



WESLEY FAMILY NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2006 ISSUE

A few words from Pastor Tony...



Dear Folks,

It has been a busy summer at Wesley! The Vacation Bible School, the Spirit Wind concert, the Peach Festival, and the Mission Trip have all been successful expressions of our love of God and of others. I cannot tell you how proud I am of the congregation for each and every one of these efforts and their results. You have certainly done well.

I hope and pray is that in the midst of this time you have had the chance to rest and be refreshed. Acting on our faith is a great way to build, strengthen and grow in faith, but we also need time to recuperate and be restored. Part of this means taking time to be with family members, to rest our bodies and to do different things that bring us satisfaction and joy. BUT, there is one aspect of rest that is essential and often overlooked. That is time spent with God.

In our lives we often confuse our day of rest with the idea of Sabbath. This is understandable. For the scriptures tells us that the Sabbath was a day spent not working. It was a day of rest. BUT even more importantly it was a day set apart for God. For the Hebrews the idea of rest and paying attention to God were much the same idea and thing. The difficulty of work, the precarious and variable nature of life, and the limits of our physical bodies requires not only physical rest, but serious spiritual attention.

In our day, much of our time away from work is spent working at other things. Whether it is ferrying kids to a variety of activities, spending time with a favorite hobby, or participating in family events and gatherings. Our vacations tend to be attempts to forget our troubles at work (to "get away") as much as opportunities to rest and do new and special things. And truthfully, all this is a gift from God to you and you should do many of these things and be thankful you can.

But where is God in our lives? Yes God is the provider, but do we take much time to intentionally be with God? For most of us, whether our time is spent at work or on vacation God is usually sent to the sidelines to be a spectator in our attempts to live a full and satisfying life. And if God is on the sideline you cannot rightly say you are living a "God centered" life.

Sabbath is the second command to humans of the Bible (Genesis 1-3, the first was to be fruitful and multiply). And nothing that occurred in Scriptures relieved of us of the necessity (for our own good) to keeping a sabbath time in our life. When and how do you honor God and place God intentionally in the center of your life? If the answer to that question troubles you and even angers you, so be it. You may think of yourself as a "Bible-believing" Christian, but if God isn't at the center what you think doesn't matter. You may think of yourself as a good person, living a good life, but if God is on the sideline, then what you think doesn't matter. You may even think you have done enough for God to deserve a rest and its time to place God on the sidelines. But you would be wrong. For any of us to be happy and at peace with God we must allow God to be the center of our life, not a spectator.

Sabbath is about making the choice to honor God first, before all else, and attending to God and giving God time to work on us. God is waiting on the sidelines of our lives, your life, my life. No matter who we are, if we think we are ahead with God on the sidelines then we are fooling ourselves. The only way our lives will be what we would hope they would be if God is at the center.

How can you start putting God at the center? Of course, your commitment is a start. But then how do you act on your commitment? It starts with taking seriously Sunday worship, Sunday School or some form of corporate Christian learning, serving others, and developing a habit of personal prayer and study. If you want to know the God of love, then you have to take the time to know Him. It isn't magic, its work; it isn't instantaneous, it is a life time and a life style; it isn't just getting away from your problems and issues, it is going to the one who can really do something about them. Worship is always better when YOU are there, Sunday School works only when You attend, people are only loved and helped when You actually love and help them. As we start school and gear up for the fall, maybe this is the time to call God in from the sidelines and let Him be the center of our lives.

Pastor Tony

ADMIT ONE

St. Matthew's UMC

8617 Little River Turnpike

Annandale, Virginia

Invite you to attend

A concert performed

by

The Raleigh RINGERS



September 9th,

First concert - 2 p.m.

Second Concert - 7 p.m.

*Tickets: \$15 person
(\$12 for groups of 10 or more)*

*See Betty Harris
for more information.*

Nominations for lay delegates to the 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences of the United Methodist Church are now being received.

These are the governing bodies which determine church law and policy and elect Episcopal leaders for our denomination. If you are a member of the United Methodist Church on the Alexandria District you may nominate someone. Nominees must be a member of a United Methodist Church in the Virginia Annual Conference. To make a nomination, please secure a nomination form (available from the Church Office or on line at www.vaumc.org) fill it out and return it to the pastor or lay leader (Karl Tomlinson) promptly. All nomination forms must be in the Alexandria District Office no later than Wednesday, September 20, 2006.



Also the District will elect at large delegates to Annual Conference. If you would like to nominate a member of Wesley to serve in this role (Betty Harris already does) then please nominate them by speaking to the pastor or Karl Tomlinson, Lay Leader, and we will get the proper forms and materials to complete the nomination. Please speak with your nominee to see if they are able and willing to serve, before making a nomination.

...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!

Wesley's Bell Choir will resume practice on Monday, September 18th, at 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary. This will begin the regular fall practice sessions. See Dave Chase or Betty Harris with any questions or if you would like to join the Bell Choir.

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, September 25th, for a fun evening of learning and caring. Call Gayle Besemer, 703-780-7624, for more information. Future meetings are scheduled as follows: October 23rd; November 27th, and in December a Dining Out, with date to be determined at a later date.

We are saddened to announce the passing of the following Wesley members during the month of August: George R. West, Jr., on August 24th and Nellie Sitnik, on August 27th. Also members of the Wesley extended family: Gary Zimmer, son of Lyle and Claire Zimmer and Donna Rae McFarland, mother of David McFarland. For more information, please call the office.



A big Thank you for the visits, cards, calls, food, prayers and support during my recent knee surgery. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. Earl and I are truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful Wesley Family. Janet Magill

A big Thank you for the prayers and support during my daughter's recent surgery and also for your many kindnesses over the past several years. I leave with a heavy heart, but feel it is time to move on. Thank you, Alice E. Gehl

**Adult Sunday School
Fall 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
9/17-11/19	<u>Interpretation Bible Study: Luke's Gospel.</u> Thomas W. Walker, Westminster Press, \$9.95. (10 Sessions)
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	Rally Day

The following individuals attended the Wesley Mission Fair and signed up on one of our sheets. If you know these individuals or their whereabouts, please call the church office with their addresses and phone numbers:

Daniel Sullivan
Brian Ostrowski



Thank you!

May your troubles be less, your blessings more,
And nothing but happiness comes through your door!

Wesley United Methodist Church

8412 Richmond Avenue

Alexandria, VA 22309-2328

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

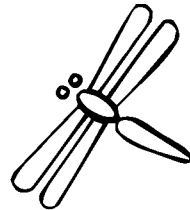
E-mail: WesleyChurch@verizon.net

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



How was your
SUMMER?

