



# WESLEY FAMILY NEWS

October/November 2007 ISSUE

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

## Wesley Welcomes All Nations Methodist Church

Beginning in October, the All Nations Methodist Church will begin holding services on Sunday afternoons in our sanctuary.

### A Little History...

In August of 2007, a group of immigrants in Northern Virginia, mostly from the African state of Ghana, decided to organize a church to worship God. This move was an attempt to create something that enhanced their spiritual wellness and also addressed some of their other needs, which were lacking in immigrant congregations in the area.

The first meeting of this group, now numbering twenty, took place in the house of the pastor, the Reverend Kwasi Kwakye-Nuako on August 12, 2007 as a prayer meeting. Since then, the weekly meetings have continued and Bible study has been added. These meetings have been spiritually uplifting since members with one accord fellowship and break bread together.

The pastor, the Reverend Kwasi Kwakye-Nuako had his theological education in Ghana, and was ordained as an elder some decades ago by the Methodist Church of Ghana. Later, he continued his education in the United States of America, beginning at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and completing at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO. He served in different charges as a pastor in his native Ghana, Canada and the United States.

Kwasi is currently an Associate Professor at the School of Divinity at Howard University in Washington, DC.

All Nations Methodist Church thanks God for the hospitality of Wesley United Methodist Church for opening not only its doors, but its heart to the emergent congregation to worship the Almighty God and flourish to make God's love visible to others who are facing challenges in life. It is our prayer that we become and remain excellent tenants, as we strive to 'spread scriptural holiness across the land.

## Message from Pastor Tony...

Dear Folks:

Do you know what my favorite passages of scripture are? What verses are almost always on the tip of my tongue (and written on my heart)?

Here they are: (In no particular order, I think)

(Mat 11:28-30) "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. {29} Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. {30} For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

(Isa 43:1-7) But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. {2} When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. {3} For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. {4} Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. {5} Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; {6} I will say to the north,

"Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-- {7} everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

And Genesis 1:1-2:4a. "...and it was very good"

I share this because I wonder if these passages help me know who I am and what I am about. Each of these passages are positive invitations from God to humanity to be in communion and fellowship with God in an intimate and trusting fashion. Each contain an element of God's assessment that we are worth the trouble to save and build up.

I forget that fact often, but I am thankful that somehow these passages are imbedded in me to remind me when I forget.

What biblical passages are written on your heart? What do they tell you about yourself and God? Do they keep you on the right track? Do they help you be positive? Would you share your passages with a friend? Maybe even hear each other's favorites and see how many ways God is working in us already?

Just wondering. Pastor Tony

# UMW Partnering with UCM

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.

## Lunch With Friends...

Come one, come all Bring a sack lunch and join us for Lunch with Friends on

Tuesday, October 16th

And

Tuesday, November 20th

at noon

In the Fellowship Hall

Please bring the food to the church by **SUNDAY, NOV 11th.**

A box for food will be in the narthex starting Oct 14th.

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

The Sunday Lunch Bunch continues to go out to a local restaurant following Worship and the Fellowship Time. Tentative Schedule:

- Oct. 14- Chef Huang's
- Oct. 21- Belvoir Officer's Club
- Oct. 28- Chili's
- Nov. 4- Mt. Vernon Inn
- Nov. 11- Old Country Buffet
- Nov. 18- Ruby Tuesday's
- Nov. 30-TBA



**JOIN  
THE  
CHOIR!**

All are invited to join in. Check with Nora Rudd for more info.

## Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

*New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship.

*New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, (November 18<sup>th</sup>) we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Administrative Board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Gayle Besemmer, Stewardship Chair Person

Jeff Nees, Finance Chair

Tony Forstall, Pastor



Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the family and friends of Patti and Rhonda Calloway on the passing of John, beloved husband, father and friend.

## Letter from Melanie

September 07, 2007

My Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for my survival bag for my 22+ hour trip overseas. More importantly I feel your blessings over me as I headed out today. Your prayers, hugs and words of encouragement are truly what I needed.

I am truly blessed knowing I have such a great church family supporting me as I head to Qatar. From the first day I entered the church, the friendly smiles and friendly people drew me in. Gregg and I were extremely happy that we were able to exchange our wedding vows at my church home.

I too will be thinking of all of you as I'm gone these four months and I will hold you in our prayers. Special thanks to Pastor Tony for holding a blessing over me on Sunday and Lila for arranging my care package. I'll be in touch over email and be keeping up with you through church email updates.

Melanie Davis Englert

PS Melanie emailed to say she is living in a trailer (opposed to a tent) and is keeping very busy with work and chapel. Her email is [air4cechik1@yahoo.com](mailto:air4cechik1@yahoo.com).

### Wesley Family News Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles/items of interest for the Wesley Family News will be **November 15th**. This will be for the **December/January** Edition. Please submit all items in writing. When possible, please send them via email to [WesleyChurch@verizon.net](mailto:WesleyChurch@verizon.net)



# Bits and Pieces...

## Charge Conference Sunday, October 14th 3:00 pm

The annual charge conference will be held with our District Superintendent, Alan Reifsnnyder, on Sunday, October 14th at 3:00 pm. It is an opportunity to celebrate our ministry and to renew our connection and commitment as United Methodists. If you have a report that is to be included in the charge conference, it must be submitted by Sunday, September 30th.

## UMW Worship Service

The worship service on Sep. 23<sup>rd</sup> was led by our United Methodist Women, and focused on an out-reach project in the Henry Fork area near Rocky Mount, Virginia. During the service, Irene Bowman was honored for her longtime support of the efforts of our church women. She can always be counted on to say "yes" when asked to help. She received a Mission Recognition Pin in 1992, and on Sunday, she was presented with a corsage and words of thanks. A donation to UMW's general fund is being made in her honor.

## Trinity Circle Activities

Trinity Circle will meet at 7:00 pm in the church parlor on

Monday, October 1st

Monday, October 22nd

Monday, November 26th

### Labyrinth Walk

Trinity Circle is also meeting at Wesley church at 1000 am on Saturday, October 6th to carpool to the historic Christ Church to walk the indoor labyrinth. Everyone is invited to join us. For more information, see <http://www.historicchristchurch.org/>



MVUMC pumpkin Patch  
October 8th to 30th  
11:00 am—7:00pm

Pumpkins, Gourds and  
Indian corn available  
Fall festival  
October 27th 10:00—2:00

2006 Belle View Blvd  
Alexandria, VA 22307



Wesley Preschool and Kindergarten  
October/November Newsletter 2007



Hi Everyone:

October's Here Already! The first month of school was GREAT. Your children are wonderful and we truly feel blessed to be a part of their education. This month our classes will be learning about the wonder of autumn, GOD MADE FALL. We will also learn more about fire safety (Take this opportunity to talk about fire safety in your home.) and I'm sure you'll see pumpkins, skeletons, spiders and bats adorning our halls. Don't forget that now's the time to arrange with your child's teacher to do some volunteer work your child's class.

**Mark your calendars: No school on October 8<sup>th</sup>, Columbus Day.**

Don't forget to check out our Candle fundraiser! A special thank you to Donna Slaymaker (a former Preschool parent) for heading up our candle fundraiser *again* this year. All of the funds raised will go toward new carpet in the pre-school halls. Thanks for supporting our school by buying lots of candles!

We have a great playground, don't we? I know all of our children love to take part in playing on our playground after school and all through the week. We do have a school policy that only the children who are registered for the day are allowed to be on the playground during our school hours. Sorry, we're not trying to be mean! Siblings are not allowed to come onto the playground until all children have been released to their parents at the end of the day. Then all are welcomed! Make sure to always recover the sandbox and close the gate when leaving.

Speaking of our playground, A **HUGE Wesley thank you** to our neighbors/alumni, guardian angels and friends **The Burris Family!!!!** Karen, Louis and Wayne Burris gave of themselves a whole Saturday leveling the playground, spreading 16 yards of Mulch and repairing fences! Louis and Karen have also donated the stones for our new entrance to the playground (Karen laying some of the stones herself!) THANK YOU! For always being there for our school and neighborhood. A big thanks you to all of the Parents and Guardians who brought in much needed items like paper towels, tissues, etc. We are off to a good start with supplies!

The weather is changing! Make sure when the weather is cooler that you send a jacket for your child because we will go outside!

**Fall Festival: October 31<sup>st</sup>.** Fall Festival Dance! Parents and siblings are welcome. Cameras and videos are invited Please bring a plate of goodies to share. (Cheese/crackers, fruit, veggies, cookies, etc.) Costumes are welcomed as long as they are not scary or distasteful. Remember we are a "Christian Pre-school."

**Thanksgiving Feast: November 14<sup>th</sup>.** Our annual tradition of having a "Thanksgiving Feast for Families" will be on November 14<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Don't Forget!**

**Mark your calendars:**

**No school on October 8<sup>th</sup>, Columbus Day.**

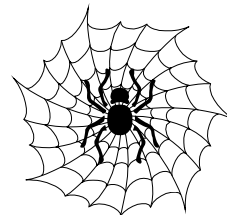
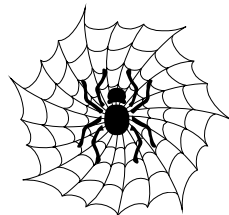
**Individual School Pictures will be taken on November 12<sup>th</sup>**

**And we have no school on Nov. 5 and 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Thanksgiving Feast November 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 — Noon**

**Thanksgiving Break November 21<sup>st</sup>—23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Have a great October & November! Blessings to all of you!**



Boo! And God bless you!

# October 2007

October 2007							November 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	October 1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Trinity Circle	7:00pm Women's Step Group (AA)	6:30pm Mt Zephyr Neighborhood Watch 7:00pm Webelos II Den 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm Harmonica Club 8:30pm AA		8:00am God & Family 10:00am Labyrinth Walk
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00am Christian Education 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm UMYF	Church Office Closed Columbus day 7:00pm Bell Choir	10:00am ROCK 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Women's Step Group (AA) 7:30pm Admin Board Meeting	7:00pm Webelos II Den 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10:30am Meals on Wheels 7:00pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7:30pm Harmonica Club 8:30pm AA		8:00am God & Family
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00am Christian Education 10:00am Worship Service - Pre-School 3:00pm Charge Conference 5:00pm UMYF	7:00pm Bell Choir	7:00pm Women's Step Group (AA) 7:30pm Nominations Committee	9:00am Fire Safety Puppets for Pre-School 7:00pm Webelos II Den 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm Harmonica Club 8:30pm AA		8:00am God & Family
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00am Christian Education 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm UMYF	7:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Trinity Circle	7:00pm Women's Step Group (AA)	7:00pm Webelos II Den 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Trustee Meeting	7:30pm Harmonica Club 8:30pm AA		8:00am God & Family 8:00am Fall Cleanup
28	29	30	31			
9:00am Christian Education 10:00am Worship Service 1:00pm Girl Scout Event 5:00pm UMYF	7:00pm Bell Choir	7:00pm Troop 993 Committee Meeting 7:00pm Women's Step Group (AA)	9:00am PS Fall Festival 7:00pm Webelos II Den 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal			



## Birthdays

- |                            |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Bud West                | 09 Elizabeth Forstall      | 20 Cal Buchholz     |
| 03 Eric Shultz             | 10 Chris Holcomb           | 20 Lauren Walker    |
| 04 Charlotte Forstall      | 11 Steven Nixon            | 22 Todd Harris      |
| 05 Tony Forstall           | 12 Joan Beach              | 24 Jeff Nees        |
| 06 Samantha Murphy         | 13 Tom Grigsby             | 25 Art Ferreira     |
| 07 Betty Harris            | Nicholas & Nathan<br>Inlow | 26 Christina Swartz |
| Matthew & Luis<br>Ferreira | 15 Stephanie Restifo       | 28 Bill Convery     |
| Christopher Inlow          | 19 Frances Siegel          |                     |

## Anniversaries

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10 Gary & Lauren Walker  | 24 Richard & Noret Dovel |
| 12 Watson & Mary Pryor   | 28 Jim & Diane Smith     |
| 18 David & Rebecca Chase |                          |

## In-Service

	October 7	October 14	October 21	October 28
Acolyte	Erika Swartz	Kellianne Tomlinson	CJ Tracey	Lilly Chong
Lector	Chuck Anderson	Gayle Besemmer	Bud West	Nora Rudd
Nursery	Linda Baublitz & Audry Pomerening	Margaret Minnie & Connie Lorentzen	Gwen & Devin Loftus	Diane & Ryan Tracey
Counters	Dave Restifo & Jeff Nees	Watson Pryor & Steve Skidmore	Donna. Adams & Corey Tullar	Dave Restifo & Linda Baublitz
Coffee Hour Hosts	Diane & Jeff Nees	Fran & Bud West	Gwen & Tom Loftus	Bill & Nancy Convery
Communion Steward	Nancy Convery			
Month Church Lock-up	Gene Rudd			

# November 2007

November 2007							December 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3							1
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				November 1	2	3
				7:30pm Harmonica Club 8:30pm AA	3:00pm Daisy Investiture	8:00am God & Family
	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00am Christian Education 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm UMYF	7:00pm Bell Choir	7:00pm Women's Step Group (AA)	6:30pm Mt. Zephyr Neighborhood Watch 7:00pm Webelos II Den 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10:30am Meals on Wheels 7:00pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7:30pm Harmonica Club 8:30pm AA	3:00pm Daisy Troop 1177	8:00am God & Family
	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00am Christian Education 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm UMYF	8:00am PreSchool Photos 7:00pm Bell Choir	10:00am ROCK 10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Women's Step Group (AA) 7:30pm Admin Board Meeting	10:00am Wesley PS Family Fest 7:00pm Webelos II Den 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12:00pm newsletter deadline 7:30pm Harmonica Club 8:30pm AA		8:00am God & Family
	18	19	20	21	22	23
Stewardship Sunday 9:00am Christian Education 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Stewardship Sunday Catered Meal 1:00pm Girl Scout Event 5:00pm UMYF	7:00pm Bell Choir	7:00pm Women's Step Group (AA)	7:00pm Webelos II Den 7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed		
	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00am Christian Education 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm UMYF	7:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Trinity Circle Meeting	7:00pm Troop 993 Committee Meeting 7:00pm Women's Step Group (AA)	7:00pm Webelos II Den 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30pm Harmonica Club 8:30pm AA	5:00pm Cadette Troop 862 Lock-in	



## Birthdays

03 Francis West	18 Tobi Denick Rowland	26 Hannah Nees
03 Karl Tomlinson, Jr	20 Paul Anderson	27 Cathy Hinkle
08 Andrew Inlow	21 Jim Sohn	29 Martin Chase
10 Todd Denick	21 Erica Swartz	30 Eric Ferreira
12 Janet Magill	22 Lauren Brittain	
16 Amy Chase Flick	23 Frankie Myers	

## Anniversaries

03 Cal & Debra Buchholz	26 Chris & Bilyana Anderson
24 Bob & Linda Baublitz	27 Bob & Dorothy Shultz
26 Janko & Sallie Jackson	

## In-Service

	November 4	November 11	November 18	November 21	November 25
Acolyte	Jonathan Convery	Ryan Tracey	Kelly Loftus		Matthew Grigsby
Lector	Tom Swartz	Kym Clark	Lance Tracey		Lila Bonnell
Nursery	Diane & Hannah Nees	Kaye & Kellianne Tomlinson	Donna Adams & Nancy Anderson		Nancy & Nick Restifo
Counters	Bill Convery & Ben Robinson	Lou DeVaughn & Jeff Nees	Watson Pryor & Steve Skidmore	Donna Adams & Corey Tullar	Dave Restifo & Linda Baublitz
Coffee Hour Hosts	Ben & Richard Robinson	Mike & Donna Adams	Lauren & Gary Walker		Dixie Eng Walker
Communion Steward	Margaret Minney & Jean Hayden				
Month Church Lock-up	George Talbot				

## More Than a Spin Around the Block...

BELLEVUE, Iowa -- -- After seven days of bicycling nearly 500 miles across Iowa, the 148-member Air Force Cycling Team rode into the final stop at Bellevue, Iowa, July 28 amidst a cheering crowd of hundreds.

A police escort led the two-column formation as spectators cheered "Go Air Force" and took photographs of the riders.

The final stop concluded their participation in the 35th annual Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, or RAGBRAI, which started in Rock Rapids, Iowa, July 22 and ended at the Mississippi River.

One member of the team was a local Reservist, Capt. Melanie Englert, 459th Mission Support Group executive officer, who participated for her third year, and her first year as a member of the Air Force team.

The 472-mile route across the state was

broken down into about 68 miles per day.

During their seven overnight stops, the cyclists were welcomed into campsites, or in some cases, the homes of local residents.

"What I thought was cool, was how families in some towns put up team members during our overnight stops," Captain Englert said. "It sure beat sleeping in a tent."

The Air Force Cycling Team participates in RAGBRAI for recruiting purposes as part of the We Are All Recruiters program, and to highlight the service's involvement in the Global War on Terrorism, and being fit to fight.

> More information can be found at <http://www.airforcecyclingteam.com>. (Portions of this article were taken from [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil))

Submitted by Betty Harris

## News from the Murphy's

Hello,

Ken and I have been assigned to Stuttgart for the next three years. Our new address is:

CMR 480 BOX 1292  
APO AE  
09128

We would like to say Hello to anyone who remembers us!

Kristin Murphy  
MSN in Education  
Holzgerlingen Germany  
00149-7031-817-5902  
[kristin.a.murphy@us.army.mil](mailto:kristin.a.murphy@us.army.mil)

**Wesley United Methodist Church**

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

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

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Address Correction Requested

**From the Church Calendar**

*October*

- 1st ----- Trinity Circle Meeting*
- God & Family Classes Begin*
- 6th ----- Walk the Labyrinth with Trinity Circle*
- 14th ----- Charge Conference*
- 16th ----- Nominations Committee Meeting*
- 22nd ----- Trinity Circle Meeting*
- 24th ----- Trustee Meeting*



*November*

- 21 ----- Thanksgiving Eve Service*
- 22 ----- Thanksgiving Day*
- 26 ----- Trinity Circle Meeting*

Sunday, November 4th