



Living Water

“Indeed the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal Life” - John 4:14

A



Newsletter

Summer 2010

Our newsletters are available online at www.wellspringumc.net

There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart. ~Celia Thaxter

A Word From Our Pastor



Dear Wellspring Family and Friends,

It's summer! The weather is warm and the days are long. For a lot of folks, water is an essential part of the festivities. Whether it be swimming, fishing, boating, or just enjoying the view from dry land. Growing up in Minnesota (Land of 10,000 Lakes) my family spent time at the lake every summer. I have some great memories of fishing with my grandfather and learning to swim with my brothers. However in the wake of the tragic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, I am reminded that many people who live and vacation in that area will not be able to enjoy the long beaches and warm waters this summer.

Two months out we know that the oil spill's impact is far greater than just inconveniencing vacation plans. Nearly half of all U.S. coastal wetlands — over 5 million acres — are located along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. The oil and gas exploration industry employs 55,000 workers in the gulf. The consequences of the oil spill reach beyond that industry, however, to encompass fishing and recreational industries, not to mention adverse affects on wildlife and marine biology. And of course the tragic loss of eleven lives; life for those families will never be the same.

The slow-motion tragedy of the gulf oil spill lays bare our collective failure as caretakers of God's good creation. While unknown thousands of barrels of oil leak into the rich and diverse ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico, how are we as Christians called to respond? While it is easy to express anger and cast blame at the companies who owned, operated and profited from the deep sea exploration, we must also reflect on our own complicity through our endless demand for cheap oil.

Even from here in Massachusetts we are more connected to offshore drilling than we might realize. Did you know:

* U.S. petroleum consumption: 19.5 million barrels/day – 71% for transportation

Source: *Energy Information Administration (EIA)*

* Annual consumption of bottled water in the U.S. requires the equivalent of between 32 and 54 million barrels of oil. Source: *Pacific Insitute*

* 100 billion single-use bags — using 12 million barrels of oil — are used each year in the U.S. Source: *Worldwatch Institute*

So much remains unknown: How long will the oil flow into the gulf? How far will the oil slick spread? How damaging will the spill be to fragile wetlands and the flora and fauna in the region? How will the spreading oil slick jeopardize the future of thousands of and those who depend on the Gulf for their livelihoods?

(Conclusion on page 3)

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 4, Independence Day

Celebration of Holy Communion
Sermon Series: Life lessons from Reality TV
Preacher: Pastor Mariah

July 11, Worship at Dean Park

Vacation Bible School Children Sing
Sermon Series: Life lessons from Reality TV
Preacher: Pastor Mariah

July 18

Hymn Sing
Sermon Series: Life lessons from Reality TV
Preacher: Pastor Mariah

July 25

Guest Preacher: Deborah Vo

August 1

Celebration of Holy Communion
Sermon Series: The Old, Old Stories
Paradise Lost: Adam and Eve
Preacher: Pastor Mariah

August 8, Worship at Dean Park and Church Picnic

Sermon Series: The Old, Old Stories
The Flood: Noah Found Favor in the Eyes of the Lord
Preacher: Pastor Mariah

August 15

Hymn Sing
Sermon Series: The Old, Old Stories
The Rise and Fall of Cain

August 22

The Tower of Pride
Preacher: Pastor Mariah

August 29

Guest Preacher: DRAMA Team

Wellspring-On-A-Card

Wellspring United Methodist Church
Worship and Office at 440 Main Street,
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info@wellspringumc.net

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Newsletter Editor/Communications and Outreach Team Leader: Sabina Terrades

508-845-5032 or sterrades@hotmail.com or
outreach@wellspringumc.net

Church office hours:

Wednesdays 10-11:30am and 2pm -5pm or by appointment (See weekly bulletin for additional times). Please call the church office to schedule an appointment or drop in anytime during office hours.

Worship:

Every Sunday at 9:45am at the Trinity Episcopal Church, Main Street, Shrewsbury, MA.

Sunday School starts at 10am.

WANTED: SHREWSBURY GARBAGE BAGS!



Please help us keep costs down and be good tenants at Trinity by donating City of Shrewsbury garbage bags. Donations can be left in the church office. Thank-you!

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." - Albert Einstein

"When patterns are broken, new worlds emerge." --Tuli Kupferberg

"True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost." -- Arthur Ashe



SUMMER PRAYER FOCUS

Lord, you've called us to love one another. We hear this truth and want to obey, but we confess that we long for something more specific, more directive. And so we pray, Lord, for eyes to see the needs in our faith community, and we pray to be people of love. We ask for ears to hear stories of hurt and longing and pain and disappointment, and we pray to be people of love. We ask for shoulders to bear the burdens of those near us on the journey of life, and we pray to be a people of love. Amen.

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR (Conclusion)

In the face of these uncertainties, we turn to the One who is certain – the One whose creative and recreating power is stronger than any of our human folly. May we heed the call of the Scriptures, humble ourselves and pray that God will forgive our sins and heal the land.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Mariah

**Additional information provided by the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society.*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 11th Heifer Project Outing—Overlook Farm in Rutland

July 18th Wellspring Hosts Jamaican Farmworkers Worship service in Lawrence Hall at Trinity 8pm



PRAYERS for the Gulf Oil Spill

God, we come to you today with heavy and humbled hearts. We ask that your healing, comforting and strengthening presence be with all those affected by this unfolding tragedy:

For workers injured, missing and presumed dead from the explosion on the rig and for their families and friends,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers

For people working tirelessly to contain the spill and protect fragile ecosystems and communities from its toxic impacts,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers

For individuals and communities whose livelihoods depend upon the Gulf of Mexico,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers

For your good Creation — from the smallest of sea creatures to the birds of the air — and all your magnificent handiwork at risk of exposure from our human errors,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers

For wisdom to understand our dependence on You and strength that we might walk humbly in the path of justice and right-relationships with all Your Creation,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers

Prayers of the People courtesy of John S. Hill, Director of Economic & Environmental Justice, General Board of Church & Society



JOIN THE WELLSPRING PRAYER CHAIN

"...I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).

To become a part of Wellspring's prayer chain contact Tammy at prayer@wellspringumc.net or speak to her after church. When a prayer request is received you will get a call or e-mail with all the information so you can hold the person(s) in your prayers. That's all you have to do: pray for those in need. All prayer requests are completely confidential – unless specified by the requestor. Do you have a prayer request? Simply e-mail the concern to prayer@wellspringumc.net. It will be sent out to all on our prayer chain to be held close in their prayers.

VERSE OF THE MONTH

As the Lord's servant, you must not quarrel. You must be kind toward all, a good and patient teacher, who is gentle as you correct your opponents, for it may be that God will give them the opportunity to repent and come to know the truth.

2 Timothy 2:24-25 TEV



BOOK LOOK

Spiritual Warfare and Missions: The Battle for God's Glory Among the Nations
By Jerry Rankin and Ed Stetzer

The mission of God to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19, HCSB) is a major target of spiritual warfare today.

In this new book by International Mission Board president Jerry Rankin and noted missiologist Ed Stetzer, the authors call out Satan's ongoing strategy to convince Christians that the Great Commission is optional. Through deceit, he is eroding the authoritative mandate of Scripture, leading believers to tell themselves that international discipleship is a task better left to denomination and mission agencies—not the sort of kingdom work that every believer can do.

But for every evil success, Rankin and Stetzer point to where Satan is failing, thus encouraging readers to renew their passion to declare God's glory among the nations. Indeed, by taking up the call to action here, we can be sure that the kingdoms of the world will become the kingdom of the Lord.



LOOK WHO GOT HIS BIBLE!

By Tammy K.

Luca B. proudly received his Children's Bible on June 6th at our annual Children's Celebration Service. Luca will be entering second grade in the fall. Pastor Mariah noted what a great and accomplished reader he is. She marked a special passage somewhere in the Bible for Luca to look for as he reads through it. He also carried the light of our Lord into and out of our worship service as he is now an official acolyte. Congratulations Luca! We are all so proud of you!

BIBLE BYTE

"Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."

Matthew 6:34 MSG

TAKEN FROM THE READERS DIGEST

Researchers from the University of Konstanz in Germany studied more than 100 people who worked five days a week and also volunteered for about seven hours weekly.

What they found: Work felt less burdensome the day after the volunteer stint--even if the unpaid duties, like fire and rescue work, weren't exactly relaxing. The study suggests that if you really want to shed stress, vegging out may not be the best way to do it, says lead author Eva J. Mojza, PhD.

at- **4** Challenging extracurricular activities will yank your attention away from the demands of your career and send you back to work with the satisfaction of a job well done.

Project Abundant Life

"I came so that all may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10)

Worcester County Facts on Homelessness: (Updated April 2010)

On a given night in January 2010, there were nearly 1,400 people were staying on the street, in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or emergency hotels in Worcester County. Included in this number are over 300 homeless families. (Worcester County Point in Time)

On any given night in Worcester County, it is estimated that an additional 3,000 persons in families with children are living in doubled up housing situations because they lack a home of their own.

On March 30, 2010, there were 840 families in emergency hotel placement statewide. In Worcester, there were only 3 families in hotel placement. This is due to the effective scattered site rehousing model that has housed families efficiently into their own apartments. (Central Mass. Housing Alliance, HAP)

The monthly rental rate of a two-bedroom apartment has increased by 46% since 2000 (2009, National Low Income Housing Coalition).

The Fair Market rent for a two- bedroom apartment in Worcester County is \$922 a month, and \$1,103 for a three- bedroom apartment. (2009, National Low Income Housing Coalition)

In Worcester, in order to afford a modest two bedroom apartment you must earn \$17.73 per hour, while the mean renter wage is \$13.08 per hour. (2009, National Low Income Housing Coalition)

A minimum wage earner in Worcester would have to work 89 hours per week in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment, or 106 hours per week for a three-bedroom apartment. (2009, National Low Income Housing Coalition)

Compared to low income housed children, homeless children experience more health problems (including asthma), developmental delays, increased anxiety, internalization of emotions, depression and lower educational achievement. (Buckner; Bassuk; Weinreb, Brooks. "Homelessness and its relation to the mental health and behavior of low-income school-age children" *Developmental Psychology*. Vol 35(1), Jan 1999, 246-257)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Wellspring is in the process of becoming a Faith Partner with Habitat for Humanity. Here is some information about this organization:

Habitat for Humanity Fact Sheet

What is Habitat for Humanity International?

- A nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry.
- To accomplish these goals, they invite people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need.
- Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller, along with his wife, Linda.
- Today, Habitat has
- built over 350,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1.75 million people in 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

How does it work?

- Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat builds and rehabilitates simple, decent houses alongside our homeowner (partner) families.
- Habitat is not a giveaway program. In addition to a down payment and monthly mortgage payments, homeowners invest hundreds of hours of their own labor (sweat equity) into building their Habitat house and the houses of others.
- Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit and financed with affordable loans.
- The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are used to build still more Habitat houses.

How are partner families selected?

- Families in need of decent shelter apply to local Habitat affiliates.
- The affiliate's family selection committee chooses homeowners based on their level of need, their willingness to become partners in the program and their ability to repay the loan.
- Every affiliate follows a nondiscriminatory policy of family selection.
- Neither race nor religion is a factor in choosing the families who receive Habitat houses.

(Continue on page 6)

Project Abundant Life

"I came so that all may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10)

Habitat for Humanity Fact Sheet (continued from page 5)

What are Habitat affiliates?

- Community-level Habitat for Humanity offices that act in partnership with and on behalf of Habitat for Humanity International.
- Each affiliate is an independently run, nonprofit organization.
- Each affiliate coordinates all aspects of Habitat home building in its local area—fund raising; building site selection; partner family selection and support; house construction; and mortgage servicing.

Where does Habitat for Humanity operate?

- Worldwide, nearly 90 countries and in all 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico.
- Operational headquarters are located in Americus, Georgia, USA.
- Administrative headquarters are located in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

How are donations distributed and used?

- Donations, whether to a local Habitat affiliate or to Habitat for Humanity International, are used as designated by the donor.
- Gifts received by HFHI that are designated to a specific affiliate or building project are forwarded to that affiliate or project.
- Undesignated gifts are used where most needed and for administrative expenses

Who controls and manages Habitat for Humanity International?

- An ecumenical, international board of directors determines policy and oversees and guides the mission of Habitat for Humanity International.
- Board members are dedicated volunteers who are deeply concerned about the problems of poverty housing around the world.
- The HFHI headquarters office operates with an administrative staff, assisted by a core group of professional and support employees and supplemented by volunteers.
- Each local Habitat affiliate is managed by its own local volunteer board.

How does Habitat work with the government?

- Our Government Relations and Advocacy team works with legislators and housing regulators

to increase support for affordable homeownership and eliminate poverty housing.

- We monitor public policies related to housing, community and international development.
- We advocate policy choices that increase access to decent, affordable housing for people around the world.
- We accept government funds for infrastructure, utilities, capacity building or training, and house building. We accept these funds so long as they have no conditions that would violate Habitat's principles or limit its ability to proclaim its Christian identity.

Myths about Habitat for Humanity

Myth: Habitat for Humanity gives houses away to poor people.

Fact: Habitat for Humanity offers homeownership opportunities to families who are unable to obtain conventional house financing. Generally, this includes those whose income is 30 to 50 percent of the area's median income. In most cases, prospective Habitat homeowner families make a \$500 down payment. Additionally, they contribute 300 to 500 hours of "sweat equity" on the construction of their home or someone else's home. Because Habitat houses are built using donations of land, material and labor, mortgage payments are kept affordable.

Myth: Habitat houses reduce a neighborhood's property values.

Fact: Housing studies show affordable housing has no adverse effect on neighborhood property values. In fact, Habitat houses have proven to increase property values and local government tax income.

Myth: Only African Americans get Habitat for Humanity homes.

Fact: Habitat builds houses in partnership with those in need regardless of race, religion or any other difference. Prospective homeowners must meet three criteria: need; ability to repay the mortgage; and a willingness to partner with Habitat. Statistically, 33 percent of Habitat homeowners are Anglo and 67 percent are people of color.

Myth: Habitat homeowners are on welfare.

Fact: While some Habitat homeowners receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children, many more are working people. Typically their annual income is less than half the local median income in their community.

(More in the next issue)

Statement on "Freedom Flotilla" Incident

The General Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church condemns the deadly interception Monday by Israeli troops of the "Freedom Flotilla" trying to bring aid to the beleaguered people of Gaza.

The killing of nine humanitarian-aid workers and injuries to many more occurred in international waters as the six-boat convoy, sponsored by the Free Gaza Movement and a Turkish humanitarian relief organization, headed toward breaking Israel's three-year blockade of Gaza. About 700 passengers from 35 countries were on the vessels attempting to deliver 10,000 tons of humanitarian supplies such as food and medicine to Gaza.

We grieve the loss of life and injuries sustained in what became a tragic confrontation between the forces of peace and those of armed aggression. We pray for the families of those who lost their lives. We are thankful, though, that Israeli authorities have begun to release the peace activists and humanitarian aid workers they detained.

The United Methodist Church has long advocated for a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians: a settlement that provides justice and security for both parties ("Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Land," 2008 UMC Book of Resolutions). The United Methodist Church believes negotiation and diplomacy will achieve this rather than through methods of violence and coercion ("Saying No to Violence in Middle East Conflict," 2008 UMC Book of Resolutions). The need for this has been made patently clear by this morally reprehensible assault in international waters on peace activists and humanitarian aid workers. We urge the Obama administration to take immediate steps to facilitate an international, independent investigation of this deadly interception of the Freedom Flotilla. Israel's violent assault on the peace activists and humanitarian workers further destabilizes an already incendiary situation. This high-seas confrontation demonstrates the urgency of achieving a just peace before more innocents are slaughtered.

The United Methodist Church works with ecumenical and interfaith bodies to advocate for Palestinian self-determination and an end to Israeli occupation. Our General Conference has repeatedly affirmed Israel's right to exist within secure borders. But this assault against civilians engaged in peaceful activities is an affront to any standard of decency. It will set back any attempts to achieve a peaceful two-state solution.

This tragedy could have been averted had Israel permitted the boats to arrive at Gaza and then searched them to ensure they contained humanitarian aid only. Such restraint would be a sign of mature, thoughtful statesmanship, which has been consistently lacking on both sides in this 40-year-old drama of oppression, destruction and death.

It is necessary for Israel to end the blockade of Gaza. The government of Israel should permit immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. It is time to implement the two-state solution originally envisioned for the region.

We urge the United States government to take steps to bring Israel to the negotiating table to seek a fruitful, honest peace. We urge Israel to stop blockading Gaza, ending its oppression of 1.4 million Palestinian civilians, who deserve the right of liberty in pursuing a livelihood.

The violence must stop on both sides. The time for decisive action to impose a just, peaceful resolution has never been more evident than in this tragic assault on persons whose sole purpose was to achieve peace and bring aid to an oppressed populace.

—Jim Winkler, General Secretary
General Board of Church & Society
The United Methodist Church



NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

Wellspring is updating our newsletter mailing list. If you have received this newsletter and wish to continue receiving it every month, you do not have to do anything! We will continue mailing it to you. If you prefer accessing our newsletter online, you may do so on our web page at: www.wellspringumc.net Previous month's newsletters are under the menu item "News." If you would like to use the online version and wish to be notified every month when it is uploaded, please contact Tammy at:

prayer@wellspringumc.net Please also contact Tammy if you would prefer to be taken off our mailing list for the newsletter. Thanks!

2010 NEW ENGLAND ASSEMBLY OF THE LAITY (NEAL)

The 57th gathering of the New England Assembly of the Laity (NEAL) will be held August 6-8, 2010 at The Marist House in Framingham, MA. The keynote speakers will be The Rev. Dr. Wanda Stahl, Director of Christian Formation for the New England Conference and The Rev. Rick McKinley, Senior Pastor at Harbor UMC/Scituate and Marshfield UMC.

The theme, "Fueling the Flame of Faith" will focus on passionate spirituality. Need to be filled or re-filled? Need a little jump start to get you back on track? Need a little passion in your spiritual life? This is done throughout this exciting spiritual weekend by small group discussions, music, singing, worship, prayer and fellowship.

Registration forms and information are now available at NEAL's website – www.assemblyofthelaity.com and will also be available at all Pre-Conference Briefings..

For more information or for a registration forms to be mailed to you, please don't hesitate to contact Debi Henry, NEAL Communications Coordinator at (508) 651-0256 or email laityrus@yahoo.com.

JAMAICAN FARM WORKER SERVICES

The worship services for Jamaican farm workers began in May. The following dates are July 18, August 15 September 19 (including the Jamaican style dinner) and October 10. The men gather at 7:30 PM and the service begins at 8:00 o'clock. The men enjoy worshipping with local people so our entire church is invited to attend this different format but absolutely uplifting time of worship. We meet at the Northboro Historical Society building at the corner of Main and School Streets. Wellspring is a strong supporter of this outreach mission. More information is available from Coordinators Alden and Sharon Miller, 941-661-2706 or 2381

JOIN A WELLSRING SMALL GROUP, OR TWO...OR THREE!

Small groups are a way we put our church and our faith in action. They serve both as support to our members and a place to cultivate our faith. Each group offers fellowship, prayer, service and study to its members but the focus of each group is different. All groups are open to new members and we cordially invite you to join us!



LUNCH BUNCH

This group is for all those who would like to gather in an informal setting to ponder the scripture readings for the upcoming week, related devotions, share reflections, and enjoy lunch together. We meet in Lawrence Hall at Trinity Church, every Wednesday at 12pm. Please bring your own lunch. No prior experience is necessary. Drop in any-time.



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH INVITES WELLSRING'S MEN TO THE TRINITY MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group meets in the Lower Hall at Trinity on the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. with breakfast provided. These meetings last about an hour. We take turns bringing in bagels, donuts, and such, but from time to time someone will get creative and offer a full breakfast for all.

Our goal is simple: "Fellowship, Friendship and Service." When we say "service" we do help out at cleanup days and with the Christmas tree fund raiser but our main goal is fellowship. We are not a work group. We try to plan activities that we hope the entire family will enjoy - from hikes up Mount Wachusett, fishing trips, bike trips. Last summer, we went on a shopping trip to Patriot Place and had a ball. The more members we have the more we can do! Please join us!

Contact Dave Metcalf 508-842-8348 or just show up the first Saturday of each month.



CHOIR

Join us for rehearsals and fellowship on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, contact Sandra Tilander at 508-853-9639.



BOOK CLUB

All are welcome. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm at Panera Bread in White City, to discuss a book.

July Selection: Gina's Pick "Keeping Faith" by Jodi Picoult

In the small town of New Canaan, N.H., 33-year-old Mariah discovers that her husband, Colin, is having an affair. Years ago, his cheating drove Mariah to attempt suicide and Colin had her briefly committed to an institution. Now Mariah's facing divorce and again fighting depression, when her eight-year-old daughter, Faith, suddenly acquires an imaginary friend.

August Selection: Sabina's Pick "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout

Thirteen linked tales from Strout present a heart-wrenching, penetrating portrait of ordinary coastal Mainers living lives of quiet grief intermingled with flashes of human connection. The opening Pharmacy focuses on terse, dry junior high-school teacher Olive Kitteridge and her gregarious pharmacist husband, Henry, both of whom have survived the loss of a psychologically damaged parent, and both of whom suffer painful attractions to co-workers. Themes of suicide, depression, bad communication, aging and love, run through these stories.

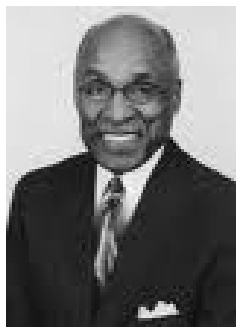
September Selection: Tammy's Pick "The Walk" by Richard Paul Evans

At 28, Alan Christoffersen is the head of his own successful ad company, and madly in love with his wife, McKale. His life seems truly charmed, until McKale has an accident while horseback riding. She is left paralyzed, and to stay by her side, Alan leaves his business in the hands of his partner, Kyle, which proves to be a terrible misstep when Kyle cruelly betrays him. Then McKale dies. Bereft, Alan throws off the trappings of his old life and, with little more than a backpack and a tent, sets out to walk from his home in Bellevue, Washington, all the way to Key West, Florida.

8 Contact Tammy or Sabina or small-groups@wellspringmc.net for more information.

2010 NEW ENGLAND UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

(from Spirit.net and Sabina Terrades—Lay member at Annual Conference)



Keynote: "Is That You?"

The **Reverend Doctor Zan Holmes** of Disciple Bible Study fame began his Keynote conversation with a story about the confusion that can result if we don't look like the picture of who we are supposed to be. He challenged the body to reflect on whether or not the church is

recognizable; do we look like the picture of the early church?

To answer this question, Dr. Holmes suggested that we first examine some of the aspects of the early church. The first feature he stressed was that the early church was unique but united. No two people or churches look alike, he said. "The Holy Spirit is like Clorox 2; it's color safe," he exclaimed. "It cleanses but does not wash out colors. In fact, colors shine brighter." Rather than either putting down or worshipping their uniqueness, however, the early church was united in their common love of Christ, and in their mission.

He stressed that the mission of the church should be "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the church and the world," since the world cannot be transformed until and unless the church is transformed.

Another defining feature of the early church was that the participants expected something to happen, and waited on the power of the Holy Spirit to lead them in the evangelical and social justice tasks of their day. "The Pentecostal power did not come," Dr. Holmes said, "until they were facing the Pentecostal task." Today, however, he decried our sin of low expectancy. "There is not a shortage of power; there is a shortage of purpose." In waiting on the power of the Spirit, the disciples were told to return to Jerusalem, the place of their failure and disappointment. Only there, Dr. Holmes reminded the body, can we receive the true gift of God's power, given at the moment when we are truly helpless, stripped of all pride.

At this same point, he continued, when all we can offer God is our need and not our own power, we are ready not only to receive the Spirit as a gift, but to be transformed. "I know why we are here," Dr. Holmes proclaimed. "We are here to get our pictures touched up. By the grace of God, we do not need to leave this place like we came; we can leave looking more like the people we are supposed to be."

Shall We Gather At The River?

The Conference music team invited members and guests to gather at the river as the opening worship service of New England Annual Conference 2010 began. Recalling the different views of the River of Life, worship leaders named those who have crossed that river this year; clergy and spouses who have passed away and places where congregations are letting go of buildings and established church settings to embrace new ministries. Family members of those remembered added water to the fountain at the front of the chapel throughout the service. Bishop Weaver reminded the body of the sorrow and pain of death, and of the witness to God's faithfulness in the face of death. He led the gathering in remembrance of United Methodist leaders Clinton Rabb and Sam Dixon and the countless others who died in the earthquake and its aftermath in Haiti this past winter. Playing on the words of the sung prayer "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," the Bishop asked, "Isn't death the failure of God's goodness?" As the service progressed with reminders of God's faithfulness and the promise of hope and strength beyond sorrow, his question was met with increasingly resounding cries of "no way!", and through sacrament and song, the communion service led us into celebration of Christ's victory over death.

An offering for Haiti taken during the Memorial service totaled \$5467.12.

SOME INTERESTING 2009 NEW ENGLAND UNITED METHODIST STATISTICS

Number of Churches: 634 (CMA*:64)
Number of churches federated or united with another denomination: 67 (CMA:10)
Total Membership: 97,969 (CMA:14,472)
Number of churches with less than 50 members: 136 (CMA:11)
Number of churches with more than 200 members: 167 (CMA:28)
Total worship attendance: 35,280 (CMA:4,549)
Number of churches with worship under 25: 162 (CMA:13)
Number of churches with worship over 150:39 (CMA:6)
Average worship attendance CMA: 71
*CMA: Central Massachusetts District

MORE ON THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!



**Partners In
Ministry
06/16/10
from Bishop
Peter Weaver**

Dear Partners in Ministry,

♦ **HOLY CONFERENCING
2010** I just returned from
preaching at the Florida Annual
Conference, which was

held at the convention center in Lakeland, FL. Linda and I received a very warm welcome (both hospitality and 104 degree heat index). There were debates about conference organization, discussions about our social concerns (immigration, poverty, environment, etc.), lively worship, and deep commitment to follow Jesus where He leads us. Even though "Yankees," we felt very much at home.

I remembered that in the "old days" of the nineteenth century (I don't literally "remember" them...just reading about them) Bishops traveled from conference to conference all over the map (including other continents) preaching and presiding. They were not assigned to one area, as we are now, but were "general superintendents" of the whole Methodist Church. Among other things, our Methodist concept of "holy conferencing" means that we are all a part of something much larger than our own little conference, or region....we are a part of the "holy whole." Our "connexion," as Wesley called it, is connected to Florida , Africa , Russia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and on and on. Thus, at the New England Conference this year, Bishop Gaspar Domingos from Angola will be preaching.....he is as much "our" Bishop as I am.

Vermont United Methodists and those who have been a part of the "old" New England Conference will become the "new" New England Conference as we share in Holy Conferencing this year. Pieces of the whole connecting together for the sake of Christ's mission. This all reminds us that we have great diversity, rich gifts, wide inclusiveness in our connexion....all of us seeking to follow Jesus and fully participate in the whole holiness of God's realm on earth, even as it is in heaven.

Pray for the whole church, the whole world as we in New England enter into Holy Conferencing.

♦ **A POCKET PRAYER SHAWL** will be in my pocket as we meet for holy conferencing this year. It was given to me by the Prayer Shawl Ministry of the Oakdale UMC in West Boylston, MA. I had seen and admired larger prayer shawls. I have a 3x6 foot one hanging in my office....beautiful, but my pocket isn't quite big enough to carry it with me. But this knitted 3x3 inch pocket prayer shawl with a cross in the center can be carried with me all the time, with the reminder on it,

"Know that God is always with you!" Your congregation might want to consider giving a pocket prayer shawl to visitors at worship, or people who come to your church suppers, or give one to the mail carrier or gas station attendant or waiter in the restaurant....everyone needs a reminder that God is with them.

♦ **THRESHOLD** This is the name of a singing group...sometimes just two or three singers....who visit those who are dying....in the hospital, in hospice, or at home. It's not a performance for a group of people, but individualized for the person who is dying. They gather around the bed, along with family or friends who may be there, and sing a cappella the favorite songs or hymns of the person who is on the "threshold" of crossing over. I heard about this on NPR radio and thought about my own mother in her last months, when we weren't sure she knew anyone or anything....but when we sang, a calm and peace came over her and her spirit seemed to glow. It would be a simple gift you could take, if you sing at all, to someone needing a spiritual lift.

♦ **THE LIGHT OF PEACE** At Grace UMC, Bangor, ME, where I preached recently, they started the worship service by lighting the Peace Candle. Like the lighting of the Advent wreath during Advent, this was a centering act of worship, which all ages of people could lead year around. It also claimed that sanctuary as a safe place of peace (some churches like to fight, you know) and reminded us all of the need for peace beyond those walls where the Prince of Peace calls us to live as peacemakers in our family, workplace, school, community....world!

Grace and Peace,

Pete



**Transformed by the Holy Spirit,
united in trust,
we will proclaim Christ boldly
to the world.**

GOT BIBLE QUESTIONS?

Question: "What does the Bible say about self-defense?"

Answer: Without close study, the Bible can seem to give conflicting instructions on self-defense. There are numerous passages that speak of Christians being pacifistic (Proverbs 25:21,22; Matthew 5:39; Romans 12:17). And yet there are many passages that talk about war and violence that God approves of, such as David slaying Goliath (1 Samuel 17). Not to mention the fact that God commanded the Israelites to completely destroy everyone and everything in the Promised Land! So what is the conclusion? Is God for violence or not? Under what circumstances is self-defense appropriate?

As with many questions in our lives, self-defense has to do with wisdom, understanding, and tact. For instance, in the Luke 22 passage stated above, Jesus does tell his disciples to get a sword. Jesus knew that now was the time when Jesus would be threatened (and later killed) and his followers would be threatened as well. Jesus was giving approval of the fact that one has the right to self-defense. Now just a few verses later we see Jesus being arrested and Peter takes a sword and cuts off someone's ear. Jesus rebukes him for that act. Why? Peter was trying to stop something that Jesus had been telling His disciples was in fact going to happen. In other words, Peter was acting unwisely in the situation. He was trying to stop something that was not supposed to be stopped. We must be wise as to when to fight and when not to.

As far as self-defense when one's life or property is threatened, there is not a whole lot in the Bible concerning this. Exodus 22 does show quite a bit about God's attitude towards self-defense. "If a thief is caught breaking in and is struck so that he dies, the defender is not guilty of bloodshed; but if it happens after sunrise, he is guilty of bloodshed. A thief must certainly make restitution, but if he has nothing, he must be sold to pay for his theft" (Exodus 22:2-3). Obviously here we see that when a thief breaks into someone's house at night and that person defends his home and slays the thief, God does not hold that death over the defender's head. However, God does not wish for anyone to take law into his or her own hands. This is why it is said that if a thief is struck down during the daylight the defender is guilty of bloodshed. Now this is speaking of thievery, not an attack. So if the thief were to attack the defender even during the day, self-defense would be justified.

The proper use of self-defense has to do with wisdom, understanding, and tact. In many karate classes, one of the principles is: "Restrain your physical abilities by spiritual attainment." This is a fancy way of saying that since one has the ability to bring great harm doesn't mean he or she needs to use it. Just because we can break someone's arm, doesn't mean we need to use that ability. Just because we have a gun doesn't mean we need to fire on someone who breaks into the home.

Recommended Resource: Balancing the Christian Life by Charles Ryrie.



Help Wellspring Show Spirit!

"Shout with joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!" - Psalm 66:1-2

Once again this year, make The Spirit of Shrewsbury weekend a Wellspring weekend of celebration, fun and joy! Wellspring will participate in this year's event in two ways, as it has been our tradition for the past few years:

We will have **our own booth** and will offer free water bottles to the crowd on Saturday September 25th at the Town Expo to be held at the Oak Middle School. We will also participate in **the parade** with our own Wellspring float on Sunday September 26.

Last year was an amazing experience for all people who volunteered. We had tremendous fun while showing our Shrewsbury neighbors that "God loves all of us and there is nothing we can do about it!"

This year again, volunteers are needed to help with the fun. We need people to help decorate the float, help at the booth distributing water bottles, walk with us (or ride on the float) during the parade

We will be "recruiting" volunteers starting now throughout the month of September. Contact Sabina or Tammy at outreach@wellspringumc.net to participate. Free Wellspring t-shirts to all participants.


Want more info on the Spirit of Shrewsbury festival? Check out the site at www.spiritofshrewsbury.com.

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist either in Europe or America. But I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power. And this undoubtedly will be the case unless they hold fast both the doctrine, spirit, and discipline with which they first set out."

John Wesley



Calendar of Events

JULY 2010						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 8:30am: Trinity Men's Group - Lower Hall - Trinity Episcopal church
4 Roadies Team 4 (Oscar's) 9:45am: Worship	5	6 7:30pm: Book Club - Panera's	7 12pm: Lunch Bunch - Church Office	8	9	10
11 Roadies Team 1 (Joan's) WORSHIP IN THE PARK 9:45am: Worship Trip to Heifer Project	12	13	14 12pm: Lunch Bunch - Church Office 7pm: Finance Commit- tee - Folsom's	15	16	17
18 Roadies Team 2 (Jeff's) 9:45am: Worship 7:30pm: Wellspring hosts the Kamaican Garm Worker Service	19	20 7:30pm: Vision & Leader- ship	21 12pm: Lunch Bunch - Church Office	22	23	24
25 Roadies Team 3 (Peter's) 9:45am: Worship	26	27	28 12pm: Lunch Bunch - Church Office 	29	30	31



Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 7:30pm: Book Club - Panera's	4 12pm: Lunch Bunch - Church Office	5	6	7 8:30am: Trinity Men's Group - Lower Hall - Trinity Episcopal church
8 Roadies Team 4 (Oscar's) WORSHIP IN THE PARK AND ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC 9:45am: Worssip	9	10	11 12pm: Lunch Bunch - Church Office 7pm: Finance Commit- tee - Folsom's	12	13	14
15 Roadies Team 1 (Joan's) 9:45am: Worship	16	17	18 12pm: Lunch Bunch - Church Office	19	20	21
22 Roadies Team 2 (Jeff's) 9:45am: Worship	23	24 7:30pm: Vision & Leader- ship	25 12pm: Lunch Bunch - Church Office	26	27	28
29 Roadies Team 3 (Peter's) 9:45am: Worship	30	31				



Living Water

A  **Wellspring** Newsletter
United Methodist Church

Pastor Mariah Furness Tollgaard
440 Main Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545



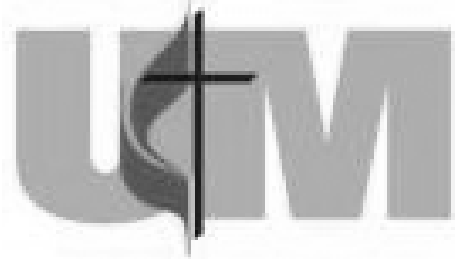
WELLSPRING VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

Wellspring United Methodist Church is an inclusive Christian congregation, growing in relationship with God and filled with the Holy Spirit.

**We seek people in need of
God's mercy.**

**We share the power of Christ's
healing love, grace, and acceptance.**

**We serve through prayer, worship,
and outreach in the community.**



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