



Wesley United Methodist Church

The Wesley Circuit

February, 2012



Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors



SUPER SOUPER BOWL!

Wesley's youth will be collecting donations of soup and money for the next two Sundays (January 29 and February 5). All cans and donations will go towards feeding the hungry right here in Coles County. Watch for the donation soup pots in the sanctuary entryway, and please donate generously. With cold weather here, we want to help feed as many hungry folks as possible. THANKS!

SEASON OF LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 22

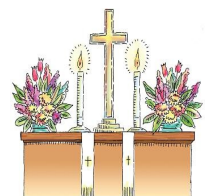
Lent begins with the observance of Ash Wednesday which this year falls on Wednesday, February 22. A *Time of Ashes* will take place in the Chapel from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, and again that evening from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. We will once again offer Lenten Soup and Bread Meals at 5:15 PM in the Parlor on Wednesdays February 29, and March 7, 14, 21 and 28. If you are interested in making soup, bread or both, please contact Rosalie in the church office OR come to one of the meals to sign up. Lent is often seen as a time of giving something up (such as coffee or chocolate, or maybe even a behavior you've been meaning to change); but many folks are rethinking Lent as a time to **take** something on, such as a new spiritual discipline, reading a spiritual book for the season or helping at a food pantry - the list could go on. We encourage you to prayerfully consider one of these disciplines and claim it as your own during this holy season as we prepare for Easter morning (April 8).



SPEAKING OF LENT. . .

Support Wesley's Scout Troop 141 who will be manning the Friday Lenten Fish Fry at Moriarty Hall at the Catholic Church on Friday, February 17 from 5 -7 PM. A portion of that night's proceeds will support our scouts. We hope you'll attend for good food, conversation with Charleston friends AND to support our hardworking scouts!

We are in need of a few more folks to be a part of the **ALTAR COMMITTEE**. Members serve monthly to prepare the altar for Sunday worship. If you're interested in being a part of this important ministry, please call the church office or talk to Ann Sidwell, Committee Coordinator.





I am not good with this particular January. I am used to January being cold and crisp, perhaps with snow, perhaps not. Always, though, January has crystal-clear nights, the kind where you can see a trillion miles and a billion stars.

From Where I Sit... We have had fog. We have had 50 or 60 degree days. Last night we had a thunderstorm! That is just simply messed-up. Thunderstorms happen from April through August or September – not in the teeth of the winter. Not here. Not now. NOT IN JANUARY! Yet, there it was. Thunderboomers, rain, the whole thing. Paying absolutely no attention to what I wanted, the plan I created in my own head for a proper January.

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Job 38:1-7

Funny, isn't it, how sometimes things do not work out the way we had them planned? My plans for a beautiful January, sparkling and clean, have not come to pass. But maybe my "counsel" was "without knowledge". Maybe there are reasons for not having a cold January. Or maybe God just said, "Let's give 'em a break this year." Who knows? But it's neither my place to judge nor criticize.

I guess it's that way with other parts of my life, too. I can plan all I want, but if things don't come to pass the way that I want, I need to relax a bit and, above all, trust God. And amazingly, when I do that, when I relax and trust God, it is astounding how good life is. No, not always easy. But always good.

With prayers for peace, **Rev. Wally**

REFRIGERATOR CLEANING

We will be cleaning out the refrigerator and freezer in the church kitchen **the week of February 6th**. If you have any goodies in either of them that you would like to retrieve, please do so before that date. Likewise, if you have items that have recently been placed in them and need to stay, please label as such before that date. Thanks so much for your help!



COMMUNITY DAY

Anyone interested in brainstorming and helping to plan a **Community Day** for this summer should come to the library/conference room at Wesley Church immediately following the second service on **Sunday, February 5th**. We will be sharing ideas on creating a community flower garden with which everyone in town will be invited to help. If you have any questions about the meeting or have additional ideas, please contact Adam Flack at 549-2163, or by email at gigatt00@gmail.com.

CALLING ALL TEACHERS!

Our Children's Sunday School teachers are appreciated by the children they touch each week, by the children's parents, and *hopefully* by ALL of our Wesley UMC family. If you have felt that special calling to be with our K-3 or 4-6 grade children on a once a month basis to help them grow in their faith, NOW is the time to act! We are richly *blessed* to have a growing Children's Ministry, and are in need of more teachers to help this growth continue. If you are interested in teaching, or would like more information, please talk to our Director of Children's Ministry, Cindy Ebinger, on Sunday morning, call her in the church office at 345-3917 or email cebinger@charlestonwesley.org. Our children are waiting for YOU to become involved!



COLLATORS ARE STILL NEEDED

Once a month, folks gather to collate the newsletter for mailing to Wesley folks near and far. It's more fun than work as we gather to chat and put the newsletter together. We meet on a Thursday morning (usually, but not always, the last Thursday of the month) at 9:00 AM. You need not attend every single month. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Rosalie Addison at raddison@charlestonwesley.org or call her in the office at 345-3917.



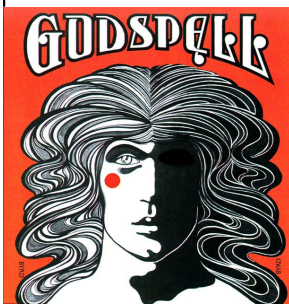
FEBRUARY MISSION PROJECT:

FLOOD BUCKET SUPPLIES

Remember all the floods in 2011? There was flooding all up and down the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, the Red River, not to mention Nashville the year before as well as 2011 flooding in the Philippines and other places around the globe.

Think of all the homes and places of business that needed cleaning up. Where does one start? By getting cleaning supplies, but maybe the store was flooded too. UMCOR provides flood cleaning buckets if they have them. So our project is to provide them to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) which is an UMCOR Depot. (There is a list of the items that would go into the buckets on the bulletin board.)

The last time we put together the flood buckets ourselves, but the MMDC points out that they can get better prices for these supplies by buying in bulk. If we assembled them ourselves, each bucket and its contents would cost about \$55 rather than the \$25 with MMDC resources. So if you would like to help in this effort, make out your check to Wesley United Methodist Church and put **FLOOD BUCKETS** on the memo line. And once again, thank you very much for your support.



GODSPELL AUDITIONS SET FOR FEBRUARY 11TH & 13TH

Charleston Community Theatre will hold auditions for the musical *Godspell* on Saturday, February 11 from 1:00 to 3:00pm and on Monday, February 13 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Wesley UMC.

Godspell, a musical that illustrates the parables of Jesus, opened in New York in 1971 and is presently in revival on Broadway.

Charleston Community Theatre Director (and Wesley member), Cathy Sheagren, said there are featured parts for five males and five females as well as parts for a choir that will perform the rousing gospel song "*We Beseech Thee*". Audition participants will be asked to sing a musical selection of their choice, up to 16 bars.

Additional singing will be assigned, including the popular hit from *Godspell*, "*Day by Day*". Auditioners will also be asked to do a brief script reading. Vocal music director, Ken Hull, said that this musical offers opportunities for a wide range of voice types.

Other production members include Gaye Harrison as pit director, Tony Cox as accompanist, Judi Vaughn as producer and Donna Hudson as Wesley liaison. Sheagren requested that auditions bring their calendars to confirm rehearsal and performance dates. *Godspell* will be performed on April 20, 21 and 22 at Wesley UMC. Questions may be addressed to Cathy by calling her at 217 508-7620 or by emailing her at

casheagren@gmail.com.



WESLEY BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS *THE HUNGER GAMES*

The Hunger Games, the exciting first book in a trilogy, is the February selection for Wesley’s Book Discussion Group. “In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by 12 outlying districts. Long ago the districts waged war on the Capitol and were defeated. As part of the surrender terms, each district agreed to send one boy and one girl to appear in an annual televised event called “*The Hunger Games*,” a fight to the death on live TV. This young adult novel has many twists and turns and has sold millions of copies. Buy a copy of the book from your favorite bookseller and join the group for discussion of *The Hunger Games* at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 27 in Room 129. For more information, talk to the group’s facilitator, Carolyn Adkins, or email her at jcsadkins@mchsi.com.

DONNA HUDSON ACCEPTS NEW POSITION

Donna Hudson, Wesley’s Stephen Ministry and Small Group Director, will be leaving the church staff February 1 to work full-time as a counselor with SACIS (Sexual Assault Counseling & Information Service). Donna was ready to pursue full-time work and feels counseling is her true calling. She and her family will still be around on Sunday mornings as Wesley will still be their church. We will miss her smiling face in the church office, but look forward to being able to still be in fellowship and worship with her. Good luck, Donna!



WESLEY’S SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Monday, February 13, at 10:00 AM in Room 125. All knitters and crocheters are welcome and EVERYONE is invited to come help bless the shawls. For more information, contact Margaret Speer at 345-7793.

PLEASE NOTE: Our **8:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** is both streamed on the internet and archived for later viewing. You can find it at our website: www.charlestonwesley.org. Click on the *Watch Sunday Services* link.



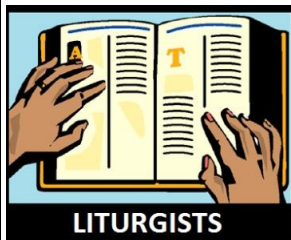
WESLEY’S HOLY CLUB



If you are interested in being part of Wesley’s Holy Club, pick up a covenant on the table in the sanctuary entryway, look it over, then prayerfully consider signing it as a pledge of commitment. Talk to Rev. Wally to let him know of your desire to be a part of the movement or for more information.

☺ **FRIENDLY FOLKS NEEDED** ☺

Do you like meeting new folks? Have we got a place for YOU! We are in need of a few more friendly folks to be **GREETERS** on Sunday mornings. Most folks serve once a month, though sometimes less often. This time of year, with so many of our snowbirds gone, we are in need of a few more friendly folks to help out. YOU pick the service at which you would like to greet, and we email (or snail mail) a schedule to you monthly. Interested? Call Rosalie at 345-3917, or email her at raddison@charlestonwesley.org.



LAY READERS BRING GOD'S MESSAGE

Each Sunday morning, Lay Readers (or Liturgists) help lead worship by reading the morning unison prayer with the congregation as well as the day's scripture passage. Currently, Lay Readers are called on a weekly basis and read at the service of their choice; we would like to streamline that process by having a quarterly or semi-annual rotation schedule. BUT, for this to become a reality we need more readers. Our hope is to have enough readers so that no one would have to read/lead more than once every two months. We invite you to prayerfully consider being added to our current list of Lay Readers. If you are interested in being added to the list OR would like to have more information about this ministry, please contact Rosalie in the church office at 345-3917 or by email at raddison@charlestonwesley.org.



**Middle School
Open Gym**

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS are invited and encouraged to bring their friends with them on Sunday evenings at 5:00 PM to **OPEN GYM** before the UMYF meets (at 6:00 PM). This is a great time to get your game on as well as a time of getting to know some new folks, and did we mention have a lot of fun!? If you have any questions, please talk to UMYF Director Debby Carlson on Sunday morning or by email at dcarlson@charlestonwesley.org.

CHURCH VOLLEYBALL just started! Games are played at Jefferson School on Mondays and/or Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., or 9:00 p.m. Participants must be at least a freshman in high school. Fun, fellowship, and exercise are the goals of the league. If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, please contact Danny Hudson or Karen Karch.





Our sympathy is expressed to
Kenneth Ott
on the death of his mother,
Dorothy Jean Ott,
January 14, 2012;
and to Carol Adams and her family
on the death of her father,
Jack Leder,
January 21, 2012.

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Inside this edition:

Lent Begins February 22.....page 1
From Where I Sit.....page 2
Refrigerator Cleaning.....page 3
Community Day Meeting.....page 3
February Mission Project.....page 4
Godspell Auditions.....page 4
February Book Club.....page 5
Holy Club.....page 5
Greeters & Lay Readers Needed.....page 6
Church League Volleyball.....page 6
February 2012 Calendar.....page 7

Laughter is carbonated holiness.

~Anne Lamott~

