

# *The Outlook*

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

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Karen Stoffers-Pugh, Pastor

November 9, 2011

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## **Sunday, November 13, 2011**

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

Psalm 84, Luke 17: 11--19

"Grace-Filled Gratitude"

Karen Stoffers-Pugh, preaching

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## **Lunch Bunch to Meet Wednesday, November 16 at Tony's Pizza**

Wesley's Lunch Bunch will gather Wednesday, November 16, 11:30 a.m., at Tony's Pizza, 3615 Mt. Vernon Ave. Everyone is welcome. The restaurant is located across from Bakersfield College. A slice of pizza, salad, and drink for \$6. 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.

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## **Coat Giveaway This Saturday, 9 to 11 a.m.; Two Volunteers Needed to Assist Patrons**

Wesley's annual coat giveaway will be this Saturday 9 to 11 a.m., in the Gathering Place. Two volunteers are needed that morning to assist patrons. If you can assist, please come at 8:30 a.m. so that you can receive instructions on how the coat giveaway operates. Chair Brent Casper already has the coat racks set up in the Gathering Place and donated coats are on the racks, sorted by size and gender and ready to be given out. We still need more coats of all sizes!!!! You may drop them off Saturday morning at 8 a.m. Thank you.

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## **2012 Pledge Cards Needed This Sunday**

All Wesley members and constituents are urged to return their 2012 pledge cards this Sunday. They may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Your pledge may be of any amount, dependent on your financial status, but pledging shows that you believe in Wesley and want Wesley to continue to serve its members, community, and world.

**FROM THE PASTOR'S INBOX** [revkspugh@gmail.com](mailto:revkspugh@gmail.com)

*Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying "I gave birth to him in pain." Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request. 1 Chronicles 4:9-10*

The prayer of Jabez has often been used in the last decade to promote what is called the "prosperity gospel" which is the belief that the Bible teaches that financial blessing is the will of God for Christians. This is not the reason that I lift it up to you in this week's Outlook message. I have just come from a discussion of the text at the Circuit Leader's retreat. We discussed where in our churches or in our circuits can we see God moving us to enlarge our territories? What new places? With what new people? I thought of our own church, Wesley, and where God is calling us to enlarge our territory.

This Saturday we will enlarge our territory with our Coat Drive. Have you combed through your closets? Have you asked your neighbors if they have any coats they could donate? What a great way to witness to the ministry of Wesley. This Sunday we will enlarge our territory by hosting what may be our very first blood drive. Have you ever given blood before? What a great, safe place to give your first blood donation. Are you a regular blood donor? I hope you are in a schedule that will allow you to donate on Sunday. Talk to your friends, ask them if they are blood donors and would they consider donating at the blood drive on Sunday. Call Houchin Blood Bank at 323-4222 to make your appointment. And here's a crazy thought, why not donate during worship? What a great way to honor God by using the miracle of the body God gave you to give life to others.

Last month we enlarged our territory with two great fundraising activities. We invited friends to join us for an exciting and fun filled dinner and auction. We had an opportunity to shine with family and friends that may not have joined us before on a Sunday. Would you be able to invite them to join you again, on a Sunday morning? The Pumpkin Patch was also a great success in bringing families to our church. Some even drove from across town because they heard our church's pumpkins were from the Navajo nation. What other ministries and worship would draw new people to Wesley?

Here at the retreat one of the speakers is Rev. Paul Nixon the author of *I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church*. He has said that we have a six critical choices to make as clergy and laity. They are:

**Life over Death    Community over Isolation    Fun over Drudgery**  
**Bold over Mild    Frontier over Fortress    Now over Later**

What will we choose in 2012 for Wesley church? How will we enlarge our territory?

I hope to see you in church this Sunday when we dedicate our pledges, raise our voices in song, welcome old friends and meet new friends, where we are stewards of not only our finances but also stewards of the very blood that courses through our veins.

Peace, Pastor Karen



## **BLOOD DRIVE THIS SUNDAY**

If you haven't already made an appointment, there are still slots available. You can make an appointment by calling Houchin Community Blood Bank at 323-4222, or just show up on Sunday and roll up your sleeve. Someone will be happy to take your donation.

Please be aware that the corner southeast parking lot will be **closed** to make room for the Houchin Mobile Unit.

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## **Charge Conference - Sunday, November 20**

Wesley's annual Charge Conference will be held Sunday, November 20, immediately following worship. This is an event that every member is encouraged to attend. This will be a joint charge conference with St. Mark's UMC. Pastor Karen will present Wesley's official report for the year. The report includes information and statistics that describes what has happened in 2011. Please come and join us.

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## **5 Apportionments Adopted**

Wesley's 2012 apportionments went for adoption, and five already have been adopted or partially adopted. They are Africa University, Annual Conference Ministries, Black College Fund, Clergy Pension, and Kern Mission Society. The apportionments still up for adoption are: World Service \$2967; Episcopal Fund \$904; General Administration \$339; Interdenominational Cooperation \$78; Ministerial Education \$984; Jurisdiction Conference Administration \$120; Jurisdiction Korean Mission \$64; Central Valley District \$386; Ethnic Minority Congregation \$903; and Emerging Congregations \$903. Adoptions amount may be paid all at once or monthly during 2012. Apportionment adoptions need to be "second mile" giving, contributed in addition to an annual pledge.

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## **Thank you!**

\$110.64 was collected by Wesley children as they went trick or treating at Halloween. Wesley adults who also took home and filled UNICEF boxes assisted in this effort. Thank you to everyone who supported this mission outreach project and helped the children in collecting this money.

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving & Concern**

Prayers of concern were expressed for Leslie Myers who had surgery on Tuesday on her knee; for Linda Tilton's staff's sister-in-law and brother who lost their baby, she was 9 weeks pregnant, that their family may find comfort as they deal with their loss; that Linda Tilton's parents will sell their house soon; for Marlene Moore whose stomach is hurting her. Prayers of thanksgiving were expressed for Evelyn Elliott whose house sold and she will be out next week, she is sad to be leaving her home of 26 years but excited to begin the next phase of her life, blessings for her new owners and that her old home provide them the safety and happiness that her family experienced; for successful surgery for Barbara Dethlefson's niece, Barbara, and prayers for healing for her.

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## **From The Church Office**

The office will be closed on Friday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day and closed November 25 and 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

<p>This week's attendance: 75 Offering:\$9193 Folded Corner:\$0</p>
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## **Wesley Tidbits**

Lillie Johnson is in need of used Christmas cards for the Angel Tree Party. If you have some you would like to donate, bring them to the office.

Administrative Council will meet Tuesday, November 15, 5:30 p.m. in the lounge.