

# *The Outlook*

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

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Karen Stoffers-Pugh, Pastor

December 8, 2010

## **Sunday, December 12, 2010**

9 a.m. Sunday School      10:30 a.m. Worship

Third Sunday of Advent

Excerpts from Conception Narratives of Matthew and Luke

Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:5-55

Wesley Choir Lullaby Cantata

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### *Christmas Caroling*



Wesley Church is going to sing Christmas carols for our homebound members and friends. All voices are needed to "make a joyful noise" and share the Christmas spirit. We will meet at the church at 4 p.m. this coming Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, get directions, follow a route, and then end up at Jerry's Ludeke's for a party. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

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### *Lunch Bunch to Meet Tuesday, December 14, at St. Mark's UMC*

Wesley's Lunch Bunch will gather Tuesday, December 14, 11:30 a.m., at St. Mark's UMC, 2110 McCray St. St. Mark's is having their Christmas Luncheon. The menu will be oven baked chicken, green beans, waldorf salad, and delicious lemon cake for dessert. Price is \$8. Plus plenty of baked goods and crafts to buy in their gift room. Everyone is welcome. The church is located at the corner of McCray and Norris Rd. The Lunch Bunch monthly gatherings are a great way to get to know Wesley folk. There is no agenda, just great food and fellowship. Come join us. No reservations needed.

## From The Pastor's Desk,

***In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!' Luke 2:8-14***

Have you heard the term *flash mob*? I've received emails inviting me to watch videos of a "flash mob". Webster's New Millennium Dictionary defines it as "a group of people who organize on the Internet and then quickly assemble in a public place, do something bizarre, and disperse." The clips I've been sent involve people that appear in public and sing. One clip is a group singing Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* in a food court. People are eating, sitting at little tables and then individuals stand and begin singing the glorious music of Handel. If you have access to the internet, to view go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXh7JR9oKVE&feature=related>

As I listened I thought, "I wonder if the people in the food court would attend a Messiah sing-a-long? Would they come to a Christmas cantata?" Some would and probably do attend church, sing the Messiah, go to hear a choir sing cantatas at church. It made me think of the angels in the field from Luke's gospel. The shepherds were living in the field, going about their everyday/night business. Then the angels appeared. They brought the good news to the shepherds in the middle of their everyday life. Like the flash mob appearing in a food court the good news of the birth of Jesus came to where the people were living their lives.

Be on the look out for angels bringing you good news of great joy. It might be at church on Sunday morning, it could be singing Christmas carols, it could be at the Angel Tree party or on Christmas Eve. Or it just might be when and where you least expect it!

Peace,

Pastor Karen

## *Meeting*

The Administrative Council will meet on Tuesday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the lounge.

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## *Christmas Play Rehearsals*

There will be a short (about 30 minute) rehearsal on Sunday, December 12 immediately following worship. We need to block the program in the Sanctuary. Please save the date for Saturday, December 18 for a dress rehearsal from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Everyone must be there!  
—Margaret Grant

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You are invited to bring a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. Please bring the poinsettia between Monday, December 13 and Friday, December 17, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. There are red slips in the Narthex and in the office if you would like to designate your poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Turn red slips into the church office. Names will be published in the December 19 bulletin. *Your poinsettia may be picked up after the December 24 Christmas Eve Service - mark your name on it* . Thank you.

## *Wesley Christmas Gathering Saturday, December 18, 4:30 p.m.*

Wesley children, friends, and our special Angel Tree guests are invited! We need people to sign up to bake cookies, serve as party hosts, and serve food. Please sign up in the Narthex.

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## *Angel Tree Gift Tags Ready*

Thank you for your response to the Angel Tree gifts tags that have been on the tree in the narthex. There are approximately 13 gift tags still to be "sponsored". Each tag has the name of a child, gender, age and the appropriate item of clothing and size or a fun gift that their parent would like them to receive. If you have not already taken a gift tag, please stop by the church office during the week or plan to pick one up at church on Sunday. Gifts should be wrapped and returned to the church office by next Tuesday, December 14. Mention this ministry to other family members and friends that do not attend Wesley. They may want to sponsor a child's gift and we would welcome their participation. For more information about Angel Tree you can contact Pastor Karen.

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## *Share Your Christmas Greetings*

All Wesley people are invited to share holiday greetings by posting a Christmas card on the narthex bulletin board. This tradition decorates the narthex while saving money on cards and postage. And be sure to stop by the board each Sunday to enjoy the cards and greetings that are there.

*Prayers of  
Thanksgiving & Concern*

Prayers of concern were expressed for Marlene Moore who is going to have a biopsy on December 14, prayers that everything will go well; for Carolyn and Barbara Dethlefson as they go to Detroit for help with Carolyn's medical concerns; healing for Jean Myers and family. Prayer of thanksgiving was expressed for the beautiful baby boy born Monday, November 29 to Virginia and Henry (Burnes), 7lbs., 12 ozs., 21" long.

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*Upper Rooms*

The January and February 2011 devotional guides are now available in the literature rack. Donation is .50 for regular print and \$1.00 for large print. We encourage you to pick one up today.

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*Sign-Up*

There is a sign-up list on the bulletin board in the Narthex for 2011 Greeters and Children's Activity Leaders.

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This week's attendance: 87  
Offering: \$5,790 Folded Corner \$2



**The virgin will be with child and  
will give birth to a son, and  
will call him Immanuel.**

Isaiah 7:14

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