



# WESLEY FAMILY NEWS

May 2007 ISSUE

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

## Kits For Conference

Local churches are encouraged to gather items for kits and send them to annual conference. Kits collected at this year's conference will be used to replenish the inventory at the United Methodist Committee on Relief's (UMCOR) Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, La. The inventory has been greatly diminished as UMCOR responded to the numerous disasters experienced here in the United States and in other countries around the world. Although all types of kits can be used, the greatest need is for Sewing Kits and Baby/Layette Kits.

### Sewing Kit Items Value: \$18 per kit

3 yards of cotton or cotton-blend, solid color or print fabric (must be 3 yards of uncut fabric)  
1 pair sewing scissors  
1 package of needles  
1 spool of thread  
5-8 matching buttons  
Wrap sewing notions in the fabric and place in a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

### Layette Kit Items Value \$35 per kit

6 cloth diapers  
2 shirts or 2 one-piece body suits  
2 baby washcloths  
2 gowns or sleepers  
2 diaper pins  
1 sweater open in the front  
2 receiving blankets  
Bundle the items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.

Woodley Hills Elementary School Choir  
Performing at Wesley United Methodist Church  
Sunday, May 20th  
10:00 am Service

## Message from Pastor Tony...

Dear Folks,

As Clair and I began to plan for this year's mission trip we were looking for an urban opportunity. As our choice was made known (Philadelphia) objections were raised that took the form of "Why not stay closer to home if we are going to do something like that. We have plenty of needs right here at home."

Well that is true. We do have a lot of needs here at home. Our response went something like this, "It is important to be away so the every day life we live doesn't detract from the experience." And "These experiences help us to see better the needs we have at home and provide a safe and secure and limited way of confronting them." And there is truth in this as well. It is easy to take a week and make an excursion out of our mission trip. But...

There are still the needs here at home. And if we see that reality, maybe we are grown up enough to face the following reality. Our ministry in Christ's name is not an excursion to be taken at different and limited points in our life, but a question of lifestyle. Too often we see our service to Christ as being an option to be scheduled and controlled, limited to our comfort levels and our perceived busy schedules. Nothing could be further from the biblical truth. Christ calls us to take up the Cross and follow him. Christ calls

us to care. Christ never avoided the everydayness of people's lives. And neither should we.

The reason that it is difficult to attend to the needs of those in our own community is that they don't go away when we are finished our doing. There is a chance that in our local work we will meet people and establish relationships that lead people to come to Wesley, or call us on the phone, or ask something of us when it isn't in our schedule or comfort zone.

Perhaps I have been wrong about the usefulness of Mission Trips as means of discipleship and spiritual growth. I am delighted that leaders among our congregation see the depth and breadth of local needs and the call of Christ to meet these challenges on our doorstep. How are we, and how can we meet the needs so pervasive in our community? What changes in your lifestyle are you willing to make in order to meet these local needs? What are you willing to risk to meet persons whose circumstances are often difficult and frightening?

In Christ's Name,

Pastor Tony



## Youth News: Farewell from Clair

On Wesley UMC and Youth Ministry

As I set my eyes to Chattanooga and the rolling hills of East Tennessee, I would like to reflect on my time here at Wesley. My mind has been spinning in the last few months as I prepare for this transition, and I invite you now to listen in to those thoughts that have been passing through my conscious.

I would like to begin by thanking this congregation. My time at Wesley has been truly beneficial in more ways than I could possibly name. As I have prepared to enter the ministry full-time, this congregation has fostered me and challenged me at every step along the way. I appreciate your investment in and commitment to the summer mission trips. I value your compliments and support of me as I have led mission trips, the youth, and worship. Likewise, I appreciate your willingness to approach me with concerns about my leadership, with new ideas, with hopes and dreams, and with "growing edges." You supported me as the youth director of this church, but you also made a commitment to my education, and without that support and commitment from each of you, I would not have grown; I would not have been as prepared for ministry as I feel I am today.

In my final weeks here, I would like to leave with you some reflections of my own and some challenges for this congregation as you look ahead. One of the things Wesley has helped me do is to better articulate my calling to Youth Ministry as an Ordained Elder. I recognize my unique role as a bridge that more intimately connects youth with the rest of the church. I share with you this insight; youth ministry is church ministry that begins and ends with young people. As you think about the future ministry of this church and the role you will play in that ministry, I challenge you all to think about how the children and youth of this church will be a part of that ministry, your ministry. I believe it is fair to say that most of us are here because someone (or many people) in our church made a commitment to us at a critical time in our lives. I hope that you will make that same commitment to the young people at this critical time in their lives.

I offer this challenge in the hope that we may taste something of the kingdom of God here one earth, and look forward to that day when we will be gathered together again worshipping and praising God.

Blessings on the Journey,  
Clair Travis

## Lunch With Friends...

Come one, come all!!! Bring a sack lunch and join us for Lunch with Friends on Tuesday, May 15th, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet to socialize, eat and share our life experiences. This is an initiative of the Member Care Ministry. Hope to see you there!

## Sunday Lunch Bunch

Plan to join the Lunch Bunch after Fellowship Time. The schedule for May:

**May 6th** Mt. Vernon Inn

**May 13** Mother's Day No plans, but don't forget to treat her!

**May 20** Ft. Belvoir Officers' Club. (Please let Nora Rudd know if you'd like to go as we will have to carpool in cars with military stickers, and make reservations. You will need a picture ID. The buffet is \$18.00

**May 27:** Polo Grill

## Annual Conference is Coming!

The 2007 Virginia Annual Conference will be held June 10-14 in Roanoke, Virginia. This year's conference theme is Let's Get Growing! All for Jesus. There will be an emphasis on evangelism supported by displays, preaching by Rev. Mike Slaughter and reports from the task force on Starting New Faith Communities and the task force on Professions of Faith.

This year is a voting year for jurisdictional and general conference delegates. Annual conference delegates can expect to spend significant time discerning and voting for representatives to these bodies.

Housing and banquet information can be found on the Virginia Conference website, [www.vaumc.org](http://www.vaumc.org).

The Bi-District annual conference orientation will be at 5 p.m. June 3 at St. Stephen's UMC.



Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the friends and family of  
Mary Pryor and her family on the passing of her mother DeLena Ruby Head.  
Sue Hunt, especially her daughter Frankie Myers and granddaughter, Donna  
Slaymacker.  
Dale Swartz for the loss of her sister, Jane Hoppe

## We are Grateful For ...

*Chuck Anderson for saving the spruce tree by bringing down pine tree that was damaged by rain/soaked ground and high wind. It was just a matter of a short time before the cracked/leaning tree would have fallen and likely destroyed the spruce which was directly in line with the leaning tree. Also thanks to Earl who collected and stacked the limbs and to Don & Earl who roped off the area for safety concerns.*

*Thank you for all your prayers, thoughts, and cards during my sister's recent illness and passing. Your love and caring is greatly appreciated.*

*Nancy Convery & Family*

*Thank you to Rhonda Reeves-Long and Bill Long for the gift of the microwave for the fellowship hall.*

## Canister Vacuum Needed by the Our Church

Wesley needs a good new/used canister vacuum (not shop vac) for the church. If you have one you can donate, please contact Betty at the church.

### 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](mailto:WesleyChurch@verizon.net)



## Malaria kills. Send a net. Save a life.

### Nothing But Nets

Nothing But Nets is a global, grassroots campaign to save lives by preventing malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. Inspired by Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly, who challenged each of his readers to donate at least \$10 for the purchase of an anti-malaria bed net, thousands of people have joined the campaign. Founding campaign partners include the National Basketball Association's NBA Cares, **The People of the United Methodist Church**, Malaria No More, and Sports Illustrated. Other partners include VH-1, AOL Black Voices, and Rotarians' Action Group on Malaria.

### Malaria Kills

Malaria is preventable, but infects nearly 500 million people each year and kills more than one million of those who become infected. Ninety percent of deaths caused by malaria occur in Africa where the disease is a leading killer of children. Every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria. Children who are able to survive the disease are faced with physical and mental impairments, such as poor growth and development.

Moreover, every day 25 million pregnant African women risk severe illness and harm to their unborn children from a malaria infection. Malaria contributes to low birth weight among newborn infants, one of the leading risk factors for infant mortality. Malaria incapacitates people and keeps them from working while they recover or take care of sick children. Malaria keeps countries poor. In addition to the burden on the health system, malaria illness and death cost Africa approximately \$12 billion a year in lost productivity.

<http://www.nothingbutnets.net/>

## **PLASMIDIUM.** IT'S NOT A TV, IT'S A KILLER.

It's the micro-organism that causes malaria, a leading killer of children in Africa. This deadly problem has an easy solution—nets.

A \$10 donation to Nothing But Nets goes directly toward the purchase, distribution, and education about the proper use of an insecticide-treated bed net. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will match every donation, net for net.

Help us stop malaria.



## *Wesley Preschool and Kindergarten May News*

***We are now in the home stretch!*** Can you believe that the end of school is this month?! ***Our end of the year program*** will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited. A reception will immediately follow the program.



**We will soon be registering for Summer Camp.**

**Camp dates will be announced at a future date.**

Camp information is as follows:

Cost: A one time \$20.00 registration fee due *now* to secure placement in one or all of the 3 camps. Cost of the camp will be \$90 per week. No sibling discounts. Time: 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 pm., bring a bagged lunch. Camp is offered to ages 3 years old to 7 years olds. The camper must be completely and totally potty-trained to register. Unless pre-arranged, we will not pro-rate tuition due to missed days, absences/illnesses. Final decision on dates will be set by May 19th. Registration forms will be located outside of the Preschool Office door May 20th.

***Snow make-up days will be May 21, 22, and 23. Our day will be extended. Hours will be 8:30 a.m. through 1:00 p.m. Bring a bag lunch and plan to have fun!***

***We are still registering for the fall school year.***

Call the preschool office for more details at 703 360-9082.

*"Blessed are we whose lives are  
Touched by people who care."*

*Have a great summer!*

*God Bless You!*

*Darlene Spurlock, Elizabeth Schwenk,  
Marnie Merriam, And Chong Tae Christensen*

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

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Address Correction Requested

*Reminders For May*

*Thursday, May 3rd*

National Day of Prayer This year's theme is  
"America, Unite in Prayer"

*Sunday, May 13th*

Mother's Day

*Sunday, May 20th*

Woodley Hills Elementary School choir  
will sing

*Friday, May 25th*

Wesley Pre-School &  
Kindergarten Graduation

*Monday, May 28th*

Memorial Day

*Mother's  
Day*

