

## A LOOK AT OUR PIETY

*“Beware of practicing your piety before others  
in order to be seen by them...” Matthew 6:1a)*

It may come as a surprise (or not) to those who know me... but I love the word piety... and even more surprising (perhaps)... I love practicing my piety! The dictionary (as well as the Bible of course) talks of piety as being devoutly religious, and I'm often taken back when religious people don't like being devoutly religious. Personally I think it is a great way to live life; that is practicing our piety in order to be devoutly religious.

Maybe that's why the church calendar has given us Lent: forty days to intentionally be and talk about being “devoutly religious”; otherwise we might not do so. During Lent people take up fasting, attend special worship services, and perhaps even pray more. I love it!

I don't so much love talking about blood sacrifice, Jesus being the only way to salvation, or Jesus having to die on the cross for my sin; however I do love talking about the gift and grace given to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. I don't like using Lent to make everyone feel as unworthy as possible so we can then fill the church on Easter by promising to make them feel better again. There's so much more about piety than this! I love the season of Lent where we can be open to “surveying the wondrous cross,” where we can take into the deepest places of our being what the Garden of Gethsemane and Calvary offer to our sense of hope today, and return to the penitent color of purple in our sanctuary! I love the time to lament and to reflect.

Perhaps in our day, Matthew would have said: “*Beware of **not practicing** your piety before others lest you **not** be seen by them*”. Matthew's words from the Sermon on the Mount are not so much about not letting anyone see or know of our piety lest we be a hypocrite; but about hypocritical motivation in doing so. Are we seeking affirmation and applause from others, or the “reward” of being accepted by God? By reward, I think it means the gift of intimacy with God; at least it does for me.

Therefore, I invite you to join in study and worship during these 40 days of Lent (beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>) as we take a look at our piety; our religious practices and devotion.

*“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting,  
with weeping, and with mourning, rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the Lord....” (Joel 2: 12-13a)*

*Pastor Vicki*

## PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

### *Prayer Concerns (from the Sunday Morning Prayer Cards)...*

- † Julita Crisostomo recovering from triple bypass surgery.
- † Linda Long-Bellil recovering from surgery and now with cellulitis.
- † Tom Ladegard for healing following an operation.
- † The Berthod Family with health concerns.
- † Sandra Arbogast battling cancer.
- † Carol Wilder for foot surgery.
- † Josephine Sarfo
- † Sue Richard's father with health concerns.
- † Brian Wren, pastor and hymnwriter, following a stroke.
- † For all those families who lost loved ones in the plane crash in NY.

## LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

**THE ROSE WINDOW** lighting for February is given in loving memory of my mother, Virginia Ross, by Chris and Earl Flagg.

**THE TOWER** lighting for February is given in loving memory of Jeanne Wilson, Susan and Clarence Wilson and Jane & Irving Ring by Donald Wilson.

**THE SANCTUARY** altar flowers for Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> are given in loving memory of Janette Hedenburg from Ken Hedenburg and family.

**THE ROSE WINDOW** lighting for March is given in loving memory of Heik P. Garabedian by his wife Irene B. Garabedian, daughter and son-in-law Shirley & Robert Demers, 3 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-granddaughters.

**THE TOWER** lighting for March is given in loving memory of Dr. C. James Brenneman by his daughter Betsey.

### **SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY...**

In the event of bad weather, please call the church office to hear updates about services and programs 508-799-4191.

## LENT: FORTY DAYS OF PREPARATION AND TRANSITION

### Ash Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> begins the Season of Lent

*“Above all, Lent is a spiritual journey and its destination is Easter.”*

~ Alexander Schmemmann, Orthodox theologian

“Forty is an ancient symbolic number used throughout the Bible. It generally denotes a period of transition and preparation. It is leaving something behind and preparing to move on to the next part of our lives; it is the “in between” time.

forty days and nights of rain during the great flood (Gen. 7:12)

Moses’ forty days on the mountain (Exod. 24:18; 34:28; Duet. 9:9)

the Israelites’ forty years in the wilderness (Exod. 16:35)

forty years of Israel’s “rest” (Judges. 3:11; 5:31; 8:28)

forty years of Jerusalem’s desolation before its rebuilding (Ezek. 29:11-13)

forty days of warning before Nineveh’s threatened destruction (Jonah 3:4)

Jesus’ forty days in the wilderness prior to beginning his ministry (Mark 1:13)

forty days of Jesus’ appearances prior to the bestowal of God’s spirit (Acts 1:3)

*(K. C. Hanson, The Season of Lent, New Proclamation, Year B, 1999-2000)*

In this “in between” time of transition and preparation, we know our destination is Easter. During Lent, read again or for the first time the forty days/forty years Biblical experiences referred to above. In these stories, what is happening? What is being left behind? What is being made new? As we transition from Lent to Easter what must you leave behind in order to move on to the next “season” of your life?

~ Pastor Vicki

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

We are grateful to all who have come forward with ideas for fundraisers to help reduce our 2009 deficit. The Finance Committee has requested there be a process in place to understand each of the ideas, when they will happen, and who will be in charge. In order to gather this information, please submit your proposed idea, the date you would like to have it, and who will be responsible for it to the Finance Committee, in care of Lorna Mattus-Merrill, Church Business Administrator by the end of February. Finance will review your request and make sure that it does not conflict with other activities. All committees and individuals are asked to follow this process, whether it is for fundraising or special mission and outreach projects. Thank you in advance for helping us to coordinate your efforts!

**YOUNG ADULTS...** we'd like to gather with all 20-something adults following church on March 1st to discuss beginning a group for young adults. Join us in Mary Ellis Lounge, or talk to Pastor Lisa or Naomi Poku for more information!

**EXTENDED GHANAIAN WORSHIP SERVICE...** On Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> after the 10:30 worship there will be an opportunity to continue worship in the Ghanaian tradition with praises, offerings and preaching in Akan and Fante. All are invited to join in this new worship experience.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

**Join us for a time of family fellowship...** as we celebrate **“Shrove Tuesday”** together! **Tuesday, February 24, 6:00-7:30 pm!** Come enjoy a special pancake supper with all the extra goodies, fun games, and hands-on Lenten activities. All are welcome & bring friends!

**Time to think** about summer Christian Camp! There are many opportunities available for kids, adults, and families; with exciting new options this year... like *“Day Camp”* instead of *“Overnight Camp”*. Come speak to Valerie Jansson about discovering ways to deepen your faith this summer through a Christian Camp experience! There is something for everyone at one of the New England United Methodist Camps: *Camp Aldersgate* in North Scituate, RI (Open House Dates: Sunday, April 26 & Sunday, May 17 1-4 pm), *Camp Wanakee* in Meredith, NH, *Camp Mechuwana* in Winthrop, ME, and *Rolling Ridge* in North Andover, MA.

~ Valerie Jansson

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## PIPES ALIVE!

“Waffles and Widor @ Wesley” continues on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary with the 8<sup>th</sup> Symphony of Charles Marie Widor played by Brett Maguire, Director of Music Ministries. This concert, as usual, is offered free of charge and open to the public; donations are tax-exempt.

A Waffle Luncheon precedes the concert at 11:45 am in Brewer Hall; this month’s offering is hosted by the United Methodist Men, and you have a choice of Waffles with Strawberries and Whipped Cream or the traditional Waffles with Maple Syrup; both are accompanied by Sausage. \$3.50 per person.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The **UMW STEERING COMMITTEE** will meet on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am in the John Wesley Room. Officers and Circle Leaders are encouraged to attend this planning session. Thank you.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** The UMW Combined Circle Meeting and Program will be held on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Dessert will be provided by the Sarah Circle. All UM women are invited to attend.

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## UNITED METHODIST MEN

A General Meeting of the United Methodist Men will be held on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:45 am in East Hall! All men of Wesley are urged to attend!

A Financial Report will be made and discussion of our financial state will take place; also under discussion will be our Spring activities and mission projects.

Watch for these Spring Events:

Spring Cleanup Day

Spring Flower Sale

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trip To Wright's Farm

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual UMM Night at the Worcester Tornadoes

## **GHANA'S INDEPENDENCE DANCE CELEBRATION BASH**

**LET'S CELEBRATE**

**GHANA'S 52ND INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY**

with Gospel Music Extravaganza

Come Listen to the Golden Voices of New England

Venue: Wesley United Methodist Church Hall

114 Main Street, Worcester, MA

**Date: March 7, 2009**

**Time: 7:00 PM — 1:00 AM**

Music by: Various Church Choirs, Soloists, etc.

MC: Daniel Ohene Djan

Gate Fee: \$10.00

***THANK YOU*** to those of you that donated Price Chopper re-usable bags over the past few weeks. Our clients are now getting use to the re-use idea, and seem to like it. Most of them are even remembering to bring back the bags!!! ~ *Nancy Spencer*

## **THE FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE**

**MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> - APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>**

Dear Folks of Wesley,

The generous Mr. Feinstein is once again sharing his money with agencies that help feed those hungry and in need. All the money and each non-perishable food item donated to Carty from March 1, 2009 to April 30, 2009 will be counted in the challenge. Mr. Feinstein's \$1 million will be divided proportionately between all the agencies taking part in the challenge. The more food we collect, and the more money we raise, the more we receive from Mr. Feinstein. If you would like to donate money please make your check payable to Wesley United Methodist Church and note on the memo line that it is for the Feinstein Challenge. Food items may be brought to Carty Cupboard as usual.

For your convenience, below is a list of the foods that we currently are in need of.

BREAKFAST BARS  
SINGLE SERVING PACKAGES OF CEREAL  
CANNED FRUIT  
GRAPE JELLY  
SINGLE SERVINGS OF APPLESAUCE OR FRUIT  
100% JUICES  
CANNED VEGETABLES ~ green beans, peas, carrots, & corn  
CANNED TUNA OR CHICKEN  
DRY PASTA  
RICE ~ any kind  
HEARTY CANNED SOUPS  
MEALS IN A CAN ~ this can be stew, hash, baked beans, or pasta

We would like to take this time to Thank You for your generous donations and support during this challenge and throughout the year.

*Sincerely,*  
*Nancy Spencer, Carty Cupboard*

**ALTAR FLOWERS...** Beautiful floral arrangements on the altar during Sunday worship are a special gift we offer to God as part of our praise and worship. The arrangements are usually dedicated in celebration of or in memory of a loved one. By your choice, you may take the flowers home to enjoy or you may request the flowers be delivered to a shut-in or member/friend in the hospital. If you are unable to join us in church, arrangements can be made for the flowers to be delivered to you at home after the service. A calendar of available dates and order forms are available in the Welcome Office. The cost for altar flowers is \$50. If you are not able to come to church but would like to dedicate flowers, please call Debi in the office (508-799-4191).

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### **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FROM THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Scholarships Office is now accepting online applications! Students may go to their website (<http://www.gbhem.org/>) to explore available scholarships and complete an application from their home computer. They will then receive an email detailing the additional steps to complete the process. The Loans Office went “live” last May; the Scholarships Office went “live” January 5. In 2009 the Scholarships Office awarded more than \$4.5 million to 3,200 plus students. We are expecting a record number of applicants this year and strongly urge students to complete the application process early, rather than waiting until the deadline date.

### **STUDENT LOANS AVAILABLE FOR FALL TERM**

We are proud to report that more than \$1.9 million was loaned to 430 students in 2009. The online loan application process for the fall and spring term has been a huge success. The loan office was “just a little” worried about the potential for problems with the new application; however, there have been few glitches. The downside is that the site needed to be closed early when all available loan funds were quickly exhausted. The loan applications will be available for fall 2009 term beginning May 1. Students are urged not to delay their loan application.

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### **CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTT LAMLEIN!**

Scott Lamlein, Wesley's former Director of Music Ministries, has been invited to perform at this year's Piccolo Spoleto Festival, in Charleston, SC. Scott's June 4 concert--one of only 10 organ recitals scheduled during the 700 event Festival--will be held at the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, and will include works by Campra, Bach, Brahms, Sweelinck, Mendelssohn, and Buxtehude. Details about the concert and Festival may be found on Scott's website, [www.scottlamlein.com](http://www.scottlamlein.com). It is a great honor for Scott to perform at this prestigious event, and we congratulate him on his accomplishments.

Epworth United Methodist Church  
64 Salisbury Street  
Worcester, MA 01604

Presents

*Women of the Gospel*  
*The New Testament*

**Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 2:00 P.M.**

**Tickets \$8.00**

**For tickets please call (508) 829-9334**

The performance is approximately one hour in length.  
Linda Gray Kelley has received numerous accolades for her expertise bringing this dramatic collection of happy and healing stories of women's encounters with Jesus to life.

Coffee and refreshments will be provided following the performance.



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## PRIMETIMERS EVENTS – MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Primetimers** offers educational and mission service opportunities for adults 50 years and older. Each event offers an opportunity to learn about and be a part of the exciting ways that United Methodists are engaged in mission around the world. For more information, visit the website at

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/about/us/mv/programs/primetimers/events/>

Missions Trips include:

**“The Life and Spirit of Appalachia”** April 19 - 25, 2009  
Henderson Settlement, Frakes, Kentucky

**“Creating Community with the City’s Poor”** May 31 - June 6, 2009  
Denver Urban Ministries, Denver, Colorado

**“Living Witnesses: Learning from Native Americans of the Northwest”**  
July 17 - 24, 2009 Alton Collins Retreat / Wallowa Lake Camp, Portland, Oregon

**“Discovering Alaska”** August 21 - 29, 2009  
Eagle River United Methodist Camp, Auke Bay / Juneau, Alaska

**“Life on the Bayou Teche: History, Culture, & UMCOR Sager Brown”**  
October 18 - 24, 2009 Baldwin, Louisiana

**“A Journey in Mission: Following Christ in Cambodia”** November 4 - 14, 2009  
Cambodia Methodist Mission, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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### A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR SOME WONDERFUL RUSSIAN CHORAL LITERATURE!

On **March 21, 2009** the *Symphony of Psalms* by Stravinsky and Gretchaninoff’s *Kvalite Boga! (op. 65)* with orchestra will be sung in addition to several treasured a cappella selections. Two renowned area choruses (Assabet Valley Mastersingers and Master Singers of Worcester) will join forces with Worcester Polytechnic Institute Orchestra and Alden Voices of WPI to bring you this extraordinary concert.

On **Saturday, March 21st at 8 PM at the Algonquin Regional High School in Northborough** which is accessible to the physically challenged. For ticket information (\$20 or \$18 senior/student) please call (978) 562-9838 or (508) 842-1349 or consult [www.avmsingers.org](http://www.avmsingers.org) or [www.mswma.org](http://www.mswma.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

As we prepare to begin the season of Lent with the observance of Ash Wednesday on February 25, we come to the end of the first of two periods within the liturgical year designated as Ordinary Time, a time when we mark the weeks between the great cycles of the liturgical year. (Originally these Sundays were actually designated by ordinal numbers — meaning “counted” — e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, etc.) Most people are aware of the two great cycles of the Christian liturgical year — Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost, but did you know that as we move into and out of these seasons, the transitional Sundays that both begin and end Ordinary Time also have special designations?

You may recall that in January on the first Sunday after Epiphany (January 6) as we entered this first season of Ordinary Time, we had the opportunity to renew our baptismal vows in observance of the Sunday which is designated *Baptism of the Lord*. This special Sunday commemorates the baptism of Jesus by John, and the Gospel narratives for this day serve to remind us of the true identity of Jesus as the Son of God.

Now as we come to the end of Ordinary Time, the last Sunday prior to the start of Lent is known as *Transfiguration Sunday*, a commemoration of the event in Jesus’ life in which his appearance became radiantly transformed in the presence of three of his disciples on a mountaintop. In the Transfiguration we see a more full expression of the deity of Christ and the glory he has with his Father. In the context of the Bible, the story of the Transfiguration as told in each of the Synoptic Gospels serves as a bridge between Jesus’ public ministry and his passion. This story serves a similar function for us as we prepare to enter the season of Lent, which will culminate in the events of Holy Week.

On the other side of the Lent-Easter-Pentecost season comes the observance of *Trinity Sunday*, which is the designation for the first Sunday after Pentecost. Trinity Sunday is a celebration that commemorates a doctrine of the church rather than an event. Although only one Sunday a year is designated as Trinity, the theology of the Trinity obviously pervades our worship throughout the entire liturgical year.

Finally at the end of the liturgical year as we prepare to begin the liturgical year again in Advent, the last Sunday of the liturgical year is known as *Reign of Christ* or *Christ the King Sunday*. This transitional Sunday reminds us of the continuity of the celebration of the sovereignty of Christ and the expectation of his coming again, which is one of the main themes of Advent. It also reminds us that at Christmas we celebrate not just the birth of the baby Jesus but also the coming into the world of a heavenly king.

Each of these transitional Sundays helps to guide us on our way through the liturgical year as they elaborate the meaning of the great festivals of the church and help us to further understand who Jesus is.

*Submitted by, Deborah A. O’Driscoll*

## INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

The congregation of Wesley Church will host families in the Hospitality Network program this year from **March 22 – March 29 , 2009**. Your help is needed to make this a successful project. First a little background on the project.

The Interfaith Hospitality Network is a National Program run with the purpose of providing accommodations for homeless families and assistance in whatever is needed to get them back into an apartment of their own. The program provides job training, childcare, counseling in finances and many other services to assist them in obtaining housing. Our part, as one of the many participating congregations in the Worcester area, is to provide housing from 5:00 PM to 7:00 AM each day, which includes: the evening meal, breakfast and supplies for a bag lunch. As our guests we would also provide social interaction and hospitality during the evening. The areas that we need to staff are as follows:

### Breakfast Host (1 person)

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM

Be around to help with breakfast and sending the families off to their daily activity. Also to be sure the church is left in good shape for the day.

### Mealtime Host (2 people/day)

5:30 to 6:00 PM

Prepare and provide a meal for up to 14 guests. This meal can be prepared at home or at the church and needs to be served 5:30 to 6:00 PM. My hope is that you would be able to share the meal with these families and your family.

### Evening Host (2 people/day)

5:00 to 9:30 PM

Spend one evening with the guest families sharing family time playing games, TV/ movies, etc. You are encouraged to bring your family and enjoy this time.

### Overnight Host (2 people/day )

9:30 PM – 6:00 AM

To spend the night (bed provided) here at Wesley. Families are usually in bed by 10:00 PM so this is a quiet shift and just involves someone being here in the event of a problem. (Min. of 2 people – pref. 1-male, 1-female.)

This requires 7 people per day for 7 days.

Wesley will host the families in Wagner Hall. We will need some help on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon to set up the room and on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM to break down the room when they leave. It would also be nice if a group would provide a welcoming package for the families.

This is a great opportunity to reach out to our community and share the love and spirit of Wesley by helping families during a difficult time in their life.

Sign-up sheets will be in Brewer Hall. If you are not sure of your calendar but would like to help, please provide your name and phone number so we can coordinate this as the date approaches.

*Thank you, Ron Ramsay*

*Cell: 774-287-9002*

*Email: rhr6253@yahoo.com*

*Or Nancy Cook (508-393-6076)*

## 2009 HERALD SCHEDULE

Below are the next couple of Herald mailing dates along with the deadline dates for each mailing.

Please note that the deadline date is Monday at 9:00 AM unless otherwise specified.

<b>Article Deadline Date</b>	<b>Herald Mailing Date</b>
Wed., March 2	Wed., March 4
Wed., March 16	Wed., March 18

If you have an article, please email it as a Word attachment to:  
**office@wesleychurchworcester.org**



**Please join us from  
9:30-11:00 a.m.**

**FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>**  
*Cabin Fever*

**MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
*Personality*

This is a two week topic where we explore our personality types; we have done it in the past and it is very interesting and eye-opening!



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## WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Pastors

Vicki Woods and Lisa Bruget-Cass

### Director of Music Ministries

Brett Maguire

### Director of Children's Choirs

Leslie McBrayer

### Ghanaian Choir Master

Charles Ato Brown

### Music Assistant

Deborah O'Driscoll

### Sunday School Superintendent

Valerie Jansson

### Building Superintendent

Phil Johnson

### Business Administrator

Lorna Mattus-Merrill

### Church Secretary

Debi Ritacco

### Custodians

Mark & Carol Flionis and Gerard Piscitelli

### Assistant Custodian

Steve Boyns

### Administrative Council

Scott & Mary Beth Dziewietin

### Board of Trustees

Harry Spencer III

### Carty Cupboard Food Pantry

Nancy Spencer

### Education Work Area

Ann Openshaw

### Finance & Stewardship

Michael Edmunds

### Ghanaian Association

Joseph Wilson

### Lay Members Annual Conference

Mary Beth Dziewietin and Johnelle Demery

### Medical Ministry

Ron Ramsay

### Membership & Evangelism

Gary & Renelle Picard

### Memorial Gifts

Carolyn Bellil

### Mission Coordinator

Jerry Warren

### Music & Worship

Tim & Leslie McBrayer

### Staff-Parish Relations

Janet M. Maguire

### Youth Group

Phil & Emily Smith

**Wesley United Methodist Church**  
**114 Main Street**  
**Worcester, Massachusetts 01608**

**WESLEY HERALD**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

**Church Phone: 508-799-4191**

**Fax: 508-799-3725**

**E-Mail: [office@wesleychurchworcester.org](mailto:office@wesleychurchworcester.org)**

**Web page: [www.wesleychurchworcester.org](http://www.wesleychurchworcester.org)**

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