



# WESLEY FAMILY NEWS May 2010

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

## Changes at Wesley and at the District

### Pastor Forstall is leaving Wesley

Pastor Tony is being appointed to another church. His last Sunday will be Sunday, June 20th.

### Saying Farewell to John and Pamela Kovacs

John and Pamela are leaving Wesley in early May. They are returning to Minnesota for the summer for Pamela to work. In the fall they will return for Pamela to continue her law studies. John will be teaching in Washington, DC and be attending seminary classes.

### DS Alan Reifsnyder Retires

As many of you know, Alan Reifsnyder is retiring from the active ministry effective this coming July 1, 2010. Alan and his wife Libby have had a profound impact on the churches in the Alexandria District over the last eight years. For more information on his retirement, please turn to page 7

*Come join us in  
celebrating*  
ALEXANDRIA DISTRICT  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ALAN REIFSNYDER'S  
*39 years in ministry and  
happy retirement*  
Sunday, May 16, 2010  
3-5 P.M.  
Manassas-St. Thomas UMC  
8899 Sudley Road  
Manassas, Virginia 2010

PLEASE DROP BY TO GIVE ALAN  
AND LIBBY YOUR BEST WISHES ON  
THEIR RETIREMENT TO  
OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY!

**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

**A 'TEMPORARY VOLUNTEER' secretary is needed at Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church** serving the marginalized along the Route One Corridor while the current secretary is recovering from surgery. This volunteer position is needed Tuesday–Friday, 9:30 – 4:00 pm beginning Tuesday May 11, 2010 for five to eight weeks. Please contact SPRC Chair, Sue Boltz at 703 360-1976 or [sboltz\\_alexumw@yahoo.com](mailto:sboltz_alexumw@yahoo.com) for more information.

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 Reifsnnyder

**Church Operations**

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

Telephone: (703) 780-5019

Fax: (703) 780-5061

E-mail: [WesleyChurch@verizon.net](mailto:WesleyChurch@verizon.net)

Home Page <http://www.wesleyva.org>

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

**Wesley United Methodist Church Staff Members**

Tony Forstall, Pastor ..... [wforstall@cox.net](mailto:wforstall@cox.net)..... 703/780-5019

Chris Johnson, Minister of Music ..... [teach2win93@yahoo.com](mailto:teach2win93@yahoo.com) ..... 703/780-5019

Kym Clark, Office Manager ..... [WesleyChurch@Verizon.net](mailto:WesleyChurch@Verizon.net) . 703/780-5019

John Kovak, Youth Director..... [kovjoh@bethel.edu](mailto:kovjoh@bethel.edu) ..... 703/780-5019

**Preschool Staff**

Darlene Spurlock, Pre-School Director: ..... [wpsdirector@gmail.com](mailto:wpsdirector@gmail.com) ..... 703/360-9082

Brenda Denham, 3 year old teacher ..... 703/360-9082

Chong Tae Christensen, Pre Kindergarten..... 703/360-9082

## Message from Pastor Tony...Home

Recently my mom and I were looking at some old pictures. Included in the pictures were the full range of important places in my life. Houses I had lived in, houses I had visited, and houses that were important to my parents. There were also churches I worshiped in and churches I grew up in, and churches where I served. All places where my family and I had “been at home”. Seeing these places led me to reflecting on various aspects of home and it means to be at home.

For the last six years, I have had the pleasure of being home. To live in the place one knows well has been a treat. To meet and know people who have the same frame of reference as I have as been wonderful. I can hardly drive anywhere in our area that I do not have a wide range of memories to draw on to make sense of what I see. So, in one way, home means the place where you know the history and geography of the place where you are.

In a deeper way though, I have been at home, not just because I know the “lay of the land”. I also have been home because I shared memories and knowledge with a vast array of people including many of you. We could talk about the same places, events, and people with a shared knowledge.

Being at home can also hinder us. I am comfortable in my “home place” and so I take many things for granted that a stranger or newcomer cannot. Being able to move comfortably within this place may blind me to the changes around me and even lead me to deny them if they are unwanted and not welcomed. Being “at home” can also blind me to the needs and suffering of others.

For all of this, I have loved being home. Alexandria is the place I describe as “God's country” because for me it is. Most of us have some connection with a place that for us might be described as “God's country”. Alexandria is mine. It is hard to leave.

However, it is also good to leave. Jesus reminds those who would follow him that birds have nests and foxes have holes, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. To be called to ministry either has a layperson or clergy is to be “on the move” for Jesus. In a sense, it is to cease to be at home in one place and begin to be at home any place. And so I go to serve another church, to be “at home” with them, and to welcome them to “being at home with Jesus” and make them feel at home.

A change in pastors allows us, whether we are staying or moving, to re-establish our priorities in regards to home. The change draws us beyond the importance of place, to the importance of relationships. Family relationships, friendships, church relationships and most importantly, our relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus, are all more keenly felt when we move from place to place. We feel it too when we experience a friend moving to a new place, even when we stay put.

What all of this pondering produced in me was a deep sense of gratitude for the family that raised me, for Mary Ruth and my children, for the friends I have from across the years, and for the great honor and privilege of being “at home” with the Wesley Church family for these last six years. I also am deeply aware that the need to be “at home” is unmet and unfulfilled in many people's lives. So I not only go with thanksgiving in my heart, but with a deep desire to do what I can to make people feel at home with Jesus, and thus help them be at home anywhere they might be. I invite you to wish for the same for yourselves.

## Financial Update

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	2009 Year to Date
Budget Income	10,063	3,575	41,559
Budget Expense	14,866	43,385	55,084
Net Budget	(4,803)	(39,810)	(13,525)
Non-Budget Income	1,818	18,665	8,478
Non-Budget Expense	682	1,982	10,731
Net Non-Budget	1,136	16,683	(2,253)
Pre-School Income	5,115	14,635	16,747
Pre-School Expense	3,975	11,899	16,063
Net Pre-School	1,140	2,736	684
Total Income	16,996	69,055	66,784
Total Expense	19,523	57,266	81,878
Net Total	(2,527)	11,789	(15,094)

	<u>12/31/2008</u>	<u>12/31/2009</u>	<u>03/31/2010</u>
Cash Balance	52615	50223	62259
General Fund	5718	3317	-4313
Preschool Funds	10817	2860	5596
Capital Campaign Funds	17839	23438	36483

## **UMM May Speaker Martha E. Stokes**

Martha Stokes serves as the Director of Leadership and Inclusivity for the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, Richmond, VA. She has been a part of the conference staff team since July of 2000. Her life is truly enriched by the tapestry of amazing people from all walks of life, areas of the conference, ability levels, and backgrounds with whom she has the opportunity to be in ministry.

Martha's staff portfolio includes the Conference Board of Laity, Board of Discipleship, all the Commissions dealing with inclusivity (Disabilities, Ethnic Local Church Concerns, Religion and Race, and Status and Role of Women), Ethnic Ministries, and the Life Span Ministries Councils for Single Adult and Older Adult Ministries. Camp Rainbow Connection, one of the ministries of the Commission on Disabilities, falls under her office.

Prior to this position, Martha worked in the fields of rehabilitation and education as a Vocational Evaluator and Vocational Counselor for the Henrico County Public Schools, Richmond, VA. She holds a master's degree in social work, in the areas of mental health and mental retardation, from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a bachelor's degree in religion and social work from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. Martha is a certified lay speaker and holds professional certification through The United Methodist Church in Older Adult Ministries.

Martha grew up in Fieldale Church on the Danville District. She and her husband, Steve, are members of the church family at Shady Grove United Methodist in Glen Allen where she serves as chair of the music and arts program area team, worship and song leader.

[Martha may be contacted at [marthastokes@vaumc.org](mailto:marthastokes@vaumc.org) or phone 1-800-768-6040, ext. 154 or in the Richmond area, (804) 521-1154.]

### **Thank you to all who made the pancake breakfast successful!**

Jonathan and Bill Convery, Jim Sohn and Fran West for set up on Fri; Nora Rudd and Jody Taylor for table decorations; Lou DeVaughn - kitchen & food procurement; Ken Denham food procurement; Scout Mom Alicia for helping in the kitchen and helping with clean up; Troop 993 for their excellent culinary specialty of pancake cooking and for helping with clean up afterwards.

Bud West, Pres. Wesley UMM

Calling All United Methodist Women

## **Mark Your Calendar!**

All ladies of Wesley United Methodist Church are invited to attend an evening of fellowship on

Monday, June 7  
at Pema's Restaurant.

We will be meeting at 6:30 pm and hope to see you there.

Please call Gayle Besemer,  
703-780-7624, if you plan to attend.

## **Trinity Circle Meeting Monday, May 17 at 7:00 pm in the Parlor**

### **UCM Benefit Concert**

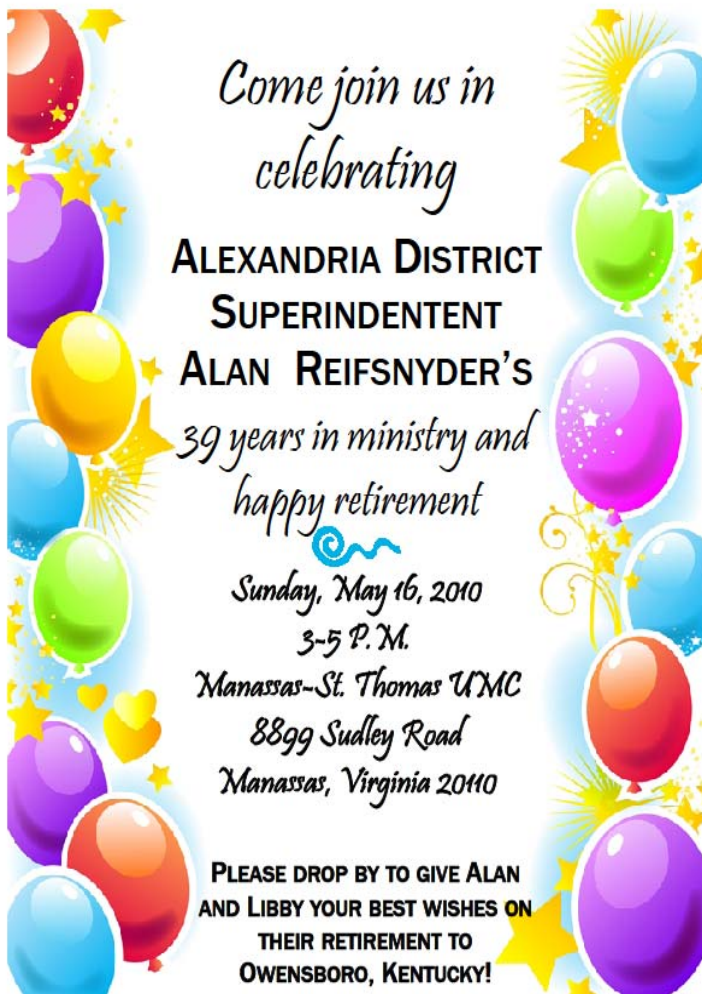
Get ready for an evening of unparalleled entertainment at Aldersgate United Methodist Church! Co-sponsored by Aldersgate United Methodist Church and Heritage Presbyterian Church, present bass baritone Robert Hale and soprano Julie Davis will perform in concert to benefit UCM.

Date: Thursday, May 6 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Location: Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
1301 Collingwood Rd  
Alexandria, VA 22308

For twenty years, the extraordinary vocal duo of bass baritone Robert Hale and tenor Dean Wilder thrilled audiences from coast-to-coast and in other countries around the world with more than 4,000 remarkable concerts. Mr. Hale now joins forces with the exceptional, operatic vocal talents of soprano, Julie Davis. Chicago-area pianist, Ovid Young, will appear as accompanist for Mr. Hale and Ms. Davis. "Their combination of internationally recognized artistry and deep Christian sensitivity is as moving as it is rare." -Dr. Michael Crabtree, SMU.

To purchase tickets, visit <http://ucmhaleandavis.eventbrite.com> or call 703-360-9546



As many of you know, Alan Reifsnyder is retiring from the active ministry effective this coming July 1, 2010. Alan and his wife Libby have had a profound impact on the churches in the Alexandria District over the last eight years.

The District Superintendent's Committee has planned a reception to honor the Reifsnyder's. It will take place on Sunday May 16, 2010 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Manassas St. Thomas United Methodist Church, 8899 Sudley Road, Manassas 20110. We look forward to having all of you join us to thank them for their service.

The committee has decided to offer churches and individuals several ways to show their gratitude to Alan and Libby:

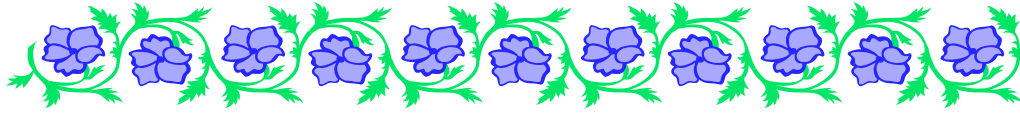
1. A love offering. You may send a check by May 9, 2010, payable to Sue Stewart and marked "Reifsnyder Love Offering" on the memo line. Mail this check to Sue Stewart, 1600 River Farm Dr, Alexandria VA 22308. Or you may bring cash or a check on the day of the reception. Love offerings are not tax deductible.
2. A personal message to Alan and Libby. You may either share your thoughts on a card brought to the reception, or provide a personal message through our website, preferably by May 9. The message you send via the website will be a secure communication that will be forwarded to us and then compiled for presentation to Alan and Libby. Just click on the Reifsnyder Retirement graphic on the home page of the District Website, [www.novaumc.org](http://www.novaumc.org) and fill in the form.

## In-Service

Date	05/02/2010	05/09/2010	05/16/2010	05/23/2010	05/30/2010
Acolyte	Olivia Pryor	Jack Skidmore	Matthew Grigsby	Marina Dohm	Jarrod Denham
Lector	Dixie Eng	Watson Pryor		Charles Anderson	Bud West
Counters	Bill Convery & Charles Anderson	Lou DeVaughn & Jeff Nees	Watson Pryor & Steve Skidmore	Donna Adams & Corey Tullar	Linda Baublitz & Dave Restifo
Nursery	Linda Baublitz & Kay Tomlinson	Gwen & Kelly Loftus	Margaret Minney & Connie Lorentzen	Diana Tracey & Ryan Tracey	Donna Adams & Brenda Denham
Coffee Hour	Kay & Karl Tomlinson	UMM	Brenda & Ken Denham	Mary Pryor and Diane Nees	Jane Barnes
Sunday School	Tom Swartz & Ken Denham		Eddie Skidmore & Ken Denham	Ken Denham & Jeff Nees	Jeff Nees & Bud West
Communion Steward	Donna Adams				

# May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9a Christian Ed 10a Worship 11a UMYF 12p All Nations 12:30p GS 849</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p>	<p>7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7p BS Troop 993</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>	<p>St Jude's Trike-a-thon 6:30p CS Webelos I 6:30p CS Tiger 7p Women's AA</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p>	<p>Cinco de Mayo 6:30p CS Wolves 7p UMYF 7p Women's AA 7p Adult Choir</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p>	<p>5:30p GS 2426 7p Webelos II 7:30p Harmonica 8:30p AA</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p>	<p>3p Starts: GS 862 (kitchen)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p>	<p>8a UMMen Breakfast 6p All Nations Prayer Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p>
<p><b>Mother's Day 9</b> 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship 11a UMYF 12p All Nations 12:30p GS 849 2p GS 862</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p>	<p>7p Pack 876 Cmt Mtg 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7p BS Troop 993</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p>	<p>10a ROCK /Elks 6:30p CS Tiger 7p Women's AA</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p>	<p>6:30p Wolves Den 2 7p UMYF 7p Women's AA 7p Adult Choir Practice</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p>	<p>5:30p GS 2426 6:30p GS SU Mtg 7p CS Bears 7p Webelos II 7:30p Harmonica 8:30p AA</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p>	<p>2p GS 862 Talent Show 6p All Nations Prayer Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p>
<p>9a Christian Ed 10a Worship 11a UMYF 12p All Nations 12:30p GS Brownie Try-it</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p>	<p>7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7p BS Troop 993 7p Trinity Circle Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p>	<p>10a Circle Meeting 7p Women's AA</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p>	<p>5p Staff Meeting 7p UMYF 7p Women's AA 7p Adult Choir 7p Neighborhood Watch</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p>	<p>8a Pre-School Picnic 5:30p GS 2426 7p Trustee Meeting 7p Pack 876 Mtg 7:30p Harmonica 8:30p AA</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>20</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>21</b></p>	<p>9a Pack 876 Rocket Derby 6p All Nations Prayer Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>Madrigals</b> 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship 11a UMYF 12p All Nations 12:30p GS 849</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>	<p>7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7p BS Troop 993</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p>	<p>6:30p CS Webelos I 7p Women's AA 7:30p BS 993 Committee Mtg</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p>	<p>7p UMYF 7p Women's AA 7p Adult Choir Practice</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p>	<p>5:30p GS 2426 7p CS Bears 7:30p Harmonica C 8:30p AA</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p>	<p>6p All Nations Prayer Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p>
<p><b>5th Sunday 30</b> 9a Christian Ed 10a Worship 11a UMYF 12p All Nations</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>Memorial Day 31</b> 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7p BS Troop 993</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>31</b></p>					



Wesley  
Preschool  
and  
Kinderga  
rten  
May  
2010  
Newslette

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*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 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. All are invited. A reception will immediately follow the program.



**SUMMER CAMP  
INFORMATION**

Dates for camps will be decided by May 18th

Camp information is as follows:

1. Cost: \$25.00 registration

**Wesley United Methodist Church**

8412 Richmond Avenue

Alexandria, VA 22309-2328

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

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

**Address Correction Requested**

Reminders

Sunday, May 9th

Sunday, May 16th

Sunday, May 23rd

Monday, May 31st

Mothers Day

Reifsnyder's Retirement

Madrigal's Perform

Memorial Day

