

News Of Wesley

New Member Orientation

The next New Member Orientation session will be held **Wed., Feb. 8, 6 p.m. in the lounge.** If you are interested in joining Wesley, you may contact Pastor Hoffman, Pastor Hempstead or the church office at 827-8046. This is a good way to meet others joining Wesley, lay members of the congregation, and church staff. New members will be received into membership on Sunday, February 19.

Valentines Dinner Dance

Bring your sweetheart and join us on Saturday, February 4th for the first Wesley Valentines Dinner Dance. Tickets are \$40 per couple and include, dinner for two, served at 6 p.m., a sweetheart photo and dancing from 7 to 9 p.m. Cathy Hempstead will be our DJ for the evening and will also be giving dancing tips. Join us for a wonderful, romantic, fun evening. Tickets will be available at the Welcome Center between services on Sunday, January 29, and in the church office during the week.

Adult Ski Trip

An adult only ski trip to Portage, Wisconsin will take place on February 12 and 13, 2012. We will leave WUMC on Feb. 12 at 1:00 P.M. and travel by church bus and van. We will ski at Devil's Head resort on Sunday night from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. Lodging will be at the Comfort Suites in Portage. Ten rooms have been reserved at the Comfort Suites at a rate of \$90 plus tax. Amenities include an indoor swimming pool and two hot tubs. Continental breakfast is included in the cost of lodging. We will ski on Feb. 13 at Cascade Mountain from 10:00 A.M. and depart Cascade at approximately 3:00 P.M.

Wild Country in Normal will rent ski equipment for \$50 for the entire trip. Equipment needs to be rented as far in advance as possible, as Wild Country expects that to be a busy ski rental weekend. Each person renting equipment will be responsible for renting and paying for their own equipment. Equipment can be rented at Devil's Head (\$22) and Cascade (\$34), but expect to lose 30 minutes or more at each place when renting equipment. At Wild Country all rental equipment can be picked up on Saturday, Feb. 11 and be returned all at once on Tuesday morning.

Ski lift tickets for both days will total \$66/person if we get at least 15 in the group. If we do not get 15, then the lift tickets will total \$79/person. A charge of \$20/person should cover the gas and mileage expenses for the church vehicles. Each person should plan on the cost of meals for Sunday night, Monday lunch and dinner.

If interested, contact Dave Koth at 663-6770 or davekoth@comcast.net. The deadline for signing up for this trip is February 5.

Wesley Exceeds Goal Raising \$12,523 for Local & National Ministries

Thanks Wesley for your wonderful support of the Missions Advent offering. With your help, we were able to provide:

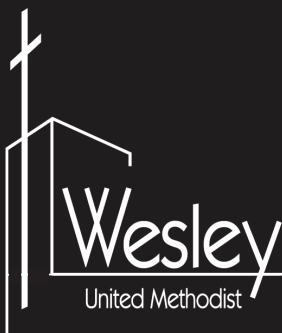
\$6810 for 9 local ministries, \$3160 for 10 Illinois Methodist Golden Cross Institutions, \$1459 for Henderson Settlement & Red Bird Mission in KY, \$1094 for six United Methodist Special Day offerings

Karen McConnell, Missions committee

February 2012

Sick and shut-in persons desiring communion at home are asked to notify Reverend Keith Ferguson at 846-2056 or the church office at 827-8046. We are happy to provide the sacrament for all who desire it.

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A Note From Vaughn

Not long ago I came across an interesting story out of the life of James Michener, the author. Michener, most of you will know, wrote more than 40 novels in his life, many of them glorious sweeping sagas depicting families and geographic locales as diverse as the South Pacific, Poland, Hawaii, and Texas. He won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1948 and died in 1998.

But you might be surprised to learn how Michener became a writer. The legend about Michener is that his day of decision emerged from a severe personal crisis; a near-death experience in fact. Michener had dreamed of becoming a novelist for years, but he was very reluctant and not fully confident of his potential. He also was kind of timid in his approach to life in general, and the thought of pursuing a career as a writer sounded reckless and risky to him.

But then a plane in which he was a passenger crashed, after making three attempts to land on the South Pacific Island of New Caledonia. Michener, a military correspondent with the Navy at the time, went immediately to his quarters, sat down and wrote, *"I'm going to live the rest of my life as if I were a great man. I'm going to concentrate my life on the biggest ideals and ideas I can handle."* And with that affirmation in mind, he began work the next day on *South Pacific*, which most literary critics say is among his best work.

"I'm going to live my life as if I were a great man." It kind of makes you wonder; what if we all decided to live as if we were great men, and great women? What if we decided each time we met here at Wesley, "We're going to approach this event, this worship service, this meeting as if we were a truly great church, doing great things for God"?

I heard someone say once that people tend to live up to or down to the expectations they have of themselves. And while expectations and what we visualize are not all there is to life, there is certainly a lot of truth to the fact that we tend to find what we expect to find as we go through life. If our hopes and dreams are small, we tend to be small in response. If our hopes and dreams and expectations are large, that tends to set the stage for the kind of actions and choices which make greatness possible. A new year is a good time to renew our decision to face every day with the assumption that our best years are ahead of us and not behind us. To do that is the essence of faith in a God who makes all things new, and in whose grasp all things are possible. Happy New Year.

Vaughn

Souper Bowl Sunday Collection

As many of you know, Feb. 5th is the Super Bowl. What you may not be aware of is it is also the **Souper Bowl of Caring** day across the country. So far more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through the Souper Bowl of Caring. The youth of Wesley will be collecting money that will go directly to support the important ministry of Safe Harbor. Students will be outside the sanctuary doors after both services on February 5th to collect loose change and monetary donations with the goal of raising over \$1000 for Safe Harbor. Thank you in advance for your support.

Spaghetti Supper

Saturday February 11, 2012, from 5 to 7 PM in Wesley Hall. Cost: adults - \$6; children 10 & under - \$4 or \$20 per family. Tickets will be available Sundays and Wednesdays beginning January 15th. Proceeds will help purchase a trailer for the Scout Troop 18.

With Sympathy to:

Fran Tatum & family on the Dec. 14th death of her step-father, Milton Bieser.

Larry (Sandy) Wills, on the Dec. 25th death of his father, Robert Miller.

the family of Eloise Rosensteel on her Dec. 26th death.

Lori (Vaughn) Hoffman & family on the Dec. 27th death of her grandmother, Eleanor Esenwein.

Loren Winkelmann & family on the Dec. 30th death of his wife, Patsy Winkelmann.

Barb Phend & family on the recent death of her mother-in-law, Evadeen Phend.

Church Quiz:

Have a look outside the church building. Do you have any idea how tall the stainless steel cross might be that is attached to the bell tower?

Youth Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser:

Come out of the cold and join us on Sunday January 29 for a delicious all-you-can-eat meal of hot pancakes and sausage. The youth of Wesley will be serving breakfast in Wesley Hall from 8-9am and 10-11am. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids (under 10), and \$20 for the whole family. The proceeds of this fundraiser will go directly to our Sr. High Mission trip to Ohio this summer.

Coming Soon! Tuesday Trivia Night!!

Get your team of 6 people together and join us for a night of fun Trivia to benefit Wesley Bright Beginnings. The competition will be held in Wesley Hall. Entry fee is \$10 per person and snacks will be provided for a donation. Watch future E-news and Newsletters for more information. Registration forms will be available at the Welcome Center.

Scout Sunday . . .

. . . is February 12th. All Scouts, Scout Leaders and 4-H Club members are asked to wear their uniforms that day so they can be recognized.

Thank You to:

our pastors, Stephen Ministers and the church family at Wesley for the prayers, visits, and cards. Also thank you to the Casserole Ministry for providing some meals and the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the lovely shawls. All are greatly appreciated by us.

Ray & Grace Hansen

Answer:
50 feet tall with 25 feet extending above the top of the bell tower.

Wesley Heritage

Heritage Sunday will be February 5, 2012. We will celebrate 60 years of serving God in our current building.

Did you know: Wesley Church was organized in 1943, the result of a merger of First Methodist Church and Grace Methodist Church. Ground was finally broken for the first portion of our current building on September 28, 1949. The cornerstone was laid June 4, 1950. The first Sunday services (morning, afternoon and evening) were held on February 3, 1952. In 1958, the Chapel and Education unit were added. Wesley Methodist became Wesley United Methodist in 1968 when the Methodist and Evangelical United Bretheran denominations merged.

The History Committee would like to collect and share information, stories, and pictures you might have. Please contact Ethelyn Yount, Gail Rixstine, Paula Witt or the church office.

Welcome Molly Brown as New Staff Member

Wesley UMC's Pastor Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce the hiring of Molly Brown as part-time support staff person for programming here at Wesley, effective January 3, 2012. Molly's scheduled hours will be 9:00 until 1:00 Monday through Friday, and she will provide clerical, new media, and communications support for Youth, Young Adult and Children's ministries. Molly is a recent graduate of Augustana College with a major in psychology and a minor in religion. She has been an active volunteer at Wesley in a variety of capacities, and we are delighted to welcome her to this new role as a member of the church staff. Welcome Molly!

Cafe Camilla Lenten Study

Will begin the week of Feb 27. We will be reading James Moore's **"6 Amazing Bible Stories to Strangely Warm Our Hearts"**. We will explore the topics of love, grace, birth, compassion, conversion, and resurrection using New Testament stories and seeing how these stories have uniquely shaped our United Methodist heritage. Classes will meet on Mondays at 6 p.m. at Wesley and on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. at Park. (If you need a ride, please call the church office)

Women's Retreat

We will once again go to Chiara Center in Springfield from Friday night, March 16, through Sunday afternoon, March 18. Registration is strictly limited to 12 women. Cost is \$180 for the weekend, all inclusive. A deposit of \$75 by March 1 is required to hold your spot, and full payment is due by March 8. Contact Pastor Camilla if you have questions!

Financial Update

General fund receipts as of 12/31/11	\$ 1,400,580
General fund expenses as of 12/31/11	<u>1,254,170</u>
Surplus	\$ 146,410
Trustees Loan balance	\$ 837,360
Imagine No Malaria (INM) Goal:	\$20,000
INM donations received to date:	11,614

We are truly a community of generosity! The gifts Wesley UMC received in 2011 are a blessing in so many ways—just look at how lives were affected:

\$12,523 has been received for this year's Advent offering to support the work of many organizations, both locally and globally.

About \$11,000 was raised in December through the Alternative Christmas Market, again benefitting many charitable organizations.

You donated 110 coats to warm the children of Heartland Headstart, Bloomington Day Care, YWCA, and the Salvation Army.

The above items only represent some of December's generosity! In 2011, you also prayerfully supported mission work trips to such places as Nicaragua, Hawaii, Jamaica, Heifer Ranch and Memphis. You also made it possible to reduce our loan balance by nearly \$190,000 resulting in significant future interest savings. The list goes on and on. There is not enough space in this newsletter to adequately describe the generosity and compassion of Wesley United Methodist Church!

You have committed over \$1,068,000 towards the 2012 general fund budget to insure continued ministry at Wesley Church. Thank you for past and future support.

8th Grade Service Project

As our January/February service effort, the 8th graders have the joy of collecting and packaging hygiene items to be given to Irving School 5th graders in their hygiene class. Irving is a high-poverty yet high-performing elementary school in Bloomington.

What we need: (all must be full sized items)

toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, and soap

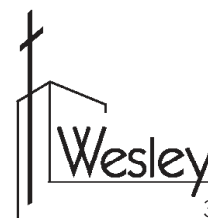
Bring them to the **"Fill the Sills"** Collection Tub in the hallway outside the sanctuary by Feb. 15th. Thank you for your help!

Camp M 2012!

Planning has begun for another mission trip to Camp Mekokiko, where we will continue to work on the building of a much-needed church camp/retreat center. Dates are June 18 through 27. Please contact Judy Ronan Woodburn @ 454-7403 if you are interested and/or want more information.

Congratulations to:

Bob & Lavon Milligan, who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on December 19th.



Praying for Wesley

When we took our membership vows as we joined the church and when we renew our commitment each year, we pledge to support the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service. Please consider including these people and ministries in your prayers for the next weeks:

- the Youth of Wesley for spiritual guidance and strengthening
- the church staff
- Adult Youth Leaders
- Sunday School Teachers
- Children's Ministry Team
- Music Ministries
- Faith in Action
- Youth Cabinet
- Baby Fold
- Wesley & Park UMC Partnership
- Ad Council
- the Men's Group
- Confirmation Class
- Wesley's Bright Beginnings
- Adult Bible Study classes
- United Methodist Women
- Stephen Ministry
- Young Adult Ministries
- PAWS (Pets Are Working Saints)
- Boy Scout Troop 18
- Pastor Parish Relations Committee
- Activities for Lent
- Rummage Sale
- for continued growth of prayer and spiritual understanding in our church

Prayer is the most powerful tool we have for discerning and carrying out God's will for Wesley.



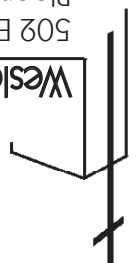
Vaughn Hoffman, Senior Pastor
Camilla Hempstead, Associate Pastor
Keith Ferguson, Pastor of Visitation
Adria Schumann, Director of Music Ministries
Kathi Pritts, Director of Christian Education
Stacy Ash, Assistant Director of Youth Ministries
Frank Newburn, Director of Youth Ministries
Myrna Simpson, Business Manager
Marcia Hishman, Organist
Jody Robbins, Administrative Assistant
Colleen Hensley, Receptionist/Publications
Jim Robinson & James Gray, Custodians
Kathy Robinson, Food Service
Dave Perry, Facilities Manager

It is the mission of Wesley United Methodist to make and nurture disciples for Jesus Christ.

Return Service Requested

309-827-8046
Bloomington, Illinois 61701
502 East Front Street

Wesley United Methodist Church



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