



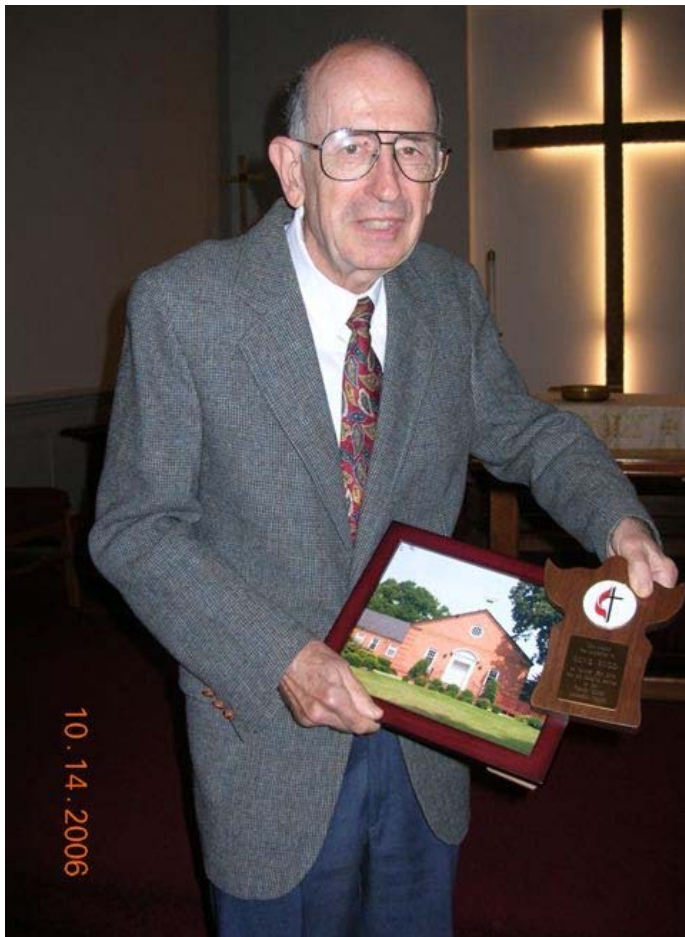
WESLEY FAMILY NEWS

November 2006 ISSUE

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

Gene Rudd Honored for Years of Dedicated Service

On Sunday, October 15th, during the worship service, Gene Rudd was surprised with special recognition of his service at Wesley. Coleman Harris gave words of appreciation citing Gene's leadership of the Administra-



tive Council for four years, for chairing the Staff-Parish Relations Committee for two three-year terms, chairing the 40th Anniversary celebration, chairing the Organ Committee, organizing Lunch With Friends in 1995, and longtime overseer of the sound system, which includes taping the worship service for shut-ins for over ten years. Coleman presented Gene with a framed photograph of the church, and an angel plaque made by Ray Martines with an engraved inscription of appreciation.

A few words from Pastor Tony...



The Style Section of the October 31st, 2006 Washington Post included a column by Lisa de Moraes, titled "Gee, Oprah. A Thousand Smackeroos. Thanks a bunch." The column recounted Oprah's penchant for incredible giveaways (she once gave each audience member a new car) and the incredible disappointment that a recent studio audience experienced when Oprah gave them a Debit Card worth \$1,000 (Yaaaaayh!)... but they had to give the money away to someone else (Oooouh!). Oprah's "gift" to the studio audience was the joy they would feel when they did something nice for someone else. (An experience that Oprah apparently felt often).

I suppose Oprah meant well, but I must make several observations from the point of view of a Christian, a pastor and theologian.

A gift isn't a gift if you are giving away someone else's stuff. Oprah's gift to her studio audience did not come out of her personal wealth, but as part of a negotiated and very intentional business transaction between Oprah's show and the commercial provider of the giveaway (in this case Bank of America). The promotional considerations are a price of doing business. However, this argument does have an exception: when we are talking about what is God's (and what isn't) the whole dynamic changes.

Gifts are given freely, without coercion, and expectation of a return. Otherwise they become a commercial transaction of some kind, even if money does not exchange hands. While we might lament the studio audience's disappointment at this giveaway and the manipulative manner it was given as well as their greed evidenced in their disappointment, they were unlikely to experience the joy Oprah was sure they would simply because they had no choice in the matter and it cost them nothing (I wonder how many of the cards will go un-used).

A gift is given out of love, not altruistic motives (which is about nobility) or compassion (which is about duty) is about sacrifice of what one has so that another may have what they need. Strangely gifts given in love manage to embrace our better selves (our noble and compassionate sides)

As we ponder our own discipleship and our stewardship of what God has given us we might do well to ponder our own gift giving.

In Christ, Pastor Tony

November Youth News

Now that the School Year is kicked-off and we are settled into our Fall Schedules, the youth are getting into a more normal routine.

October was a full month as we enjoyed the Mission Trip Slideshow as well as Girls' Day Out and Guys' Day Out. November will settle down a bit, though there's still plenty to be done!

The month will begin with assembling College Care Packages for the Wesley UMC College Students. In November, the youth will meet each Sunday from 5PM-6:30PM.

Here's the Schedule:

- Nov. 5 -- Activity: College Care Packages
- Nov. 12 -- Topic: Covenant
- Nov. 19 -- Topic: Crisis
- Nov. 26 -- Thanksgivings

Also, a special note for parents. We will have a Youth Parents' Meeting on Sunday, November 5, from 4PM-5PM.

Blessings to you all this Fall Season!

Lunch With Friends...

Come one, come all!!! Bring a sack lunch and join us for Lunch with Friends beginning Tuesday, September 19, at noon (and every third Tuesday thereafter), 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!

A Note From Trinity Circle

Trinity Circle meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. All women of the congregation are welcome to attend. This year we are studying "Life Lessons from Women in the Bible". Come join us, Monday, November 27th, for a fun evening of learning and caring. Call Gayle Besemer, 703-780-7624, for more information. In December, we will join together for a Dining Out, with date to be determined at a later date.

Helping Others Have A Thanksgiving Meal

The United Methodist Women and the Mission and Outreach Committee are collecting food for families in need in cooperation with United Community Ministries. As in the past, a donor is giving UCM turkeys, and we are asked to donate non-perishable, seasonal groceries. Examples are canned fruits and vegetables, instant potatoes, rice, corn meal, stuffing, cake or cookie mixes, dry milk, etc. Please bring the food to the church by SUNDAY, NOV 12th.

Boy Scout Cub Scout Annual Food Drive

On Saturday, November 11, Boy Scout Troop 993 and Cub Scout Pack 876 will be participating in the Boy Scout Annual Food Drive. Non-perishable food donations should be left in a paper or plastic bag at your front door. The scouts will arrive in the local neighborhoods sometime after 9 a.m. to pick up your donations

Rising Hope Holiday Baskets

Holiday cheer is given to many through the ministries at Rising Hope. It is time to begin planning for the collection of food for the Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets now. Food needed include turkeys, roasting chickens, hams, and all the fixings for a holiday meal. Thanksgiving food baskets will be given out to over 200 families on Tuesday, November 21. The Christmas food baskets will be distributed on Wednesday and Thursday, December 19 and 20. To indicate a commitment for any of the above food items, please call Sandy Leathery at 703-360-1976 ext. 2 or e-mail sleathery@risinghopeumc.org.

I can't begin to thank the Wesley congregation enough for all the love and care that I have received while recovering from my broken wrist. You have shown your love with prayers, cards, notes, phone calls, visits, transportation and the many, many delicious meals. I feel truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family.

If in the future I am not needed to serve each of you in some way, I will surely pass on the love of Christ that you have shown me to someone else.

Thank You, Dale Swartz



Around the Church and Beyond Our Doors...

Baptisms

On Sunday, October 29th we welcome to the fellowship of Christ's Family **Stephen Michael Kusterbeck** who was born on June 29, 2006 in Fairfax, VA and is the son of Shawn & Lauren Kusterbeck and grandson of Karola and Dave Scarce and **Cole Lewis McFarland** who was born on July 3, 2006 in Alexandria, VA and is the son of Jennifer and David McFarland.

Letter from Joe Charlotte:

Hello Wesley,

Just wanted to let you know that we have been keeping up with the happenings at Wesley through the website. We've been listening to Pastor Tony's wonderful sermons, viewing all of the beautiful photos of things that have been happening since we left, and reading the monthly newsletters. Thank you for putting all of those things on the website especially Tony's sermons. Every time that I listen to one of Tony's sermons, it makes me miss Wesley even more especially the choir. We miss Wesley so much. We have found a lovely Methodist church in Sierra Vista, but it's not Wesley. Again, we thank you for all your love and support while we were at Wesley.

Everything is so wonderful in Arizona. The weather is great. The scenery is so breathtaking and beautiful. The sunsets are magnificent. We love that the pace is slower around here. There's lots of things to see and do. One great thing about Arizona is that Arizona does not observe Daylight Savings Time. So we don't have to worry a resetting our clocks. Only bad thing is that since Sierra Vista is not like the big cities, we have to travel 70 miles North to Tucson if we want to go to a certain store or restaurant. But we love the way of life around here. We're starting to make new friends. Can't wait until we move into military housing on Fort Huachuca, but that won't be until the first of the new year. Joe loves his new job and I'm still being a home-maker. Our 2 dogs are fine. They love it here.

Well until we meet again... We love and miss you. God Bless all of You.
You're in our thoughts and prayers.

Love in Christ,
Charlotte & Joe Powers

2004 Pictorial Directories

We have a few pictorial directories available in the church office. Please stop by and ask Kym!

Wesley Family News Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles/items of interest for the Wesley Family News is at **Noon, the 18th of each month**. Any items received after that time will be considered for the following month's newsletter. Please submit all items in writing. When possible, please send them via email to WesleyChurch@verizon.net

November Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|---------------------|----|---------------|
| 3 | Karl Tomlinson | 18 | Tobi Denick Rowland | 27 | Cathy Hinkle |
| | Fran West | 20 | Steve Anderson | 29 | Martin Chase |
| 8 | Cathryn Ciuba | 21 | Jim Sohn | 30 | Eric Ferriera |
| 10 | Todd Denick | | Erika Swartz | | |
| 12 | Joe Glean | 23 | Cindy Denick | | |
| | Janet Magill | | Frankie Myers | | |
| 13 | Alton Turman | 25 | John Calloway | | |
| | Grace Anjorin | 26 | Hannah Nees | | |

November Anniversaries

| | | | | | |
|---|--|----|-----------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 3 | Calvin & Deborah Buchholz John & Patti Calloway | 9 | Rick & Marcia Brown | | Janko & Sallie Jackson |
| | | 24 | Robert & Linda Baublitz | 27 | Bob & Dottie Shultz |
| | | 26 | Chris & Bilyana Anderson | | |

In-Service For November 2006

| DATE | ACOLYTE | LECTOR | NURSERY | COFFEE HOUR HOSTS | COUNTERS |
|--------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5 Nov | Conrad Swartz | Watson Pryor | Linda Baublitz Rosemary Salak | Nora & Gene Rudd | Bill Convery Jim Sohn |
| 12 Nov | CJ Tracey | Devin Loftus | Gwen Loftus Devin Loftus | Diane & Jeff Nees | Lou DeVaughn Jeff Nees |
| 19 Nov | Andy Nees | Karl Tomlinson | Erika Swartz Roni Walker | Gwen & Tom Loftus | Watson Pryor Steve Skidmore |
| 22 Nov | | | | | Mike & Donna Adams Gayle Besemer |
| 26 Nov | Jonathan Convery | Lou DeVaughn | Donna Adams Nancy Anderson | Lauren & Gary Walker | Kerry & Pam Pealer Linda Baublitz |
| 3 Dec | Kellianne Tomlinson | Lance Tracey | Nancy Restifo Nick Restifo | Mike & Donna Adams | Bill Convery Jim Sohn |

Adult Sunday School Winter 2006-Summer 2007

Adult Sunday School will meet from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on Sundays prior to worship service. This is the schedule for this year. Make plans to attend. Let us know if you need child-care! If you would like to teach a class let us know (or we might be asking as well). We have great materials for leading classes!

| Weeks of | Topic |
|----------------|--|
| 12/3-12/24 | Advent Study |
| 1/7-2/18 2007 | <u>Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues.</u> Adam Hamilton. (7 Sessions) |
| 2/26-4/1 2007 | <u>Traveling the Prayer Paths of Jesus.</u> John Indermark, \$13.00 (6 Sessions) |
| 4/15-5/20 2007 | <u>What Happens When I Die? A Study in Life After Death.</u> George Hoover. Available from Cokesbury. (6 Sessions) |
| 6/3-7/8 2007 | <u>John Wesley: Holiness of Heart and Life.</u> Charles Yrigoyen (6 Sessions) |
| 7/22-8/26 2007 | <u>Matthew's Message for a New Millennium.</u> Grace Imathiu. \$6.50 (6 Sessions) |
| 9/9 2007 | <i>Rally Day</i> |

December Preview of Events . . .

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 2nd Advent Workshop

We have again decided to have an Advent workshop on Saturday, December 2nd from 4 - 6 pm. UMW will provide soup and desserts and we will be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas season. There will be craft activities for the kids. Come celebrate the beginning of Advent with the church family...

December 24TH, 2006

Christmas Eve Services

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday so we will be having 3 services on Dec. 24. The normal Sunday hour of 10 am, plus a service at 5:30 and 7 pm. The 7 pm service will be candlelight, communion by intinction, bell and chancel choirs. Nursery will be provided

Coffee Hour Cookie Party

Bring your left-over cookies and share with our members and friends.



It's time to welcome November, a month to be thankful for what the Lord has given us. We should remember our loved ones and those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Our classroom is excited about the falling leaves, turkeys, pilgrims, Native Americans, thankful blessings and all of the other wonderful "November things."

Our annual tradition of having a "Thanksgiving Feast for Families" will be on November 16th starting at 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Each class will perform a small song or skit for your enjoyment. Bring your cameras! A sign up sheet for "Feast dishes" will be located on the bulletin board outside my office. Please feel welcome to bring "any" traditional celebration food. Not limited to "American" Thanksgiving foods!

Thanks to all who bought and sold candles! Thank you again to Donna Slaymaker (Alumni Mom) for taking care of this fundraiser.

Important dates for the fridge!

November 13th: Picture Day at Wesley, Be on time!

November 6th and 7th: No school for Wesley Preschool and Kindergarten and FFC.

November 16th-Wesley Preschool & Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast, 10:30-noon

November 22, 23, 24 and 25th-NO PRESCHOOL or Kindergarten, Thanksgiving.

December 15th-Wesley Preschool and K Christmas Program, 10 a.m-11:30

December 18-Jan. 1st- Christmas Vacation, Happy Birthday Jesus! NO SCHOOL

Reading Recommendations for November

"One Tough Turkey," by Steven Kroll

"Stone Soup" by various authors.

"Indian Two Feet and His Eagle Feather,"
by Margret Friskey

***"The First Snowfall,"**
by Anne and Harlow Rockwell

"First the seed, and then the grain;

Thank you, God, For sun and rain.

First the flour and then the bread;

Thank you, God that we are fed.

Thank you, God, for all your care;

Help us all to share and share."

~ Lilian Cox

**Yep! It's that time of year again.*

Get familiar with our inclement weather policy in the Wesley Parent handbook.

Fairfax county (FFC) no school-Wesley no school.

FFC one-hour delay, Wesley hours 10-12.

FFC two-hour delay, Wesley-no school.

When in doubt...call Mrs. Spurlock 703 244-0223. J

Please get involved with your child's education! Read! Read! Read!

You won't regret it!

A cornucopia of blessings to all!

Mrs. Spurlock, Mrs. Schwenk, Mrs. Chong, and Mrs. Marnie

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

***THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd, 7:30 p.m.***

What **ARE** You
Thankful
for?