



Wesley Memorial
United Methodist Church
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November 2009

Hello! Welcome to our ongoing mailing of the *Parish News*! This Marketing Committee effort is a supplement to *The Link* and is being sent out to make sure as many of Wesley Mem's members and friends as possible are "in the loop" about upcoming events. There are lots of ways to get involved, and lots of events to which you might want to invite a friend!

Supporting Our Members and Friends in Ministry and Service

We are grateful for the activities and investments in ministry of the members and friends of Wesley. If you would like to support them in their efforts, please see them before or after the service. Thanks!

Tim Wersinger will be selling fruit (from Florida) and poinsettias on November 1 and 8 to raise funds for the AHS Band trip to New York City this spring.

Daniel Intolubbe-Chmil will be selling large and small poinsettias (white, pink, and red) to support the CHS orchestra.

"Hot and Kool for Kids" Raises Needed Funds

The heating system in our Education Building is beyond effective repair and we found it necessary to place new heat-pump systems in our three large second-floor classrooms. There is no central air conditioning in the building, so we have been using window units during the summer. "Hot and Kool for Kids" was our three-week program to recover as much of the \$16,500 cost as possible. We are happy to report that, with the addition of a small amount remaining in an older fund, we will be able to pay the entire cost. There were 41 contributions, and the Finance Committee thanks those contributors and all members and friends for their generous support of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church.

Advent Reader

While in Maine this summer Renita was inspired by the Maine Seacoast's publication "The Island Reader" a collection of poems, drawings, photos, and short stories by island inhabitants about island life. It was moving because it was both an individual and a community effort describing the uniqueness of being an island inhabitant. Karen Mills-Thomas has agreed to help put together a similar booklet for our use during Advent to help us reflect on this year's theme, "**Signs of the Promise**".

The lectionary texts reflect the prophet's longings and hopes for the coming Messiah. How do your longings and hope for the coming Messiah inform your life, not only during Advent, but throughout the year? Read the texts. Let one of them "grab" you. Write a story or a poem. Draw or paint a picture. Take a photo. Share a reflection on a movie that speaks to the text. You may want to do it as an individual or with a friend or as a family. Let the inspiration of the text guide you.

Submission are due Monday, November 16 so that the reader will be available by November 29, the first Sunday in Advent. Questions? Call Renita.

Texts: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Malachi 3:1-4 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Micah: 2-5a

What a lovely gift to offer each other this Advent season!

Stewardship Emphasis
“Enough”: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

Stress. Anxiety, Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world’s largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey by CNN.com found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their families basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported laying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, “The declining state of the nation’s economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide.”

Join us in worship the next four weeks beginning November 1 for a sermon series entitled “*Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity.*” Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the “American Nightmare.” Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us “you deserve it now,” whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why, over the next three weeks, we will be having a church-wide stewardship and worship emphasis called “*Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity.*” Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments in the worship service on November 22, followed by our Thanksgiving meal in the fellowship hall. We hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

Schedule of Events:

November 1, 2009	Sermon: The Joys of Simplicity and Generosity
November 8, 2009	Sermon: The Wisdom and Goals of Giving
November 15, 2009	Sermon: Cultivating Contentment
November 22, 2009	Sermon: Defined by Generosity Consecration Sunday
November 29, 2009	Celebration Sunday – Results Celebration and Consecration of the congregation’s ministry commitments

Fair Trade Coffee Orders

It's time to get those coffee orders in. Renita will call them in on the first of each month. Drink coffee (tea is available, too!) knowing that not only are you getting pleasure, but your purchase sends profit directly to poor farmers around the world. Sponsored by The United Methodist Board of Global Missions, this project has been hailed as a great success and a boon to farmers who are now better able to care for their families. So raise your cups, salute yourselves, and order FAIR TRADE COFFEE. (There's Fair Trade chocolate, too!)

Daylight Savings Time Ends 2 AM, November 1

Be sure to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed Saturday night.

Jan Richardson leads "A Map to the Soul: Exploring a Creative Faith":

On Saturday, February 20, 2010, Jan Richardson will be hosted by the Wesley Foundation at UVA and Wesley Memorial UMC for a workshop-retreat (10am to 4pm with lunch) and we invite you to participate. Description and details are below and you may register for the event by going to:
<http://www.doodle.com/nf9uad58ndbgwbpf>.

A Map to the Soul: Exploring a Creative Faith

The journey of faith gives us few maps. Though our way may seem chartless at times, the Christian tradition gives us rich wellsprings that help us find our path and sustain us as we travel. In story, art, and scripture, we find gifts that engage our imagination, speak to our soul, and help us navigate the terrain. We invite you to join us for a day that will offer a fresh, challenging, and creative look at our Christian faith. As we engage these wellsprings of story, art, and scripture, we will find new ways to reflect on our journey and to envision the path ahead.

Our cartographer's tools in this day of reflection will include writing, artwork, conversation in large and small groups, personal times of contemplation, worship, and experiences of the ancient art of lectio divina (sacred reading).

We welcome The Rev. Jan Richardson as our workshop leader. She is an elder in the Florida Conference and serves as director of The Wellspring Studio, LLC, a ministry that incorporates her vocation as an artist, writer, and ordained minister in the United Methodist Church. A Florida native several generations over, Jan travels widely as a retreat and workshop leader. Her books include *Sacred Journeys*, *Night Visions*, and *In Wisdom's Path*. She offers artful hospitality online at janrichardson.com and at her blog The Painted Prayerbook (paintedprayerbook.com).

We have 80 spaces available for the workshop so register and reserve your spot today.

Register by 1/20/10: \$75 (\$15 for students)

Late registration: \$90 (\$20 for students)

Mail checks payable to "The Wesley Foundation" to: Wesley Foundation, 1908 Lewis Mountain Road, Charlottesville VA 22903.

Your space is reserved and registration is complete upon receipt of your check. Register at:
<http://www.doodle.com/nf9uad58ndbgwbpf>

Jan Richardson's visit is made possible by the Wesley Foundation, our United Methodist campus ministry at the University of Virginia, as part of our ongoing commitment to bring notable persons of faith to campus to explore themes of ecumenical/interfaith relations and the intersection of church and academy. For more information, contact Deborah Lewis at 434-977-6500 or deborah@wesleyatuva.org.

Emergency Food Bank Food Drive is November 1

"Many, many thanks to the members of the Wesley Congregation and Wesley Community Child Care Center who participated in the October food drive for the Emergency Food Bank (www.avenue.org/efb). You donated over 50 boxes of cereal in addition to a number of jars of peanut butter and other assorted food items. A very special thanks, as well, to members of the "bag brigade" who helped load all that food in my car! I recently learned that the Emergency Food Bank served 22% more people in their last quarter than the same period last year. You can be sure your support is appreciated. Because fall is here and there's a chill in the air, the "food of the month" is HEARTY SOUPS OR STEWS. As always, any donation is gratefully accepted."

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church Staff

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The Rev. Deborah E. Lewis, Director
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In Ministry With The Community

Ronald McDonald House: Pat Rader or Maury Early
Habitat for Humanity: Lon Smith
Emergency Food Bank: Becky Smith
PACEM: Lon Smith or Gene Rader
Christmas Project: Sandy Staggers or Donna Sampson
IMPACT: Gene Rader

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