

Wake Up the Dead (in us)!

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By God’s great mercy we have been born anew (wakened up)
To a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
And to an inheritance which imperishable, undefiled, and unfading...”
I Peter 1:3-4).*

In his small book, “If I Should Die before I Wake” Lloyd John Ogilvie tells the following story. “A father knelt down beside his little boy’s bed. It was time for prayers, hugs of affirmation and tender tucking in. The little boy began his childhood prayer repeated so many times..... ‘Now I lay me down to sleep; I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord, my soul to take.’

This night the words got mixed up and unknown to the child he spoke words of the greatest wisdom he would ever come to know.....He prayed ‘If I should *wake* before I die....’ Then he stopped: ‘Oh Daddy, I got all mixed up.’ Wisely, his Daddy responded with tender care.... ‘Not at all son, that’s the first time that prayer was properly prayed....My deepest longing for you is that you may wake up before you die.’ The child drifted into childhood sleep, but the father turned the words about in his mind,

‘If I should wake before I die...’
That’s it!...That’s the Good News of Easter.
This is the time to come alive and live forever!
That’s Easter Hope.”

Lloyd Ogilvie goes on to ask: “Do you believe that the same power which raised Jesus from the dead can deal with removing the stones of your sealed resistance.

The height of human arrogance is the belief that
The same God who pulled off Easter
Can’t pull us out of our death this Easter.”

Christ is Alive! Wake Up!

~ Pastor Vicki

PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

LET US PRAYER FOR...

- ✠ The Berthod family
- ✠ Sandra Arbogast
- ✠ Elaine Dunn
- ✠ Janella Juliano
- ✠ Stan Gutridge now at home.
- ✠ Courney Butcher's family and friends on the two year anniversary of her death.
- ✠ Tony Duggan (brother-in-law of Liz Burrows) who recently had surgery to remove a malignant mass. Please pray that the cancer was self-contained and does not return.
- ✠ Cheryl King who is fighting lung and brain cancer.
- ✠ Brent Drajesk's sister, Jill, in her last days with cancer.
- ✠ For all the college kids preparing for finals in just a few weeks.
- ✠ For the healing of our friend, Walter Clark, and our great niece Elizabeth Anne Mack
- ✠ For Andy to get out of jail.
- ✠ For our family to find joy, peace, love, hope and faith.
- ✠ For world peace.
- ✠ For all those held captive around the world.
- ✠ For those who lost their jobs and those who have lost loved ones

OUR SYMPATHY TO...

- ✠ Sympathy to the family of Shirley Wood who died last week.

LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

THE ROSE WINDOW lighting for April is given in loving memory of Doris L. Tremblay by Tammy, Tracy, Allison, David, Nancy and families.

THE TOWER lighting for April is given in loving memory of Margaret A. (Swan) Fuller by David, Kathy, Nancy, and grandchildren.

The **SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH** altar flowers are given in loving memory of Walter N. Daby by Beatrice C. Daby.

Altar Flowers... Beautiful floral arrangements on the altar during Sunday worship is 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. 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.

ALL CHURCH MEETING ~ SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH AT 11:30 AM...

As mandated by our January Charge Conference, a meeting will be held to receive an update on our first quarter financial status. All are urged to attend.

FILL THE TANZANIA SUITCASE

Wesley members of the Tanzania mission team will have one of their checked bags filled with supplies for preschool children and their teachers. You can donate items such as pencils, erasers, chalk, pencil sharpeners, blackboard erasers, crayons, pencil boxes, 6" rulers, small soaps for hand washing, etc. A BIG suitcase is set up in Brewer Hall and will be there until April 19th so just drop your supplies in the open suitcase and we'll carry it to Tanzania for you. Thanks!!

ON BEHALF OF THE UMW AND THE MOMS AT FLORENCE HOUSE...

I would like to Thank everyone who donated cleaning products during the month of March, together we were able to deliver 68 of the cleaning products they use every day.

~ Chris Flagg

*Florence House is a transitional living program for teenaged mothers and their children. If you would like to know more about this program or other UMW missions contact me @ erf115@msn.com or 508-852-7745.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO CHOIR MEMBERS...

I wanted to thank all members of the Wesley Choir and the Ghanaian Choir for helping to make our Easter service so memorable. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of singers who give of their time and energy several times each week to enrich our worship here at Wesley. Thank you, singers, and bravo! ~ Brett

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

The following information reflects the final status of the 2009 pledges, plate offerings and total expenses year-to-date through the period ending 3/31/09:

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pledges	79,787.16	86,250.00	-6,462.84
Plate	4,238.31	3,500.00	738.31
Total Pledges & Plate Offerings Received	84,025.47	89,750.00	-5,724.53 under budget
Total Expenses	179,706.68	176,350.00	3,356.68 over budget

Also, the Easter collection was \$5,901 which exceeded budget by \$171.00.

WESLEY CHURCH YARD SALE AND SILENT AUCTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH ~ 9 AM TO 2 PM

Last chance to buy good stuff—cheap. Come and have lunch too. See you there!

FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE ~

Just 2 weeks left... April 30th is the end of the Feinstein Challenge for 2009. If you have already donated, THANK YOU SO, SO MUCH !!! If you haven't had a chance yet, there is still time. Thank You for helping those who are hungry and in need.

~ Nancy Spencer

EXTENDED GHANAIAW WORSHIP SERVICE...

On Sunday, April 26th after the 10:30 worship there will be an opportunity to continue worship in the Ghanaian tradition with praises, offerings and preaching in Akan languages. All are invited to join in this new worship experience.

“MINI-HARVESTS” ARE COMING TO WESLEY!

The Ghanaian Association is excited to announce that we will be celebrating 3 “Mini-Harvests” in preparation for our main Harvest on November 8.

Mini-Harvests are planned by various groups in the church and are much smaller in scope than our main Harvest. Each Mini-Harvest will take place during worship and will add about 15 minutes to our time. The first one will be led by our children on Sunday, April 26th during the 10:30 worship. The children will be creating special items to be offered that day for a cost of \$20 each. It promises to be a day you won't want to miss!

BASKETBALL REMATCH!

Our first Youth vs. Adult basketball game was a huge success! It was a very tightly played game, with good refereeing and no reported injuries! Pastor Vicki returned to her coaching days, and led the youth to victory ~ winning by one point in the last 10 seconds of the game! You can see pictures on the bulletin board in Brewer Hall.

It was such a great time, we want to do it again...and the adults want a second chance! So...mark your calendar for Friday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. for Basketball Rematch! Come and cheer your favorite team or player, and just enjoy a fun night of fellowship.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A... BEAN SUPPER ON SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH

Girl Scout Troop 30838 is hosting a Bean Supper on Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 5-7 p.m. to earn money for their trip to Europe in the Summer of 2010. We will be serving baked beans, hot dogs, baked mac 'n cheese, coleslaw, corn muffins, drinks and desserts. A free-will offering will be accepted. *All are welcome!*

PLEASE HELP!

Friday, April 24th - Saturday, April 25th ~ 7:00 pm - 7:00 pm

*Standup for Kids Worcester will be holding it's first annual "24 hours on the Streets" event. We will be setting up camp outside on the front lawn of Wesley UMC, where we will hold information sessions, play games, watch a movie, share a meal, and share our time with some of Worcester's Homeless Youth, while we spend "24 hours on the Street".

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- * Bring a pot of coffee, Hot Chocolate, soda or other beverages
- * Bring a snack that we can share
- * Volunteer to make a meal for Dinner on Friday, Breakfast or lunch on Saturday
- * Bring yourself and your friends down to spend some time with us
- * Bring a Tent and spend the night

If you are able to help us with any of these things, please contact Chris Flagg at 508-852-7745 or e-mail: ERF115@MSN.COM.

*Stand Up For Kids is an all volunteer organization committed to the rescue of homeless and at risk Youth. Visit us at www.standupforkids.org.

NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKET AVAILABLE

It is that time of year again for all the graduating high school seniors and college students to apply for a New England Conference Scholarship. The application submission deadline is May 1, 2009. The application packet for a New England Conference Scholarship is now available on line at the Conference web site. For a copy of the form, go to www.neumc.org and select Form Finder under Business & Finance, then Scholarship Application 2009.

The application consists of the following:

- Instructions for completion of the two required forms
- The 2009 New England Conference Scholarship Application Form
- The 2009 Local Church Scholarship Application Recommendation Form

Eligibility is limited to:

- **members** of the United Methodist churches within the bounds of the NE Conference
- Must be high school graduates
- Must be seeking assistance for education beyond high school (undergraduate college, technical or trade school) but NOT on a post-graduate level

Note: Applicants for ministerial education assistance should consult the Board of Ministry.

If further information is needed, contact Paul Carlotto, Chair Scholarship Committee, at p.carlotto@verizon.net or call (978)372-4374.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

It is always a joy to celebrate Easter Sunday with the children! What a blessing to have Melissa Butler leading our Children’s Church program, she is truly a gift to our ministry, and special thanks for our amazing helpers Michael Butler, Isaac Berko, Hope Pennino, Akosua Dankwah, and Scott Dowling. We give thanks for our clean-up helpers, Kathryn and Michael Edmunds and Loren Cass. Over forty children enjoyed the Easter story movie with their snack. A key question Melissa asked them to consider was why Jesus rose for me (each of them)—they pondered it and answered first that it was about our sins, to which she asked them how they treat others when someone “sins” against them (they answered getting mad and upset towards the person) and then they talked about how much God loves us and how he sent his son because of HIS love! Truly the most important message for all of us to be reminded! The children loved decorating a special butterfly as a reminder of Resurrection Sunday!

Sunday, April 26, “Mini Harvest”... the children will be preparing special gifts to offer during 10:30 worship! Special thanks to the Ogbarmey-Tetteh family for creating special baskets filled with goodies and for helping lead this celebration! Join us this Sunday in Sunday School as we create 100 special Easter eggs for the celebration!

“God and Me” Program for learners in second and third grade, will begin school vacation week. Our first of four sessions will explore creation and focus on “God Created Me”. If you are interested in joining our group, please speak to Valerie.

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible Camp – Sunday, August 2 – Wednesday, August 5, 5:30-8:15 PM at First Baptist Church. “CAMP E.D.G.E. – Experience & Discover GOD Everywhere!”

Easter Blessings, Valerie Jansson

FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

Plant 3 rows of peas: Peas of mind, Peas of heart, Peas of soul

Plant 4 rows of squash: Squash gossip, Squash indifference,
Squash grumbling, Squash selfishness

Plant 4 rows of lettuce: Lettuce be faithful, Lettuce be kind,
Lettuce be patient, Lettuce really love one another

No garden is complete without turnips: Turnip for meetings,
Turnip for service, Turnip to help one another

To conclude you garden you must have thyme:

Thyme for each other, Thyme for family, Thyme for friends.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden.

And always remember to reap what you sow.

Full Dimension Ministry - TANZANIA

Thousands of impoverished, remote Tanzanian tribal groups are receiving desperately needed medical attention through the medical clinic located in the *Yulansoni Village within the Iramba Valley*. Tanzania children are receiving secular and Christian Education through the pre-school established to ensure that small children are prepared to enter the national school system. And hundreds upon hundreds of Tanzanians are hearing the good news of Jesus Christ through the bible teaching and evangelism training programs that help build Church families across the land. This is all made possible through the support of organizations and individuals across the globe and the hard work of in-country individuals like Pastor William Makali, founder and visionary leader.

On Friday evening April 24th, a **mission team from Wesley** (Pastor Vicki, Sue Blouin, and Jerry Warren) will depart Boston to share in the mission and ministry outreach of Full Dimension Ministry – it's medical clinic, preschool, and bible teaching. This will be Jerry's seventh trip to the village in addition to his dedicated work here in the states toward the mission of FDM.

Mission work has historically been part of Wesley's Mission and Outreach program. In the early 80's the church supported missionaries in Zaire Africa and continued to support "Advance Missionary Support" at \$6,000 for several years. Wesley presently supports outreach ministries local, regional and global through the gifts of the special purpose funds dedicated to outreach ministry. The Mission and Outreach Committee encourage you to continue to look at our bulletin board to hear about missions that Wesley supports. A mission team (Volunteers in Mission) will be returning to Louisiana in November and another group will be going to do work at the Church World Service ministry later in the year. Let us be in prayer for our Tanzania Team (April 24th – May 5th).

Many thanks to everyone for their caring thoughts, support and deep concern during my recent surgery. The many cards which I continue to get, phone calls and visits, along with my prayer quilt have helped me get stronger and heal each day.

God Bless, Phyllis Yngve

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ~ CIRCLES

The **PRE-EASTER BAKE SALE** was again very successful. We netted \$632.57, all of which will be donated to UMW missions. Thanks to all who participated, those who baked and those who bought. A special thanks to Dot Ellis, who coordinated the event.

The **UMW FINANCE COMMITTEE** will meet Saturday, May 2, at 9:15 an in the John Wesley Room. Officers are asked to attend. Thank you, Margaret Watson

DORCAS CIRCLE... PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE... We will meet on Thursday, April 23rd at 12 noon at the home of Emily Smith. Program will be Bead Making with Polly Boyns.

PRISCILLA CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, April 21st at the home of Janice England, |21 Billy Lane, Rutland, MA. Call Jan for directions at 508-886-2585.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Many thanks to all who worked to beautify the church grounds on our April 4th Spring Cleanup Day: Dick Simoneau, Greg Doucette, Chris Kerns, Phil Smith, Bill Wong, Pastor Lisa and her sons, Landon & Levi, Hope Pennino, Munah Wisner and Danielle Ferdinand.
~ *George Proulx*

UMM and Sarah Circle of UMW are collecting used Cell Phones. The cell phones are being donated to Males Advocating Change (MAC) who are collecting them for the Rape Crisis Center of Central Massachusetts (RCCCM); Women seeking assistance from the center will be provided with a cell phone for use in emergencies. These can be dropped off at the church office.

The **second annual trip to Wright's Farm** has been scheduled for Sunday, May 17th leaving Wesley at 12 noon with a reservation for 1:00 pm dinner. This year's trip will be an auto caravan to eliminate the cost of a bus and driver. The cost is again \$15 pp including tax & tip (\$10 for children ages 3-10) payable when you sign up. Sign-ups will be taken in Brewer Hall on Sunday mornings beginning on March 29th; at the time of sign up, you will be asked if you can be a driver or if you will want to ride with someone.

The **second annual Wesley Night at the Tornadoes** has been scheduled for 7:05 pm on Friday, June 19th (The Tornadoes vs. the Quebec Capitales Game). Once again the price of tickets is a low, low \$5. pp These tickets will also be sold in Brewer Hall on Sunday mornings beginning on March 29th (no sales on Easter Sunday).

ATTENTION LADIES OF EVERY AGE... *It's Tea Time!*

Invite your Mom, your Daughters, your Sisters, your Aunts and your Girlfriends and plan to Enjoy some very Fancy Desserts, Entertainment and Crafts at

A Very Fancy Tea Party

Saturday May 2, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.

Wesley United Methodist Church

114 Main Street, Worcester, MA

Tickets are \$5.00* each

on sale now! Sunday mornings in Brewer Hall or reserve by contacting Chris Flagg @ 508-852-7745 or ERF115@MSN.COM

* Proceeds will support the UMW commitment to give \$10,000 to the Wesley Church budget.

All Things Fancy, encouraged!

**THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY HOME FROM WAR:
MINISTERING TO IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2009
9:30 A.M.—4 P.M.**

United Congregational Church of Worcester, 6 Institute Road, Worcester, MA

Discover ways you can help support veterans and their families as they traverse the hostile landscape of healing the spiritual wounds of war.

For clergy, social workers, congregation members and families

What do veterans need from clergy and churches? Hear directly from the veterans and families themselves. This workshop will provide resources and insight invaluable to those ministering to veterans and their families.

Richard Perlstein--retired VA psychiatrist; **Kevin Lucey**--father of Jeff Lucey who took his own life after returning from service in Iraq with severe PTSD; **Cayenne Isaksen** from MAS-SAVE: an organization committed to preventing veteran suicide and mental health distress; **Karen Greenwood**--Veteran's agent in Worcester; Portraits by Matt Mitchell, photographer and creator of 100 faces of war.

Cost: \$25/person, which includes lunch. Deadline for registration is Monday, April 26th.

To register call 508-637-1215, email Brookfield.institute@gmail.com, or register online at www.brookfieldinstitute.org/workshops.

Sponsored by the Veterans Education Project www.vetsed.org and The Brookfield Institute

DID YOU KNOW?

At the sunrise service on Easter we gathered around a large fire at the beginning of the service. This fire was present not to keep us warm on a chilly morning, but was lighted as a symbol of the resurrection of Christ. This liturgical use of fire is a tradition that comes to us from centuries of Easter worship, but the liturgical use of fire did not originate with Christianity. Fire was a basic necessity of life for people in ancient times, and it was revered and even worshiped as a god. In the Judeo-Christian tradition, fire of course is not worshiped, but it has been adopted with its heat and light as a symbol of divinity. Fire served religious purposes even in Old Testament times—for ceremonial purification and for the burnt offerings of the temple in Jerusalem. In addition, fire is associated with various theophanies of God—to Moses in the burning bush, as a pillar of fire leading the Israelite through the desert during the Exodus, and on top of Mount Sinai at the giving of the Ten Commandments.

In the early church Christians kept a “Night Watch” on the night of Easter, gathering in dark churches for the baptism of new converts who had been prepared during Lent and to wait for the coming of morning, when Jesus arose from the tomb. It is known that by the 5th century in Jerusalem the vigil of Easter began with the bishop’s kindling new fire which was used to light candles at the beginning of the Easter vigil. It is also known that by the 6th century in Ireland and the 8th century in Gaul, bonfires were lighted outside churches prior to the Easter celebration. It is believed that this custom arose from older Celtic traditions in which bonfires were lit at the beginning of spring to frighten away evil spirits that had held the sun captive during the winter season. It was not until the 12th century that the observance was adopted by the Western Roman church. It was important in these liturgies that the fire as a symbol of new life after death was to be “new” fire, and thus it was created by the striking of flint. In a time when people were dependent upon hearth fires at home, not only were church lights rekindled from the new fire of Easter, but parishioners also rekindled the fires in their homes with fire obtained from the new fire or the Paschal candle.

While fire is not as obviously essential to our everyday lives, we still can understand the powerful symbolism of its light and heat. Those who do not brave the early morning hour for the sunrise service experience the new fire and service of light in our main worship celebration on Easter Sunday as we light the Paschal candle at the beginning of the service. Throughout the church year as well the lighted candles on the altar each week in worship are a symbol of Jesus as the light of the world.

Submitted by, Deborah A. O’Driscoll

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.

Article Deadline Date	Herald Mailing Date
Mon., April 27	Wed., April 29
Mon., May 11	Wed., May 13

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.**

APRIL 17TH

Power of a Positive Mom

MAY 1ST

*Something special for Moms to
celebrate upcoming Mother's Day.*



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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

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Phil & Emily Smith

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WESLEY HERALD
APRIL 15, 2009

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