

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church High Point, North Carolina

January 2014



Volume 22 No. 1

Parent and Student Worship with Second Hand City Sunday, January 12 at 6 pm in the Sanctuary

Join us on January 12 for a high-energy, relevant worship service in the Sanctuary featuring Second Hand City. Second Hand City is a Christian rock band dedicated to uniting the Body of Christ and building God's amazing kingdom. All-ages are invited to this service that will be casual and engaging.

Following the time of worship there will be information sessions offered to parents of children and youth. The Children's Ministry will meet in the Media Center with Debbie Foust and Youth Families will gather in the Chapel with Adam Vernon.

This Worship service is open to the entire church and community and everyone is encouraged to attend.



Wesley Memorial Finishes Third Straight Year with a Fund Balance

Through your generosity and careful budget management, Wesley Memorial has finished its third straight year with a Fund Balance. (That's nonprofit accounting language for 'in the black.') In 2012, our Fund Balance of over \$250,000 was utilized for two purposes: First, 10% (a tithe) was set aside for the development of new local missions initiatives. The remainder was used to complete funding of a Cash Reserve. This Cash Reserve is equal to 15% of Wesley Memorial's annual operating budget and is utilized to smooth out cash flow during the course of the year. This enables us to avoid utilizing a line of credit thus saving us money. It is particularly helpful during a regular summer season when our cash flow often goes negative.

In 2013, our Fund Balance will be at least \$220,000. With the Cash Reserve already fully funded, it will not be needed for that purpose. At its meeting in January the Church Council will establish a process of discernment for how the funds will be utilized. This process will be communicated with various administrative and ministry teams as we find ways to remain financially healthy and fiscally responsible while funding opportunities that move us into the bright future God has for us.



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

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Adult Formation Opportunities

STARTING IN JANUARY...

MARRIAGE CLASS – Whether you feel like your marriage is strong or struggling, this class will help you find ways to communicate better and explore each other's needs and wants for your marriage, together as a couple. This 8 week course will be held in Al & Miriam Ward's home on Thursday evenings. Please note that the discussions will not happen within a group, but will only be between you and your spouse. This is a course that is video led. If interested, come to our opening, informational meeting where we will share what the marriage course is all about on **WEDNESDAY**, **JANUARY 8** at 6:30pm in the Circle View Room (no longer than an hour). Workbooks are \$12. (Each <u>person</u> needs a workbook.)

EXPLORING GOD'S PRESENCE – How can we become more aware of God's presence in and around us? That is what we will be exploring through this eight (8) week study led by Kathy Barba Pierce, beginning **MONDAY, JANUARY 13**. This class will be at 9:15am in the 7th Grade Youth Rm. Books cost \$9.

HEALING OUR IMAGE OF GOD – To continue the conversation that our "Push the Pause Button" speaker, Fil Anderson, began, Kathy Barba Pierce will be facilitating a discussion about our varied images of God and how they may help or hinder our ability to grow in our journey with Jesus the Christ. This will be a five week class that will begin on **WEDNESDAY**, **JANUARY 15** at 6:30pm in Conf Room 2. No books necessary, but bring your Bible.

THE GIFT OF GRIEF – We experience grief whenever we lose someone or something that was close to us. Whether that loss is a friend, family member, a job, or you know someone experiencing grief and you wish to care for them, this class will serve as a discussion and confidential support group for those who seek healing and wholeness. This five week class, led by Jared Stine, begins **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15** at 6:30pm in the Media Center. Books will cost \$20.

WOW STUDY – ESTHER: IT'S TOUGH BEING A WOMAN BY BETH MOORE – This 9 week study will begin **THURSDAY, JANUARY 23** at 9:30am. If you have ever felt like life is too much and you can't seem to make sense of things, as a woman, as a mother, as a wife, this class is for you. Susan Meisky and Barbara Coughlin will be teaching. Books cost \$17.

Books will be available at the front desk at the first of the year. Please register for these classes by contacting the front desk (884-2204). Please indicate which class you are interested in and if you will be needing childcare for that class. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Barba Pierce at kathybp@wesleymemorial.org or 812-4815.

for our Adults..

Adult Sunday School Highlight

We have so many active and vibrant adult Sunday School classes that meet at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings, and these classes are for all ages. One class that is geared for younger adults, especially young families is the **Perspectives Class**. They got their name from recognizing the importance of respecting and learning from everyone's perspective.

This class is led by Ashley Womble who facilitates the discussions that are shared around the table; discussions around subjects like prayer and Jesus' parables. They are currently looking into a new subject for the New Year. As well as studying, they enjoy getting together for social events like a Spaghetti Cook-Off and a Christmas Breakfast at people's homes. The Perspectives class' mission project this Christmas has been to adopt a family and purchase gifts, food and mattresses for them!

They are actively seeking new members and would love for you to join them in their discussions as they seek to make the scriptures relevant to everyday living. They meet in Room E204 (across from the historical room and beside the sanctuary). If you would like to talk to someone in the class, you can contact Ashley Womble (ashley.womble@volvo.com) or Alison Yates (yatesmommy@gmail.com).

If you have any questions about any of our adult Sunday school classes, please contact Kathy Barba Pierce.





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

Youth News...



Student Ministries end the year celebrating at the home of Jack and Ginger Somers. Thank you to the the Somers' family for opening their home to over 55 students and leaders for our celebration again this year.



The Advent season for Student Ministries was not just about receiving gifts but about sharing gifts. This Advent, Student Ministries packed backpacks for students at Fairview Elementary, gathered supplies and assembled health packets for the homeless of our community and hosted the Jail Ministry Christmas Party.



Contact: Adam Vernon Director of Student Ministries 812-4812 avernon@wesleymemorial.org

Children's Ministry Design Team

In January the team will begin tackling some of the hard work for the year.



The team will begin to determine volunteer needs throughout the year, developing Special Events notebook for coordinators with descriptions of each volunteer position. We will identify immediate volunteer needs and how to meet these needs, continue work on a data base that will help track families to better recognize those who are new as well as those who are coming less frequently and begin promoting a Children's Ministry Visioning retreat for March 1 & 2. Parents will be invited to come and help vision for the future, develop goals, core values and structure.

Bible Explorers, Winter Session: For Kindergarten–

For Kindergarten– 5th Grade. Beginning Sunday, February 2 and ending March 2 from 4:45–6:00 pm in the Children's Gathering Space. Join your friends, have fun while learning God's Word in exciting ways.



Three age level groups: Scooters–K's; Voyagers–1st & 2nd Grades; Pathfinders–3rd -5th Grades. Children will complete activities to earn Bible and Activity awards.

Register your child by January 27 to participate. Brochures and registrations forms are available on the Elementary Hall display or by contacting Melissa Coley at mcoley@wesleymemorial.org or Debbie Foust dfoust@wesleymemorial.org.

Cost will be \$10.00 for new participants and \$5.00 for returning participants.



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

Looking ahead...

Mark your calendars now & be looking for more details about the upcoming events.

February 2–Bible Explorers-Sundays at 4:45 pm March 2–Sunday School Teacher's Gathering March 7 & 8–4th & 5th Grade Lock-In March 27-29–"Created By God"–Human Sexuality for 5th graders April 11–Older Kids Easter Egg Hunt April 13–Children's Palm Processional Younger Kids Easter Egg Hunt July 21-24--VBS

Hanging of the Greens

Even though "the weather outside was frightful... inside the spirit was so delightful.



The children had a great time making more characters for their nativity sets started last year, decorating the tree in the Dining Hall with their handmade decorations as well as ending the night with warm soup and sandwiches and singing carols.

Children's Nativity



Family Christmas Eve Service



Missions...

A Season of Generosity

Wesley Memorial is a wonderfully generous congregation. It never shows more brightly than at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Here's what you have done.



Fed 30 families a full Thanksgiving Dinner through our Fairview Elementary Partnership.

Blessed 114 children at Henderson Settlement with Christmas presents...



...and another 62 children in High Point with even more presents and a Christmas Party hosted by our Student Ministries.

Children's Ministries sent 45 Kids Kare Bags filled with gifts to Salvation Army for homeless children in High Point.

Fed 50 Fairview Elementary Students for five days through our backpack program.

Provided 120+ gifts to guests of Open Door Ministries through our White Christmas offering.

Gave over \$13,000 to support 25 mission opportunities through the Gifts That Transform the World Alternative Gift Catalog.

And our Christmas Offering raised over \$11,000 to support completion of Mercy Preschool's building.

Music Notes...

Now is a great time to join a choir or handbell choir at Wesley Memorial. Carillon Choir (2nd-5th grades) and Serendipities (Kindergarten-1st grade) meet on Sunday afternoons at 4:00. Wesley Handbell Ringers (2nd-5th grades) meet on Wednesdays from 4:15-5:00. The Chancel Choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8:15 and Chancel Bells meets on Thursday evenings. Horizon Praise Team rehearses on Saturday mornings. Call or email Anne Carroll to learn when rehearsals will resume after the holidays.

2013 Christmas Oratorio performed by our Chancel Choir with harp, organ, strings and soloists on December 8, 2013.









Anthem Angel's Needed: If you would like to purchase an anthem or major work for the traditional music library in honor of or in memory of someone, please contact Anne Carroll. A list of anthems/major works is available from which to choose.

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6 Stewardship...

2014 Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge in support of Wesley Memorial's ministries in 2014. As of January 1,



we have received \$1,651,000 in pledges. This puts us approximately \$68,000 short of our 2013 total and also \$71,000 behind our projected budget for 2014.

If you have not yet made a pledge for 2014 but plan to do so, please call Deanie Simmons in the Finance Office at 812-4801 to do so immediately. The Finance Team and Church Council are currently completing the budget and will approve a final, balanced budget on Tuesday, January 21 at a called Charge Conference.

Important Reimbursement Reminder

Please note: The deadline for reimbursement requests and check requests is Fridays at 12 noon. Completed forms with receipts should be placed in Kim Suda's mailbox behind the Front Desk. If your check request requires sign-off by a Ministry Area Director, please have them sign off before placing in Kim's box. Completed reimbursements and requests will be completed by noon the following Wednesday. During this time of transition, it is imperative that everyone follow the deadlines.

2014 Budget Approval Timeline

As our Stewardship Campaign has been progressing, our Finance Team has been working with ministry and administrative teams from across the congregation to prepare a budget/ministry plan for 2014. In the early fall, each ministry area was asked to prepare a budget request. They were also asked to set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-Bound) Goals. This exercise has enabled us to sharpen our focus as we seek to put our resources of time and energy into moving toward God's Vision for Wesley Memorial.

We currently anticipate our 2014 Budget will be approved in January by the Church Council. We currently anticipate the Finance Team approving a final recommendation on January 7 and for the Church Council to review and approve that recommendation on January 14 or January 21.

Staffing Update...

Rev. Russ Pierce, our Executive Pastor since 2010, has announced he will be leaving Wesley Memorial on January 9. He has accepted an appointment to the senior administrative staff of Church World Service as their Director of Donor Relations. In this position, he will lead a team of 45 staff to support fundraising efforts with congregations,



communities, and individuals to alleviate hunger and poverty and promote peace and justice in 30 countries around the world. Our annual High Point CROP Hunger Walk, one of the top 50 in the country, is an important part of this work.

Though Russ is leaving on January 10, we will still see him around as he brings his children, Clare and Aidan to worship and Sunday School. As you know, Russ' wife Kathy serves as our Associate Pastor for Adult Spiritual Formation. Church World Service offered to let Russ work from High Point and travel to their Corporate Center near South Bend, IN as needed through June. This will enable Kathy to continue serving at Wesley Memorial through the end of the conference year on June 30.

SPRT is working with Al Ward, our Senior Pastor, on interim and long term staffing plans in light of these transitions. Adam Vernon will assume responsibilities for our Missions and Community Impact Team during this interim period. We have already begun advertising a newly created Director of Administration and Finance position that will assume the financial, accounting, and business functions of the former Executive Pastor position.

The process to replace an associate pastor position is slightly different. SPRT will work with Al to create a job description. We will alert the District Superintendent and Bishop to our need for a new associate pastor. Information on clergy in our conference who have indicated an interest in serving as an associate pastor will be provided to Al and will be the 'pool' from which we begin the selection process.

This will be a busy season for Wesley Memorial and our SPRT in particular. Please hold them in prayer as they lead us! Wesley Memorial School...



We're Ready To Register Your Child For 2014-15 School Year!

Nursery Day: Classes for Infants, Toddlers, Twos 9 am-12 noon; 1,2,3,4, or 5 days/week

Preschool: Classes for Children age 3 by Aug 31 9 am-12 noon, with "Lunch Bunch" on Wed. or Thurs. (T-Th groups) until 1pm 2, 3 or 5 days/week Classes for Children age 4 by Aug 31 9 am-12 noon: "Lunch Bunch" on Wed

9 am-12 noon; "Lunch Bunch" on Wed. MWF class or 5 days

Kgt Fives: Classes for Children age 5 by Aug 31 9 am-1 pm daily with lunch at school; 5 days only

Extend-The-Day Care Available! Parents may add on 1 hour. Choice of: Before-School Care, 8-9 am or After-School Care, 12 noon-1 pm

Members of Wesley Memorial-Register during 2-week priority beginning January 21. *Non-Members Already In Program*-Register during 2-week priority beginning February 3.

OPEN HOUSE EVENTS

Friday, January 24, 9:15 am, all age-levels Special presentation in Children's Gathering Room, followed by a walk through tour of each classroom to see children and teachers engaging in learning center time.

Sunday, January 26, 4 pm, all age-levels Special presentation in Media Center; tour of school facilities indoors and outside campus

Event dates specific to age-level at 10:30 am, each will include special presentation in Children's Gathering Room, followed by walk through tour.

Wednesday, January 29-Kindergarten Fives *Friday, January 31*-Pre-K Fours *Wednesday, February 5-*Threes *Friday, February 7-*Infants, Toddlers, Twos

Explore school events and outreach projects by visiting our website! www.wesleymemorialschool.org



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

2013...Our year in review





United Methodist Women

UMW Board will meet Monday, January 6, 9:30 am in the Small Dining Room.

UMW General Membership Meeting and Luncheon Monday, January 6, 11:30 in the Dining Hall. Please bring a salad or dessert, covered dish style.

Wesley Memorial will host the **UMW District Prayer Breakfast** on Saturday, February 15. Registration starts at 8:30 am, breakfast served until 9:30. The Reverend Dr. Arnetta Beverly will speak on "Faithful Living". Cost is \$6.50 per person, rsvp by February 8. Make your check to UMW and mail to Joyce Stephens, 1113 Gatehouse, High Point 27262.

Circle Meetings for January:

Angel Tree Circle - Monday, January 6, 7:30 pm at the home of Faith Key, 2126 Chestnut Street Extension

Friendship Circle will not meet

Circle # 6 - Monday, January 20, 7 pm at the home of Joyce Stephens, 1113 Gatehouse, pledge service

Circle # 8 - Monday, January 6, 11:00 in the Dining Hall, prior to the UMW Salad Luncheon

Circle # 9 - Tuesday, January 21, 10:30 am in the Dining Hall

Circle # 11- Monday, January 27, 11:30 am in the Small Dining Room

Live Alive~Tuesday, January 21

Program: Kathy Jacobs, Wellness Director at Pennybyrn. Offering easy exercises that can be done from chairs and movements to encourage flexibility and reduce chances of falls.

Menu for January 21: Chicken Pie, Green Beans, Carrots, Cole Slaw, Bread and Dessert

Live Alive meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month: Live Alive gatherings for adults 55+ with many opportunities available for you to enjoy and fellowship with one another:

Activities begin at 10 am; Book Club at 10:30 am; Lunch at 11:45 am (Dining Hall); Special Presenter at 12:15 pm (Dining Hall).

If you wish to make a reservation for lunch, you must call the Front Desk by 10 am the Friday prior to our Live Alive gathering (884-2204). Lunch is \$6.

10 **Celebrations**.





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

New members joined December 8: Rob and Christina Squires with son, Jack ioined at 11 am.



Jared Stine travels to Haiti January 2-10

In January, Jared Stine will participate in a mission trip to Cange, Haiti with seven other young adult clergy and lay members of the Western North Carolina Conference of the UMC. This trip is a partnership with the conference Office of Missions of Young Adult Ministries and the Young Adult Task Force. During this mission encounter these young adults will have the opportunity to meet and work alongside Haitian young adults that help in their community, local schools, and a local church. The week will focus, but not be limited to, facilitating creative art camps for school age children. Please support Jared with your prayers for safe travel and good health.



Contact: **Rev. Jared Stine** Associate Pastor for Congregational Care 812-4813 jstine@wesleymemorial.org Weddings...

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Bills** and **Drew Weaver** who were married December 14, 2013.

Congratulations to **Taylor Keaton** and **Spencer Cummings** who were married December 21, 2013.

Wesley Memorial 101 & Joining Sunday

If you've been visiting Wesley Memorial and are considering making this congregation your home, come to Wesley Memorial 101 to see if membership is right for you. This two week class meets January 19 and 26 in Conf. Rm. #3 on the third floor of the Administration building. You are invited to come learn the beliefs and values of Methodism, the purpose of Wesley Memorial and ways you and your family can plug in to the life of the congregation. If you decide to become a member, our Joining Sunday will be January 26, or a Sunday that fits your schedule, in the worship service you regularly attend. Childcare will be provided through Sunday School. Please call or email Al Ward at 884-2204 or award@wesleymemorial.org to let us know if you'll be attending.



Contact: **Dr. Al Ward** Senior Pastor 812-4808 award@wesleymemorial.org



The deadline for article submission for the February issue of the HeartBeat will be January 16. To submit information for the Heart-Beat contact: Melissa Coley at mcoley@wesleymemorial. org or 812-4806.

We Remember and Honor Our Loved Ones

Gifts given through November 2013

IN MEMORY OF:

William (Bill) Cutler (Brother of Ethel Matton): UMW Circle #11

Geraldine (Gerry) Dixon (Mother of Phillip Dixon): John & Louise Campbell, Harold & Betty Martin William B. Duncan: Don & Cindy Brock

William George Fick, Jr.: Ned & Katherine Covington Billy Gann (Brother of Bonnie Odom): Lucille Duncan William Thomas Hutchins: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Davis, Jr., Ken Geddie, Lawson Ingram, Gayle & Amo Kearns, Joe McGhee, Patsy & Charlie Surles

Ida Virginia Cody Kearns (Mother of Tamara Regan): Harold & Betty Martin

Christopher O'Malley Kimsey: Lee & Alf Webster Mary Livingston (Aunt of Susan Hedrick): Nancy & Bobby Yates

Jane Kearns Marlowe: Janie & Bob Bass, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cottam, III, Ned & Katherine Covington, Nan & Buck Kester, W. A. Marlowe Family, Jim & Sandra Marsh, Wanna McAnally, Bill & Caroline McGuinn, Lee & Alf Webster

Irma Siceloff Price: UMW Circle #11, Lee & Alf Webster Elizabeth (Betty) Barringer Thacker: Bootsy Tucker Jean Lockhart Ullman (Mother of Tom Ullman): Mike & Susan Samuel

IN HONOR OF:

Susan Hedrick (on her birthday): Nancy & Bobby Yates

Wanna McAnally (on her 101st birthday): Vivian Penry, Sarah Woollen

Ivey Orr: Maryellen & Tom Burke

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has made and delivered **over 1,200** 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

Sarah Elaine Horton Barringer DoriusNovember 29Gloria "Pat" Rutledge MichaelDecember 1Mary Clark Denny ColeDecember 21

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

The family of Sarah Elaine Horton Barringer Dorius in her death on November 29.

Jennifer Covington, Caroline Culler, Quinn, Gloria and Libby Culler and families in the death of their mother, grandmother and greatgrandmother; Gloria "Pat" Rutledge Michael on December 1.

Donna Smith and family in the death of her mother; Blanche Edwards Lumley on December 5.

Elizabeth Lyles, Mary Lyle, Skip Lyles, Edith Dozier and Edi Redmond and families in the death of their son, grandson, greatgrandson and nephew; Michael John Lyles on December 17.

Lois Auman and family in the death of her sister; Mildred Cogdon on December 21.

The family of Mary Clark Denny Cole in her death on December 21.

Betty Royal and family in the death of her father; Harvey Graves Hart on December 25.

Jeanette Langley and Ellen Whitlock and families in the death of their aunt; Elizabeth Crumpler Bell on December 27.

Stephen Ministry



This ministry was named for Stephen who was one of the first lay people commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry. (Acts 6)

If you are interested in Stephen Ministry training or to have a Stephen Minister assigned to you, contact Mike Flack at 812-3559.

All Contacts are Confidential!

Bible Study Lunch and Mid-Week Communion

On Wednesdays, Mid-Week Communion is held in the Chapel beginning at 11 am, led by Jared Stine. Bible Study Lunch is held in the Dining Hall

These weekly events help us to connect with one another and

at noon, led by Al Ward.

God as we seek to grow in our faith. What a great way to center yourself during a busy week. All are invited to one or both events.

Bible Study

The Church Offices will be closed Monday, January 20 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Wednesday Dinners ... Come experience the good food and fellowship!

Wednesday Dinners return on January 8 prepared by our fabulous Wesley 100 chefs. Seating begins at 5:30 pm in the Dining Hall. The price is only \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for youth 14-18 and free for those under 14.

The January menus are:

January 8 – Chicken & Dumplings, Green Beans, Apple Sauce, Bread, Dessert & Tea. Children's menu is same as adult menu.

January 15 – Meatloaf, Baked Potato Bar, Peas, Bread, Dessert & Tea. Children's menu is same as adult menu.

January 22 – Scalloped Potatoes & Ham, Broccoli/ Cauliflower Salad, Dessert & Tea. Children's menu is same as adult menu.

January 29 – Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Salad, Bread and Dessert. Children's menu is same as adult menu.

All are invited!

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