & Fellowship

On December 7th, immediately following the morning worship service, the Fellowship Committee sponsored a well-attended Advent workshop in the Fellowship Hall that also included a fabulous lunch, complete with delicious offerings of soups, salads, breads and desserts. Nearly 20 families participated in this event which included a demonstration of how to create a table centerpiece by our own talented florist extraordinaire (and Minister of Music) Chris Johnson. Attendees were encouraged to bring their own raw materials of evergreen clippings, holly branches and berries, pine cones, and other “outdoor treasures” for sharing as well as construction of their very own holiday centerpiece. As there really was something for everyone, many of the children in attendance crafted cookie ornaments. Much gratitude and appreciation go to Chris Johnson for sharing his considerable talents and energy and for Judy Ferreira and the Fellowship Committee for hosting this wonderful event. The success of this activity can certainly be measured by the outstanding fellowship, the beautiful centerpieces that will adorn many homes over the holiday season and the satisfied looks on the faces of all those who ventured through the food serving line!

Christmas Cantata

The Wesley Chancel Choir, along with an auxiliary group of volunteer vocalists, performed a wonderful Christmas cantata as the featured presentation of the December 21st worship service. Under the skillful direction of Chris Johnson, Wesley’s Minister of Music, the assembled choir provided the worshipers with an enthusiastic rendering of Tom Fettke’s arrangement of “A Song Was Born at Christmas: A Musical Celebrating the Birth of the Messiah”. The musical included several familiar Christmastime melodies such as “Angels We Have Heard on High”, “O Little Town of Bethlehem” and “O Come, Let Us Adore Him” along with many contemporary pieces and a scripture-based narration interspersed between the vocal arrangements. Three soloists, Fran West, Susann Miguel and Lance Tracey, delivered wonderful interpretations of several of the selections. To prepare for this impressive and well-received performance, Chris worked for several weeks with the newly revitalized Chancel Choir and a hearty group of “Cantata only” volunteers. Preceding the Cantata, the Wesley Ringers performed “Ring the Bells of Christmas”, a medley of seasonal songs. During this spirited number, the bell choir employed a full-range of ringing techniques including the use of mallets. In all, nearly 25 individuals contributed their time and talents to this musical celebration of Christ’s birth. Following the worship service, the choirs hosted a reception in the Fellowship Hall and provided a variety of scrumptious finger foods and desserts.

Getting to Know You: Jody Taylor

Although a relatively new face to members here at Wesley UMC, Jody Taylor is not new to the neighborhood.

She's the daughter of Hilda and Woody Taylor. Woody was a home builder and built many homes in Mt. Zephyr. Jody was born in the "old" Alexandria Hospital and grew up in Mt. Zephyr on Radford Avenue. Wesley was her first church! She and her mother used to walk to church taking a shortcut through the field behind Thompson's Corner. Her family moved to Patton Boulevard when she was ten years old. Jody and her mother were both in the choir for a while and Jody was once an angel in a Christmas pageant. She was confirmed into the church at the same time as her best friend, Karen Minney (Margaret's daughter). Jody attended Mount Vernon High School (the old one for two years and the new one for two years). She later went to George Mason University and earned a BS degree in Business Management. Jody lost her only sibling, David, to cancer in 2002.

Jody is the single mother of a terrific son, Ross, who is fifteen and is a 9th grader at West Potomac High School. Ross's main interest is lacrosse and he is looking forward to playing for West

Potomac next spring. He also loves tennis, badminton and sports in general. Ross is also in SGA, the Debate Club, and is on the ROTC Raider team at West Potomac. Jody and Ross have a sweet, cuddly lab-mix dog named Maddy. Jody and Maddy enjoy outings to the dog park located near them at least three times a week. Jody's main passion is reading and she also enjoys doing puzzles. She is not currently employed, but previously worked as a human resources specialist and proofreader/editor. If anyone is aware of a great part-time job, please give her a call!

Jody loves Wesley UMC, Pastor Tony, and all of the wonderful church members who greet her each week. She found the Bible study before the church service last year to be very informative and hopes more people will attend this year. Jody also attends the meetings of Trinity Circle. She enjoys the fellowship of the group tremendously and is also getting to know each of the ladies better.

Jody says she tends to hide under the proverbial bushel basket, but with more prayer and insight, she hopes to someday reflect more of that light that shines on all of us.

Page 1 Continued

2009 Wesley Church Year is Set!

There will be some new twists on some old events such as holding Rally Day Service outdoors (weather permitting of course). And there will be some new events to look forward to as well. We will add a special Fifth Sunday event each 5th Sunday. Our plan is to have a "Saturday evening potluck with an Alternative worship experience in our fellowship hall and then Sunday morning enjoy some kind of special music or presentation during worship. Here is our tentative plan:

Sunday	Activity
March 29	Youth Sunday
May 31	Mount Vernon Madrigals (tent.)
August 30	Harmony Heritage Singers (tent.)
November 29	(First Sunday of Advent) tba

We also thought that enjoying our beautiful grounds at various times of the year might be fun and spiritually uplifting. We are planning a "Creation Sunday/Earth Day celebration for April 26th to be held outside and "Lawn Chair Sunday" to be held the Sunday after Vacation Bible School (June 28th) outside.

All of these events, as well as any others we might plan and develop are designed to offer opportunities for friends, neighbors, and invited guests to join us in worship and fellowship and to lead them to a deeper relationship and walk with God and vital relationship with the congregation and its ministries. Please be thinking of how you can help support these efforts and who you might like to invite to attend with you.

Capital Campaign

Your support has been amazing for this effort and we are ready to take on our first project, which because of the benefits in energy savings will be replacing the windows of the fellowship hall. Look forward to see some changes and a celebration during our worship service when we have completed this project!

Vision Group

The Vision Group assembled last summer has been meeting and they have had three meetings so far. The question we first raised as we began was this, "What do you like about Wesley Church?" We also asked "What do you think we could improve?" and "What do you wish we did that we have never done before?" Our second and third meeting have been a time of study of the Scriptures around the question, "What does God intend the church to be and do?" Our next sessions will ask the question "Why do people need Jesus?" We are using two books as resources: Lovett Weems, "Take the Next Step" and Robert Schnase "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations". If you would like to read these yourself the Pastor has copies you may borrow. Please see him to do so.

VIC HOP Volunteers Needed

Ventures in Community, "*An interfaith alliance of faith communities in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County*". Hypothermia Outreach Program (HOP), is a shelter for homeless people operated by VIC volunteers.

It's that time of year again when Wesley helps out with the local (VIC HOP) shelter, which takes place nightly at Rising Hope United Methodist Church December through March. Just like last year, Wesley will be staffing the facility every Saturday night in February and March. The purpose of the program is to provide those without any other shelter, dinner and a warm, safe place to sleep during the winter months.

Dinners require at least two volunteers (so a couple can manage it). The meal needs to serve 30 people. Dinner folks can prepare the meal at home or at Rising Hope. You stay to serve the meal and clean up the kitchen afterward.

For the overnight staff, we need a minimum of three people to stay the whole night, with preferably 4. At least one of each gender is recommended. You can take turns sleeping, with two awake at any time. Although


the thought of sleeping at a homeless shelter may be scary, everyone who has done it has found the experience to be greatly rewarding.

If you are unable to stay a night or cook a dinner, please consider making a financial donation to cover the cost of the bagged breakfasts we provide the guests on their way out Sunday morning.

As you can see, this takes a lot of volunteers-5-7 every Saturday night for 9 weeks! Please consider helping out to the best of your abilities.

This is every Saturday night in February and March. Please contact Diana Tracey at ditracey@verizon.net or 703-780-9385 to volunteer for either dinner and/or overnight. Please provide the specific date(s) that you would like to serve.

This is a HUGE effort for a VERY WORTHWHILE cause. It's not hard, it is tiring, but it feels good knowing you had a part in providing shelter for up to 25 men and women who might otherwise be sleeping in the cold woods and that you may have saved a life in the process.

JANUARY 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:00 AM Christian Education 10:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM All Nations Meth Church 2:00 PM Den 2 5:00 PM UMYF:	29 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM BS Troop 993 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 Church Office Closed & School Winter Vacation 7:00 PM Women Step Group 7:30 PM BS 993 Committee Mtg	31 7:00 PM CS Den 8 10:00 PM All Nations Methodist Church Watch Night	1 New Year's Day 6:30 PM CS Den 4 7:00 PM CS Committee Mtg	2	3
4 9:00 AM Christian Education 10:00 AM Worship 5:15 PM Bible Study	5 PreSchool Resumes 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM BS Troop 993 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 Epiphany 10:00 AM Staff Mtg	7 7:00 PM CS Den 8	8 6:30 PM CS Den 3 6:30 PM GS Service Unit Meeting 7:00 PM CS Den 1	9	10 Bi-District Leadership Training Day 10:00 AM Troop 6400 Mtg
11 9:00 AM Christian Education 10:00 AM Worship 5:15 PM Bible Study	12 5:00 PM Nurturing Parenting Program 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM BS Troop 993 7:30 PM Trinity Circle Meeting 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00 AM Staff Mtg	14 7:00 PM CS Den 8	15 6:30 PM CS Den 3 6:30 PM CS Den 4 7:00 PM CS Den 1 7:00 PM CS Pack Mtg	16 5:00 PM GS Lock-In	17 12:00 AM GS Lock-In 2:00 PM Chris Vasilas Rehearsal
18 9:00 AM Christian Education 10:00 AM Worship 12:30 PM GS Lock-In 4:30 PM Chris Vasilas Court of Honor 5:00 PM Chris Vasilas Reception 5:15 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM VIC Choir Festival	19 Church Office Closed  Martin Luther King, Jr. remembered Martin L. King, Jr. Day 12:00 PM GS Lock-In 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM BS Troop 993 7:00 PM GS Troop 657 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 Church Office Closed Inauguration Day Holiday	21 7:00 PM CS Den 8	22 6:30 PM CS Den 3 7:00 PM CS Den 1	23 7:00 pm Sydney Nixon Party	24 12:00 PM Sydney Nixon Party
25 9:00 AM Christian Education 10:00 AM Worship 5:15 PM Bible Study	26 Preschool Holidays 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM BS Troop 993 7:00 PM Trinity Circle 8:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27 Preschool Holidays 7:30 PM BS 993 Committee Mtg	28 7:00 PM CS Den 8	29 6:30 PM CS Den 3 6:30 PM CS Den 4 7:00 PM CS Den 1	30	31



January Anniversaries & Birthdays Anniversaries

01/10/1994 Connie & Larry Dohm

Birthdays

01/01 Mary Ruth Forstall	01/25 Susann Miguel
01/05 Linda Shellhouse	01/25 Jayme Walker
01/05 Jacob Reeves	01/26 Stephen Jackson
01/15 Owen Chong	01/26 C.J. Tracey
01/16 Jackie Adams	01/27 Rose Ball
01/18 Dawn Loftus	01/28 Marina Dohm
01/21 Marti Hammitte	01/30 Robert Shellhouse
01/21 Andy Convery	01/30 Mike Adams
01/22 James David Scarce	01/30 Rebecca Chase
01/22 Jennifer Lorentzen	01/30 Marianne Bassi
01/24 Hannah Buchholz	01/31 Jean Hayden
01/25 Steve Walker	

In-Service for January

Date	01/04/2009	01/11/2009	01/18/2009	01/25/2009
Acolyte	Elizabeth Forstall	Marina Dohm	Matthew Grigsby	Devin Loftus
Lector	Kellianne Tomlinson	Gayle Besemer	Nora Rudd	
Childcare	Kym Clark & Audry Pomerening	Margaret Minnie & Connie Lorentzen	Diana & Ryan Tracey	Diane Nees & Hannah Nees
Counters	Donna Adams & Corey Tuller	Linda Baublitz & Dave Restifo	Bill Convery & Ben Robinson	Lou DeVaughn & Jeff Nees
Coffee Hour	Nancy Nixon	Jean Hayden	Lou DeVaughn	Jean & Coleman Harris
Communion Steward	Judy Ferreira			
Sunday School	Edie Skidmore & Bud West	Nancy Nixon & Jeff Nees	Nancy Nixon & Jeff Nees	Rosemary Salak & Tom Swartz



2009

Wesley Preschool and Kindergarten

January Newsletter

Happy New Year! As we begin the New Year, we reminisce about the events of the past year but also look ahead to the New Year with hope and anticipation. The New Year provides a perfect opportunity to start fresh. The New Year begins. The cold wind blows. In January, we play in the snow! This month our classes will be learning about New Year's resolutions, cold weather, cold weather animals, and about animals that hibernate. We'll learn about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., his special dream and brotherhood. And did you know that Benjamin Franklin's birthday is January 17th?



Dates for your calendar

Return to School:
No school:
Student Holidays:

January 5, 2009
January 19th-20th, 2009
January 26th and 27th

What a wonderful Christmas program our children performed! Thanks to all for a job well done! A special Thank you goes to Clarke Slaymaker, our Santa Claus extraordinaire! Thanks to all of the costume designers, they were fabulous! Such warm memories of a perfect day and a perfect way to celebrate our Lord's birthday. I'm sure Jesus was smiling!

In case of inclement weather remember our policy and stay tuned to the local news stations or Channel 10 Fairfax Co. School Channel.

Wesley Preschool and Kindergarten Inclement Weather Policy
FCPS no school-Wesley no school
1-hour delay-School starts at 10 a.m.
2-hour delay-No school for Wesley.

And if it snows...take me to the Library to look for a book about frosty friends and winter fun! We recommend:



"The Snowman"
 By Raymond Briggs
"The Snowy Day"
 By Ezra Jack Keats

(Let me know what happens to the snowball in his pocket!)



New Year's Blessings to all of you!
Wesley Preschool and Kindergarten Staff

Wesley United Methodist Church

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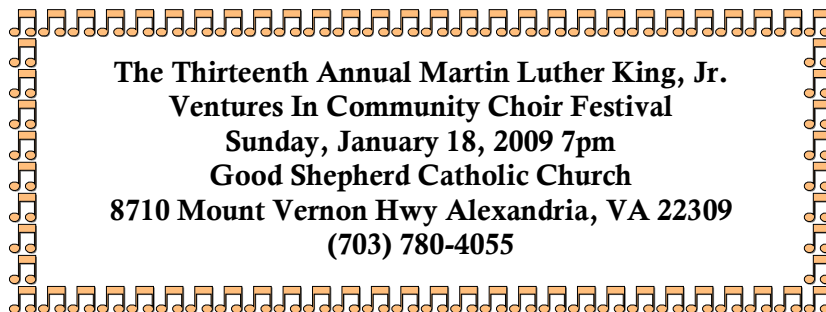
Youth Notes

Youth Ski-Trip (January 23, 2009)

Wesley Youth Ministry Teen Summit (TBA)

A Special Thanks:

The Wesley Youth Ministry thank Mrs. Diana Tracey for serving as the driver and chaperone at the Eagle Eyrie Retreat in Lynchburg, VA. Your support is deeply appreciated.



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