



The HeartBeat

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church
High Point, North Carolina

Volume 20 No. 12

December 2012

Celebrating CHRISTMAS

The Season of Advent is a significant time at Wesley Memorial. As we move through these four weeks of preparation for the coming of the Christ-child, extraordinary opportunities for worship, learning, serving, and giving abound. This is a time when you can't help but grow deeper in your life of faith. Why not make a choice this year to go deeper in your faith walk by joining with your brothers and sisters in a new experience at Wesley Memorial.

Come, join us in this extraordinary season of preparation for Christmas. This newsletter is filled with options. Here are just a few:

Connect

Join us on Sunday, December 2 for **Hanging of the Greens** (pages 2 & 3). We'll begin at 4:30 pm with activities for all ages!

Celebrate the **Christmas Tree lighting** in the Front Circle at 6:30 pm on Friday, December 7. (Back Cover)

We will head out from Wesley Memorial at 2 pm on Sunday, December 9 for **Caroling and Poinsettia Delivery** (page 3 & 9).

Grow

Learn how focusing on the miracle of Jesus' birth can impact our Christmas traditions and give us a richer experience of this season as part of the **Advent Study** (page 2) offered on Sundays (9:45 am & 6:30 pm) and Wednesdays (6:45 pm). Copies of the book, *A Different Kind of Christmas*, are available at the Front Desk.

Children can join us on Wednesday evenings for our children's study from the same series during Cornerstone Kids at 6:45 pm in Room A219 on the Elementary Hall.

Serve

Wesley Memorial's youth will be hosting the annual **Christmas Party** for families with incarcerated loved ones on Saturday, December 15 (page 3). Can't join them? Consider a food donation.

Give

The 2012 **Gifts That Transform Our World** (GT-TOW) Catalog is now available! Choose from a myriad of meaningful giving options both locally and globally (page 4).

Our Annual **Advent Offering** has been designated for UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and their work with victims of Hurricane Sandy. Watch your mail for more information on this important opportunity.

Worship

Many of our worship services in the month of December include special events including a performance of **Rutter's "Gloria"** on December 16 at 11 am, **Children's Nativity** on December 23 at 8:45 and 11 am, **Tony Griffey** will join us at our shared service on December 30 at 11 am.

Christmas Eve Worship

- 3 pm** – *Family Service in the Dining Hall with interactive worship for all ages. (Back Cover)*
- 5 pm** – *Love Feast in the Sanctuary, featuring the Chancel Choir and Orchestra.*
- 8 pm** – *Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall with contemporary music and Holy Communion.*
- 11 pm** – *Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion.*

Kids in Mission**Kids Kare Gift Bags for the****Homeless Community in High Point**

Children's Sunday School classes will be preparing gift bags for children in our community who are homeless or living in transitional housing arrangements. Each Wesley Memorial child will be invited to bring one item for the bag in his or her classroom. Collection dates are November 25–December 16. Parents will be receiving complete information about this project through Sunday School.

**Hanging of the Greens – Sunday, December 2, 4:30 pm**

Activities & 6 pm Dinner. Activities for children-toddlers through 5th grade will begin at 4:30 in their Sunday School classrooms. Infant care will be available in the Crib Room. Children will have fun decorating their tree in the Dining Hall, enjoying special Christmas treats, as well as making a special “keepsake” to take home. They will have a chance to visit with Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Parents and children can enjoy dinner together at 6 pm in the Dining Hall. Following dinner we will have a “Carol Sing” and light the decorated Children’s Tree! If you didn’t make dinner reservations, don’t worry bring your own dinner and join us anyway!

Children’s Live Nativity– Sunday, December 23

Something new for 8:45 worship service. All children can participate. As children arrive for this service they will be given the opportunity to select a simple costume: angel, shepherd, sheep, donkey, or wise ones. During the retelling of the birth of Jesus they will be invited to come forward and be a part of the scene. This is a wonderful way to include our long time members, as well as those who may be visiting as we experience this beautiful story once again.

Keeping with tradition at the 11 am worship service. This has become a very special service with children ages 4 years-5th grade retelling the birth of Jesus.

“Every year, we say we’re going to cut back, simplify, and have a family Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season—Jesus. But every year, advertisements beckon, the children plead, and it seems easier just to indulge our wants and whims. Overspending, overeating, materialism, and busyness rob us of peace and joy, and rob Jesus of his rightful role as the center of our celebration.”

The church-wide Advent Study began November 25th. It’s not too late to join in, the times and locations are listed below:

- **Sundays, 9:45 am (Chapel)**
- **Sundays, 6:30 pm (Conference Room 3)**
- **Wednesdays, 6:45 pm (Media Center)**

Our study is “A Different Kind of Christmas,” by Mike Slaughter, a prominent United Methodist pastor. In this study, we will explore ways we can put our focus on Jesus and his birth rather than the trappings of Christmas. Come and prepare your hearts for the coming of our Savior! No registration required! Please bring your Bibles! (If you would like a book, although it is not required, there are some available at the front desk for \$10.)

**The Advent Booklet is here!**

The Advent booklet for 2012 is available to pick up outside the worship services and at the Front Desk. Our theme this year is “Christmas Traditions.” We hope you will be inspired by the stories shared by everyone about what helps them prepare for Christmas.

Adult Sunday School Announcement

On Sunday, December 30, there will be NO Sunday school classes meeting due to the holidays! See you at our one service that day at 11 am in the Sanctuary.



Contact: **Debbie Foust**
Director of Children & Family Ministry
812-4804
dfoust@wesleymemorial.org



Contact: **Rev. Kathy Barba Pierce**
Associate Pastor for Adult Education
and Spiritual Formation
812-4815
kathybp@wesleymemorial.org

Hanging of the Greens & Meal – December 2

On Sunday, December 2 the youth will join with the church to celebrate Hanging of the Greens and the beginning of the Advent Season. Activities will begin at 4:30 in the Youth Area followed by a church meal at 6 pm. Students will need to be picked up at 7 pm. ***Also, we are looking for 6 volunteers to assist with the telling of the Advent story to the children. Please let Adam know if you can help.***

Caroling and Poinsettia Delivery – December 9

On Sunday, December 9 the youth group is continuing its annual commitment to deliver Poinsettias to members of the congregation. This year we will be joined by members of the choir and other church members. We will meet in the Front Circle at 2 pm to divide up to make sure every shut-in receives a gift. We hope every family will join us for this activity. Student pick-up will be at 4 pm.

Jail Ministry Party – December 15

The Student Ministries will again host the annual Christmas Party for Families with incarcerated members. The party will be held in the Youth Area on Saturday, December 15 from 3 - 5 pm. We need students to volunteer to attend and help with games and activities. We are also looking for donations of food to serve during this party. If you are able to help, please contact Adam.

Student Ministries Christmas Party – December 16

All students are invited to attend the Christmas Party on December 16 from 6 - 8 pm that is graciously hosted by Jack & Ginger Somers. Each student is asked to bring a \$10 unisex gift for the gift exchange (no gift certificates or gift cards). Also please bring a food item to share:

- **6th Grade – Dessert**
- **7th Grade – Salty Snacks**
- **8th Grade – Drinks: (2) 2 liters (no Cheerwine!!!)**
- **High School Kerygmas: Appetizers for 12**

Address: 4206 Lupton Court – Call for directions: (336) 870-9883

High School Ski Trip – January 19 – 21

All High School students are invited to join us as we spend Martin Luther King Weekend skiing the slopes of Sugar Mountain. The cost is \$350 and includes transportation, accommoda-

tion, food during our stay, ski lifts and equipment rental. Online registration will open this week and close on January 7.

England Mission Trip – June 18 -25

The Mission and Service Committee of the Student Ministry Team is excited to announce a mission and service trip to England next summer. Our 10 days will be spent supporting local mission programs that reach out to the impoverished, marginalized and those in needs. Also, we will tour some of the world's most famous landmarks and historical sites. The estimated cost for this trip is \$3000 and includes: International travel, local travel, accommodations, meals on non-travel days and discounted entrance fees. We will have an interest meeting on December 20 at 6 pm in the youth area for those wanting more information.

December Youth Schedule

2 – Worship, Sunday School, Hanging of the Greens & Church wide meal.

6 – Breakfast Club: 7-8:30 am at Chick-fil-A

9 – Worship, Sunday School, Caroling & Poinsettia Delivery (2-4 pm)

13 – Breakfast Club: 7-8:30 am at Chick-fil-A

15 – Jail Ministry Christmas Party (3-5 pm)

16 – Worship, Sunday School, and Christmas Party (6-8 pm)

20 – Breakfast Club: 7-8:30 am at Chick-fil-A

23 – Worship & Sunday School

30 – One Worship Service at 11 am. No Sunday School.



Contact: **Adam Vernon**
Director for Student Ministries
812-4812
avernon@wesleymemorial.org
www.wmyouth.org



2012

Scenes from the
Pumpkin Patch



Angel Trees

Visit one of the trees in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall Lobby or Adult Education building and pick up an angel. Each angel represents a child who would otherwise not receive a Christmas gift. These children are identified by our partners at Henderson Settlement and the High Point Jail Ministry. Angels will be available for pick up beginning November 18. All gifts should be delivered back to the trees no later than December 9.

Gifts That Transform Our World

The GTTOW alternative gifts market is back again this year! Many of the popular gifts are back in addition to several new options. The market will be open Sunday mornings and Wednesdays mid-day beginning in December. This is a great way to support a good cause while honoring a loved one.



White Christmas

On Sunday, December 16 bring a white gift to worship. These gifts will be given to clients at Open Door Ministries. Suggested gifts are men's coats, winter hats, gloves, socks, underwear or children's toys. Please write what is inside your gift on the bottom of the package.



Kids Kare Gift Bags

In their Sunday School classes, children will be invited to bring an item for a gift bag for homeless children in High Point.

Advent Offering

This year's Advent Offering will support the work of our United Methodist Committee on Relief as they care for those impacted by Hurricane Sandy. One hundred percent of your Advent Offering gift will go to support the work of UMCOR. They have been on the ground since day one and will continue to work with victims of Hurricane Sandy until life is back to normal for victims across the northeast.

As we continue to count our blessings while we move into this blessed Christmas season, we are thankful for what WMUMC has done to provide hope to people of Nakuru, Kenya – to the hungry, to the orphans, to the widows, to the sick and dying – those for whom suffering is a way of life. As a result of the Kenya missions program, the seeds you planted have helped break the cycle of extreme poverty, and you have made a significant positive impact upon this Kenyan community, by supporting the following:

- **A 24/7 comprehensive self-sustaining primary care medical facility that focuses on maternal and child health and which also offers dental services.**
- **A boarding school for orphans and vulnerable children, now providing a superior education to over 700 students in grades K-12**
- **A feeding and pre-school program in a slum where 300 children are fed daily, often their only meal of the day**
- **Programs of women's economic empowerment to equip them to provide for their own families**



The missions continue and you can be a part of this work in several ways: (1) join a mission team, the next NC team leaving July 2 – contact diane@kenya-partners.org or 336-210-3765; (2) pray for the on-going mission work in Nakuru; and (3) support the work financially – through your gifts to WMUMC (Nakuru Kenya Initiative) or your support of fundraisers, such as the Gifts That Transform Our World program or the Carrabbas Dinner (scheduled March 6, 2013). Here are a few of the sights and sounds you would observe if you were to visit Nakuru, Kenya at this time of year:

...Children playing with toys made out of a plastic bottles and metal bottle caps.

...Women carrying heavy loads of wood on their back to sell so they can buy food for their families.

...Sick babies on their mothers' backs who never utter a sound

...Women walking home from our clinic just a few hours after giving birth

...A 3 year-old child being treated at our clinic from serious burns from hot fat in a cooking pot over an open fire



Thanks, Wesley Memorial, for stepping forward in the name of Jesus Christ, for reaching out to the "least of these", for rejoicing with us and for praying for us as we seek to live out the Great Commission in Kenya.

Wesley Memorial Celebrates...



Welcome, New Members!

Please extend a warm Wesley Memorial welcome to our new members who joined the church recently!

Larry & Kim Brown and Cameron White, Michael, Hope and Shep Byles joined on October 28. (Left to Right Above)
Jimmy Kever, Andrew & Tracy Mense, Rodd & Heather Woodard joined on November 18. (Left to Right Below)



Baptisms

Emma Graysen Williams and Payten McKee Williams both born January 6, 2012, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. James Williams, Jr. (Ashley West). Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James Williams, Sr., Constance Johns and Thomas West.

Frances Best Kever born March 17, 2012, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Kever (Mary Best Cottam). Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cottam, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kever and Mr. and Mrs. Pete Thompson.

Rodrick Carson Woodard born March 6, 2008 and **Ryleigh Isabelle Woodard** born May 2, 2012, son and

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rodrick Woodard (Heather Cook). Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Woodard and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cook.

Virginia Barton Barnes born April 15, 2012, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Barnes (Aimee Lassiter). Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bart Lassiter and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Barnes.

Sadie Grey Vernon born May 24, 2012, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Travis Vernon (Stephanie Cox). Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Vernon and Mr. and Mrs. Alan Cox.

Study Groups Starting Up in January!

With the new year, do you struggle with priorities and where to fit Jesus and your faith in the busyness of life? If you answered yes, here is an opportunity for you, mark your calendars and make that time for God and yourself.

The following classes will be starting up in January. Registration information is found below. We can't wait to see you there!

On Mondays:

- **Mudhouse Sabbath:** Bible Study with Kathy Barba Pierce. On January 14 at 9:15 am, we will begin our journey into Jesus' world as we explore the practices of faith that Jesus and all Jews of Jesus' day practiced, and how those practices can enhance and feed our Christian practices. We will be using Lauren Winner's book, *Mudhouse Sabbath*, in our class. This 8-week study will be held in the 7th grade youth room. Books will cost \$5.
- **Bible Study with Jean Stockton.** On January 7, Jean Stockton will begin her Bible study at 10:30 am in Conference Room 3. No registration required, but please bring your Bible.

On Wednesdays:

- **Wednesday Lunch Bible Study** with Dr. Al Ward (with Holy Communion at 11 am in Chapel). They will continue exploring the book of Romans. If you wish to purchase lunch, the cost is \$5 and your registration must be called into the Front Desk (884-2204) by Mondays at 3 pm. If you want to bring your own lunch, you may. Lunch begins at noon in the Dining Hall. Please bring your Bibles!
- **Catch: Invitational Evangelism**-What is the point of "church?" How can we be a place that is attractive to visitors? How can we connect them to our faith community? And how can we help them learn to know, love, and serve God? In this short 4-week study, we will be exploring what invitational evangelism is and how it will help us be a place of welcome and community. This study, written by Adam Hamilton, will begin on January 9 in the Dining Hall, following the meal. Books cost \$10.

On Thursdays:

- **WOW (Women of Wesley) Study**-Starting on Thursday, January 24 at 9:30 am, Susan Meisky and Susan Weis will be teaching Beth Moore's study on James. This class is available to all women. More information coming later!

Come, grow, and learn. Let us, together, grow in our faith and learn ways we can find space for God and God's Spirit to grow within! If you wish to sign-up for any of these classes, please contact Melissa Coley at 812-4806 or mcoley@wesleyememorial.org.

If you have any questions about the above classes or want information on adult Sunday School options or Unity Groups, please contact Kathy Barba Pierce at 812-4815 or kathybp@wesleyememorial.org.

Best Time Trips:

Make plans to join us!



Date: December 5-7
(Wednesday, Thursday & Friday)

Place: Myrtle Beach

Cost: \$252

Depart: 8 am - Return: 4:30 pm

Walking: As much as you like

Palace Theater, shopping at Tanger Outlets and Barefoot Landing, shows at Carolina Opry and Alabama Theater.

Contact Dwight Story at 475-6280 if you would like to attend this trip.

Live Alive

Tuesday, December 18



Presentation: Beth Blake, Sharing about Chrismons

Menu for December 18: Baked Ham, Macaroni & Cheese, Peas, Bread and Dessert

Live Alive meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month: 10 am - Register for Best Time Trips, Play Bingo and get your Blood Pressure checked in the Fellowship Hall Foyer. 11:45 am - Lunch in the Dining Hall with the program following.

We ask that reservations be made by 10 am on December 14 by calling the Front Desk at 884-2204.

Clarity and Movement

A number of years ago Wesley Memorial adopted a purpose statement that guides all of our work: *Our purpose is to make and sustain spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ who live in ways that transform the world.* At the core of the purpose statement is the expectation that we will enable people to become “spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ.” What is a spiritually healthy follower?

Our new Strategic Plan set out the expectation that we would develop a description of a spiritually healthy follower so that our ministries of education and formation could focus on moving people towards being spiritually healthy followers – and keeping them there. This is important for our ministries with children, youth, and adults.

Our Adult Education and Spiritual Formation Team took the lead on developing a new description based on input from a variety of people here at Wesley Memorial. They have developed a new description, grounded on this passage from Luke 10:27: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” Their description, included below, was approved at the Church Council meeting in October.

What is a Spiritually Healthy Follower of Jesus Christ?



CONNECTING to God and neighbor – through worship and fellowship;
AND

GROWING in faith – through learning and living the practices of faith (prayer, Bible study, etc.);

AND

SERVING others in High Point and beyond – through outreach/mission.

A spiritually healthy follower of Jesus Christ is a person who is living out their relationship with God by doing all three of the above actions – connecting, growing, and serving – in their church, in their community, and throughout the world. In order to be a whole and healthy follower, you need to be a part of all three areas of discipleship.

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” - Luke 10:27

Staffing Updates...

We are delighted to announce that Kim Suda has joined our church staff as the Financial Assistant. She will be working with our Bookkeeper, Deanie Simmons and Executive Pastor, Russ Pierce. She brings a variety of gifts and experience to her work with us. She has most recently worked with Edward Jones as an Office Administrator. The other Panthers on the staff are excited to know that she is a 1986 graduate of High Point University.

SPRC is continuing its discernment process regarding long term plans for the responsibilities handled by Rev. Meredith Martin. In the interim, those responsibilities have been divided: Dr. Al Ward will be working with the Hospitality and Evangelism Team on hospitality items and Rev. Russ Pierce will be working with the Missions and Cultural Awareness Teams. Both of them bring distinct gifts and passions to this work, so we are delighted that they can continue to move these important areas of ministry forward during this time.

In order to receive charitable tax credit for 2012 gifts, your gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2012 or delivered to the Finance Office by 12 noon on Monday, December 31.



Contact: **Rev. Russ Pierce**
Executive Pastor
812-4800
rpierce@wesley memorial.org

wesley memorial school

NURSERY • PRESCHOOL • KINDERGARTEN • AFTERSCHOOL

We share love with our own church staff! Children are bringing in Christmas treats of fruits, nuts, candies & cookies. We will prepare a "Holiday Bag" for each Wesley Memorial worker this month. Then all students, babies to K5's, will gather around the Children's Tree in the Dining Hall to "surprise" church staff with the bags & to thank them for helping us in our school.

Teens are coming to preschool! Eleven students enrolled in Early Childhood Education at HP Central High School, under instructor Priscilla Graves, are interning with us each Weds, Thurs & Fri as Wesley Memorial partners with Guilford Co. Schools. Preschoolers love the extra attention as interns interact with them in imaginative play and assist at learning centers. We are honored that Wesley Memorial is recognized for it's high-quality program in our community & selected to serve as a placement site for internships.



Contact: **Susan Sumpter**
 Director of Wesley Memorial School
 884-4232
ssumpter@wesleymemorial.org

OPEN HOUSES!

Informational Sessions about Wesley Memorial School! Discover The Wesley difference... a unique learning experience for your child!

Kindergarten Fives – Thursday, January 17, 7 pm

Parents of rising Kindergartners are exploring school options for next year. We welcome parents to meet our outstanding Kindergarten staff: Hannah Dougherty, Wendy Kitley, Dawn Miller and Kathryn Yarbrough. We will detail the Common Core State Standards Curriculum; our daily schedule; weekly specials of Chapel, Spanish, Music & Media Center; fieldtrips; lunch at school; Creature Teacher; class programs for families; our butterfly garden; and more!

Nursery & Preschool – Thursday, January 17, 7 pm

Come to explore, chat with teachers, & receive information about summer & fall programming. Nursery classes for: Beginner Infants, Toddlers, Twos (1 to 5-days/wk) Preschool classes for: Threes (2, 3, or 5-days) and Pre-K Fours (3 or 5-days)

Visit our website! www.WesleyMemorialSchool.org

Wesley Memorial School Special Dates:

Family event! Lunch with Mr & Mrs Santa Claus! Friday, Dec. 14, 11:30 am-1 pm, Dining Hall *(Thanks to John Schultheiss & Sarah Woollen for playing the key roles!)*

Christmas Luncheon for Wesley Memorial School Staff - Monday, Dec. 10, 12:15, Dining Hall

Kgt 5 Christmas Programs: Classes of Mrs. Miller/Mrs. Yarbrough and of Mrs. Dougherty/Mrs. Kitley - Wednesday, Dec. 19, 11:00, Sanctuary.

WMS CLOSED for Holidays - Dec. 20-Jan 2

The Way Station CLOSED for Holidays - Dec. 24, 25, 26; and Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

(Way Station is OPEN on: Dec 17-21; Dec 27 & 28; Jan 2-4)

WMS Teacher Workday - Wednesday, January 2

Children return! - Thursday, January 3

School Epiphany Walk - Friday, January 4

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES & STAFF
 OF THE WESLEY MEMORIAL SCHOOL!**

News from...



...The Way Station After School Program

Did you know? The Way Station currently serves 42 children, ages Kgt – 5th grade, attending 9 different schools! Students may be enrolled 1-to-5 afternoons per week -- or -- attend only on dates of their school closings. Working parents struggle with care needs for elementary-age children when schools are closed for holidays/ teacher workdays (schools are on varying schedules.) The Way Station Afterschool Program responds to this vital need! When school is closed, our staff is ready with planned days of recreation and creative activities. What a BLESSING to have this “home away from home” for our community boys & girls!

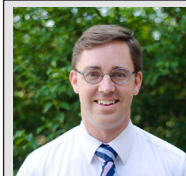
We are always excited to have new enrollees! If your neighbors are looking for afterschool or holiday care, please invite them to call The Way Station. Professional teaching staff is certified in Basic School Age Care (BSAC): *Michele Kinley, Merri Mabe & Wendy Steiss.* *Christopher Hill*, a student at UNCG, is our newest staff member. Contact Michele Kinley, 884-8067 mkinley@wesleymemorial.org or Susan Sumpter, 884-4232 ssumpter@wesleymemorial.org.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE! Sunday, December 2, 4:30-6 pm. *Come visit us during Hanging of the Greens for a tour & information about The Way Station!* We invite the congregation to drop in and see how our afterschool students have decked the halls of their space. Additional informational session Thursday, January 17, 7 pm in conjunction with Open House event of Wesley Memorial School.



Music Together is a class for children ages six-months through five years old. It is a time that children join with their parents to learn the joy of making music. Our Music Program, in conjunction with the Wesley Memorial School, is hoping to offer classes beginning in January. Example classes will be given on Thursday, December 6 and Friday, December 7 beginning at 12:10 pm in the Elementary Hallway. If you have questions, please contact Michael Dougherty.

Poinsettias and Caroling – what better combination for the holiday season. Join us at 2 pm on Sunday, December 9 in the Front Circle as we deliver plants and sing for our shut-ins and retirement home members. NO SINGING EXPERIENCE needed. Just a willing heart. Call Michael Dougherty for more information at 812-4816.



Contact: **Dr. Michael Dougherty**
Director of Music and the Arts
812-4816
mdougherty@wesleymemorial.org

Wednesday Dinners...

Please join us for Wednesday Dinner. Adults \$6.00 per person, \$4.00 for those 14-8 and free for those under 14. See you there!

December 5-Soy-Ginger Marinated Pork Chops, Bok Choy with Chili and Garlic Herb, Scallion Rice, Pear Salad and Cake. *Children's menu is Pizza, Salad and Dessert*

December 12-Chicken Schnitzel Milanese, Lemony Arugula Salad, Green Beans, Roasted New Potatoes & Other Vegetables, Rolls and Dessert. *Children's menu is Chicken Nuggets, French Fries, Applesauce and Dessert*

December 19-Italian Meat Loaf, Wild Rice Stuffing, Mixed Green Salad, Shallot-Sage Accordion Potatoes, Rolls, Apple Cobbler. *Children's menu is Hamburger, Macaroni & Cheese and Dessert*

FROM THE FRONT

To: Wesley Memorial Church
High Point, NC USA

From: Lt. Robert T. Amos, Jr.
HQ Co.2d BN 398th INF
APO 447 c/o P.M.
New York, NY



December 7, 1944

Don't know exactly how to go about thanking you for the thoughtful Christmas gift. It reached me at a time when we were tired and wet. That night it was passed around to the different fox holes of the platoon and you can't imagine how much a piece of cake meant. Nothing is very pleasant over here, and thoughtfulness from home is all that keeps you going at times. The only thing we want is to finish it and return to our loved ones. I'm thanking God for blessing my platoon. They are a wonderful group of fellows. Awfully thankful for the New Testament from the church. Thinking of you and appreciate the cake with all my heart. We're doing our best always.

*Very sincerely,
Robert Amos, Jr.*

This letter was one of nearly fifty such letters recently found in the Historical Room files. During World War II over two hundred men and women, all members of Wesley Memorial served

around the world in the armed forces. Six died while in service to their country.

These young men and women were kept in touch with each other, the church and High Point through the efforts of the Associate Board of Stewards of Wesley Memorial in a monthly newsletter, "From Pillar to Post." This newsletter was published from 1942 until the end of the war in 1945. Copies of these are also on file. Football scores from High Point High School and colleges in the area, city politics (which could get lively), scandals that rocked the town (names were NOT withheld) and many amusing tidbits of gossip were among the items of interest.

Always, R.R. Fountain, the editor gave words of encouragement and appreciation to our members "over there."

The Historical Room committee hopes to preserve this treasure trove in a permanent form as it is an impressive collection of church and local history **AND** at this season let us remember those members serving our country at home and abroad. If your family has someone in service, please make sure the church office knows it.

United Methodist Women

December Circle Meetings:

YUMS - Wednesday, December 5, 6 pm

Circle # 6 - Monday, December 10, 5:30 pm at the home of Lucille Duncan, 606 Huntington Drive for social hour. Leaving at 7 pm for the 7:30 pm performance of Bel Canto at 1st Presbyterian Church.

Circle # 9 - Tuesday, December 18, 10:30 am in the Dining Hall

Circle # 11 - Monday, December 17, 11:30 am in the Small Dining Room

United Methodist Women and guests will meet in the Chapel on Monday, December 3 at 11:00 am for a Memorial Service to remember all the Wesley Memorial women that passed away in 2012. Families of these women are invited. Special music will be a soloist accompanied by Michael Dougherty and the Kindergarten children from Wesley Memorial School will also sing.

A brunch will follow in the Asbury Room. All UMW members are invited and encouraged to bring a friend. This is a time to socialize and make new friends. There is no charge to attend.

The UMW will place flowers in the Sanctuary on January 6, 2013, in honor and as a memorial to all the women of Wesley Memorial.

Thank you to all who worked, baked, attended, shopped, and donated to the recent Carolina Christmas Bazaar. The UMW appreciates your support. We couldn't do it without you !!



We Remember and Honor Our Loved Ones

Gifts given through October 2012

IN MEMORY OF:

David Reagan Duncan: John, Wendy, Davis & Patrick Millard, Deborah Novak, Mr. & Mrs. Horace Steadman, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Stinson
Harold Vernon McGee: Virginia Griffith

IN HONOR OF:

Tish Schultheiss: Bettye Packer
Susan Sumpter: Bettye Packer
Adam Vernon: Drummond Family

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

June Taylor in the death of her sister, Madge Wilson Jester on October 27.
Dixie Pugh in the death of her sister, Mary Jane Capps on October 29.
Harriet Mattes in the death of her sister, Karen Odell Austin on October 31.
Margaret Cain, Linda, Mike, Eric and Emily Robbian in the death of her husband, their father and grandfather, Robert Brown Cain on November 2.
James Foscue, Jr. and family in the death of his mother, Sarah Tomlinson Foscue on November 5.
Karen Harbin in the death of her mother, Hilda Hutcherson Harbin on November 6.
The family of Robert Grayson Vaughn on his death on November 7.
Etta Wall and family in the death of her husband, James Hobart Wall, Jr. on November 12.
Mary Sansing and family in the death of her brother, John Sansing on November 15.
Lou Dean Howard and family in the death of her sister, Veta Gwyn Graham Blewster on November 17.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has made and delivered **over 1,000** shawls, blankets, sweaters and other items!

You are invited to join this wonderful group on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm in the Arts & Crafts Room. Contact Laura McFalls, 882-1054 or Lee Huff, 887-9165.



In Memoriam

Robert Brown Cain	November 2
Sarah Tomlinson Foscue	November 5
Robert Grayson Vaughn	November 7
James Hobart Wall, Jr.	November 12



WHOLENESS AND HEALING SERVICE

The Wholeness and Healing Service is especially in memory of a loved one during the Advent Season. Anyone is welcome to participate. The service will be:

Sunday, 16 December 2012
7 pm
in the Chapel

Followed by a reception in the Asbury Room
 Sponsored by the Stephen Ministry

If you are interested in Stephen Ministry training, contact Laura McFalls, 882-1054.
 If you wish to have a Stephen Minister assigned to you, contact Lou Dean Howard, 885-5789.



The deadline for article submission for the January HeartBeat will be December 14.

To submit information for the HeartBeat contact: Russ Pierce at rpierce@wesleymemorial.org or 812-4800.



Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday, December 7

Everyone is invited to the lighting of the Christmas Tree on December 7 at 6:30 pm in the Front Circle. We will light the tree, sing carols, and share some light refreshments. The Christmas Tree is given in memory of Carter and Doris Lassiter by their sons, Bart, Ron, Scott, Tim and their wives and grandchildren. Put this on your calendar and invite someone from the community to come with you.

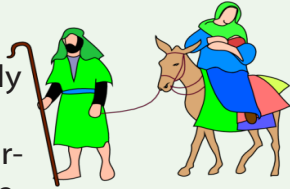


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Christmas Eve Family Service 3 pm in the Dining Hall

Come join us for this meaningful, unique, family friendly Worship service. We will share through stories, activities and song the Mystery of Christmas in a memorable way that includes the children in the experience. During this service we will move through the four weeks of Advent as we anticipate the birth of the Christ. This service is for everyone who enjoys sharing the experience of the Christmas Story with children.



We did it! We have collected over 2500 food items for the Open Door Ministries! **Tony Griffey** will sing in worship on **Sunday, December 30.**

We will have one shared service of worship at **11am in the Sanctuary.**

(There is no Sunday School on this Sunday.)

WESLEY MEMORIAL

A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

1225 Chestnut Drive ~ P.O. Box 5289
High Point, North Carolina 27262

The Church Offices will be closed Monday, December 24 through Wednesday, December 26 during Christmas. The Offices will also be closed New Year's Day on Tuesday, January 1, 2013