



# WESLEY FAMILY NEWS

JUNE 2006 ISSUE

## *A few words from Pastor Tony...*



Dear friends,

This is one of those months when I seem to have much on my mind, but little of it makes sense. So maybe I will give you the seeds for thought and you can take it from there.

How easy it is to fall into the habit of noticing, focusing on, and worrying about what is **WRONG** with the world, our nation, our situation, and ourselves. And why not? These are facts that we can always prove and even agree on. This tendency of ours is a wedge that breaks us apart from our true selves, others, and, in the end, God. In response to this I find myself remembering the focus we had earlier this year on "Celebrating What is Right". I invite you to remind yourself as well and together let's celebrate what is right.

NONE of the Spiritual greats of the faith ever came before God in their prayer life confessing their sins **FIRST**. The first thing they did was to remember who God is and praise God for His love, compassion, mercy, and provision of our needs. The second thing they did was to express their gratitude to God for all God had done. **THEN**, maybe they would deal with what was wrong with them (if God let them). In my journal I wrote, "To me, there is no greater sign of my spiritual infancy than my lack of gratitude." Do any of you share this sentiment with me?

In the Gospel of John and John's letters there is phrase, "so that my joy may be complete"

repeated 4 or 5 times (the only place where this occurs in all of the Bible). I find myself wishing for any joy at all and wondering what it is so that I know that I had some (I think I do when all is said and done). And then I wish it was completed as well. I think it might have something to do with #1 and 2.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6) Many Christians demand that Christ is the only way to come to God the Father and this verse is often quoted as the warrant for that belief. It makes a lot of sense. What bothers me about this is that often Christians use this to point to others of different faiths to condemn and exclude OR to seek to convince them of the error of their ways and faith. Let me restate the passage again (but differently) "Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Christ." In John 15 Christ explains at great length how we are in Him and Christ in us. Isn't it possible that those who are different from us may encounter the Christ (who will save them) in you and there by come to the Father through your the Christ in you? Our mission isn't to convert others (Christ converts). Our mission is to be Christ for the world. How are you doing in this matter?

Well, I will see you in church and when you come invite and bring a friend.

With Love, Pastor Tony



**ADMIT ONE**

**WESLEY UMC  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

*Presents*

*Adventures of the Treasure  
Seekers*

*Exploring God's Promises  
June 26th thru 30th  
6 - 8 p.m.*

*Fellowship Hall*

*Registration Begins  
5:30 p.m., June 26th*

**COST: FREE**

*Dinner will be served  
each evening at 6 p.m.*

*Families are invited  
Friday evening, the 30th,  
for a potluck dinner  
and a performance  
by the children.*

*Volunteers are needed, please  
call Bonnie Olenic  
703-799-0521*

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Hammittes are Leaving...  
After Fellowship Hour, June  
11th, come to Pema's Restaurant  
to wish Tom and Marti a fond  
farewell as they leave for their  
new home in Atlanta. A delicious  
Sunday Brunch is available.  
No Reservations Needed.  
Let's send them off with good  
wishes, good food and good  
fellowship...*

***Kits for Annual Conference***

The UMW at Wesley for many years has spearheaded the collection of various types of kits to be taken to Annual Conference and distributed around the world through Church World Services. This year, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) will collect school, clean-up and bedding kits to be sent to the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA. We suggest our congregation concentrate on the school kits. They need to be at the church by June 11th, when they will be dedicated. We are requested to donate \$1 per kit to cover shipping costs.

School Kits contain: one pair of blunt scissors, 2 pads or notebooks of ruled paper approximately 8 1/2 x 11 inches (containing 150-200 sheets of paper), one 30-centimeter ruler (12 inches), one pencil sharpener, six unsharpened pencils with erasers, one large eraser, 12 sheets of colored construction paper, one box of 24 crayons, and one 11 x 14 cloth bag with cloth handles and a closure (Velcro, snap, or button). Pack these items in the cloth bag and secure contents with the closure. A donation of \$11 will also allow UMCOR to buy the supplies and assemble a school kit.

If you prefer, you may donate money. Make your check out to Wesley UMW and mark it for School Kits—\$12 per kit. In some congregation, volunteers make the bags. If interested, call Nora Rudd about details. Otherwise, they can be purchased at local stores.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST and DATES TO REMEMBER...**



We are saddened to announce the death of William M. Riddick, III on April 7th. Survivors include his parents, William M. Riddick, Jr. and Bonelle Riddick of Atlanta; a brother and sister. ***Services will be July 7th at the Old Chapel, Fort Myer at 11 a.m.*** (arrive no later than 10:30 a.m.)

\*\*\*\*\*



Special acknowledgment and appreciation go out to Odell Wareham and Margaret Minney. These ladies are our coordinators for all our luncheons that we have after memorial/funeral services. Odell and Margaret make all the calls to our members who so graciously provide. They do a wonderful job and we want them to know they are appreciated for their dedication and a job well done. And also a thank you to everyone for the food/services they have provided. ***Thank You!!***

***United Methodist Men  
Virginia Conference  
Announcement***

The United Methodist Men of Virginia Conference are saddened to announce the death of U.M. Men Conference President, Brian W. Manwiller on April 17th.

\*\*\*\*\*

***Please...***

Keep us updated with new or changed postal addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. A big thanks to all who have sent in changes! Updated information may be emailed to Wesley-

Church@verizon.net or dropped in the offering plate at church, or mailed to Wesley UMC, 8412 Richmond Avenue, Alexandria VA 22309. Thank you

\*\*\*\*\*

If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar, Wesley has an account with Plantation Florist. They do a beautiful arrangement for a very reasonable price. When purchases are made please pass the information along to Alice so she can put it in the Sunday Bulletin. ***NOTE DEADLINE BELOW!!! Thank you.***



**The deadline for the Sunday Bulletin is Wednesday noon. Please submit all items in writing. Thank you.**

**Wesley Family News Deadline**

The deadline for submission of articles/items of interest for the Wesley Family News is **1 p.m., the 15th of each month.** Any items received after that time will be considered for the following month's newsletter. **Please submit all items in writing.** Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Though youth activities were pretty normal in May, things are going to pick up again in June! There's lots to look forward to!

We'll kick-off June by serving those in our congregation who are homebound. One June 4, the youth will gather at 4 p.m. to prepare a dinner meal, which we will then deliver to some homebound members of the Wesley congregation. We will finish at 6:30 p.m.. We will follow the same schedule (4-6:30 p.m.) the following week, but it will be a different activity. June 11 will be Girls' Night at Youth Group, and we will spend the evening doing some fun girl activities and talking about issues that girls deal with. There will be no youth on Father's Day, June 18. But we will gather again for an evening of water fun on June 25, which will be our last regular youth gather for the summer. We will also have a special activity on June 17, keep an eye on the e-mail for more information!

Finally, June is a special month as we celebrate the graduation of Chelsea Walker from Mount Vernon High School! Congratulations, Chelsea!

So here's the recap for June:

June 4, 4:00-6:30 p.m. – Prepare meal and deliver to homebound

June 11, 4:00-6:30 p.m. – Girls' Night

June 16 – Mt. Vernon HS Graduation (with special congratulations to Chelsea!)

June 17 – Day-long fun outing (details to follow)

June 18 – Father's Day, No Youth Group

June 25 – 5:00-6:30 p.m.– Water Fun!

As always keep in your prayers the summer mission trip in August, and ***get excited!***

***Clair Travis***  
***Youth Director***

### ***Thank You...***

The Bell Choir would like to thank Kerry Pealer for making the nice music holders that enabled us to play outside on Easter morning. Kerry is always willing to fill in when needed and on short notice. And for those that don't know it, Kerry is regularly around the church keeping our pianos in tune. Thanks Kerry, you are important to us!

### ***WESLEY UMC SUMMER MISSION TRIP, AUGUST 12-19***

Hurricane Katrina was one of the costliest and deadliest hurricanes in the history of the United States. It is possible that Hurricane Katrina, which came ashore along the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, was the largest hurricane of its strength to approach the United States in recorded history. Its sheer size caused devastation over 100 miles from the center and well inland.

This summer, from August 12-19, Wesley UMC will be sponsoring a trip to Pascagoula, Mississippi, to work with UMCOR in Hurricane Katrina recovery. In coordination with other Mount Vernon area organizations, the approximately 15-20 Wesley youth and adults will be helping to rebuild the homes of the most marginalized in the area. Specific projects that we will be working on include (but are not limited to): roofing, dry walling, and carpentry.

The Mission of the Mississippi United Methodist Katrina Response is “to be a living expression of God’s love by alleviating the suffering of those impacted by Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast and throughout the state of Mississippi.” Furthermore, the Mississippi Annual Conference of the UMC acknowledges that, “There is quite a lot of work to do in Mississippi, and there will be for years to come. Persons are displaced all over the state and the task of getting them back into homes is monumental.” ([www.mississippi-umc.org](http://www.mississippi-umc.org))

We have set as a goal to raise \$5000 for this trip. This will cover the cost of the rental fee for multiple 12-passenger vans that will transport us, the gas to keep those vans moving, and other related travel expenses. As a church committed to mission, we ask that you – the members of Wesley UMC – consider donating towards this church mission trip.

We will be selling Stock in this Mission Trip throughout May and June. You may buy shares in any amount – all that you can give would be much appreciated! These shares will be on sale before and after each Sunday morning worship service (just look for the people in the construction hats!), or by contacting Clair Travis at [clairtravis@yahoo.com](mailto:clairtravis@yahoo.com). Following the Mission Trip, there will be a shareholders dinner meeting in which all donors will learn about their investment through a slideshow and testimonies about the trip.

You may also donate to the trip by filling out the pledge card below and placing it in the church offering or mailing it to the church:

Wesley United Methodist Church  
Attn: Clair Travis  
8412 Richmond Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22309

**All donations must be in by Sunday, June 25! Please support this church mission goal and the Wesley UMC Summer 2006 Mission Team!**

I pledge at least \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Wesley UMC Summer 2006 Church Mission Trip. I understand that this pledge must be paid in full by Sunday, June 25, 2006.

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Wesley UMC with “*Mission Trip*” in the memo line.

**Wesley United Methodist Church**

8412 Richmond Avenue

Alexandria, VA 22309-2328

(703) 780-5019/(703) 780-5061 Fax

E-mail: WesleyChurch@verizon.net

Website: <http://www.wesleyva.org/>

Daily devotions:<http://www.wesleyva.org/devotional>

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

Address Correction Requested

**JUNE**

**26 - 30**



**Join Us At VBS!**