

Visions of Easter morning still dance in my head! The excitement of waking up early to go to sunrise service is a tradition for me. Ever since we were little my parents would bundle us up for what was always a cold New England sunrise service. This Easter was special. We were in a warm climate, and celebrated sunrise service at a park with the beach in front of us. It was a traditional service, until...

At the end of the service; the pastor announced that three young people were going to be baptized today. I had thought he meant at the next service back at their church, but I soon learned it was right here in the Atlantic Ocean in front of us. I was in awe thinking how our God the creator of heaven and earth has graced us with the most breathtaking baptismal font. We all made our way to the shore and stood ankle deep with the waves lapping at our feet, while the pastor in his dress slacks and shirt walked into the water without hesitation waist deep individually with each young person in their church clothes. As we looked on, they were the only ones in this vast body of water; each one stood facing the shore with arms crossed over their chest (the same shape as our "prayer pretzels"). In a trusting way they just fell backward, completely submerged while the pastor stood at their side with his arms reaching under the water to catch them at the middle of their back bringing them up. It was a holy moment, witnessing these kids enter the water with such anxiousness and then to walk out noticeably changed. It was very peaceful. With the first rays of colorful sunlight streaming down on them and the sounds of birds in air, it reminded me of Luke 3:21-22, how God takes delight, "when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased'."

It was such a moving faith moment I couldn't wait to share this with the Sunday school kids. I had gathered some sand to remember God's awesome power. Just as the grains of this powdery white sand are endless, on this day all around the world God is bringing people to him through Christ, baptized as God's beloved sons and daughters, trusting in the power of God's Spirit to free them for the fullness of life in Christ.

As I shared my experience with the older Sunday school class, they were decorating the eggs we were preparing for our mini-harvest. They were inspired and wanted to use the sand I brought back in a special way, so they thought about making a cross on their eggs with glue and sprinkling the sand on top. This past Sunday, some of our church family and friends received an egg with a special sand cross that symbolized their expression of that holy moment - how God touches us with His love in amazing ways! May you be blessed just as God has blessed me! We are Easter people, not only are the visions of Easter morning in our heads, but more importantly, they are etched in our hearts!

*God's power is at work in all of us! Valerie Jansson*

## PRAYERS, CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

### *LET US PRAYER FOR...*

- ✠ Pastor Vicki, Jerry Warren and Sue Blouin as they visit and work at Full Dimension Ministries in Tanzania this week.
- ✠ Edith Jackson with health issues, a friend of Phyllis Yngve.
- ✠ Lou and Nancy Berthod with health issues
- ✠ Sandra Arbogast, undergoing chemo treatments
- ✠ Barbara Russell, now at home
- ✠ Elaine Dunn, now receiving chemo
- ✠ The people of Pakistan, especially the women and children
- ✠ Walter Bohmann, Sharon Snow, Debbie Fahlbeck

### *SYMPATHY TO...*

- ✠ Ron & Susan Ramsey and family following the death of his niece Betty McEwen.
- ✠ John and Jill Bailey following the death of John's father last week.

### *WE CELEBRATE....*

- ✠ The first Birthday of Stacy Elizabeth Twum-Barimah!
- ✠ That Emily Smith passed her qualifying exam and is now a PhD Candidate!
- ✠ Doris Betterley who recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!

## LIGHTINGS AND ALTAR FLOWERS

**THE ROSE WINDOW** lighting for May is given in loving memory of Dorothy Aho by Nancy Aho, Heidi O'Leary and family.

**THE TOWER** lighting for May is given in loving memory of my mother, Mary Fletcher and my brother, David Fletcher by Barbara Fletcher.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> are given in celebration of J. P.'s birthday from Mary & Johnnell Demery.

**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 given in celebration of or in memory of a loved one. After church 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.

### **PLEASE RETURN ANY BORROWED CHAIRS!!**

After doing an inventory of our folding chairs, we have come up short by 157. If you have borrowed any for events at your home, please return them as soon as possible!! Thank you!!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

In a recent publication of the newsletter from Mass Energy there was an article called “Gaming your Energy Use”. I wasn’t quite sure what that meant, but since I’m always looking for ways to cut costs I decided to read on. The article spoke to how our energy usage changes as we add new or different products to our homes, and also about one of the ‘not-so-silent’ energy thieves—the video game console. These items consume an estimated 16 billion kilowatt-hours per year! It turns out that none of these items are currently energy-star rated, but there are things that can be done to help save on costs. Here are some ideas:

- You can set Xboxes and Sony play stations for automatic shutoff. Instructions can be obtained at <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/consoles/contents.asp>.
- Turn off the console and if there is still a green light anywhere on it, unplug it from the wall, or put it on a power strip that you shut off when you are done playing

Some products use less energy than others—here’s a chart that shows how different the usage can be, and maybe it will help you make purchasing decisions in the future.

Annual Costs if you shut off the console vs. leaving it on:

| Nintendo Wii |      | MS Xbox 360<br>(Revision 2007) |       | Sony PlayStation<br>(Revision 2007) |       | MS Xbox 360<br>(Launch 2005) |       | Sony PlayStation<br>(Launch 2006) |       |
|--------------|------|--------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Off          | On   | Off                            | On    | Off                                 | On    | Off                          | On    | Off                               | On    |
| \$3          | \$10 | \$11                           | \$103 | \$12                                | \$134 | \$14                         | \$143 | \$15                              | \$160 |

### FIRST MINI-HARVEST A SUCCESS!

This past Sunday, we celebrated our first Mini-Harvest in anticipation of our main Harvest in the Fall. The children lovingly prepared 100 eggs filled with sweet treats, signs of the resurrection, and scripture verses. In some special eggs, there were even prizes. We are happy to announce that all 100 eggs were claimed as we danced our donations forward! It looks like we are near our goal of \$2000 for this first mini-harvest! Special thanks to Valerie Jansson and our Sunday School children for all their hard work. To God be the glory! There will be two more mini-harvests to come...June 14 will be led by the women and August 23 will be led by the men!

### EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP OPPORTUNITY

Phil and Emily Smith invite others to join in an Earth Day Clean up in the Elm Park neighborhood this Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8 a.m. to noon. Meet at the tennis courts at the corner of Pleasant and June Streets at the Newton Square rotary. Bring work gloves and a rake, as we will be picking up trash and clearing the hiking trails.

## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES...**

We received a call from the founder of Yeoman Staffing located in North Grafton. Joseph Racicot works to match people to jobs in many fields in our area. If you know of someone in need of work, you may contact him to learn what is available at 508-631-6301 or [www.YeomanStaffing.com](http://www.YeomanStaffing.com).

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...**

**“EGG-SPECIAL” THANKS FOR ALL THE SUPPORT** for the children’s mini-harvest celebrated this Sunday! We are blessed by the children and all the many ways they shine God’s light! We hope you are blessed by the beautiful eggs the children decorated for you and the scripture card! Thanks to our special helpers and contributors: Dorothy & Gabrielle Adams, Polly Boyns, Ethan & Ben Butler, Landon & Levi Cass, Edward Jr., Kendra & Kristina Ogbarmey-Tetteh, and the “God and Me” class! Special thanks to two of our friends who received a fifty dollar bill in their egg and gave them back to the harvest offering. Michael Kilmer, one of our Sunday School children was one of people who received the money, and he shared with me that he thought long and hard about what to do with the money and then on his own he offered it back to be used to buy more cookies for Sunday school! A huge thank you to Florence Ogbarmey-Tetteh, who lovingly devoted much time, and energy in helping me plan, and prepare for this special time!

**SUMMER CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE!** Experience and discover ways to deepen your faith this summer through a Christian Camp program for kids, adults, and families. There is something for everyone at one of the Christian Camps in our area: *Camp Aldersgate* in North Scituate, RI, *Camp Wanakee* in Meredith, NH, *Camp Mechuwana* in Winthrop, ME, and *Rolling Ridge* in North Andover, MA. Please speak to Valerie for more information.

**“GOD AND ME” PROGRAM** has met for three sessions, studying “*God Created Me,*”, “*Jesus Is God’s Gift to Me,*” and “*I Can Talk with God.*” Giving thanks for the commitment from our young people: Ethan Butler, D.J. Ferdinand, Lottie Flionis, Charlie Kennedy, Brian Mangus, Kristina Ogbarmey-Tetteh, and, our Junior Counselors, Akosua Dankwah, and Rufina Ketter. Our next meeting, “*Because God Cares for Me, I Can Care for Others,*” will be Sunday, May 3, 6:00 PM.

**Please save this week for VACATION BIBLE CAMP** – Sunday, August 2 through Wednesday, August 5, 5:30 — 8:15 PM. “CAMP E.D.G.E. – Experience & Discover GOD Everywhere!” All are invited to join the fun!

*The Lord is my strength and my might. Psalm 118:14a ~ Valerie Jansson*

## **OUTSIDE FLOWER PLANTERS**

There are 6 planters outside the church doors which are available for dedication for that special someone. If you are interested, the cost is \$30 per planter. The dedication is for the spring, summer and fall. Please call the church office and speak with Debi or speak with Pastor Lisa. Thank you.

## **BASKETBALL REMATCH UPDATE...**

A good time was had by all at our second Youth vs. Adults basketball game last Friday night. The youth had won the first challenge, coached by Pastor Vicki... and this time, the adults emerged victorious (Pastor Lisa takes all the blame... she had to fill in as coach while Vicki was traveling to Tanzania!). We celebrate the fun and fellowship, and that there were no injuries! Watch the calendar for the tie-breaking game!

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## **Thank You, THANK YOU, THANK YOU**

Thanks to everyone who contributed useful and edible gifts for two Worcester shelters. A crowd gathered so quickly around the items at the People in Peril Shelter that I realized, if I waited less than five minutes, I could take the large basket home with me! Many said “thank you.” ~ *Betsy Pennino*

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped to make our Yard Sale a big success — \$4,700 to date! The event provided an opportunity for great fellowship by working together, to provide items at a reasonable cost for our buyers, and to help our church budget deficit. Again a *BIG THANKS* to all of you! ~ Dot Ellis

Many thanks to all the volunteers who recently hosted the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) families. Several people did “double duty” due to our commitment to host for two weeks in a row this time. The volunteers were: Gary and Renelle Picard, Michael and William Kilmer, Paul Arsenault, Chris and Earl Flagg, Dot Ellis, Jeanne Dhavale, Megan and Tim Click, Judy and Dick Simoneau, Michael and Melissa Butler, Caroline Sherman, Gerard Piscitelli, Ama Dankwah, Saebom Gwon, Valerie Jansson, Isaac Berko, Pinamang Boateng, Chris Kerns, Dave Samanen, Ron Ramsay, Tim McBrayer, Janet DeNapoli, Phil Smith, Betsy Pennino, Susan Williams, Caroline Bellil, Nancy Vear, Sandra McManus, the Wong family, Erica Rioux, Donna and Amelia Hirtle, Jerry and Marion Warren, Chloe Sundberg, Emily Smith, Kate Devlin, Debbie O’Driscoll, Clark Burrows, Paul and Linda Carlson, Martha Vigeant, and Shawnelle Frimpoah, who served on her own 14<sup>th</sup> birthday! You make this outreach project a success for homeless families.

*Thank you again. Nancy Cook*

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The **UMW FINANCE COMMITTEE** will meet Saturday, May 2, at 9:15 an in the John Wesley Room. We will review expenditures to date for this year and assess our fund-raising effort. Officers are requested to attend. Circle Leaders are also invited.

*Thank you, Margaret Watson*

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## UNITED METHODIST MEN

The **SPRING FLOWER SALE** scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> has been POSTPONED; watch the **HERALD** and the **SUNDAY BULLETIN** for further information.

The **NEW ENGLAND UMM** is holding a Conference on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Asbury UMC in Warwick, Rhode Island from 2:30-9:00 pm; we hope to have Wesley UMM well represented; we will travel by auto leaving Wesley at 1:00 pm and returning about 10:00 pm. David Adams, President of National UMM will be the featured speaker. If interested in attending, see George Proulx on Sunday morning or call 508-791-8873 or email at [progeo@charter.net](mailto:progeo@charter.net).

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 17<sup>th</sup> leaving Wesley at 12 Noon with a reservation for 1:00pm dinner. This year's trip will be an auto caravan to eliminate the cost of a bus and driver. The cost is again \$15 per person 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 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 19<sup>th</sup>. (The Tornadoes vs. the Quebec Capitales Game.) Once again the price of tickets is a low, low \$5 per person. These tickets will also be sold in Brewer Hall.

## DID YOU KNOW?

While culturally in North America, Easter is celebrated on a single day, liturgically in the church Easter is celebrated for 50 days. The “Great Fifty Days” begin with Easter Sunday itself and end seven weeks later with the celebration of Pentecost. You may have noticed that in the bulletin that the Sundays during this season are referred to by numbers—the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, etc., as a reminder that we are still very much in the midst of the church’s celebration of Easter throughout this entire period. Within the historical liturgical tradition of the church under older lectionary systems, each of the Sundays of Easter had a Latin name, usually derived from the text of the entrance Psalm of the day. Although these Latin names are largely obsolete, even in the new lectionary system there are “themes” for each of these Sundays that extend across the readings for all three years of the cycle.

The “first” Sunday of Easter is, of course, Easter itself, the festival which celebrates the Resurrection of Christ.

Throughout the remaining Sundays of the Easter Season, we celebrate the resurrection life of Christ among the community of the disciples and in the world. In all years of the lectionary cycle one of the readings each week is from Acts, as we hear the stories of the early church.

On the **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**, sometimes known as “Thomas Sunday” the gospel lesson is always the story of Jesus’ post-Resurrection appearance to the disciples and the subsequent appearance to Thomas as related in John.

The common theme of the **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter** is table fellowship, whether with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, or Jesus’ eating fish with the gathered disciples either in an upper room or on the lakeshore, all of which remind us of the presence of Christ with us when we participate in the table fellowship of Communion.

The **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter** is known as “Good Shepherd” Sunday. On this Sunday the Psalm reading is always the familiar Ps 23, and the gospel reading for each year consists of various portions of John 10, all of which contain references to the shepherd and his sheep.

On the **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**, we hear some of the I AM statements of Jesus, either from the gospel of John (Years A, B) or the book of Revelation (Year C).

*Continued on page 8*

## **DID YOU KNOW? CONTINUED**

The gospel readings for the **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter** all come from the Upper Room discourse of Jesus in the gospel of John and emphasize the commandment to love.

Although Jesus' Ascension to heaven occurred 40 days after Easter (and thus falls on a Thursday) most Protestant denominations observe the **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter** as Ascension Sunday.

The last Sunday of the Great 50 Days is of course Pentecost, the celebration of the birth of the church and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The spirit and significance of the season are reflected in the environment of worship. The lighting of the Paschal Candle each week continues to remind us of the presence of the Risen Christ in our midst. The liturgical seasonal color is white, and we continue to see the use of white paraments as well as the white cloth draped on the large suspended cross over the chancel.

*Submitted by, Deborah A. O'Driscoll*

## **NEW OFFERING OF THE BETWEEN JOBS MINISTRY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCHES OF GREATER WORCESTER**

The Episcopal Churches of greater Worcester are launching a Between Jobs Ministry and are pleased to announce a first offering of a series of six free Monday evening workshops open to the public to assist with your job search - facilitated by career counselors Terry Chapman Ph.D. and Sam Davenport, therapists Jennifer Berton, Ph.D. and Ray Demers LICSW, and clergy The Revs. Lise Hildebrandt and Kevin Bean. These will run **six Mondays beginning May 4, from 7:00-8:30PM at All Saints Church** (corner of Pleasant and Irving Streets) in Worcester (parking available in the All Saints parking lot off Pleasant and at the Worcester Schools Admin building on Irving Street next to All Saints). To sign up and for more information, contact Kevin Bean at 508-752-3766 Ext. 13, or at [kevin@allsaintsw.org](mailto:kevin@allsaintsw.org).

- May 4     Developing an Effective Resume**
- May 11    Successful Networking**
- May 18    How to Succeed at Interviewing**
- May 25    Memorial Day – No Workshop**
- June 1     Life in the Wilderness: Emotional and Spiritual Resources  
              for the Journey**
- June 8     Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction**
- June 15    What in God's Name are you Doing? Career and Calling**

## 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> |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mon., May 11                 | Wed., May 13               |
| Tues., May 26                | Thurs., May 28             |

If you have an article, please email it as a Word attachment to:

**office@wesleychurchworchester.org**



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

**MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

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

**MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

*Dealing with Conflict*



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**Fax: 508-799-3725**  
**E-Mail: [office@wesleychurchworchester.org](mailto:office@wesleychurchworchester.org)**  
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**WESLEY HERALD**  
**APRIL 29, 2009**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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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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