



The Link - June 2008

Pastors Column: Greetings from John Wesley's Homeland

As most of you know, I was privileged to travel to London in May to attend Sir Richard Branson's conversation with members of the London Business Forum. As the only clergy in attendance at this meeting of business gurus, I was feeling a little out of place as I crossed the street from Westminster Abbey to Central Hall, Westminster, where the meeting was to take place. Imagine my astonishment when I realized that Central Hall was Central *Methodist* Hall, erected in the 1800s, in memory of John and Charles Wesley and in honor of all that Methodism has meant to the world.

As I climbed the stairs to the third floor and passed the imposing portrait of John Wesley, I said a prayer of thanksgiving: God is so good...when we feel called to put ourselves in unlikely situations, God will always go before us and prepare the way. Here I was, seeking new wisdom half-way around the world, and God graciously seen to put me in the midst of that wisdom in a Methodist Church. Needless to say, I probably felt more at home in that church than did the "business types."

The location was not my only amazement that afternoon. In his journal on June 11, 1739, Wesley wrote, "I look on all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that, in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty, to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation." This teaching of Wesley is a foundation of Methodist mission and ministry: we are to engage in "shirt-sleeves" ministry wherever we find ourselves. Wesley wisely knew that sick, oppressed and deprived people could not hear the salvation message until their immediate needs were cared for. Thus, we are called to be Good Samaritans, binding up the wounds of the world and then delivering the good news: teaching by example as did Christ!

Left: Central Methodist Hall, Westminster, London. **Right:** Wesley Chapel, City Road, London



WHO News

W.H.O. (Women Helping Others) Invites Women of all Ages to attend our monthly meeting held the third Wednesday of every month at 7:15 pm. The next meeting will be held June 18th.

women of all Ages bring a friend, bring a neighbor, are cordially invited

To attend a Ladies' Fellowship Tea
On Sunday, June 22 from 2-4 pm
In the Gardens of Ann Edelman
223 Prospect St., Marlboro
Rain location is the FUMC
Kindly RSVP to the Church Office
(508) 485-1980

Back-to-School Backpack Program

W.H.O. is coordinating the Back-to-School Backpack Program. We have committed to 10 backpacks to be delivered by Aug 3rd. Information on ages will be received NLT July 7th. The total cost of sponsoring a child's backpack is approx. \$75. It includes a backpack filled with school supplies and a \$50 gift card for clothing.

If you would like to help, the following options are available

- Sponsor a child, prepare the backpack yourself
- Make a monetary donation towards a backpack
- Make a contribution of school supplies
- Make a gift card contribution

Please see Michele Rogers or Lee Caissie if interested.

Homeless Shelter on Saturday, June 21

Pastor Linda is overseeing preparation of the meal for the Homeless Shelter on Saturday, June 21. If you would like to assist her by cooking a dish or helping prepare some of the food in the church kitchen at 2 PM on June 21, please contact her at 617 543 0623. You need not be an expert cook in order to help with this very important outreach effort. We have a budget, so if you need reimbursement for the food you prepare, it is available.

Thank You

Thank you to the Daisy Girl Scout Troop for planting flowers around our churchyard!

Vacation Bible Camp: Help wanted

Did you know that you don't have to be available during Vacation Bible Camp in order to be an important part of Vacation Bible Camp? It's true! Vacation Bible Camp needs lots of support, beginning now to prepare the way for this important ministry. Prior to Vacation Bible Camp, we are looking for Decorating Helpers, Grounds Maintenance, and T-Shirt makers. We're also looking for a coordinator and helpers for a car wash fundraiser on Saturday, June 14. And of course, if you are available during the week of July 28 – August 1, we still need lots of helpers for lessons, crafts, snacks, and the all-important daily clean-up effort. If you can help with any of this, please see Lee Caissie or Alyson Cox for more information.

The Education Committee invites everyone to **Children's Sunday June 8th** followed by a Pot Luck Lunch (bring your favorite dish)

Craft Making/Sewing Day

All are invited to attend a Craft Making/Sewing Day on Saturday, July 12th, 10 am - 2 pm. Please bring a brown bag lunch. All Crafts made will be sold at the fall Heritage Festival. If you can't make the Craft Day, we invite you to sew, knit or make crafts at home to donate to our table. Please see Joan Parris or Lee Caissie with any questions.

Register Now for Vacation Bible Camp

Children entering grades K – 6 are invited to “SonWorld Adventure Park” a Vacation Bible Camp to be co-hosted this year by our church and Holy Trinity Anglican Church. This exciting and spiritually uplifting camp experience happens July 28 – August 1, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Children will enjoy daily Bible lessons and games as well as crafts, skits, snacks, and outdoor activities. The cost is just \$5 per child for the whole week. Please see Lee Caissie or Alyson Cox for more information.

God paint?

The Trustees need a teams of 5-6 people each from **9-Noon on Saturday, June 28** to finish scraping and painting the exterior window sills of the Education wing. An additional team of 5-6 people is needed to trip the bushes on the side of the building behind the church office. This work must be done before new emergency exit steps are set at the outside doors of the Vestry and before the Anglicans install mulch in the side yard. **These preparations are necessary so that we can provide suitable space for our Vacation Bible School attendees to have lunch and safe play space.**

Please bring your own scrapers, brushes, and bush trimmers to supplement what the Trustees can provide. The Trustees will provide a sign-up sheet. Or, let one of them know you can help: Joyce Swett, Ann Bastian, Cindy Beals, Alyson Cox.

Mangia!

The Vacation Bible School Committee invites you to an **Italian Dinner on Saturday, June 14 at 6:30 PM** in the fellowship hall. Feast on pasta, meatballs, salad, bread, and delicious home-made Italian desserts. Enjoy fellowship and music with our fellow Methodists and friends from the Holy Trinity Church. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. All proceeds benefit the Vacation Bible School ministry. Please see Alyson Cox or Lee Caissie to reserve your seat. Whether or not you come to dinner, we welcome donations toward this ministry. Thank you!

Special Offering: Education Wing Roof

In order to keep our church building insurable, our property *insurance carrier is requiring us to roof half of our Education wing before the snow flies this Fall*. It is so damaged that it will not survive this coming winter without leaking and ruining all the beautiful painting and flooring renovations volunteers have made to the classrooms, halls and bathrooms. Therefore, we need immediate donations to cover the cost, which has been graciously discounted by a local contractor.

We must raise \$10,000 by September 1.

This expense is not covered anywhere in our budgets. The Trustees have no funds to cover this expense because special contributions to date have replaced only a tiny fraction of the cost of our lift which depleted our investments. If our building suffers damage and we have to file a claim, there is a \$23,000 deductible per claim! Therefore, it is much wiser for us to raise the \$10,000 and fix the roof properly.

Please return this coupon with your special offering. Make checks payable to FUMC Trustees and note "roof" on the check. All donations are fully tax deductible.

Name _____ Amount \$ _____

Address where you want a receipt sent:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

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The second amazement was to hear Sir Richard saying that his priority is using his business assets to leverage support for social justice in the world. When questioned about his mentors, Sir Richard did not name one business guru. Rather, he surrounds himself with Christians who have long histories of promoting social justice on the ground: Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and former President Jimmy Carter. What powerful work God was doing that afternoon, using a business person who “gets it” about the world being the concern of the business world, to penetrate the “bottom line” mentality of the business world with a conscience-raising message.

We can only pray that God will continue to work through a few enlightened business leaders to push a sense of wider social conscience. Meanwhile, the Church has fallen way behind in living up to its full potential of making the world a better and more righteous place, perhaps because the Church has allowed itself to become overshadowed by and intimidated by the success of the materialistic corporate world. I believe that John Wesley would not want us to be harsh and judgmental about the situation but simply to be solution-oriented. He said, “The longer I live, the larger allowances I make for human infirmities. I exact more from myself, and less from others. Go thou and do likewise!”

During my brief stay in London, it was my privilege to pray for you all at Morning Prayer at St. Paul's and again at evenson at Westminster Abbey. I spent an afternoon in John Wesley's home and private chapel bringing each family of our congregation to mind in prayer. Then, I prayed for you all on Sunday morning in the chapel at Heathrow Airport as I was waiting for my return flight, at the same time as you all were in worship here.

As my flight gained altitude, I looked down on London one last time. The words of Wesley were again flying through my mind: “the best of it all is, God is with us.” Truly, God allows us to venture into new circumstances so that we can have a view of more of God's world as it is and as it could be. The best part is that God is with us, always watching with divine hope that we will make wise choices about the glimpses God has given us of the world.

As God is with us, let our hearts sing, “Make me a channel of your peace, where there is hatred, let me bring your love, where there is injury, your pardon Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you. O Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.”

Blessings to you all, Pastor Linda

Church Calendar for June 2008

1	Sunday	11:00 AM	Morning Worship with Sunday school and Holy Communion
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
4	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Trustees, Meeting Room
5	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons with Holy Communion
8	Sunday	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship: Children's Sunday
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
9	Monday	10:00 AM	Adult Bible Study, home of Bess Cowan
11	Wednesday	11:00 AM	Clergy Mentor Session, Oxford
12	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons
13	Friday	All Day	Annual Conference, Gordon College, Wenham, MA
14	Saturday	All Day	Annual Conference, Gordon College, Wenham, MA
15	Sunday	11 AM	Morning Worship
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		Morning	Annual Conference Concludes, Gordon College
18	Wednesday	7:15 PM	W.H.O. (Women Helping Others), Meeting Room
19	Thursday	7:00 PM	Evening Worship at New Horizons
21	Saturday	2:00 PM	Preparation of Homeless Shelter Meal, Church Kitchen
22	Sunday	11:00 AM	Morning Worship
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
		2:00-4:00 PM	Ladies' Friendship Tea, backyard of Ann Edelman (bad weather location is church vestry)
23	Monday	TBA	Vacation Bible School Skit Practice
26	Thursday	7:00 PM	Worship at New Horizons
29	Sunday	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship
		Noon	Coffee Hour Fellowship, Vestry
30	Monday	TBA	Vacation Bible School Skit Practice
	Monday		Pastoral Effectiveness Evaluation Due from SPRC to District Superintendent



John Rowe and his grandson Joey light a candle in memory of Viet Nam veterans. Our church hosted the community Veterans' Memorial Service, attended by veterans of several wars, along with their families.



Foundry Chapel—John and Charles Wesley's Chapel adjacent to their home on City Road in London. Prayers, candles and blessings commemorated their service to our nation.



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Address Correction Requested

Pastor Linda Stetter

