



WESLEY FAMILY NEWS

September 2009 ISSUE

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

Wesley's New Youth Director

To Our New Family in Christ,

Hello, my name is John Kovacs. I have been truly blessed with the opportunity to be the new Youth Director here at Wesley. I can't tell you how excited my wife Pamela (the beautiful one in the picture below) and I are to be here. We look forward to worshipping with you every week and getting to know each of you on a deeper level.

I am a recent graduate of Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota (yes it gets really cold there) and graduated with a B.A. in Social Studies Education. I played hockey growing up and all the way through college. As a side note, I try to speak with as little Minnesotan accent as possible, but if you ever hear a long "O" feel free to call me on it.

I grew up with three younger brothers and have been fortunate enough to work with youth in both school and church settings. Working with youth is my passion! What a privilege it will be to be able to serve the youth in the name of Christ.

God Bless,

John and Pamela
Kovacs



Sunday School Notes

Sunday School Teachers Needed

Anyone interested in helping with Sunday School this school year, please contact Ken Denham at denham1996@gmail.com or 571-312-6171.

Kid-Venture For September

Virtue: Wisdom—finding out what you should do and doing it.

Memory Verse: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” *Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV*

Sep 6, 2009 – Week 1

Bible Story: Solomon Chooses Wisdom (Solomon asks for wisdom and gets it) • *1 Kings 3:4-28*

Bottom Line: God wants to give you wisdom.

Sep 20, 2009 – Week 3

Bible Story: Unwise Guys (Solomon’s unwise son) • *2 Chronicles 10:1-19*

Bottom Line: To be wise, hang out with wise people.

Sep 13, 2009 – Week 2

Bible Story: A Wise Woman (the Queen of Sheba visits Solomon) • *1 Kings 10:1-13*

Bottom Line: Wisdom is worth searching for.

Sep 27, 2009 – Week 4

Bible Story: The Word on Wisdom (benefits of wisdom) • *Proverbs 22:3*

Bottom Line: Wisdom is knowing AND doing.

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.

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

From Pastor Tony

Dear Folks,

We speak a great deal about the Church's mission. We do so because like any organization, we need to know where to put our main energies and resources to accomplish what God has tasked us to do. But as I listen to folks, both in this congregation and in others I sense some confusion in people's minds about what the mission of the church really is. I find it odd because Scripture is very clear and the United Methodist Church in obedience to Scripture is even more precise.

The mission of the church is defined by God and what God desires for human beings, not just us individually, but all human beings. This was true for the people of God in the Hebrew Scriptures. When God made a covenant with Abraham, part of that covenant included this promise, "by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice." (Genesis 22:18). This desire became even more pronounced in the person of Jesus Christ, who was sent because God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:16-17)

God was making an impassioned plea and effort on behalf of all persons so that they might enjoy God's many blessings. This desire never has excluded our enemies or people we do not understand or like. God's intention is that all may have life. Jesus reiterated this intention in his final words to the disciples.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

These are the familiar, though not the only, passages that express clearly God's motivation and purpose in our salvation. The UMC Discipline states this clearly on page 87, Part III, Section 1, Para. 1; "the mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Continued on Page 4

Pastor's Message Continued from Page 3

The Church and you and I, and any who bear the sign of Christ and carry the name of Christian makes this mission the focus of every living moment we have. From our first breathe as a new creation in Christ to our last moment on this earth we are to be in mission to others in Christ name.

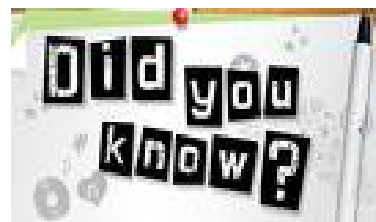
And here is what I find a little troublesome. That most of us, including me, are more concerned with our own comforts, our own perogatives, our own needs, our own ideas, and our own agendas. Even when we are taking care of each other, as Christ has said we must, we are often doing so to the exclusion of the real mission of the church. Some how things have been switched around. We have made the mission of the church taking care of each other, of other Christians, and others like us.

If the Church is to be faithful to God's mission and if we are to come to the end of our lives and be able to stand before God with at least some integrity things must change. The mission of the church is the salvation of those who know it not and the tranformation of the world from a cess pool of evil to a godly and good place for all people. God will do this with us or without us, but God will

do it. I for one would want to be with God in this effort rather than not, as I suspect you would as well. So perhaps it is time for us to change things around and focus our energy and resources on what God desires, trusting that in so doing, we will find our comforts, our needs, and our care taken care of by God, through others. And isn't that what faith is? Trusting God where before we trust ourselves? If we are to be faithful to God and if anything is to change in this world, we must choose whom we wil serve?

Let us say with Joshua, " but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Life Faithfully,
Pastor Tony



Our Wesley Church was recently honored as "Church of the Week" on the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship

http://www.gbod.org/worship/default.asp?act=reader&item_id=47868

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

Harley McClees

Have you ever noticed the quiet, unassuming gentleman with the ready smile who sits near the front of the church on Sunday? That is Harley McClees and he has been attending Wesley for almost 3 years. He likes the friendliness of the congregation and the close location of the church to his home. Harley was raised as a Baptist and attended a church in Groveton for many years before coming to Wesley.



Harley was born in Widewater, Virginia which is in Stafford County near Quantico. (That's okay, I had to ask where it is, too!) There were 4 children (3 boys and 1 girl). Harley and 1 brother are still living. His family moved to southeast Washington, D.C. when Harley was 2 years old. Harley had 2 daughters, 1 of whom passed away about 3 months ago, and enjoys 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. He has been married to his second wife, Dorothy, for 40 years.

Harley has worked most of his life. He delivered newspapers until he was 16 and then worked at various other jobs. He worked for the post office for about 4 years, but the majority of his time was spent working in the hotel business in Washington, D.C., which he did for close to 40 years. Harley moved back into Virginia 42 years ago. He retired at age 75.

Harley belongs to Gold's Gym and tries to be there working out 5 days a week for 2 hours. He gets there early, so if you need to talk to him, be there around 7:30 a.m.!

Take a minute or two sometime to chat with Harley. He has some great stories to share!

**Do we have your current mailing and/or email address?
If not, please contact the church office to make any changes.**



Thank You Notes

From Betty & Don Harris ...

Don and I want to thank all of you for the farewell you gave us on July 26th. You made the day very special for us and we will never forget all the love that was shown. Our move went well and we are settling into retirement life. Small town living in NC is certainly at a different pace but something that is not unfamiliar to us. We love and miss all of you. If you are ever traveling in Western NC "our light" will always be on. We love our light at Wesley!! Thank you.

Don and Betty Harris,
225 Maple Street
Rutherfordton, NC 28139
(828)287-7129

From UCM...

It is with great appreciation that I write to thank you for your recent contribution of \$487 to UCM. Since 2008 the number of individuals and families seeking emergency assistance has increased by 62.5%. The ongoing generosity of your congregation allows us to continue to meet the extraordinary needs generated by this economic recession and alleviate the incredible strain on individuals and families who were stable, but now find themselves in crisis.

From Millie Yuhas ...

I wish to thank my friends at Wesley for the memorial to Heifer International in Mel's memory. All of you have been so supportive during this time of adjustment and the family and I are internally grateful.

From New Hope Housing...

Each night, year round, nearly 200 homeless children, women and men find a safe, clean, and welcoming place to stay in the residential facilities staffed and operated by New Hope Housing. Please know that Wesley's gift of \$376 helps to make that possible. For all who will be touch by your generosity, thank you.



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



A Note of Thanks From
Wesley's United Methodist Women

The UMW would like to thank all the women, men, teens and Boy Scouts who helped with peach desserts for the Peach Festival. We had an abundance of delicious dishes to offer, and they were happily received. There are some recipe booklets available from Diane Nees.

United Methodist Women's Circles Resume



Please join

A Circle Group

An invitation is extended to all women of the church to join a circle this fall. We have fellowship, fun and Bible study.

See Dale Swartz about the Tuesday morning group which meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The UMW morning circle will begin September 15th at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Parlor.

See Gayle Besemer for information on Trinity Circle which meets on the 4th Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

Please remember to save your Campbell Soup logos for the Henry Fork Center in Rocky Mount, Virginia. They are trying to earn a van for their mission work.



**Woodlawn United Methodist Women
Rainbow Tea & Silent Auction
Saturday, September 26, 2009
4:00 pm—8:00 pm
7730 Fordson Road
"An Inspirational &
Spiritual Gathering
For More information contact
Mildred Tobias:
smilingjack08@peoplepc.com
571-338-3540**

United Methodist Men's Fellowship



Wesley's United Methodist Men
invite you to join them on Saturday,
September 12th as they host the:

Alexandria District Breakfast
and program

“Faith Under Adversity”

Come hear a story of suffering,
uncertainty and God's faithfulness given
by

Red and Dorothy McDaniel

Breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. Please bring canned or boxed food donations for Rising Hope's Food Pantry.

RSVP to Bud West (budwest681@hotmail.com)

Administrative Council Updates Church Structure

Our Administrative Council voted to adopt a new church structure with the intent to streamline the structure, put a focus on ministry, and improve communication among the leaders and members of the church. The new structure eliminates the Council of Ministries that existed in name only, and establishes three new leadership positions to assist our current leaders of the committees (noted in parentheses). We are looking for strong leaders to serve in the three new positions as follows:

1. Sunday Service Excellence (work with Worship, Fellowship, Education)
2. Connections (work with Member Care, Missions, Scouts)
3. Shout it from the Mountain Top (work with Communications, webpage, bulletin, photography)

Lost and Found

Nancy Nixon is missing two serving dishes:

- A small round white corning ware covered dish
- A rectangular white serving platter

Two pairs of glasses have been found
Two Sets of Keys

Please contact the church office for more information





September Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 09/02 McKenzie Clark | 09/13 Linda Baublitz |
| 09/03 Nick Skidmore | 09/13 Glenda Holcomb |
| 09/04 Bob Shultz | 09/15 Bonnie O'Lenic |
| 09/05 Rebecca Barry | 09/15 Gary Walker |
| 09/06 Gwen Loftus | 09/16 Rhonda Hallesy |
| 09/08 Nora Rudd | 09/17 Joseph Anderson |
| 09/09 Matthew Grigsby | 09/18 Kevin Walker |
| 09/11 Brent Erickson | 09/19 Greg Harris |
| 09/12 Pam Pealer | 09/29 Devin Loftus |



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 09/01 Tom & Forouzan Grigsby
- 09/07 Jim & Pat Price
- 09/10 Bill & Nancy Convery
- 09/10 Dave & Nancy Restifo
- 09/22 Steve & Edie Skidmore
- 09/23 Clarke & Donna Slaymaker

In-Service for September

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
ACOLYTE	Olivia Pryor	Jack Skidmore	Abby Baggette	Marina Dohm
LECTOR	Coleman Harris	Chuck Anderson	Karl Tomlinson	Nora Rudd
NURSERY	Mary & Olivia Pryor	Dixie Eng & Roni Walker	Linda Baublitz & Rosemary Salak	Christina & Conrad Swartz
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	Christina & Tom Swartz	RALLY DAY (Pot Luck)	Edie & Steve Skidmore	Sonia & Mark Holman
COUNTERS	Lou DeVaughn & Jeff Nees	Dave Restifo & Steve Skidmore	Donna Adams & Corey Tullar	Bill Convery & Charles Anderson

Communion Steward for September: Christina Swartz

Wesley UMC Alexandria VA							Sep 2009 (Eastern Time)
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	
9am - Christian 9:30am - Kid Venture 10am - Worship 12pm - All Nations 12:30pm - GS 849 @ 5pm - UMYF @	10:30am - Bible Study 7pm - BS Troop 993 @	7pm - SPRC Meeting 7pm - Women's Step	6:30pm - Neighborho	7:30pm - Harmonica 8:30pm - AA @ FH #1			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
9am - Christian 9:30am - Kid Venture 10am - Worship @ 12pm - All Nations 12:30pm - GS 849 @ 5pm - UMYF @	10:30am - Bible Study 7pm - BS Troop 993 @ 7pm - Venture Crew	10am - ROCK @ 7pm - BS Troopy 993 7pm - Women's Step		10am - Meals On 4:30pm - setup for 6:30pm - GS Service 7:30pm - Council of 7:30pm - Harmonica 8:30pm - AA @ FH #1	Patriot Day 1pm - Set Up for 4pm - Coleman & Jean	9am - UMM-	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Rally Day 9am - Christian 9:30am - Kid Venture 10am - Worship @ 12pm - All Nations 12:30pm - GS 849 @	10:30am - Bible Study 7pm - Bell Choir 7pm - BS Troop 993 @	10am - Circle Meeting 7pm - Women's Step	7pm - Adult Choir	7pm - Trustee 7:30pm - Harmonica 8:30pm - AA @ FH #1	4pm - Troop 849 Lock-In @ Fellowship Hall	8am - Troop 849	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
9am - Christian 9:30am - Kid Venture 10am - Worship @ 12pm - All Nations 12:30pm - GS 849 @ 5pm - UMYF @	10:30am - Bible Study 7pm - Bell Choir 7pm - BS Troop 993 @	First Day of Autumn 7pm - Venture Crew 7pm - Women's Step	7pm - Adult Choir	7:30pm - Harmonica 8:30pm - AA @ FH #1	Raindate: Chalk4Peace		
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	
9am - Christian 9:30am - Kid Venture 10am - Worship @ 12pm - All Nations 12:30pm - GS 849 @ 5pm - UMYF @	10:30am - Bible Study 7pm - Bell Choir 7pm - BS Troop 993 @ 7pm - Trinity Circle	7pm - Women's Step	7pm - Adult Choir	7:30pm - Harmonica 8:30pm - AA @ FH #1		8am - UMMen	



WELCOME!
Wesley Preschool and Kindergarten
September 2009

September is such an exciting month for the Preschool and Kindergarten. There will be a lot of new faces and new friends. For teachers and children, it's a month of change and new beginnings, new surroundings, new friends, new experiences, new skills and new challenges.

This month our children will explore the world of learning and will develop many new basic skills. Everyone should encourage their child to practice and develop these new skills at home. During the coming weeks in the preschool we will begin to: follow directions, read and write our letters, identify community helpers, develop a broader understanding of the world around us, work and play together, count and compute, practice good citizenship, question and experiment. Wow! We're going to be busy.

Please take time to discuss each school day with your child. Ask open-ended questions and offer positive feedback. Review all work brought home and set aside a special place for displaying the work. Your constant interest will play an important part in your child's learning success.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! PRE-SCHOOL & K PARENTS OLD AND NEW, CHURCH MEMBERS AND STAFF!!! I am planning a playground clean-up on Wednesday, September 2 at 5pm till dark. Bring your rakes, weed eaters, hammers, nails, and scrub brushes! Our playground has had a rough summer and is need of a serious once over to make it safe and clean for our students. Someone keeps kicking out the fence boards and our sand box has been destroyed with misuse. The big equipment (houses, slides etc.) have been taken apart and moved to unsafe areas of the playground. Please remember to make sure that when using the playground that there is adult supervision! Do not move any equipment! And always make sure the gates are closed. I hope that we have a good turnout and can get our playground back to being safe and beautiful. Thank you in advance!!!

Important dates to remember:

September 3-Open house from 11:00 until Noon
September 8-School starts at 9:00 a.m. (for K, 5-day, and 2-day)
September 9-School starts at 9:00 a.m. (3-day)

Blessings, Darlene Spurlock

Wesley United Methodist Church

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

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

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

Address Correction Requested



Men's Breakfast September 12

Rally Day September 13

**Elizabeth Von Trapp October 9
Performs**

Join in Our Musical Tradition

The Music Program for Wesley will officially begin on Monday, September 14. The Bell Choir will begin rehearsing at 7:00 pm on Mondays.

This year, the Adult Choir will rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00. Practice will begin on September 16.

Anyone interested in participating in any of the church music programs should get with Chris to talk about you joining.