

The HeartBeat

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church
High Point, North Carolina

Volume 20 No. 4

April 2012

Holy Week at Wesley Memorial

Palm Sunday, April 1 – We commemorate Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

8:30 Chapel

8:45 Contemporary

9:45 Contemporary

11:00 Sanctuary – Led by Children's Choirs and Chancel Choir

"Younger Kids Easter Egg Hunt" ~ 4 pm

Toddlers through 2nd Graders. We will begin in the Dining Hall with activities before going out to hunt for eggs in different age level areas.

Each child needs to bring 12 plastic eggs containing individually wrapped candies, stickers or other "prizes". *Remember your Easter basket!

Maundy Thursday, April 5 – We remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples.

7:30 Communion in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 6 – We remember Jesus' Crucifixion
7:30 in the Sanctuary, the Chancel Choir soloists and timpani will present Theodore Dubois' "Seven Last Words of Christ," a dramatic retelling of the last hours of Jesus' life.

Easter Sunday, April 8 – Bring a flower for the Flower Cross as we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection

8:30 Chapel

8:45 Contemporary

9:45 Contemporary

11:00 Sanctuary – Led by the Chancel Choir and Stratford Brass

Easter Offering

Please remember to support this year's **2012 Easter Offering** for the Fairview Partnership and Henderson Settlement's new afterschool program. Donations can be made online or marked "Easter Offering."

Lenten Book Drive for Fairview Elementary

Thank you to everyone who has already participated in the Lenten Book Drive for Fairview Elementary. We already have collected 570 books and \$173 in financial donations. Please help us meet our goal of collecting 1500 books by April 8 (Easter Sunday). Collection sites are in each worship space and in the Front Entrance to the Administrative Building. Contact: Meredith Martin (mmartin@wesley memorial.org or 884-2204, ext. 239).

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Spiritual Practices

Diana Butler-Bass says, "Spiritual practices are the connective tissue between what is, what can be, and what will be." In other words, the spiritual practices that we do help us to bridge between what the world is and what the world can be or even experiencing Christ's kingdom on earth. The spiritual practices of prayer, scripture study, hospitality, worship, etc. all help us to get a glimpse of the Kingdom that is ours in Christ Jesus, even if we don't feel like that Kingdom is here at all.

And not only do spiritual practices help us glimpse into what can be while still living in what is, spiritual practices also function as an anchor for us in our spiritual journey. Living in this life is not always easy and keeping ourselves open to the voice or call of God is not easy. But when we practice the spiritual practices of prayer, worship, scripture study, hospitality, etc. we acknowledge those areas and spaces where God is consistently available and speaking. And once we have immersed ourselves in those practices, we will be more open to those other areas in our lives where God can speak to us and call our name.

I pray that you will find a spiritual practice that helps ground you and also keep you focused on the Kingdom that is to come. I pray that you will find a spiritual practice or two or three that guide your life and help you become more receptive to God and God's call in all the areas of your life. The classes, unity groups, service projects, and worship services offered at Wesley Memorial are all places where you can do just that. If you wish to explore this even more, come and let's talk or join a class or unity group or hands-on service project and grow deeper in your walk with Christ Jesus!

Rev. Kathy Barba Pierce



Contact: **Rev. Kathy Barba Pierce**
Associate Pastor for Adult Education and
Spiritual Formation
884-2204, ext. 238
kathybp@wesleymemorial.org

Wednesday Night Classes Beginning April 18 at 6:30pm

Did you know it takes us seven weeks to celebrate Easter? What better time to grow deeper in our faith by participating in faith formation groups.

The classes available this term are:

- **Christianity and World Religions**, written by Adam Hamilton

This video-based study by Adam Hamilton explores four major world religions - Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism - and compares the beliefs of each with those of Christianity.

Teacher: Meredith Martin, Associate Pastor of Missions, Evangelism, and Involvement
(Cost is \$10 for a book.)

- **Stress and Solutions in the Christian Life**
In this study, we will consider how God's Word speaks to us as Christians about the root causes and consequences of stress. We will look closely at scripture better to understand the spiritual assets that we have been given to manage adversity and challenge in our lives.

Teacher: Cobb Atkinson, Head of Westchester Country Day School
(Note: Begins on May 2 - 4 week class)

- **Stations of the Resurrection**
(One time event available for two weeks)
This will be a time for you to reflect on the resurrection passages found in the gospel stories. We will be exploring these stories as we move through a path from one station to the next in the sanctuary. At each station, we will hear the scripture story, pray, and reflect.

Leader: Kathy Barba Pierce, Associate Pastor of Adult Education and Spiritual Formation
(Available for 2 weeks - April 18 & 25)

Please register for these classes by April 14 with Melissa Coley at ext. 229 or mcoley@wesleymemorial.org.

5th Sunday Seminar April 29th

Dr. Vance Davis (retired religion professor from High Point University) will be teaching on the role of our faith in today's culture. How are we to live with one another in such a diverse and growing culture? Let's explore what that would look like during our 5th Sunday Seminar. This event will be held in the Chapel at 9:45 am. Let us grow in our faith together! See you there!



Henderson Settlement Mission Trip filling up fast!

If you would like to participate in the 2012 Henderson Settlement Team please send a \$100 non-refundable deposit to hold your spot on the trip to Deanie Simmons at the Church Office by April 16. The trip will be July 8-14. For more information about the trip please contact Meredith Martin (mmartin@wesleymemorial.org or 884-2204, ext. 239).

Missions...

2012 Global Missions Grants Awarded

On March 6 members of the Global Missions Team met to consider grant requests from global ministry projects and agencies. This year the team awarded \$28,125 in grants from the church's budget. The committee unanimously approved this budget, which was approved by Church Council on March 20.

Recipients are:

- The Wesley Memorial Primary School in Kangwane, South Africa: \$4000
- United Methodist Mission School Pre-School Addition/Upfitting in Nakuru, Kenya: \$5000
- Athiru Gaiti Early Childhood Development School near Maua, Kenya: \$7500
- The Puerto Rico Mission Team: \$2500
- The Henderson Settlement Mission Team: \$3500
- Henderson Settlement Angel Tree: \$400
- CROP Walk: \$500

The team also allocated \$4000 to be used for mission trip scholarships and \$750 for emerging initiatives that arise during the year. To get involved in Global Missions at Wesley Memorial contact Meredith Martin (mmartin@wesleymemorial.org or 884-2204, ext. 239).

Joining Sunday April 8

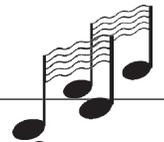
On Easter Sunday, we will be welcoming new members into our congregation. Come celebrate the resurrection with us as we welcome these new persons into our faith community.

Sunday, April 29, 9 am - 1:30 pm in Dining Hall

Come give blood before or after worship and Sunday School. Free breakfast will be provided for all donors courtesy of the YUMS circle! Contact Beth Holbrook (bc_holbrook@yahoo.com) to make an appointment.



Contact: **Rev. Meredith Martin**
Associate Pastor for Missions,
Evangelism and Involvement
884-2204, ext. 239
mmartin@wesleymemorial.org



Dive in and discover God's underwater universe!



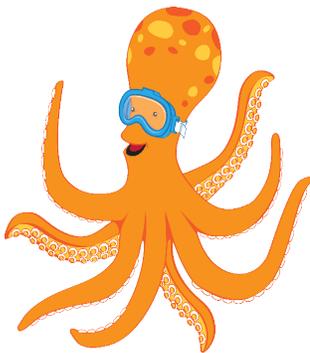
Vacation Bible School
Monday, July 16 – Friday, July 20
9:00 am -12:15 pm
Ages 2 years – Fifth Grade

Swim with humpback whales and seahorses, scuba through a vibrant coral reef, and take a personal submarine to the ocean floor, where eels and octopi play.

As they journey miles below the water's surface, kids plunge into Bible stories of people with deep faith and learn to trust a God whose love is bigger than the sea.

Participants will learn to "go deep" into God's Word for their lives, exploring the meaning and application of Bible stories about people who exhibited deep faith.

Mark your calendars and make plans to come and bring your friends.



**Watch for
Ocho the octopus
with registration
details.**



April 22 the children 4 years old through 5th grade will come together during Sunday school to experience the next Godly Play lesson. The April lesson will focus on Baptism.



Contact: **Debbie Foust**
Director of Children & Family Ministry
884-2204, ext. 225
dfoust@wesleymemorial.org

Join us on Friday, April 6 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary as the Chancel Choir, soloists and timpani will present Theodore Dubois' "Seven Last Words of Christ," a dramatic retelling of the last hours of Jesus' life.

TINTINNABULATION – the act of ringing bells. Sunday, April 15, 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary come hear the Wesley Ringers, Handbell Quartet, and Chancel Bells ring in a concert of favorite pieces!



Contact: **Dr. Michael Dougherty**
Director of Music and the Arts
884-2204, ext. 236
mdougherty@wesleymemorial.org

News from...



...The Way Station After School Program

The Way Station is the Christian "home away from home" to meet your child's needs! This vital ministry has been in operation since 1996, serving children with afterschool care needs during their school year (1:30-6 pm), and with full day care in summer (7:30 am-6 pm). The Way Station serves 35-40 children of ages Kgt through 5th grade.

The Way Station facility is located downstairs at Wesley Memorial, adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. Outstanding staff team includes: Michele Kinley, Assistant Director, Merri Mabe & Wendy Steiss. Jana Brotherton, Christopher Hill and Sarah Woolen are additional support staff on days needed.

Information packets describe fees, daily schedule, activity times such as crafts, homework help, recreation and fieldtrips. Contact Susan Sumpter or Susan Kelley to schedule a tour appt: 884-4232.

Registration for summer and fall is now open for The Way Station. Parents may enroll their child for 3 days or 5 days/week; enroll for entire summer or only on select weeks. We'll have a BLAST together!

Wesley Memorial School...

wesley memorial school

NURSERY • PRESCHOOL • KINDERGARTEN • AFTERSCHOOL

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM!

It's going to be 5 great weeks!

Days are Mon, Tues, Weds, 9 am-12 noon, for all ages
Infants thru Fives

\$50/week per child – parents may select just one
week, or register for all!

Week 1: June 11, 12, 13

"Swimming Sea Creatures" (Thank you, God, for
the ocean blue --octopus, whales & dolphins, too!)

Week 2: June 18, 19, 20

"The Royal Castle" (Everyone's royalty...kings &
queens, princes & princesses, knights & dragons!)

Week 3: June 25, 26, 27

"What's Cooking?" (Come be a chef & prepare spe-
cial recipes. Make aprons, chef hats & cookbooks,
too!)

Week 4: July 23, 24, 25

"When I Grow Up" (veterinarian, pilot, engineer
– explore interesting occupations & meet special
guests!)

Week 5: July 30, 31, Aug 1

"Let's Go to the Fair" (petting zoo of live farm
animals, planting seeds, making butter & jam, hay-
rides!)

Fall Registration for Wesley Memorial School, 2012-13

We have completed priority weeks for our
church member families & for non-members
already in the program. If you missed coming in
– hurry, hurry! The Susans are scheduling daily
tours with prospective new families for remain-
ing spaces. We are filling up FAST! It's always
exciting to share our early childhood program &
Christian emphasis with new friends. TELL YOUR
NEIGHBORS that our WM School is enrolling!

To learn more about our Nursery, Preschool
and Kindergarten schedules, visit our
church website:

www.wesley Memorial.org
and look for the Wesley Memorial School tab.

Springfest is coming! Sunday, May 6; 4-7 pm

This is a Grand Carnival celebration for children of all
ages & their families! Games galore outdoors on our
grounds (indoors if raining.) Pony rides, Star Walk,
Climbing Wall w/ Giant Slide and more favorites.
Indoor fun includes hot dog supper + "fun food",
concessions of cotton candy, sno-cones & popcorn;
Big Bake Sale in the foyer! Scholastic Book Fair in
the Dining Hall is buy-one-get-one. Silent Auction
in the Fellowship Hall of crafts made by the children,
theme baskets, and new items donated by local
businesses. Come be the highest bidder & go home
with a treasure piece!

How can church members help with Springfest?

(1) **Donating Products:** We are seeking donations of
NEW furniture, household goods, or services (such
as a free car wash) that can be used for our Silent
Auction. If you have a new item to donate, please
call the Susans at 884-4232. We can arrange for
pickup.

(2) **Donating for the Bake Sale:** We would love to have
your cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, treats!

(3) **Working a Game Shift!** Unity groups, Adult Sunday
School classes, Youth – please consider volunteer-
ing for a game station, at the food court, Scholastic
Book Fair, or carnival attraction – YES, we could sure
use you! Shifts are: 3:45-5 pm, 5-6 pm, or 6-7 pm.

Many church volunteers are needed to supplement
our school's family/teacher involvement for an event
this big. The smiles & laughter of the children await
you! Thank you, thank you in advance!

Springfest proceeds make possible new learning
tools for children's classrooms (used by both Sunday
School & Weekday) and scholarships.

Contact Susan Sumpter or Susan Kelley, 884-4232



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



Above, Youth Praise Team: Aislinn Antrim, Annelise Cheramie, Emily Robbian, Peter Weir and Erin Yates with Brad McKay on March 25 during Youth Worship. Right, Youth Worship during Middle High Church Camp 2011.

We believe a balanced, effective and active church youth ministry can change the life of a young person. This happens when our adult leaders take part in ministry with youth and youth are given opportunities to lead. Most importantly, we share in Christ's ministry with youth, and no individual is left alone, overburdened and overwhelmed.

This team approach puts into action the church's belief in the importance of youth ministry by involving both adults and youth in the life of the congregation. Being involved with youth says more to them than any spoken word: God and the church (via a real person) cares about them. Youth will benefit from relating and serving with a variety of adults with diverse gifts and personalities. And the participation of these adults in youth ministry helps youth feel more a part of the whole church—the family of faith.

Some adults who are invited to be involved in youth ministry are concerned that they don't fit a certain "youth worker" stereotype. Effective youth workers simply don't fit the standard stereotypes. Rather, in this approach it is important to have a diversity and variety of personalities on the ministry teams to reach all youth. You don't have to be in your twenties or thirties. People of all ages have gifts of time and talent to share with youth. Youth ministry is an intergenerational ministry that is the responsibility of the entire congregation.

What's ahead in Student Ministries...

Holy Week-No MYF April 1 & 8, No Bible Study April 4
Kaleidoscope Middle School Retreat-April 13-15
Last MYF-May 13
Last Bible Study-May 16
Alpha & Omega Sunday; Year End Banquet-May 20
Middle School Church Camp-June 10-16

Registrations for all events are available online by following the Event Registrations links from the youth website:

www.wmyouth.org



Contact: **Rev. Adam Vernon**
 Associate Pastor for Student Ministries
 884-2204, ext. 255
avernon@wesleymemorial.org
www.wmyouth.org

What youth actually need are people:

- who are living out their faith;
- who care about youth and like them;
- who are willing to become involved in the lives of youth;
- who are sincere and genuine.

Can you serve? Contact Adam.avernon@wesleymemorial.org

Current and upcoming needs:

- Sunday School Teachers
- Small Group Leaders
- Youth Group Leaders

Student Ministries Worship

Sunday @ 5:30 pm students get together for our large-group, high-energy student youth worship service and activities. Sunday evening is a lot of fun including the youth band and a lot more. The Wesley Memorial Student Praise Band is made up of student musicians who lead worship. Each member of this band has shown an attitude of worship, musical talent, dedication, teamwork and leadership by example.

This is a great time for students to come together, express themselves to God and connect with other students. This new worship service has been attracting upward of 50 students each week. I hope you will offer your support to new exciting ways in which our church serves the students of High Point.

Committee members...

Other Committees and Board
(continued from the March HeartBeat)

Victoria Qubein Fund Committee

Chair: Chris Dudley
Staff Liaison: Al Ward
Meets: On Call

2012	2013	2014
Barry Kitley	Chris Dudley	Grace Henley
Deena Samuel	Dusty Maynard	Bill McGuinn
Laura Gibson	Libby Cheek	Jeanette Langley
Ex Officio: Mariana Qubein and Al Ward		

Parsonage Committee

Chair: Katherine Covington
Meets: On Call
Katherine Covington
Jobie Redmond
Nancy McKenzie
Nan Yates
Other: Miriam and Al Ward, SPRC Rep

Wednesday Nights...

Great Wednesday Dinners Continue...
Wesley 100 (Men's Group) continue to cook wonderful meals on Wednesday evenings! Dinner begins at 5:30 pm and all are welcome. Join us...purchase a ticket at the front desk or make a reservation by calling the church office.

The menus for April are:

- April 4** – No Dinner due to Holy Week
- April 11**-Shrimp & Grits w/Baby Spinach, Salad, Bread and Dessert. Children's menu is pizza, salad and dessert.
- April 18**-Chicken Marsala, Pasta, Salad, Bread and Dessert. Children's menu is chicken leg, pasta, salad, bread and dessert.
- April 25**-Pork Tenderloin Cutlets, Corn Bread Stuffing, Macaroni & Cheese, Applesauce, Peas, Bread and Dessert. Children's menu is hot dog with ketchup and mustard, macaroni & cheese, applesauce, and dessert.

for our Older Adults...

Live Alive
Tuesday, April 17



Presentation: Aaron Martin, Professor of Astronomy from GTCC

Menu for April 17: Baked Ham, Macaroni & Cheese, Carrots, Beets, Bread and Dessert

Next months program:
May 15-Rob Jacobs, beekeeper

We ask that reservations be made by 10 am on April 13.

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.

Best Time Trips:
Make plans to join us!



May 5 - Wytheville, VA
Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre. Cost is \$66;
Depart: 9 am and Return: 6:30 pm
Cost includes transportation, lunch and program

United Methodist Men

The Wesley 100
is serving breakfast ~
Saturday, April 21, 8 am in the Dining Hall...



All men are welcome to join us!

We Remember and Honor Our Loved Ones

Memorials given through February 2012

IN MEMORY OF:

Patricia Stansbury Anderson: Bill Anderson
Bernice Breedlove (Sister of Joe Gamble): Lillian Kimrey, Nancy & Max Meeks, Louise Zimmerman
Elizabeth Highsmith Dunbar: Bill & Shirley Duncan
William Gaston Ervin, Sr.: Louella & Jerry Stinson
Ann Farrington (Daughter-in-law of Betty Jo Farrington): Louise Zimmerman
Hilda Burton Fountain: Youthalene, Miriam & Mark Aderholdt & Ruby Nifong, Adult Fellowship Class, Bonnie Cashion, Mrs. Thayer Coggin, David Burton Fountain, John Fountain, Joe Gamble, Lillian Kimrey, Dr. John Olmsted, Liz & Raymond Rogers, Patsy & Charlie Surles, Circle #9
Virginia Hendrick: Anne Davis, Ken Geddie, Mr. & Mrs. Nat Harrison, Patsy & Charlie Surles
Maria Link Hodges: Bill & Brenda Bradner
Thomas Sutton Kester (Brother of Bill, Gene & Buck Kester): Louella & Jerry Stinson
Susan Mackenzie (Sister of Nancy Perryman): Louella & Jerry Stinson
Louise Melson (Sister of Olive Frye): Lillian Kimrey
Ann S. Powers (Sister of Jim Stephens): Louella & Jerry Stinson
Dot Slate: Bonnie Cashion
Jim Sloop: Bonnie Cashion
Stuart & Emma Thomas: Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Rogers
John Wall: Jeanette & Tommy Langley
James Millikan (Kan) Woollen, Jr. (Son of Sarah Woollen): Vivian Penry, Louella & Jerry Stinson

IN HONOR OF:

Nathan Cheek: James & Peggy Brothers, Kara Brothers
Barbara Coughlin: Mr. & Mrs. Nat Harrison, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Johnson, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Rogers
Dr. Michael Dougherty: Family of Elizabeth Dunbar
Rev. Richard Howle: Family of Elizabeth Dunbar, John & Jackie Gillespie
Bishop Thomas Stockton: Dr. Stuart Fountain
Dr. Al Ward: Family of Elizabeth Dunbar
Marcia Williams: Wesley Memorial Chancel Choir

In Memoriam

GINA MARIE JACOBS

February 28, 2012

NORMA BELL MOORE

March 18, 2012

Our Sympathy to:

Curt, Sarah & Drew Jacobs and **Jessica Marquardt** in the death of his wife and their mother, Gina Jacobs on February 28.

Nancy Shaw in the death of her brother, Richard "Dick" Barker on February 29.

Margaret Cain, Linda Robbian in the death of her sister-in-law, aunt, Ruby Jones on March 2.

Jane Dunbar in the death of her father, Percy Franklin Klein, Jr. on March 12.

Dudley Moore and **Carolyn Shaw** in the death of his wife and her mother, Norma Moore on March 18.

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, contact Laura McFalls, 882-1054.

If you wish to have a Stephen Minister assigned to you, contact Lou Dean Howard, 885-5789.

All Contacts are Confidential!

United Methodist Women

THE UMW BOARD WILL NOT MEET IN APRIL

YUMS - Wednesday, April 4, 6 pm

The Angel Tree Circle - not meeting in April

The Friendship Circle - not meeting in April

Circle #6 - Wednesday, April 18, 7 pm at the home of Jane McInnis, 2251 Renaissance Lane

Circle #8 - not meeting in April

Circle #9 - Tuesday, April 17, 10:30 am in the Dining Hall

Circle #11 - Monday, April 16, 11:30 am in the Small Dining Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

UMW General Membership Meeting and Dinner - Monday, May 7, 6 pm in the Dining Hall. The Wesley 100 will be preparing the meal. Our speakers will be Detective Jerry Thompson of the Offender Focus Domestic Violence Initiative and Niki Heylinger from Family Services. Make reservations before May 1 by sending a check payable to Wesley Memorial UMW for \$9 to Joyce Stephens, 1113 Gatehouse Road, HP 27262.

The UMW is focusing on Domestic Violence at the May Dinner meeting. One in four women has experienced domestic violence in her lifetime says the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Every 9 seconds in the USA, a woman is assaulted or beaten. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women- more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined. Women account for 85 % of victims of intimate partner violence. On average, 3 women and 1 man are murdered by intimate partners in this country everyday.

Spiritual Growth Retreat, June 15-16, 2012 at Lake Junaluska. Register with Joyce Stephens by May 15th to take advantage of the reduced registration rate of \$11. Website : wnccumw.org or call 1-800-222-4930 for more information.

Church Council Approves Strategic Plan

On Tuesday, March 20, our Church Council approved Wesley Memorial's Strategic Plan. This is an exciting step for our congregation as it moves into the future.

The Visioning and Discernment Process began in early 2011 when Janice Virtue, Executive Director for Leadership Development at the Western North Carolina Conference Foundation led a two day retreat with both teams, the Church Council and other leaders. Two primary questions shaped our conversations at the retreat and throughout the process: "What are we doing when we are at our best?" and "What dreams do we have for Wesley Memorial's future?" have served as guiding questions throughout the process.

In August and September 2011 over 300 members of Wesley Memorial gathered to share their response to these two questions. These important conversations generated over 1500 pieces of data! This data was used to refine and simplify the original six strategic pathways to the three focused Strategic Pathways shared in the December Heart-Beat. These Strategic Pathways will enable us to live our purpose: to make and sustain spiritually healthy followers who live in ways that transform the world.

In order to put some 'flesh on the bones' of the Strategic Pathways, key goals were developed for each Strategic Pathway. These goals were grounded in what we learned from the Neighborhood Groups. These goals were then put before the Strategic Leadership Team in January so that they could generate ideas for specific tactics (action steps) that would move each goal forward.

The plan on the following pages is the culmination of many hours of work and the input of over 400 of Wesley Memorial's members and friends. It will guide the work of our Church Council, Administrative Teams, and Ministry Teams. As you will see, each tactic has been assigned a group or groups who are responsible.

Please continue to pray for the leadership of Wesley Memorial as we begin the important work of making this plan a reality. Please pray for our congregation as we begin to CONNECT, GROW, and SERVE. Our best days are yet ahead.

A STRATEGIC PLAN for WESLEY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Approved by Church Council on March 20, 2012

High Point, North Carolina

The purpose of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church is to make and sustain spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ who live in ways that transform the world.

Strategic Pathway 1 – CONNECT all persons to Jesus Christ and to the community of believers at Wesley Memorial.

Goal 1 – Intentionally build relationships with underrepresented demographic groups so the community of believers at Wesley Memorial becomes more reflective of the High Point Community.

Tactic

1. Use congregational and community demographic data to determine identity of underrepresented groups at Wesley Memorial and where they are located.
2. Hold at least 2 “open door” events in 2012 to draw these groups to Wesley Memorial.
3. Offer several “off campus” events in locations that will appeal to identified underrepresented group(s).
4. Create facilities usage plan that gives priority to outside organizations that will bring to our campus priority demographic groups.
5. Explore opportunities for offering “Upward-type” (Christ-focused) sports programming at Wesley Memorial, determine start-up costs (including facilities upgrades/alterations), ongoing expenses, and schedule for potential implementation.

Responsibility

Task Force including representation from the following areas: Faith Sharers (Evangelism), Church Council, Finance, as well as someone under age forty.

Collaboration between Children & Family Ministry Team, Student Ministries, Adult Ed & Spiritual Formation and Evangelism (Faith Sharers)

Both the Adult Education & Spiritual Formation Team and Student Ministries.

Facilities Team and Board of Trustees

Facilities Team, Student Ministries, and Children & Family Ministry Team working in concert.

Goal 2 – Ensure our campus, ministries, worship, and members are embracing and intentionally welcoming of all people.

Tactic

1. Develop a “hospitality process” with clear steps to enable us to more effectively “make strangers friends.”
2. Ask persons outside of WM to evaluate the hospitality of our space and our people.
3. Use Catch: Attracting and Connecting Visitors as a resource with the Faith Sharers Team and others.

Responsibility

Evangelism (Faith Sharers)

Church Council and Senior Pastor

Evangelism (Faith Sharers) and Adult Education & Spiritual Formation Team

Goal 3 – Increase the confidence and faith-sharing skills of our members so they will intentionally share their faith with friends, families, and neighbors.

Tactic

1. Offer course(s) on how to identify and share our faith story with family and friends.
2. Provide opportunities in worship, Sunday School, Unity Groups, UMYF, etc. for people to share their faith story.

Responsibility

Adult Education & Spiritual Formation Team

Ministry Area Directors (MAD) Team and Stewardship Team

Goal 4 – The professing membership will show a net gain, including 10 new professions of faith each year beginning in 2012.

Tactic

1. Review rolls to establish baseline of active members.
2. Improve utilization of membership data base in tracking visitors, constituents, members.

Responsibility

Task Force

IT Advisory Team and Support Staff

Goal 5 – Increase average Sunday morning worship attendance to 620.

Tactic

1. Use a consultant to evaluate our worship services for excellence and relevance.
2. Perfect system for gathering and recording worship attendance.
3. Develop and implement a plan to intentionally follow-up with absentees.

Responsibility

Worship Team

Task Force to include Ushers

Task Force

Goal 6 – Create a comprehensive plan for communications.

Tactic

1. Evaluate current e-news (Wesley Weekly) and explore need for additional area-focused e-newsletters.
2. Re-design Newsletter (Heartbeat) as primary vehicle for telling our story and celebrating our successes.
3. Re-develop website to serve primarily as our “Front Door” to the community.

Responsibility

Communications Team

Communications Team

Communications Team

Strategic Pathway 2 – GROW spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ.

Goal 1 – Develop a compelling description of “spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ” that is understandable, measurable, and visible.

Tactic

1. Hold several discussion groups to determine how people would describe a “spiritually healthy follower of Jesus Christ.”
2. Sermon and lessons that focus on the qualities of a spiritually healthy discipleship.

Responsibility

Adult Ed & Spiritual Formation Team, Student Ministries, and Children & Family Ministry Team
Ministry Area Directors (MAD) Team

Goal 2 – Offer a variety of study and experiential learning opportunities that will enable people to grow into spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ which are appropriate for people of all ages, stages of life and spiritual maturity.

Tactic

1. Evaluate all our learning opportunities in light of the “description.”
2. Provide 50 faith formation groups.
3. Evaluate effectiveness of “Wednesday Nights” as a vehicle for providing spiritual growth opportunities.

Responsibility

Adult Ed & Spiritual Formation Team, Student Ministries, and Children & Family Ministry Team
Adult Ed & Spiritual Formation Team, Student Ministries, and Children & Family Ministry Team
Task Force appointed by Church Council

Goal 3 – Develop a leadership structure in which leaders, both laity and clergy, are given a clear set of expectations, provided with tools and leadership development opportunities, and held accountable for results.

Tactic

1. Develop descriptions of all the administrative and ministry teams.
2. Develop clarity about the expectations of leaders and teams, which may include “dash boards” to indicate our progress.
3. Develop and use a tool that will enable people to determine their spiritual gifts, passions, and abilities, and link these to WM leadership opportunities.
4. Encourage leaders to take advantage of internal and external training resources.

Responsibility

Nominations & Leadership Development
Church Council

Nominations & Leadership Development

MAD Team and Nominations & Leadership Development

Strategic Pathway 3 – SERVE as the hands and voice of Jesus Christ at Wesley Memorial, in High Point, and beyond.

Goal 1 – Identify ever changing issues, trends, and gaps in service that may provide opportunities for hands-on service.

Tactic

1. Ask community organizations (DSS, United Way, Community Resource Network, City of High Point, etc.) and church members to identify local needs.
2. Identify a need or two on which Wesley Memorial can focus our energy and resources for a given period of time.
3. Identify strategies for ensuring that Wesley Memorial regularly assesses community needs and discerns ways to respond.

Responsibility

Local Missions Team and Global Missions Team
Local Missions Team and Global Missions Team
Local Missions Team and Global Missions Team

Goal 2 – Develop and implement focused ministries (internal) and partnerships (external) that utilize our many resources (people, facilities, finances) to meet identified needs through hands-on service.

Tactic

1. Define the types of relationships (partners, affiliates, etc.) that Wesley Memorial has with outside organizations.
2. Develop a process for becoming a Wesley Memorial ministry or partner agency.
3. Send out 140 mission teams (1000 people) from Wesley Memorial to serve in the High Point community and beyond.

Responsibility

MAD Team with Church Council

MAD Team with Church Council
Local Missions Team and Global Missions Team

Goal 3 – Strengthen active involvement of the congregation in serving opportunities through identification and utilization of our skills, experience, talents and passions.

Tactic

1. Identify and maintain list of current serving opportunities at Wesley Memorial, in High Point, and beyond.
2. Develop and use a tool to enable people to determine their spiritual gifts, passions, and abilities, and link these to specific serving opportunities.

Responsibility

Ministry Area Liaisons

Nominations & Leadership Development

Note: The Ministry Area Directors (MAD) Team includes the Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor, Associate Pastors, Director of Children & Family Ministry, and the Director of Traditional Music and the Arts.



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**HEARTBEAT
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**Church Offices will be closed
Friday, April 6
for Good Friday**

Staffing Update:

The recent retirement of Jan Jessup and reduction in size of the Facilities Staff in January pushed us to consider creative ways to meet our present and future needs. We have decided to create a position focused on the afternoon and evening time periods, thus allowing us to combine much of our night security needs with our ongoing Facilities needs, particularly related to the School's classrooms.

We are delighted to announce that Phil Dixon,



who currently serves as our part-time Night and Week end Security Staff, will be joining our Facilities Staff full-time beginning April 1.

Phil brings not only bring-substantial knowledge of WM and our operations, but a warm and willing spirit to all that he does. I know that you will join me in welcoming him to this new role.

We hope that you will congratulate Phil on his expanded role at Wesley Memorial.

WESLEY MEMORIAL

A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION

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