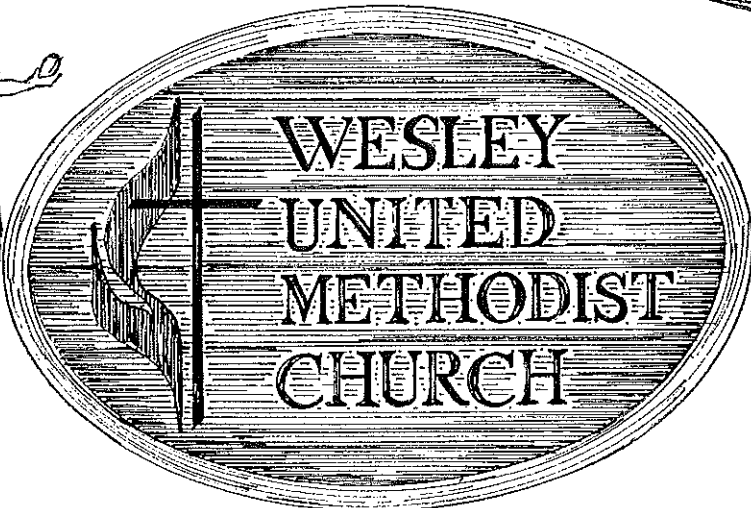
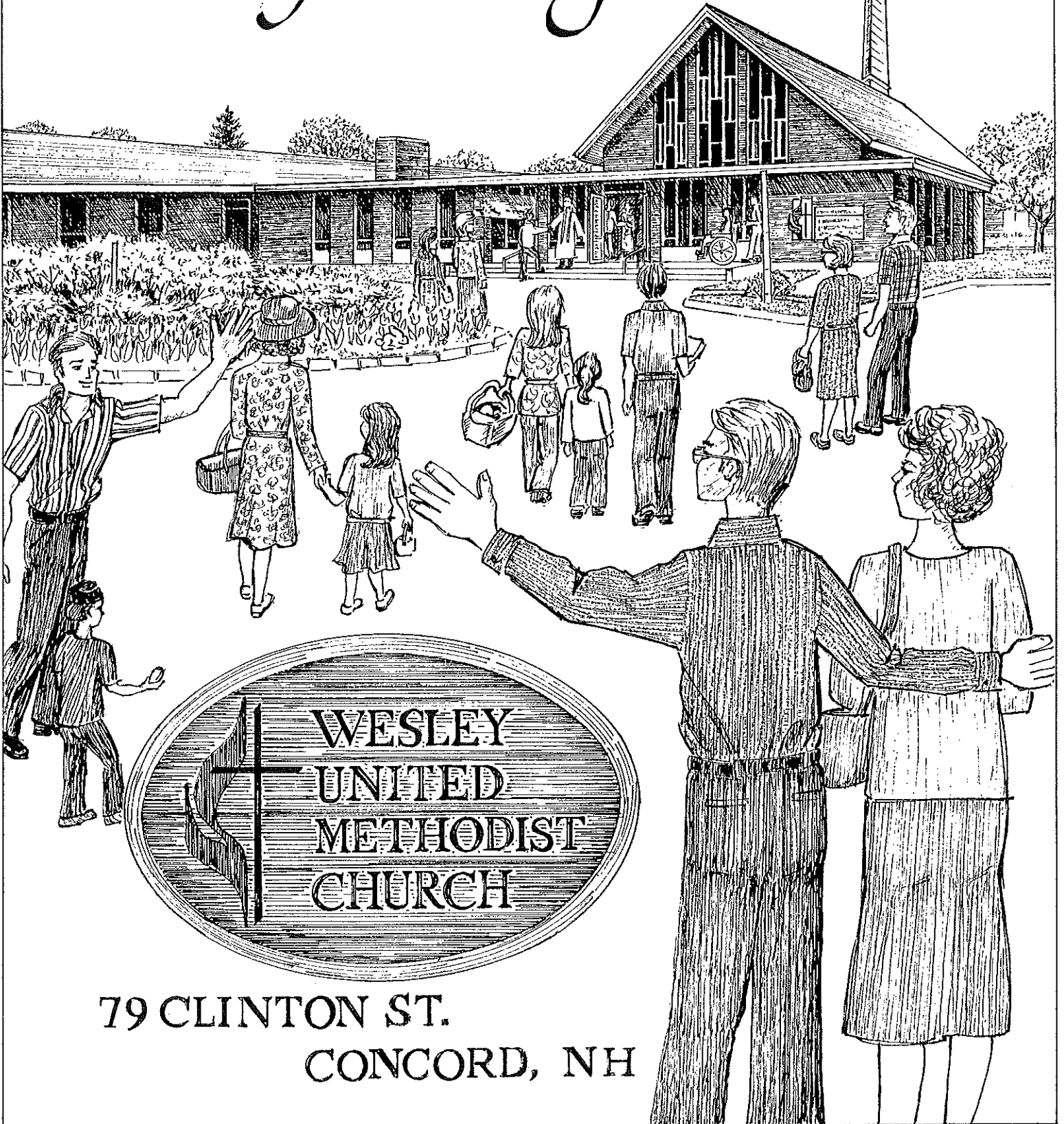


# Methodist Messenger



79 CLINTON ST.  
CONCORD, NH

*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
Concord, New Hampshire*

*This book is dedicated to all the saints who have made*

*this church what it is today, September 25, 2011.*

*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee*

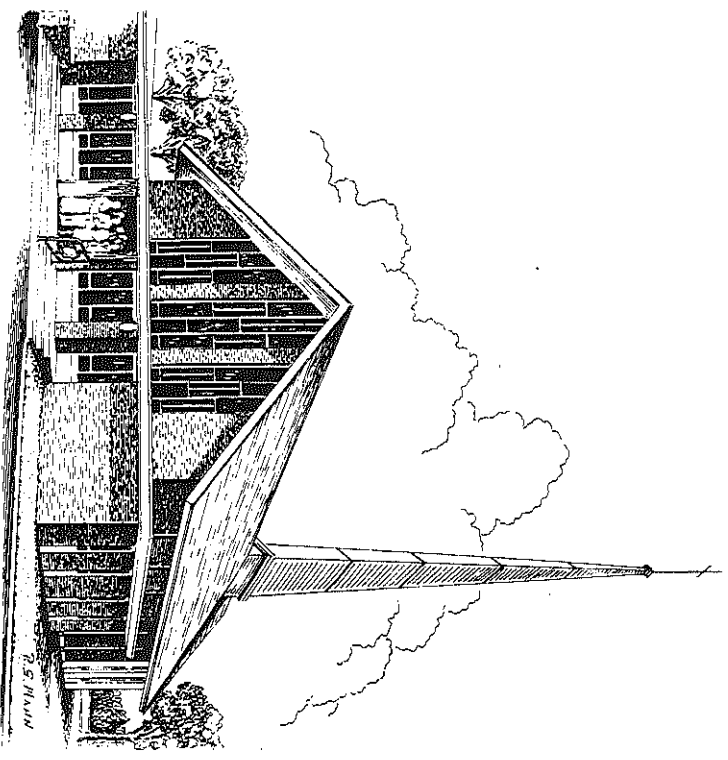
*Alan Topliff, Chair*

*Ruth Engel, Nancy Trumben,*

*Virginia Gerseny, George Fryer,*

*Helen Fryer, Agnes MacLeod-Macey,*

*and Mary Ann Woffe*



Wesley United Methodist Church  
Concord, New Hampshire

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Welcome to Wesley United Methodist Church  
A Safe and Open Church for ALL God's People

\* Those who are able may stand  
• 10:30 am Service only

PRELUDE      "Sonatina" (9:00)      Beethoven  
"I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ" (10:30)      Pachelbel

GREETING

• INTROIT      "Honor & Praise"      Paris

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: For 50 Years, Wesley Church has stood on the corner of Clinton and Norwich Streets.

**People:** We have tried to be like a funnel with a wide opening at one end to gather many into our fellowship, and at the other end, a concentrated focus on God and justice.

Leader: For 50 years, we have opened our doors to the greater Concord community.

**People:** Worshipers have come to praise, to question, and to grow. Parents have brought children for baptism. Lovers have brought their kiss to seal their promise. Mourners have brought their grief and searched for hope.

Leader: For 50 Years, we have prayed in this place.

**People:** We have prayed through presidential primaries, pardons, and impeachments. We have prayed through storms, earthquakes, and floods.

Leader: And now, O God, we ask for another 50 Years.

**People:** We promise to open wide our doors and our hearts. We promise to concentrate on you and on justice. We will worship with sincerity through all life's stages. We will pray not just for one another, but for all your world and your people.

\* OPENING HYMN      "We Are God's People"      FWS #2220

OPENING PRAYER

O God of all times and places, we pray for your church, which is set today amid the perplexities of a changing order, and is faced with new tasks.

Baptize her afresh in the life-giving spirit of Jesus.

Bestow upon her a great responsiveness to duty, a swifter compassion with suffering, and an utter loyalty to your will.

Help her to proclaim boldly the coming of your kingdom.

Put upon her lips the ancient gospel of her Lord.

Fill her with the prophets' scorn of tyranny, and with a Christ-like tenderness for the heavy-laden and downtrodden.

Bid her cease from seeking her own life, lest she lose it.

Make her valiant to give up her life to humanity, that, like her crucified Lord, she may mount by the path of the cross to a higher glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

• ANTHEM      "Rain Down"      Cortez/Carter

• CHILDREN'S TIME

All children with a parent or adult are welcome in worship. Children are invited to our Worship and Wonder children's worship in room 5 after Children's Time. Children aged three to six years may go to the childcare center in Room 14. Infants to two years old may be taken to the nursery in Room 8.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

• Anthem      "This is My Song"      Rogers  
Jubellation Handbell Choir

THE CHURCH ALIVE

THE OFFERING OF OUR TITHES, OUR GIFTS, AND OUR LIVES

• Offertory      "The Lord's Prayer"      Malotte  
Judy Figueroa

\* DOXOLOGY      UMH #94

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

(Those wishing to kneel at the rail for prayer are welcomed.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER      UMH #895

• PRAYER RESPONSE      "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"      Berthier

\* HYMN OF PREPARATION

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"      UMH #632

A READING FROM 1 Peter 2: 1-10      (page 219)

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

SERMON      "Behold the Cornerstone"      Rev. Hey

\* HYMN OF COMMITMENT

"Father, We Have Heard You Calling"      WNS #3150

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE      "All Men Living Are But Mortal" (9:00)      Pachelbel  
"The Lord God Ineffable" (10:30)      D. Paxton

(We thank you for remaining seated during the Postlude.)

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal; FWS: The Faith We Sing; WNS: Worship & Song

TODAY'S ALTAR ARRANGEMENT IS GIVEN BY

*Virginia Gerseny*  
in memory of Mel and Ronnie Gerseny.

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2011

## Rejuvenation!

CONTEMPORARY  
WORSHIP SERVICE  
6:00 PM

*\*To honor our glorious God, please stand if able*

### \*Gathering Music

*Jesus, Name Above all Names*

### Welcome & Announcements

### \*Praise Music

*Holiness  
Psalm 19*

### Making Peace

### Community Prayer Time

### Offering

*Instrumental - Electric Praise*

### Scripture

*1 Peter 2: 1-10*

### Proclamation

*Behold the Cornerstone*

### Special Music

*Mighty to Save*

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Lord's Prayer

### Sharing in Holy Communion

*Come and Worship*

### \*Praise Music

*Taste and See  
Refiner's Fire*

### Benediction

### \*Dismissal

*From the Rising of the Sun*

**The Church's One Foundation**  
Wesley United Methodist Church,  
September 25, 2011

Story Teller.....Mike Munroe

**Scene 1**

**The Beginning**

*Three Mice... Grace and David Venator,  
William Griffith*

**Scene 2**

**The Merge**

*Members of Baker Church in blue,  
Members of First Church in red*

**Scene 3**

**Getting Acquainted**

*Alan and Peggy Topliff, George and  
Helen Fryer, Bob and Mary Ann Wolfe*

**Scene 4**

**The Ground Breaking**

*Peter Hey as Rev. Stauffer  
Agnes MacLeod-Macey, Charles Dustin,  
Paul Dustin, Cliff Roberts  
Alan Topliff, Bob Wolfe,  
Gus Beldin, Dodd Griffith*

**Scene 5**

**The Women Speak Up**

*Barb Drotos, Veronica Nugent,  
Joan Woodhead, Diane Avery*

**Scene 6**

**Sacred Dancers**

*Fashion Commentator: Peggy Topliff  
Renee Doucette, Joan Doucette,  
Sylvia Greene, Faren Thorson,  
Susie Champlin, Cecelia Griffith,  
Susan Griffith, Tabiha Nugent,  
Virginia Nugent*

**Scene 7**

**Lake Wesley**

*Cliff Roberts, Linda Billingham,  
Cathy Hey, Jerry Espineda*

**Scene 8**

**Caravan Sunday**

*Three Mice  
Rev. Hey as Rev Stauffer  
Boy Scouts*

*Julie McGetrick, Dan Haines*

*Ruth Engel, Bob Wolfe*

*Members of the merging churches*

**Scene 9**

**Pastoral Visiting**

*Rev. Dwight Haynes as Rev. Wm. Wallace*

**Scene 10**

**The Stained Glass Windows**

*Rev. Hey as Rev. Treadwell  
Diane Avery as Mrs. Otto  
The Girls Chancel Choir  
Cecelia Griffith, Susan Griffith,  
Holly Newhall, Megan Newhall*

**Scene 11**

**“In a Bus Painted Robin Egg Blue”**

*Gus Beldin as Rev. Treadwell  
Jerry Espineda, Linda Billingham,  
Cathy Hey, Cliff Roberts*

**Scene 12**

**Wesley Goes World Wide**

*Ruth Engel, Joan Woodhead*

**Scene 13**

**Green Acres**

*Albert Emery*

**Scene 14**

**Read 'em and Laugh**

*Watch the screen*

**Scene 15**

**Jesus Loves the Little Children**

*Veronica Nugent*

**Scene 16**

**The Tintinabulation of the Bells**

*The Jubellation Bell Choir*

*Veronica Nugent, Kitty Lane,*

*Julie McGettrick, Linda Moore,*

*Martha Eilers, Ruth Engel, Myrina Hanna*

**Scene 17**

**We've Been Rejuvenated!**

*Electric Praise*

*Alan Schulte, Richard Lessard,*

*Cathy Hey, Ken Gallager*

**Scene 18**

**Rainbow Over Wesley**

*Rev. Hey as Rev. Kerr*

*Alan Topliff, Cliff Roberts*

**Scene 19**

**Agape Opens**

*William and David, Mice*

**Scene 20**

**Jingle Bells**

*Barb Drotos, Veronica Nugent,*

*Joan Woodhead, Diane Avery*

**Scene 21**

**Wesleyan Arts**

**Scene 22**

**The Church's One Foundation**

*Rev. Hey as Rev. Hey*

*Alan Topliff, Dodd Griffith*

**Technical Crews:**

Stage Manager: Sarah Old

Asst. Stage Manager: Diane Mumroe

Properties: Dan Haines

Artist: Nancy Fransen

Screen Projections: Angela Newhall

Sound: Alan Topliff

Writers: Ginny Gerseny, Ruth Engel,

*Peter Hey*

Programs and Publicity: Peggy Topliff

Mice Costumes: Ginny Gerseny

Organist: Ken Gallager

Research: Helen and George Fryer,

*Carol Harris, Misty Griffith, Rev. Kerr,*

*Rev. Guillemette, Rev. Hey*

Music Director: Nancy Cole

Drama Director and Producer:

*Ginny Gerseny*

## HISTORY OF CONCORD METHODISM

As early as 1816 itinerant Methodist ministers preached in Concord on the east side of the river. In 1822 two classes were formed. "The First Methodist Society in Concord" was legally constituted in March, 1825. In July, 1830 the Rev. Samuel Kelley was the first stationed minister and the Society had a membership of twenty-seven, covering a territory of eight or nine miles.

In January of 1831 the site at the corner of Chapel Street was purchased for \$200. The first meeting house was built as a result of determination and great sacrifice that year for \$2500. The First Methodist Church was dedicated, December 1, 1831. In 1840 a "singing galley" was constructed at the west end of the church, a new vestibule added and the front and vestry enlarged. Other improvements were made from time to time. In 1874 the Methodist membership reached its highest point, 403.

In the Presiding Elder's report to the 45th session of the New Hampshire Annual Conference, April 22-27, 1874, Mr. Kellogg stated in part: "Our brethren in Concord are adopting measures for remodeling and enlarging their place of worship. It is our conviction that the work ought to be supplemented by the building of a new church at the south part of the city." To use the words of one of the founders of the Baker Church, "It was deemed best to have another hive and swarm." A petition was completed and on October 30, 1874, one hundred and ten letters of dismission from the First Church were read and these people constituted the membership of the new church. It was decided to name this church Baker Memorial Methodist Church in honor of Bishop Baker. The first public service of this Society was held in Phoenix Hall on November 30, 1874. At that time anyone wishing to become a member joined a class and was on probation for six months.

In December of 1874, the Society decided to buy land on the corner of State and Warren Streets with the house thereon for \$8000. In February 1876, the Church accepted plans for a chapel with the idea it could be enlarged at a later date—the chapel to be built at the rear of the lot on Warren Street. The dedication of the chapel of the Baker Memorial Church was held on Thursday, December 1, 1876.

The Church was in a constant struggle to meet expenses and pay interest and principal on the debt, but the founders held fast to their idea of enlarging the chapel. On Wednesday, September 13, 1893, the cornerstone of the Baker Memorial Church was laid with appropriate ceremonies. The Church was dedicated on the 17th of May, 1894, with services in the afternoon and evening. The total cost of the church, not including carpet, pulpit furniture or organ was \$14,088.

The Baker Church continued to be in debt but also continually made improvements. During the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Garland (1902-12) the Chapel was remodeled, kitchen, parlor and toilets being added. The Rev. Mr. Huse served

the church from 1915-25 and it was during this time that the store and the land at the rear of the church on Warren Street were purchased and an addition built for Sunday School rooms and social purposes at a cost of \$30,000.

The First Church continued to grow and make improvements on its building. A new front with tower and a bell were added. The last of the alterations was completed in 1913 at a cost of \$3,000. At this time the First Church was one of the finest in the city. Disaster struck one warm night, the 24th of July, 1915: the building was completely destroyed by fire. The Society immediately started to raise funds for a new building. The cornerstone of the granite building was laid in the early fall of 1916, and the completed structure dedicated the following spring.

BY DORIS ESTABROOK AND HARRISON FERRIS

Start	End	What
1957		First Methodist and Baker Memorial Methodist Church vote to merge
July 1957		Wesley Methodist Church selected as name of merged church
July 1957	June 1963	Rev. Paul Stauffer shepherds Wesley Methodist Church construction
September 1957		Wesley Journal begins publication
April 1958		First Church sold to Greek Orthodox Church
June 1958		Services held at Baker Memorial (larger sanctuary)
September 1958		Site purchased for Wesley Methodist Church, corner Clinton and Norwich Sts. (\$17,000)
November 1958		Conant Drive Parsonage ready for occupancy (\$18,200) (\$2,000/land)
April 1959	May 1959	Building Fund Campaign nets \$80,000 in gifts and 3-year pledges
August 1960		Our First Barbecue
August 7, 1960		Ground-Breaking Ceremony follows Sunday service
November 28, 1960		Sanctuary arches raised and set in place
December 4, 1960		Cornerstone-Laying Ceremony
1961	1988	Margery Leavenworth, Organist
June 14, 1961		Spire raised to height of 105'
September 15, 1961		Parishoners install sanctuary furniture
September 24, 1961		Caravan Sunday (procession from Baker Memorial to Wesley under police escort)
October 15, 1961		Consecration Sunday led by Bishop James K. Matthews
October 21, 1961		Conference-wide convocation on Christian Social Concerns
1962		Baker Church sold (1893 cornerstone box opened)
June 27, 1963	June 1966	The Rev. Vernon C. French, Jr. leads Wesley.
September 1963		Mothers of Pre-School Children Group started
May 31, 1964		Hale Organ Dedication and Recital
September 20, 1964		Recommitment Sunday marks Wesley's third anniversary
1965	present	Sunday Service Tape Ministry
August 15, 1965		Phillips Memorial Chapel organ dedicated
January 1966		Memorial Funds established
June 1966	June 1972	The Rev. Dr. John V. McKevey ministers to Wesley.
1967		United Methodist Church - Retitled w/Cross and Flame Symbol
July 1967		Wednesday Evening Service of Worship offered during Summer
November 1969		Sacred Dance Ministry begun
November 1969		Merrimack Valley Day Care begins at Wesley
May 17, 1970		Dedication of enhanced organ
June 15, 1970		Ruth C. Williamson appointed Director of Christian Education
May 13, 1971		NH Annual Conference held at Wesley, Bow Mills, and Cortocook
June 18, 1972	June 1979	The Rev. Sherwood A. Treadwell pilots Wesley.
September 1972		Fellowship hour, youth programs, visitation ministries developed
1973		Fellowship hall expanded
1973		Courtyard garden planted
1973		Junior/Senior High Service programs begun
1973		Head Start Program at Wesley
December 1973		Meals-on-Wheels Program started by Social Concerns Committee
June 1974		Wesley hosts 7th Street UMC Philadelphia exchange
1975	1981	Used bus purchased and Mystery Bus Tours began by Rev. Treadwell
June 1976	June 1979	The Rev. D. Melvin Burrows welcomed as Wesley's first Associate Pastor
May 1979	present	Interfaith ministry, Friendly Kitchen established
July 1979	June 1989	The Rev. James A. Batten guides Wesley.
July 1979	June 1981	The Rev. Ernest (Rusty) H. Pettis welcomed as Associate Pastor
1980		Refugee resettlement program began
1980		Habitat for Humanity mission effort established
1980		Christian Life Units formed
March 1980		Kitchen remodeled
August 1980		Final Philadelphia Mission Trip--7th Street Methodist Church
1981		Good News (Pew) Bibles donated for Sanctuary
July 1981	June 1982	The Rev. W. Kratz Leatherman, III welcomed as Associate Pastor
July 1983	June 1986	The Rev. Carl A. Linton welcomed as Associate Pastor
1985		Satellite Television Link established
1985	1986	Nursery home-visitor program
April 13, 1985		25th Anniversary and Burning of the Mortgage
July 1985		Adult/youth mission trip to Henderson Settlement (KY)
December 1985		Covenant relations w/Philippine missionaries Dr. Richard & Mrs. Caring Schwenk
1986		Clarine Leslie, Choir Director/Organist
1986		New sound system installed in sanctuary
1986		UMW membership is 163
March 1986	December 1986	107 visitors to new So. Concord Meadows residents

Start	End	What
July 1986	June 1988	The Rev. Bruce W. Angus welcomed as Associate Pastor
December 1986		Dir. of Visitation, Clint & Bunnie Cowan log 815 visitations, 545 phone calls & 2402 IRS deductible miles to sick, shut-in & newcomers
December 1986		Covenant Relationship with La Iglesia de Cristo de Nicaragua voted
February 1987		Increased attendance moves Chapel Service to Sanctuary
September 1987		Commission guidelines developed
1988		Ronald Hagemeyer, assistant organist
1988		Increased participation with Camp Wanaakee programs
July 1988	June 1995	Garden Club formed for Circle and Courtyard
1989		The Rev. Ruth C. Williamson welcomed as Associate Pastor
February 1989		New hymnals purchased
June 1989	August 1989	Wesley receives NH Conference 100% Apportionments Award
July 1989	June 1992	First Mini-church School Program during Sunday Worship services
September 1989		The Rev. Dr. Darrell Huddleston shepherds Wesley.
February 1, 1990		Began offering two worship services in sanctuary.
March 1990		Agreement signed to build new organ console for sanctuary
July 1990		Eco-Theology study series
October 1990		Refugee Resettlement assisted Khanh Pham from Vietnam
December 1990		Weekly Singles Fellowship group begins
December 1990		Covenanting church relation w/New Jerusalem Church, Nicaragua
1991		Covenanting relationship w/ Habitat for Humanity
April 1991		Resettlement of Khon Luu & son Tam from Vietnam
May 1991		"Bring Someone in 91" program tried
July 1991		Fund raisers & diplomatic efforts to reunite Luu family
1992		Outreach Commission moves forward with AIDS Ministry Task Force
1992		New church brochure designed and printed
1992		Steeple relighted and glass main entry doors added
July 1992	June 1998	The Rev. Dr. David Kerr pilots Wesley.
December 1992		Sanctuary and Chapel aisles plus Narthex carpeted
1993		NH, SNE, and Maine Conferences MERGE
1993		Resettled Hai, Lien, and Mei Tran from Vietnam
June 1993		Softball team organized
May 15, 1994		Reception for the Luu family--refugee resettlement program
July 1995	June 2000	The Rev. Krisann Byrne-Scheri welcomed as Associate Pastor
July 15, 1995	July 23, 1995	Youth Fellowship mission trip to Henderson Settlement (KY)
September 1995	December 1995	Fellowship events incl Yankee Swap, Day Hikes, Octoberfest, Apple Picking
October 22, 1995		Schulmerich Handbells dedicated
November 1995		Resettlement of Lien Tran's parents from Vietnam
March 1996	June 2000	Maryellen Haynes, assistant organist
September 1996	present	Thomas Jenei, new Director of Music
1997	1999	3-year Capital Improvement Campaign-- rebuilding organ, expanding parking lot, storage shed for Wesley and Boy Scouts
1997	present	Discipleship Classes & Walk to Emmaus add to adult spiritual development
September 1997		Step Ahead Program Opens
July 1998	present	The Rev. Joel B. Guillemette leads Wesley.
July 1999	present	Interfaith Caregivers Program
August 1999		Laura Phillips Playground Completed
September 1999	December 1999	Rev. Cynthia Good, short-term Interim Associate Pastor
March 2000	present	Neighbors in Need Initiative
April 2000	present	Homelessness Initiative with Interfaith Council
June 2000		Carol Dufor, Assistant Organist
July 2000		Mechuana (ME) Mission Trip
August 2000	June 2001	Pastor Marjorie MacNeill welcomed as Interim Associate Pastor
September 2000	present	Kenneth Gallagher, assistant organist
October 2000	present	Jamie Tackett, Administrative Assistant
December 2000		Parish Consultants retained
July 2001	present	The Rev. We Hyun Chang welcomed as Associate Pastor

- | Date | What   |
|------|--|
| 2000 | Disciple Bible Studies were introduced<br>7 lay speakers added to 3 from 1996 and 1 from 1988<br>An octave of handbells was added.   |
| 2001 | A special offering for victims of Sept. 11 was more than \$5,000.<br>We welcomed our new Associate Pastor, the Rev. We Hyun Chang, his wife Yoo-Yun Cho and their four- year old daughter, Hope.<br>A new format for the Wesley Journal broadens our communications.<br>New banners were made for the sanctuary.<br>The Covenant Players were invited for a dinner and presentation.<br>The Senior High mission trip traveled to Mooresville, Miss.<br>Electrical circuits in the building were brought up to present day code.  |
| 2002 | The Safe Sanctuary Policies was adopted<br>The Administrative Council was reorganized from 70 to 19 members.<br>Rejuvenation was added as evening worship.<br>Soundwaves was organized, a study discussion group on weekday mornings.<br>Micaiah "River" Saddler became our music director.<br>Removable seating was installed in the chapel.<br>We purchased "The Faith We Sing" hymnals and new pew Bibles.<br>An Endowment Fund was established.<br>The committee charged with investigating Supplemental Space Needs made its report in November.  |
| 2003 | The Prison Ministry was introduced into our Outreach Ministry<br>A Building Committee was formed.<br>In March, at a Special Church Conference, the congregation adopted by a 90% affirmative vote, a revised vision statement which declared Wesley Church an inclusive church.<br>Led by Elliot Nott, Agape Café was opened, late on Friday nights - a place where football fans could gather after games for conversation, music, and poetry.<br>The entrance steps to the church building were replaced with granite.<br>A loan of \$10,000 was made to our sister church in Nicaragua. They bought adjoining property to enlarge their building. |
| 2004 | An architect was selected to work on the conceptual phase of the building additions.<br>The WUMC Orchestra was guided by Joanne Merisotis.<br>November was designated Music Ministry Month.<br>We assisted two Liberian families, those of Ruth Tarwo and Rebecca Jelhue.<br>We recommended Janet Deranian as a candidate for ordained ministry.<br>Our wall hangings and draperies were cleaned and treated with fire retardant.  |

- | Date | What  |
|------|---|
| 2005 | <p>Janet Deramian was recommended for the continuation of certification. The office was computerized and a website was created.</p> <p>Rev. Lorene Eldridge was welcomed in July as our Associate Pastor.</p> <p>A Strategic Planning Task Force was created.</p> <p>A Bread Loaf Ministry delivered a loaf of bread to all first time visitors a few days after their visit with us.</p> <p>Alan Schulte became the director of Electric Praise.</p> <p>Hyung-Kyu Yi became our Music Director.</p> <p>Creches from all over the world were displayed in Hanna Hall by United Methodist Women.</p> <p>The 10:30 service is broadcast on local TV.</p>  |
| 2006 | <p>A video projection system was installed in the sanctuary.</p> <p>Additional gardens were planted along Norwich Street and an irrigation system installed.</p> <p>The sanctuary was repainted, possible by an anonymous gift of \$15,000.</p> <p>A grounding system was installed in the church steeple.</p> <p>The administrative Council established long-term (5 years) goals.</p> <p>Wesleyan Arts was established. The first event was a tour of Concord churches to see and be inspired by their stained glass windows. The second event was a book of Advent devotions written by our membership.</p> <p>A portable sound system was purchased and primarily used by Electric Praise.</p> <p>We welcomed Rev. Peter Hey, his wife Catherine, and teenagers Josh and Becca.</p> <p>Four new boilers were installed.</p> <p>United Methodist Women installed a Peace Pole in front of the church. Nine languages proclaim, "May peace prevail upon the earth."</p> |
| 2007 | <p>A number of Sunday morning Adult classes were introduced.</p> <p>Carol Harris drew together many volunteers for an extensive aid to refugees program.</p> <p>Pat Hammond completed a pictorial directory.</p> <p>The title "Alternate Giving Fair" was changed to "Joyful Giving Fair."</p> <p>Ken Gallager presented a very well-attended organ recital.</p> <p>"Creation I" was an art show with over 100 entries of paintings, drawings, woodwork, ceramics and needlework.</p> <p>The first Midsummer Messenger was published, written by Wesley writers and poets.</p> <p>We welcomed Caroline Wiggen, a student intern.</p> <p>United Methodist Women added a "Breakfast, Brunch or Lunch" to the attractions at the Plant Sale.</p> <p>Pews in the front of the sanctuary were removed and the area was carpeted.</p> <p>A new freezer and refrigerator for the kitchen were purchased and installed.</p>   |

Date	What																		
2008	<p>We raised well over \$200,000 with a foundation campaign entitled, “Behold the Future.” We paid in full our commitment to the Conference campaign, we paid off one of our loans in full freeing at least \$6,000 for at least 11 years.</p> <p>The church has been restaffed:</p> <p>Assistant Pastor for Outreach: Pastor Rachel Vogelzang delIma</p> <p>Director of Christian Education: Misty Griffith</p> <p>Volunteer Assistant Pastor for Outreach Ministries: Ron Adcock</p> <p>The church electrical system has been expanded for outside performances.</p> <p>“Worship and Wonder” is offered after Children’s Time during the 10:30am worship service.</p> <p>A rotation model format is begun for preschool and elementary Sunday School classes.</p> <p>A visitor’s center was opened in the Narthex.</p> <p>SPRC agreed to support Ruth Foss as a candidate for ordination.</p> <p>United Methodist Women presented a style show of wardrobe of Biblical women.</p>																		
2009	<p>In Hanna Hall, the divider wall was removed and storage cabinets, built by Scout Colby Thivierge, were installed on the back wall.</p> <p>A new video screen was installed in the chapel.</p> <p>The courtyard was cleared of overgrown vegetation.</p> <p>“Dinner for 6” was initiated by the Congregational Care Commission.</p> <p>The Wesleyan Arts program began:</p> <p>    “Night of the Kings” an Epiphany celebration of Medieval dinner and program.</p> <p>    Ken Gallagher’s organ recital, “Bach to Barber”</p> <p>    A Lenten offering of reader’s theatre, “The Case of Humanity vs. Pontius”</p> <p>The Staff Parish Relations Committee continued to update job descriptions.</p> <p>Faren Thorson was interviewed and hired for the position of bookkeeper.</p> <p>UMW sponsored a “Rock-a-thon” - grandmothers raising scholarship funds for Step Ahead by rocking non-stop for 3 hours in rocking chairs.</p>																		
2010	<p>The Church Council was disbanded in October.</p> <p>The Administrative Board, The Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee, the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Lay-Leadership Committee continue to function.</p> <p>The pastor can create as many ministry teams as needed, however leaders of ministry teams must be approved by Lay-Leadership.</p> <p>Ministry Teams created are:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="298 316 661 1031"> <tr> <td data-bbox="592 316 623 576">Imagine No Malaria</td> <td data-bbox="592 792 623 941">Foster Care</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="554 316 585 592">Nicaraguan Covenant</td> <td data-bbox="554 792 585 1019">Caring Ministries</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="516 316 548 592">Family Homelessness</td> <td data-bbox="516 792 548 917">Visitation</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="478 316 510 397">Meals</td> <td data-bbox="478 792 510 901">Worship</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="441 316 472 641">Rejuvenate Rejuvenation</td> <td data-bbox="441 792 472 1036">Family Fellowship</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="403 316 434 609">Vacation Bible School</td> <td data-bbox="403 792 434 982">Sunday School</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="365 316 396 511">Youth Ministry</td> <td data-bbox="365 792 396 966">Small Groups</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="327 316 359 609">Reconciling Ministries</td> <td data-bbox="327 792 359 1015">Spiritual Nurture</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="289 316 321 511">Wesleyan Arts</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>In July, we welcomed Pastor Rosanne Roberts as our Assistant Pastor. Her husband Cliff is a great addition to our choir and our Wesleyan Arts program.</p>	Imagine No Malaria	Foster Care	Nicaraguan Covenant	Caring Ministries	Family Homelessness	Visitation	Meals	Worship	Rejuvenate Rejuvenation	Family Fellowship	Vacation Bible School	Sunday School	Youth Ministry	Small Groups	Reconciling Ministries	Spiritual Nurture	Wesleyan Arts	
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## Our Saints

Names in the hallways  
in the rooms large and small  
those who have gone before  
giving God their all  
Name of the saints  
those who have gone before  
shaping this place, this family  
the church we know and love  
So much of our history  
fading in time  
yet the DNA of those before us  
still beats in your hearts and mine  
Carrying on their legacy  
in our walks toward perfection  
following these saints  
who have gone before us to heaven

Ray Foss  
July 16, 2011



*SPECIAL GIFTS TO WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH*

*Gift*

*Given By*

Children's Lavatory Fixtures	Mr. and Mrs. Shirley C. Clark
Church Office Floor	Mr. and Mrs. Roland S. Robinson
Church Parlor Furnishings	Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Howe
Church Parlor Harvest Table and Side Chairs	Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hersey
	Mrs. Lilla Lake
	Miss Olive Tabor
	Mrs. Carrie Colby
	Mrs. Stanley Little
	Mrs. James Ouillette
Classroom Doors and Ceiling - \$106.00	Fifth Grade Sunday School Class
Cross Over Altar	Wesleyan Service Guild
Corridor Lighting	Mrs. Mabel Morton
Educational Wing Completion Fund	Miss Ruth Whittier
Educational Wing Decoration and	Mr. and Mrs. James Jeffery
Completion Fund.	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ladd
	Mr. and Mrs. George A. Rollins
	Mrs. Lois Edney
Exterior Grading	Mr. Richard J. Howard
Fellowship Hall Floor Tiling	Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Drown
Fire Place Set	Grace Circle
Front Door Mat	C. E. Wilber Company
Front Entrance Paving	Mrs. Mabel Morton
General Building Fund	Rev. Frank P. Fletcher
	Mrs. Emma Boardman
General Furnishings Fund	Miss Erna Wright
	Miss Gladys Morrill
	Mr. and Mrs. Harold D. Andrews
Grand Piano for Parlor	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanchett
Granite at Front Entrance	Woman's Society of Christian Service
Guest Book	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Baker
Lights and Paint for Kitchen	Miss Edna Kennedy
Offering Plates	Mr. and Mrs. Roy Buzzell
Organ Fund	Mr. Clyde E. Wilber
Organ Rental	Mr. Arthur E. Boutwell
Paint for Fellowship Hall	Mr. and Mrs. Archie Marshall
	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bartlett
Pew	Mr. Stewart L. Stokes, Jr.
Piano for Chapel	Mr. and Mrs. George C. Rollins
Railing for Front Steps	Mr. and Mrs. George A. Rollins
Secretarial Desk, typewriter table and	Mr. and Mrs. Roy Buzzell
work table for Church Office	Woman's Society of Christian Service
Spire Cross	
Water Cooler 1/2	

It is impossible to remember or to have recorded the names of the host of our parishioners and friends who have donated their time and labors to get our new Church ready for use. Our men and women and youth continue to work together landscaping the exterior, painting Sunday School rooms and generally getting our new facilities arranged. We sincerely hope that no errors or omissions have been made in these lists. Should any be found please advise us so that the correct entries can be made in our Book of Remembrance.

## The Brass Plaque People

All over our church there are brass plaques honoring those people who have given gifts to the church to complete the building and provide the furnishings. Most of these people are no longer with us, but their gifts are very much a part of our church life and we are grateful for their legacy. The little thumb-nail sketches presented here are really legends that are remembered by some of our long-time members.

### The Phillips Chapel

The Phillips Family was responsible for both the cost of building the chapel and its furnishings - the pews and sanctuary furniture. Also, their generosity provided a Flower Fund for the altar.

### The Stained Glass Windows

Mrs. Emily Otto presented the four windows to the church as a memorial to her husband, Floyd Otto, who died in 1975. He was the owner of Concord Photo and Engraving Co. She is well-remembered by her W. S. C. S. friends who were invited to her beautiful summer home on Webster Lake where the hostess welcomed them, seated in a stunning plum-colored dressing gown with satin slippers to match. Mrs. Otto made all the arrangements for the windows including the choice of New Testament scenes.

### The Stauffer Room

The Reverend Paul Stauffer was the pastor when the two churches were building the new Wesley Church on Clinton Street. He was a very precise and proper person who "went by the rules," but he is given credit for being a stabilizing force as the two congregations accepted each other. Rev. and Mrs. Stauffer provided floor covering and painting for two rooms in the Education Wing. The parlor was named the Stauffer Room in their honor. When the nave was being built, he felt the pastor should not be exposed to the eyes of the entire congregation during the entire morning service, so he made his seat behind the pulpit, appearing as needed. However, when the Wesley Men's Club did minstrel shows, Paul Stauffer was front and center as the Master of Ceremonies.

### Edna Kinney Kitchen

"Heart of gold" and "sweetheart" were the first words used to describe Edna Kinney. She was widowed when her son was three years old. She worked at the State YMCA for many years, a quiet, gentle person. Her passion became the kitchen at Wesley. She had two crews of workers who were devoted to her, those who did the dining room set-ups and served the meals, and those who worked with her in the kitchen. Every Friday night, preparations began for the Saturday dinner, open to the public as well as the church. They also served luncheons for outside groups, such as a farmers group who raised sheep. They asked that every menu contain an entrée of lamb. Edna managed to serve lamb with many different recipes so the luncheons were always new and delicious. She ran a tight ship and the kitchen was spotless.

### Hanna Hall

John and Mildred Hanna were donors of Hanna Hall. John was both serious and very considerate. He was the President of United Life Insurance which later became Lincoln Financial. For many years, he was the treasurer of the New Hampshire Conference and a very influential member of New Hampshire Methodism. Mildred was a strong-minded woman of the day, who supported Wesley loyally. In those days, camping as a sport was done with tents and campfires. It is a little difficult to imagine the Hanna's enjoying that sport, but they did!

### **Ruth Williamson**

Ruth came to us as the Director of Education. She was a single mom with three children whose great gift was a genuine concern for children. She had graduated from Bangor Theological Seminary. Dr. McKelvey was the minister at that time, and Ruth always gave him much credit for helping her to adjust to her problems, and develop her position on the church staff. After some time, she left Wesley to continue her education, this time seeking to become a pastor. She was sent back to Wesley as the Assistant Pastor to the warm welcome of the entire congregation.

### **Buzzell Music Room**

Roy Buzzell was a big man with a big powerful voice who loved to sing. He had some voice training and, before he came to Wesley, he sang at another church in a professional quartette. It was a pleasure to work with him because he was always cheerful and often had a good joke or two to liven up the day. Roy was a rural mail carrier. Marge Sharp remembers that he interviewed her when he was chair of the Music Committee. He offered her the position of organist which paid \$9 a week. For her, that was the beginning of a career move that lasted over 30 years. He and his wife, Lukia, gave a very generous gift to the Music Trust Fund.

### **Lake Memorial Library**

Fanny Lake was walking around the Education Wing shortly after the walls dividing the rooms had been erected and she asked about a room that had not been designated as a classroom. When she realized it was available, she suggested it would make a good library. Fanny and her husband donated the money to build the book shelves covering one wall of the room.

### **Deaconess Edith I. Smith Room**

This story is truly a legend. No one seems to remember Edith I. Smith, but Marge Shea-Miner thinks this may have been a lady she met once. Marge was standing in the area of the Education Wing, wondering how they could divide this huge space into workable class rooms. A friend approached and introduced Marge to her guest, an elderly lady. The lady handed Marge a check for \$3500! That check provided all the walls that were needed for a workable Sunday School. It is possible the mystery lady was Deaconess Ethel I. Smith.

### **Lunderville Memorial Kindergarten Room**

Angie Lunderville never married, however she had a deep concern for the children of the church. She was the heiress to the Durgan Silver Co., which manufactured silverware. Its Fairfax pattern was a favorite with many church members.

### **Walter S. Baker**

We believe that the brass plaque honoring Walter S. Baker must have been brought from First Church. It notes that he was a member for 53 years and served as the treasurer for 38 years.

### **World War II**

The brass plaque on the back wall of the Sanctuary honors our five members who died in World War II – Alston P. Couch, John W. Mills, Kenneth B. Drew, Robert W. Reed, and J. Byron Stewart.

Reflections by Wanda Stauffer

On this, the 40th anniversary of the building of Wesley United Methodist Church, my thoughts go first to that Sunday morning so many years ago when the Methodist people of Concord caravanned through the streets of the city from the old to the new carrying with us those things which symbolized the lives of the two former churches and brought to mind those who had through the previous years provided two lovely buildings in which to worship. It is impossible to describe the feelings of all those who had prayed and trusted and labored so faithfully to bring to fruition the vision we had shared of building a truly united Methodist church in the capital city of New Hampshire. As we stood on the steps of the new building singing "The Church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord" the doors opened wide and we entered to worship for the first time in our beautiful sanctuary. What a thrilling moment!

I was asked to speak of a spiritual event that occurred during Paul's years of ministry among us. I am sure his response would be different from mine but for me it is impossible to single out just one event because the entire experience of building the foundation for the future of Methodism in Concord was a spiritual journey. Not only the physical building but also the blending of two disparate congregations took much conscious effort, Christian spirit, prayer, and faith in God and each other to accomplish. But it was accomplished. "I (we) can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." Thanks be to God!

For forty years Wesley Church has continued to be a holy place, a place of joy, a beacon of light and a refuge for those in need. May it always be so!

Paul and I have looked back at those years we spent in Concord as some of the happiest and most fulfilling of our lives. All of the wonderful, dedicated persons we were privileged to work with during those years have continued to hold a special place in our hearts as has Wesley Church.

P. O. Box 1085  
Milton, NH 03851  
September 29, 2001

Thank you for inviting me to share my recollection of a spiritual happening that occurred during my pastorate at Wesley Church. I welcome the opportunity to do so.

One of the most significant happenings for me occurred in relationship to the church's building fund. Shortly after my appointment to Wesley I became aware of the fact that the initial phase of the building fund drive would expire shortly and it would be necessary to conduct a follow up financial drive to pay down the mortgage on the building. Finances were very tight at that time. We explored the possibility of securing the services of a company to direct a drive for us and discovered we did not have sufficient funds to cover a down payment for their services. What to do?

We decided to organize and conduct the financial drive ourselves. We asked the Administrative Board to make the fund drive the primary focus of the life of the church for an entire month. The Board approved the proposal and asked all committees and organizations of the church, except the choir and Sunday school, to suspend their meetings so that we could focus all our attention and energies on the fund drive. The response was overwhelming. Members of the church were asked to spend extra time in prayer for the church and the success of the fund drive. With that spiritual undergirding and the focused attention of the entire congregation the fund drive was very successful and the future of Wesley Church was secure.

I am grateful that I could be a part of the early history of Wesley Church. I pray for God's continued blessing upon you as a congregation that God has called into being to proclaim the message of hope that is ours in Jesus Christ. WE need to proclaim that message more broadly and more assuredly, especially at this time.

Please remember me to all at church, and especially to your wife, Helen.

In Christian Fellowship,  
Vern French

P.S. If you have difficulty in deciphering my writing, I am sure that Helen Robinson, who was church secretary during my ministry, can assist you. VF

P.P.S. This was typed by GF and it was easy to decipher, Thanks again Vern.

P.O. Box 1085  
Milton, NH 03851  
September 5, 2011

I am flattered by the fact that you would want to include my comments for the 40<sup>th</sup> celebration in the book you are preparing for Wesley's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. I would be pleased to have you do so.

I deeply appreciate being remembered and invited to the celebration on September 25<sup>th</sup> and contributing some words for the occasion. While I was only there for three years, I was grateful for the congregation's affirmation of my ministry there not only of me, but of my whole family as well was very pleasing.

Please extend my best wishes to the congregation as it celebrates 50 very meaningful years. I regret we will not be able to attend.

In Christian Love.

Vern French

P.P.S. This was typed by GF from Vern's handwritten response; Thanks again Vern.

**Recollections by George Fryer for the 40<sup>th</sup> Wesley celebration  
Dr. John McKelvey Wesley Pastor July 1966 to June 1972**

I was a member of the Pastor Parish Relations Committee during the time that Dr. John was pastor at Wesley UMC and take this opportunity to address what I felt were spiritual growth occurrences during his pastorate.

The appointment of Ruth Williamson as full time Director of Christian Education and the encouragement given to her by Dr. John she was then able to pass onto the entire church with renewed enthusiasm. A fresh degree from Bangor Theological Seminary and the opportunity was there for her to use her newly acquired knowledge on an open and inquisitive church membership. Wesley grew.

The effort to keep the church in touch with the members by the thank you notes and birthday wishes continued the growth of a more thoughtful and caring congregation.

Pentecost celebrations helped the congregation better understand the beginning of the church and the Holy Spirit. The cake and candles added to the sense of a birthday celebration.

The church directory, available to all, was initiated for the purpose of enabling pastors and church members to contact the Wesley family for assistance, for caring, for group gatherings and for pastoral contacts.

I can recall the innovative sermon where pre-selected church members would interrupt the sermon with a challenge to Dr. John as to what he meant by statements in the sermon. Those of us who were not in the know were startled to see and hear a person in the congregation stand up and challenge the sermon. Answers were given and our faith was strengthened.

Rev. Ruth Williamson's Comments for 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary    Page 1 of 1  
Wesley Associate Pastor July 1988 to June 1995  
And Director of Religious Education June 1968 to July 1976

**What spiritual growth did I see  
during my time at Wesley?**

- Babies in parent's arms
- Toddlers laughed and sang
- Summer brought Vacation Bible School
- Children learned sacred dance and became acolytes
- Jr. High suppers and nursing home visits
- Jesus Christ Superstar and Godspell
- Trips to Philadelphia
- Chaperones par excellence
- Children's Days, Christmas Pagents, Graduations
- Day care, Headstart, Heifer Project
- Meals-on-Wheels, Missionaries in the Phillipines
- Trips to Nicaragua

**And God smiled!**

**Rev Williamson's comments for Wesley 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

Peaks Island Maine UMC just celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> and how exciting a time to recognize the past. Best wishes to Wesley UMC for its 50<sup>th</sup> and I expect to join you.

Wesley Pastor July 1972 to June 1979

**Sherwood A. Treadwell**

6 Bayberry Ave.

Kennebunk, ME 04043

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Dear Church Family and Friends,

Nancy and I greet you from the coast of Maine where we are enjoying retirement at Kennebunk Beach. We want to wish you a happy fortieth anniversary and pray that this vital New England Conference congregation will enjoy many more.

Seven of our most enjoyable years of in a pastoral career spanning forty-five years, were spent at Wesley Church. Many individuals and ministries remain vivid in memory and are much cherished. Two programs that are recalled as "spiritual happenings" involved the couples Club and the bus ministry.

The Couples Club was a thriving group in those days with monthly meetings including dinner followed by a program. While there were no age limits the group was made up largely of folks in their middle years, including the pastor and his wife. Nancy and I had some previous experience in marriage enrichment seminars and offered to conduct a six-week workshop for anyone who was interested. The response was immediate and enthusiastic. Just about everyone in the group signed up that night. Obviously we had struck a chord of shared concern and need.

As the weeks passed there was a great deal of intimate sharing, support and encouragement within the fellowship. Then, suddenly and unexpectedly, a member of the group died. Immediately, members of the club reached out to the widow and her family. With understanding and an abundance of love they gave witness to the power of the Holy Spirit to guide the faithful through the shadowed valley of death. We carry that good memory with us and continue to be grateful for that special time and for that circle of special friends.

How sad we were when the big old blue school bus disappeared from the parking lot. Nancy and I had shared the delightful experience of planning bus trips primarily for our more senior church members and friends. Our travels took us from the mountains of New Hampshire to the coast of Maine, to Boston and Cape Cod. The most popular trips were the "mystery luncheon" excursions which took us to various inns in the region. Passengers made a game of trying to guess our

destination and just as they concluded they knew for sure where we were headed, I would turn us in the opposite direction. After an hour and a half or so of sightseeing we would indeed sit down for our meal at an area inn.

On one occasion one of our travelers excitedly pointed out the school where she had her start as a young teacher just out of college. On another trip two sisters suddenly realized that they were driving past what had years ago been their grandfather's house in Cape Porpoise, Maine. They shared their stories of summer by the seaside, days of wonder creating beautiful memories from a place they hadn't visited since childhood. While passing through Laconia on one of a trips a passenger reminisced about the time long ago when he had played in an exhibition baseball game there against the Boston Red Sox. He had pitched to Babe Ruth and had watched his pitch sail over the fence for a home run.

What a treasure are the memories of time spent with good friends. What a gift are the associations which draw us into the fellowship of spirit-rich brothers and sisters in the faith we share. May God continue to bless this congregation and its pastors.

In closing, we want to express our gratitude for our seven years with you and congratulate you for your continued support of ministries beyond the local church. Your commitment to the Church's larger missions and your ecumenical spirit within the community are remembered and appreciated. Countless individuals and families have benefited from the prayers, the presence, the gift and the service of the people called United Methodists in the greater Concord community.

Grace and peace,  
Sherwood and Nancy

Dear Church Family and Friends,

It was 39 years ago in June 1972, when Sherwood and I made the adventurous journey from Indianapolis, Indiana to Concord, New Hampshire to serve Wesley United Methodist Church, with our five children, Stephen, Judith, Timothy, James and Matthew. On October 12, 2010, Sherwood ended his earthly journey quietly and peacefully at home, passing onto another journey. He is with God, and now his spirit continues to live with each of us.

Over the years Wesley Church has had a very special place in our lives and it was an honor for us to be present at the confirmation of our three Attorri grandchildren, Daniel, Ellen and Andrew, the children of Judy and Mark Attorri. We feel blessed to share so many happy memories with this faith community.

We are indeed grateful for our seven years with this church family and also the six years living in Concord when Sherwood was the Northern District Superintendent. It has been a joy to see this faith community continue to grow in its active support of ministries beyond the local church.

May God continue to bless this congregation and their pastors. Grow with God: Go to Serve.

Grace and peace,  
Nancy

Concord, N. H.

October, 2001

To the Members and Friends of Wesley United Methodist Church in Concord, N.H., Grace and peace to you in the name of the Lord who is Jesus Christ. I was called to be the first assistant pastor for Wesley UMC in 1976 and worked under the wonderful leadership of Sherwood Treadwell. As I think back on my four years with you, I think of four things that were of significant spiritual impact on me as well as the congregation. Three of these had particular effect on the young people of the church.

The first was the exchange program that we had with the UMC in the inner city of North Philadelphia, PA. This was begun a year or two before my arrival and so ably led by Frank & Bev Jillson and Bob and Roddy Flanders. Both youth and adults from our church and theirs came for a week's exchange visit each year and we mixed fun, cultural interchange, and worship. I'll bet many of our former Jr. & Sr. High's still remember those visits as the most memorable part of their experience in the church.

Second to that would be the production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" which the youth presented to the church and community one year. We made use of vocal and instrumental talent from among the two youth fellowships along with help from music director, Marij (Leavenworth) Sharpe. Some youth were reluctant participants, but as with such things the comradery and hard work paid off with two very good performances.

Perhaps less memorable, more spiritually powerful was the occasion of gathering in the sanctuary for the funeral of a youth group member, Ben White, who died very tragically. Wesley United Methodist Church was important to him and his family, and the sanctuary was packed with parishioners and schoolmates as we grieved. I think of Ben often, and thank God for the promise of heaven and the Love given to us during those sad and painful days.

The fourth spiritual experience was the annual Ecumenical School sponsored by the then Concord Council of Churches. Although it was a community wide event, Sherwood Treadwell was one of the key leaders in its development and organization and he and I taught in it each year. Those sessions were strongly supported by members of Wesley; attended by many members and held in our facilities some years.

May God continue to work among you to spread the Good News of love, acceptance and forgiveness and the preparation for God's coming Kingdom of universal justice and righteousness.

In Faith,

Rev. Melvin Burrowes

PS: Mel conveyed his wishes for a meaningful 50<sup>th</sup> celebration. He had no additional words for the 50<sup>th</sup> memory booklet.

The request for a "written memory of a spiritual growth happening" during my pastorate at Wesley is difficult to fulfill. Spiritual growth is an intangible and is so subjective that the judgment is probably best left to those who feel they experienced such growth. With that in mind, I hazard a memory.

One afternoon during a pastoral visit to one of Wesley Church's elderly regular worshippers, the germ for a program was born. That person said something like this:

"Oh, how I love that circle (in the UMW). That's Wesley Church for me. How I belong." As she talked, it became clear to me that she had made a significant observation and discovery. That group was how she plugged into Wesley Church, how she got connected. And it was that connection that contributed to her worship experience on Sunday within the larger body. It reduced the effect of the feeling of bigness and detachment.

As a result of that visit and the expressed need from others for a group for study and prayer, the Christian Life Unit program was born. Within a year several groups were formed. As time went by additional groups were begun until the program covered every age group from young adults to senior citizens.

These groups provided persons an intimate setting in which they could pray, study and support one another. In a sense, they provided a place where they could touch the church in a personal way.

My memory is that persons who gathered in these groups grew spiritually and experienced Wesley Church as a genuine community of faith. At least that was the testimony of many who participated in the groups. And that growth seemed to have a positive impact on the worship life and the administrative and program bodies of the church. I, too, grew spiritually as the servant of the leaders of the Christian Life Units.

--Jim Batten

**Jim Batten's additional comments for the 50<sup>th</sup>**

You are free to incorporate my 40th anniversary words in the memory book. I had forgotten. I well remember the lady I visited. It was Edith Berrill and her words are still relevant today.

A highlight of our time at Wesley was the twenty-fifth anniversary and mortgage burning celebration when Paul and Wanda Stauffer returned to be with us. Paul was the pastor when Wesley Church was built. He was also instrumental in my receiving the call to the ministry fifty-seven years ago.

Now Barbara and I are delighted to be back and a part of the Wesley Church community as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Thanks again,  
Jim

I recall my three years at Wesley with great fondness. The strength of lay leadership and music ministry always comes to mind when I think about Wesley UMC. It's been nearly ten years since I left so the memory fades as to everything that happened during my time there as your pastor. However, I know it was during that time we started the Stephen Ministry program. That's a wonderful opportunity for people to be in caring ministry and I trust it still continues today. In the Episcopal parish I now serve we are just beginning to explore starting a Stephen Ministry program. In a couple of weeks I have two persons attending one of their training sessions.

It was also while I was at Wesley that we started having Administrative Board after church. It shortened the length of Board meetings, keeping us all focused on the work at hand. We also began organizing around task forces instead of just a committee structure.

Did we also institute name tags while I was there? I think we did as we were working hard in those days in making sure we were a welcoming church. I know we put in the glass front doors then, not only because the wooden ones were deteriorating, but also so one could look into the church and thus create an open and inviting feeling.

Primarily, and most importantly, I remember Wesley because of everyone's caring and committed spirit and desire to be in mission as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. My prayer for you is that you will always continue to prayerfully discern God's will for your life as the people of God.

Bunny and I send you all our love and prayers. Congratulations and blessings on all of you.

**Darrell Huddleston Additional Comments for the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

September 1, 2011

Dear Wesley United Methodist Church Friends:

Congratulations on 50 years of proclaiming the gospel in both word and deed!

In addition to the comments I made on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wesley Church, I add only that both Bunny and I hold you in our prayers as you continue in ministry in Concord and the larger world. We hold good memories of the years we spent at Wesley Church. Since retiring in 2007 and moving to Concord, we have the pleasure of running into some of you from time to time.

You are an important light and witness in our community to God's love. May you grow in God's grace, be bold in the faith and committed to renewal and mission.

Blessings on all of you,  
Darrell Huddleston

**Rev. David Kerr Comments for Wesley's 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration  
Wesley Pastor July 1992 to June 1998**

**Page 1 of 1**

Dear Friends,

First, let me congratulate you on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Wesley United Methodist Church. Lewis Mumford once wrote: "THE CITIES AND MANSIONS THAT PEOPLE DREAM OF ARE THOSE IN WHICH THEY FINALLY LIVE." Fifty years ago your forebears from First Church and Baker Memorial had a dream of building a new church on Clinton Avenue in Concord that you continue to live out today. Since then, Wesley has been a church in motion, full of vitality and potential. You continue to carry that dream into a new future, always remembering that it is a ministry shaped by choices that reflect your faithfulness to the dream of fifty years ago and two thousand years ago. It will always be a work in progress.

I have been asked to reflect on some of the spiritual growth that occurred during my six years as your pastor. I think that you dear folks that were at Wesley during my tenure are more qualified to answer that question than I am. I can highlight some things that hopefully contributed to your growth in Christ. I believe that the music ministry under the leadership of Tom Jenai greatly enhanced our worship experience. The several dance, handbell, children's and adult choirs added to the celebration of worship in a profound way. Under his direction, we raised over \$300,000 to rebuild the organ and do other needed repairs on the church building. Our Church School was vibrant and growing, teaching sound Biblical truths and values that nurtured the faith of our youth. We established the STEP AHEAD child care program for young families in the area that brought in many of the three hundred new members that joined during my six years there. We expanded our mission outreach with the churches in Nicaragua. We established a Disciple Bible study program. We began the process of becoming a Reconciling Congregation to reflect the belief that Wesley Church is an inclusive and loving congregation for all peoples. We offered short term adult study to address a busy and fully involved laity. We conducted orientation sessions for new members and the WE CARE visitation program for older members.

In a word, I think we all grew spiritually. I know that I did. Behind the words of the previous paragraph are images of real people that impacted my life and the life of Wesley Church in ways that cannot be just written. Although Faye and I cannot be with you on September 25th, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all. September 25th I will begin my fourth interim at the Church on The Cape in Kennebunk, Maine. I will be there for four months while the pastor is on a study leave.

May the Lord be with you all. Continue to hold steadfast to those dreams of the past and then build new dreams. Remember that you are beautiful and loved by God. Believe in yourselves. Grab hold of your future and change your world as Christ has changed your lives.

Peace and grace,

Dave Kerr

The Reverend Krisann Byrne-Scheri  
60 Wesley Way  
Gilford, New Hampshire 03249

It was an honor and a privilege to be called to serve Wesley UMC beginning in July 1995. I remember being absolutely overwhelmed the first time I stood in front of that very long chancel. I couldn't even see the faces of those sitting in the back pews. I had served very small churches in Maine. I was so excited to be there, yet afraid I wouldn't be up to the task. After I finished preaching my first sermon, the congregation applauded! I almost fell through the floor. I came to understand that the applause was the congregation's warm, accepting welcome. They sensed I was very nervous and they wanted me to know there was nothing to fear. There **was** nothing to fear. The members of Wesley were warm and gracious. I felt at home among them and loved working there.

In reflecting on the spiritual growth that occurred during the five years I was there, it seemed there was much. When I first came there was a struggle going on between the older members in leadership and the younger members who wanted to assume leadership roles in order to advance some of their agenda. Some of the changes I remember taking place were establishing the Step Ahead Preschool, upgrading the rest rooms and redecorating the parlor. Through working on some of these projects together, the older and younger members realized that they could trust each other and wanted only what was best for the church community as a whole.

Under the direction of Melanie Clinton as Sunday School Superintendent, Wesley had the best Sunday school in Concord at the time. We had some great teachers and the classrooms were filled to capacity. Misty and Dodd Griffith seemed to grow the youth group more each year. Under their leadership, the teens planned many meaningful activities including the annual musical that was presented on Youth Sunday in the sanctuary during one of the worship services.

The spirituality of the congregation began to develop as we started Disciple Bible Study classes and members became involved in Walk to Emmaus spiritual renewal weekends. The Spiritual Formation Commission was established when I was there in order to encourage the congregation to partake in some of these spiritual renewal activities. We also encouraged the administrative council and the various commissions to focus on Christ as a participant in their meetings by lighting a Christ candle and placing it in the center of the table to remind them of their purpose in doing their work.

I developed cancer while I was at Wesley. I will never forget how the members of the congregation signed up to bring dinner for us for weeks on end. They also signed up to drive me to my radiation treatments in Manchester at 6:30am five days a week.

I had to take a disability leave in July 2000 for orthopedic surgeries. It was a painful time for me to not only have to leave the pastoral ministry but to have to leave it from Wesley Church. It was such an exciting place to be. I loved my work. I loved the people.

*Krisann Byrne-Scheri*  
**Reverend Krisann Byrne-Scheri**

September 25, 2011

Dear Wesley UMC,

How grateful I am for this opportunity to include with this letter my congratulations and those of Wendy as you celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Methodist worship on Clinton Street. From 1998 till 2006, Wendy and I had the joy and responsibility of being part of the Wesley family, sharing the highs and the lows of life together in Christ. Looking back over our years as partners in ministry, there are many highlights for which I give God thanks and praise.

When I was appointed to Wesley, I distilled seven goals for ministry from two "Listening Days" of conversations with church leaders and members: 1) create a solidly functioning multi-staff team, 2) strengthen the church's finances, 3) rebuild communication, 4) offer distinctively Christian worship, 5) develop spiritual formation opportunities for adults, 6) lead classes for new members, and 7) provide strong pastoral leadership. We succeeded in addressing all of these goals, I believe, along with several others that emerged as we have traveled in ministry together.

From my point of view, the most important changes that took place during my years as senior pastor included the restructuring of the Church Council; the decision to become "A safe and open church for ALL God's people;" and the launch of *Rejuvenation*, a contemporary service of worship that included a weekly celebration of Holy Communion. In 1998, Wesley's Church Council numbered close to 70 members, almost completely paralyzing the movement of the congregation in new directions. With so many minds to change when the church needed to take a risk, adventuresome decisions seldom emerged from quarrelsome Council meetings. Sometime in the early 2000s, however, a study team appointed by the Council called for a streamlined decision-making body of no more than fifteen or so members. And, miraculously, the Council voted to forward the plan to the next Church Conference. God led and we followed!

Deciding to become a reconciling congregation that was "safe and open" for all people, including GLBT folk, represented a prime example of the Church Council's paralysis. During my "Listening Days" in 1998, I learned that Wesley UMC's leaders had been quietly discussing whether or not to become a reconciling church. Though I came to Concord with fairly traditional views about homosexuality, I agreed to lead an "out of the closet" conversation about adopting a reconciling statement. After a few years of initial study, the Council heard its study committee's recommendation to adopt an open posture toward all, but voted not to call a Special Church Conference. By that time, my own mind and heart had changed and I remember being furious at the Council's caution. But the study committee persevered until the night a Special Church Conference supported its reconciling motion by a margin of 90%. God led and we followed!

*Rejuvenation* emerged from the yearning of a substantial number of Wesley members and constituents for a contemporary and informal style of worship that was not being satisfied by the existing morning services. The Worship Commission worked diligently and *Rejuvenation* took shape, combining lay-led proclamation and clergy-led Holy Communion every Sunday evening. A music team and a proclamation team met weekly to study the Bible passages proposed by the lectionary in the coming month. A model for proclaiming God's Word—a panel discussion, a conversation about a film, or even a game show—was chosen along with a coordinating team

member. And then, the band identified musical selections to support the service's theme. Only one regret remains for me. *Rejuvenation* drew so many away from morning worship it began to feel as though Wesley was losing ground. But God was leading and we followed!

Other adventures emerged along with the aforementioned endeavors. A new outreach ministry to residents of Shea Farm was launched. A July Fourth celebration on the Clinton Street lawn with free pie and ice cream for our neighbors became a beloved tradition. The church's offices were computerizing and the first Wesley website created. The main entrance was refurbished. Parsonages were updated. An employee manual was written and implemented. A Safe Sanctuaries policy was adopted. A program needs assessment led to the election of a Building Committee. The Alternative Gift Fair was inaugurated. Two new commissions were formed, one to care for members and the other to promote adult spiritual formation. A Youth Council was named. Three refugee families were resettled. A monthly coffee-house, the Agape Café, was opened. The sanctuary was repainted and a video projection system for contemporary worship installed. And, finally, a strategic planning team was named to discern God's direction for what I hoped would be another four years of partnership with you in Concord. By then, you might remember, our first granddaughter was about to be born at Concord Hospital and Wendy and I definitely did not want the bishop to move us!

Some of you will also remember that things did not always go smoothly. At least once, the Finance Committee felt compelled to ask for supplemental pledges to support an ambitious budget. Associate pastors came and went, sometimes due to health concerns and sometimes due to the surprises of our United Methodist itinerancy. Conflict flared and cooled. And Wesley UMC's participation in the Together for Tomorrow campaign had to be postponed. There were times when we could sense that God was leading us in new directions though we struggled to see where. Yet even then God's grace abounded and made possible new beginnings.

With you, I thank God for the excitement of the successes we shared as well as for the lessons we learned during times of struggle and strife. For me, it was always a joy to glimpse our church and its efforts through the eyes of newcomers who consistently told me that they saw us as a Spirit-led and spiritually-thriving congregation. According to new friends who became members during our eight years as partners in ministry, three sturdy "legs" supported the "stool" that was Wesley UMC: outreach ministries, musical programming, and Christian education that included a thriving Sunday School and, increasingly, well-supported adult classes. The result was the reception of more than 200 new members between 1998 and 2006—the fruit of a strong tree always tended, sometimes pruned, and constantly nourished by the faithfulness of God.

As Wesley's roots delve deeper into the fertile ground of its rich history during this fall's anniversary observances, may its branches continue to reach ever wider to embrace all people and ever higher to transform the radiance of God's light into fifty more years of fruitful faithfulness.

Grace and peace,

*Joel B. Guillemette*

The Rev. Joel B. Guillemette

Rev. Lorene Eldredge's Comments 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Wesley Associate Pastor July 2005 to June 2008

**NORTH KINGSTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
450 Boston Neck Road  
North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852  
The Reverend Lorene E. Eldredge

Dear Wesley UMC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee,

Thank you for your invitation to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Wesley UMC, however, I have to decline as I have services here.

You have asked me to comment on the spiritual growth at Wesley while I served there. First, I want to share my framework [rooted in the work of Parker Palmer] for understanding spirituality. Spirituality is the hope we have in God for freedom, giving believers the ability to create change. It is about people and relationships, where we step away from our fears and we share openly and honestly in light of our life in Jesus Christ. Our spirituality gives us insight into the reality of our world allowing us to ask and wrestle with the difficult questions about God; allowing us to discover truth and to partner with God co-creating, especially as we participate with our imagination and spirit. For better or for worse, for blessing or despair, our spirituality and growth is rooted in the consciousness we bring to bear on our relationships, to specific situations, and all of creation.

So, spiritual growth at Wesley? Where is it we were in relationship for spiritual growth and blessing?

**EP** – in the reading of scripture and in the preparation for worship that touched the soul, and in the personal conversations, that extended far beyond worship, deepening spiritual relationships [Jay B, Richard L, Pat, Ruth, Alan, Richard, Catherine, Nick & Debbie]

**Intergenerational Mission Team** – as we served together reaching out to strangers for Jesus' sake. In our travel, our laughter, our singing, and the great moose hunts!

**Friday Book Studies** - sharing and listening to one another in lively discussion, praying for one another, and then sitting down together to share lunch. [The Fryers, the Stevens, Edna, Betty Ferris, ...]

**Saturday Morning Women's Study** – sharing scripture and opening our hearts to one another; daring to be vulnerable in one another's presence as we shared our thoughts in poetry and conversation. [Maeann, Jane, Julie, Penny...]

**Wednesday Bible Studies** at Havenwood proving we are always learning!

**One-on-one conversations** with people struggling with life, offering and receiving hope that we might find peace of body, mind, and spirit, and again reflecting on our life journeys. So many of those conversations that always seemed to celebrate life! [Al L., George E., Olga B, Harriet N, Sharon, Pauline W, Carol W. ]

## Rev. Lorene Eldredge's Comments 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**UMW** – as we struggled to grow; as we were willing to host the NH District UMW, and willing to lead in worship; the bold steps taken to adopt a missionary and to learn about foreign missions and those bold women serving abroad.

**Stories of our Lives** – writing journals recording the memories of our lives as we have journeyed with God. [Nancy Fransen]

**Spiritual Formation** – offering opportunities to make us more aware of the Spirit at work through the arts [stained glass window tours, crèche displays], quilting, writing, music, gardening, and theatre! [Everyman] Will you ever forget Ken G playing music by Barbara Dennerlein on the organ? I won't! And witnessing a poet/evangelist grow in his poetry and photography, capturing God's recreation of the earth! [Ray Foss]

**Missions & Outreach** – Where we put our hands and hearts to work we cannot help but grow in the Spirit! Working with the refugee population [Bill and Carol Harris] or in Prison Ministry [Ruth Foss] or gathering teams for the Crop Walk [George Fryer] or the Cancer Walk [Peggy T], and working with the Adoptive and Foster Parent Network - to mention a few!

And especially in relationships with the children and youth, never too shy to ask a question or to challenge a belief! [Britany, Kim, Eric, Josh, Savannah, Ian, Cecelia, Erica] Thursday evenings visiting parents and those who were waiting to dance, sing, or just waiting for a sibling. [Veronica, Shyanne, Caroline, Shenegua, Susan] And on Sunday morning wondering what response might come from the children. [William, who could most assuredly name reality and ask deep questions about God!]

Spiritual growth does not happen just in church. It happens at home, in families, where faith is central. One of the places of spiritual growth that went basically unrecognized was the opportunity for me to serve at the New Hampshire Psychiatric Hospital for six months prior to leaving Wesley. Neighbors to Wesley, bound by their fears, or "demons", or psychosis, in worship were unabashed about their faith; an incredible blessing to me!

Where is it people stepped out on faith? Ann A. leading dance and the children's choir, Misty in working with the teens dancing, Shoshanna and Betsy working with the youth, Ruth in ministry, Ray away from law and beginning to write, Ginny "recruiting" for drama, Helen in greeting people on Sunday mornings, ... I wish I could mention more people and times.... memory and space escapes me. I wish you blessings of peace and grace as you celebrate on the 50<sup>th</sup>.

*PASTOR LORI*

The Reverend Lorene E. Eldredge  
North Kingstown UMC  
North Kingstown, RI

9/18/11

To give a retrospective on my ministry at Wesley Church while I am still in the midst the work seems somewhat premature. Nevertheless, there are three decisions that we made together over my time of which I am very proud. Most decisions that we make are not clear choices between right and wrong, good and evil, or virtue and vice. If that were so, ministry would be simplistic and leadership would be reduced to little more than bravado. Perhaps the biggest danger is to think that decisions happen in isolation and that once they have been made we are done. The three decisions I would point to are all interrelated.

We restructured the Administrative life of the church. We no longer have multi-commissions tied together through a Church Council. We now have a structure that is led by an Administrative Board charged with giving the church visionary leadership and a staff structure that is accountable to bring the vision to fruition. The staff is charged with making the vision happen through ministry teams.

We decided to change the staffing model of our church. We hired two part-time program people rather than a full time elder. It was on one level driven by increasing costs and shifting levels of financial support. But on the other hand, it was done with a desire to have stronger leadership in specialized areas of ministry. The Sunday school is stronger and led with greater creativity and attention to the important details of administering a program. It was unfortunate to have a sudden transition in our second position during this foundational time, but we have moved through that experience and signs of promise are abundant.

We did a special campaign to help us do three things. We did participate in the New England Annual Conference's campaign, "Together for Tomorrow." We were asked to share \$93,000 and we came very close to meeting that goal. We contributed \$70,000. We were able to reduce our debt in half by paying off a \$50,000 loan. This brought savings to the monthly cash flow and saved a great deal in interest over the years. We also gave ourselves a small pocket of cash to help fund the new staffing model. Those funds were critical and helped accomplish all these changes.

We have made these decisions, but we are not done with them. We continue to live with them and use them as building blocks for our future. The structural change has taken away some familiar roles and opportunities for fellowship. But, it has created new missional vitality, new roles for service and different opportunities for fellowship. The challenge is to invest ourselves in these new opportunities. The new staffing model is more cost effective. We have greater attention being paid to the Sunday school program, youth ministries, and outreach. Staff attention to ministries is not enough. The ministry of Jesus Christ in any church structure is always about the people of God responding to the call God makes in their lives. The challenge still is to listen for us to listen to God and to do what God asks of us.

**Rev. Peter Hey's Comments for Wesley's 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration  
Wesley Pastor July 2006 to Present**

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We find ourselves in a familiar situation. Before all these changes occurred, we were looking at a \$70,000 deficit. We were over \$100,000 in debt and we were challenged by the Annual Conference to contribute \$93,000 toward things we care about. Today we are facing a \$40,000 deficit, our debt burden is less than \$50,000 and we have honored most of the commitment to "Together for Tomorrow." While I wish we were in a stronger situation, I rejoice that our situation is stronger than it was when we began. We have cut the deficit in half and we have reduced the debt by half.

We have made three decisions together. Making a decision is never the end! Let us continue to be in ministry together. I am excited about our future and I look forward to the beginning our next fifty years of ministry and I am delighted and challenged to share those with you.

Grace and Peace,  
*Peter Hey*  
Rev. Peter Hey

## **What United Methodist Women at Wesley Did Between 2001 and 2011**

We changed the form of our unit meetings to include lunch.

We hosted a District Meeting and a Conference Assembly.

We presented two Spiritual Spas.  
Penny Thurston led us in a Prayer Retreat.

Twice, we presented an exhibit of crèches from around the world at Christmas time.

We began a tradition of a candlelight dinner, the Pledge Banquet, every January. We ask the men of the church to serve it and we invite prospective members to be our guests. We install our officers for the year and we make our pledges to UMW.

We organized a new circle, Lydia, especially for women who work. They meet four times a year in the evening. Forty women were the charter members, bringing our membership to over 70.

We purchased 200 settings of Corelle tableware, 50 padded stackable chairs, a portable sound system, a food processor, and blinds for Hanna Hall as gifts to the church. The purchases totaled \$4726.

We present the 10:30 worship service once a year.

We have had members attend the national assemblies, and the Schools of Christian Mission. Pat Neal has served as a Conference officer. Peggy Topliff, Marge Shea-Miner and Virginia Gerseny are District officers.

Belinda Forbes, a dental missionary in Nicaragua, has become a mission we support.

Our fund raisers include at least two bake sales every year and a Cookie Walk as part of the Joyful Giving Fair. We had fun with a Rock-a-thon, when 12 of our grandmother members rocked (in rocking chairs) for 3 hours to raise money for Step Ahead scholarships. For several years, we had a "Breakfast, Brunch or Lunch" as part of the Plant Sale with proceeds going to the church. One year we had a quilt show and auctioned quilts which made \$500 for the church.

Dorcas Circle was organized for ladies of the church who are housebound. We communicate every month with them by mail and through their "Secret Sisters." Martha Circle has a group of charities they support every year. Every year they bring in well-wrapped articles to their "auction" which are sold, sight unseen.

Every year we purchase at least four books for the UMW Reading Program.

Special Mission Recognition Pins are presented annually to one of our members. This tradition began with Marge Shea-Miner, followed by Julie Rummells, Edna Walker, Helen Fryer, Peggy Topliff, and Nancy Fransen. Honors were awarded to three outstanding presidents of the past, Doris Moffett, Anna Avery and Agnes McLeod-Macey. Special Mission Recognition was awarded by the District Team to Joan Beldin and Virginia Gerseny.

## Nicaragua Mission

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Covenant between the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church and Las Asociacion de Iglesias de Cristo de Nicaragua. We also work with several Ministry Partners there, including Fundacion NITCA (Friends of NITCA) Iglesia Metodista de Nicaragua, (our “sister” church) Christian Aid Ministries, El Porvenir and Cross International.

### Our Mission Statement

The Covenant between the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church and our Covenant and ministry partners in Nicaragua was formed to accompany one another in solidarity as a response to the unjust and inequitable differences between North and South, rich and poor. In response to the healing ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, we develop and support programs that enhance the lives of the poorest in Nicaragua.

## The History of Refugee Resettlement at Wesley Church from early 1980's to 2000

By Ruth Engel

Several members of Wesley Church joined an ecumenical group formed by Rev. Walter Larson from the Concordia Lutheran Church. The year was 1983. Members of several other area churches participated as well. Our first refugees were two men from Cambodia, monks who were persecuted by the brutal dictator, Pol Pot. They did not stay in the area very long, but moved to another part of the US. Next, we sponsored a married couple from Romania, however, they had plans to move out West with some other Romanians and left us. Our resettlement group was a little alarmed that people we were supposed to be sponsoring were leaving, but our sponsoring agency basically told us... "well, it's a free country!"

At that point, Wesley began its own refugee resettlement group. We sponsored a family from Cambodia, the Kim family. They had 2 children and shortly after they arrived, we discovered they were expecting a third! They stayed with John and Irene Irving until they found housing. Eventually, they moved to Lawrence, MA to be with other Cambodian people. However, Meng Kim returned to attend John Irving's funeral. Meng and his wife, Loch Kahn made a dinner of Cambodian food for the church folks. A huge vat of it spilled in the trunk of my car all over the rented palm tree we were using to decorate.

Our next family was from Vietnam. First, Khon Lu and his wife came alone. We did some fundraising and made some diplomatic efforts and eventually brought their children, Tam and Che here to be reunited.

Next, Hai Tran, his wife Lein Dang and their 18-month old son, My Tran, arrived. Lein was adopted by foster parents while in Vietnam and they eventually joined her in the US. She is an Amerasian, her biological mother being Vietnamese and her father an American soldier. Because of this, she was shunned by her community. Their son, My Tran, recently graduated from Concord High and is attending college in Florida!

In 1999 we sponsored Ansomane Traore (dad) and Momadu Traore (son) along with their companion, Abu Turay from Sierra Leone. Ansomane was injured by the rebels and could not farm. His son, Momadu, graduated from Concord High School a year ago and lives in Concord with his wife and daughter, Aubrianna. His goal is to get his nursing degree from NHTI.

## **Refugee Resettlement**

Wesley has been engaged in refugee resettlement since the early 80's and is still involved. Time (as with everything) has changed some of the needs and ways of filling them. Transportation, housing, jobs, education, medical care are always needed and Wesley volunteers have and are assisting in these areas. Our volunteers know the joy that comes with the love, dignity and respect each individual gives to the other.

Many in the Wesley family have helped by donation of their time, skills, and everyday items.

### **Time**

- Folks from Wesley drive others to medical appointments.
- Folks from Wesley sit and read with individuals.
- Folks from Wesley distribute donated items.
- Folks from Wesley go shopping with the newly arrived.
- Folks from Wesley visit in refugee apartments to share food and friendship.
- Folks from Wesley explain and fill out forms to navigate bureaucracy.
- Folks from Wesley help market the products the refugees produce.
- Folks from Wesley include the Multicultural Family Center in the Giving Fair.

### **Skills**

- Folks from Wesley teach and facilitate sewing and knitting projects.
- Folks from Wesley use organizational skills to plan field trips and outings.
- Folks from Wesley use computer skills to install recycled computers and teach its use.
- Folks from Wesley teach driving skills,
- Folks from Wesley designed English lessons and curriculum.

### **Donations**

- Folks from Wesley have donated well over 300 coats.
- Folks from Wesley have donated household items.
- Folks from Wesley have donated children's toys and clothes.
- Folks from Wesley have donated buttons for button necklaces.
- Folks from Wesley have donated T shirts to be recycled into bath mats.
- Folks from Wesley have donated sewing machines.
- Folks from Wesley have donated boxes of needed diapers.

The refugee program has benefited from all the support Wesley has provided. The Multicultural Family Center hopes to carry on with Wesley's support, donations and volunteers.

## Christian Education at Wesley UMC

The purpose of Wesley UMC's Christian Education Ministry is to nurture the spiritual growth of children, youth and adults in a safe, caring, and creative Christian environment and to help students of all ages form a lasting personal relationship with God. We provide engaging, dynamic church school classes for all ages from preschool through adults, and we offer safe and loving care for infants and toddlers during our worship services.

In 2008 our 9am children's church school program underwent a transformation as we adopted an innovative "rotation model" format which we have dubbed Wesley's A.R.K. – Awesome Rotating Kids! The idea of the rotation model is to teach major Bible stories through a series of inter-related, kid-friendly learning stations. Because they concentrate on the same story for four weeks in a row, the children have better recall of the story and a deeper understanding of its meaning. The children really enjoy the emphasis on active learning!

Each Sunday the children will gather in Hanna Hall for a short, but dynamic, large group opening worship which features an interactive dramatization of our Bible story, as well as energetic songs, a mission update, and prayer time. The children and their adult shepherds then head to one of our awesome Bible Learning Adventure Stations. Over a four-week period, the children will rotate into different stations to experience the story in a new way each week.

We are excited to offer the following Bible Learning Adventure Stations this fall:

**“Critter Café and Noah’s ‘Ark’ade”** – Cooking and Games. Children enjoy preparing and eating snacks which relate to the Bible story. They also have a blast playing games which relate to the theme of the month.

**“Bible Story Boat”** – Storytelling and Drama. Children love hearing the Bible stories told with dramatic flare. They also enjoy the opportunity to interpret the story themselves as they don costumes or use puppets to retell the stories.

**“Rainy Day Crafts”** – Arts and Crafts. Children create masterpieces to respond to the Bible story with their own unique artistic flare.

**“Rainbow Revelations”** – Science Discovery. Children participate in interesting science experiments and connect their discoveries to their Bible story. By learning more about the world around them, children can learn more about God.

2008 saw the beginning of Worship and Wonder, an innovative new children's program offered after the children's time during the 10:30am worship service. Worship and Wonder offers an interactive, hands-on worship experience where children can ask questions and explore the Bible through a variety of active faith-based activities. Each week, Worship and Wonder emphasizes the same scripture that is the focus of the Pastor's sermon during the worship service. Our Director of Christian Education designs our Worship and Wonder program so that the children explore their faith and experience God through a wide variety of multisensory activities including drama, songs, object

lessons, learning games and crafts. In this multiage environment best suited for children ages 5 and up, older children develop leadership skills as they help younger children with projects, team up with them on games and buddy with them during experiments. Worship and Wonder continues to grow in popularity and is offered year-round.

Our Middle High Youth class offered at 9am has continued to thrive. The youth enjoy connecting with other middle highs while having the opportunity to grow in their faith through Bible study, discussion and service projects. The Middle High Youth enjoy participating in our 9am church school opening worship. Once a month they prepare a skit or puppet show to present. They love creating props for their skits and they have even used their creativity to write their own scripts and songs! Mission projects are very important to our middle high youth and they have enjoyed learning more about Heifer International, Imagine No Malaria, and Church World Service as well as participating in outreach projects.

In 2010 we had some innovations in our senior high church school programs. During the 9am church school hour, interested senior high youth are invited to participate in Wesley UMC's new Senior High L.I.T.(leader in training) program. Youth who participate in the L.I.T. program receive Wesley's Safe Sanctuary Training and are invited to use their talents in a variety of ways, such as assisting teachers, leading craft projects, games or songs, creating visual aids and decorations for our children's worship, and helping lead children's worship.

Our regular Senior High Youth class moved to their class time to 10:30am which has been considerably more popular with our youth, many of whom prefer to sleep a little later on Sunday mornings and who find themselves more alert and interested in discussion at this later hour. The senior high youth enjoy connecting with one another in a very accepting environment where they can be true to themselves. They enjoy a time of laid-back fellowship, Bible study, conversation, and prayer which often includes bagels or doughnuts!

This September, we have just begun our newest addition to Wesley UMC's church school programs - a class for 2½ - 4 year olds which we call Worship and Play. Worship and Play is a special class offered during our 10:30am worship service which provides our little ones an opportunity to experience God through simple Bible stories, songs, finger plays, and fun! This is a wonderful way to nurture the faith of young children in a safe and loving environment.

Last, but certainly not least, Wesley UMC has long offered a wonderful adult Bible study class which has been led by our resident Bible scholar Byron Champlin for more than 20 years. Interesting discussion and warm fellowship have made this class popular with adults of all ages for many years. Our adult class provides a rich opportunity for in-depth Bible study.

Innovations will continue to be a part of Wesley's Christian Education programs as we continue to meet the changing needs of our congregation, but the underlying principle remains the same – to nurture the spiritual growth of all of our students and to help them develop a lasting personal relationship with God.

Misty Griffith  
Director of Christian Education

Wesley Church Gardens

The first gardens of the Church were completed by Harold Anderson and were very small. One was under the sign at the rear of the Church and the other was a circle in front of the Church. Due to a shift in the ground new gardens were made and we made and the circle was enlarged and changed to oval as it is now with a few shrubs added and more plants were donated.

. Later on gardens were done near the street , also a water line was installed . Martha Eilers has spent many hours working in the gardens and due to the amount of care needed I have helped out as able. More help is needed.....

*Polly Johnson*

## Their Sacred Dance

I Sat in the pew, a smile on my face.  
As I watched both my girls dancing with grace.  
My oldest, she knows all her steps by heart.  
Her hands and her feet, they do their part.  
My youngest is doing the best she can,  
Occasionally she turns and waves her hand.  
Tabitha's done this dance before  
And she shows it off with flair.  
But it's Virginia's first time and though a little slow,  
Her face shows she doesn't care.  
Both have smiles and they both have fun,  
As they, with others, dance as one.  
The song praises the lord, Their dance lifts spirits high.  
A tear rolls down my cheek, My heart swells with pride.  
The song is now over, their dance it is done.  
The congregation claps, and we all feel the love.  
It's the first time at Wesley that they dance together  
A small piece of history I'll always treasure.

*Virginia J. Nugent*  
2-18-2011

## **A Legacy of Good Works**

"Who likes to paint?"  
Ruth Williamson announces  
in the church bulletin.  
The Education leaders  
request a mural  
to enhance their hall.

Seeing this posting for several  
months,  
one day my heart nudges me  
to make a phone call.  
Surprised to hear  
I was the only person  
to volunteer.

In spite of being a novice artist,  
I did accept the challenge,  
painting on concrete!

As a youngster,  
my mother would catch me  
sketching cartoon characters  
along the stairway.

My father's wish  
for his home church  
was a stained glass window.  
No funds in his will.

I thought this mural  
would be a substitute  
so I dedicate my painting  
to my dear dad.

Ruth selects pictures  
from her office calendar  
with a wish for me  
to reproduce as life size  
murals in the church hall.

The first one shows children  
listening to Jesus talk  
to be painted at a level for all  
young viewers to see.

The second was Noah.  
An abstract picture  
tells the Ark story.

I recall the day I chose  
to paint Noah's face.  
So difficult to get just right  
until I envision he has  
my grandfather's face.  
Noah then came alive!

How I recall the joy  
in the "Step Ahead"  
children and staff  
when they saw Noah's face.  
Smiles expressed their thanks.

Listen to your own inner voice  
for the good works  
that can take hold  
waiting to unfold.

Nancy Fransen-5/21/2011  
Dedicated to my father,  
Wendell Edwin Fransen

## **Your Usher**

Leading us to our seats,  
watching the congregation,  
caring for the flock  
from the back of the sanctuary,  
from the aisles,  
sharing the joy of worship  
the community of believers  
one bulletin, one smile,  
one greeting, one handshake  
at a time.

Written by Ray Foss about Al Leavitt, who stepped down on 9/30/07, after serving for 62 years as one of the ushers of our church.

## A Summer Sunday

I enter church  
choosing  
a back pew.

I observe the quote  
on the offering  
envelope:

"Welcome,  
Enter to worship...  
depart to serve."

At the altar  
two golden sets  
of candlesticks  
shine brightly below  
the wooden cross.

A large Holy Bible  
is open with a  
bright red ribbon  
to mark a passage.

Today empty chairs  
await the return  
of the church choir.

A camera captures  
today's service  
from the pulpit;  
viewing later  
on Channel 22  
network audience.

From the podium  
our Pastor speaks,  
often with his hands  
outstretched,  
he delivers his  
message from Exodus.

Title: Knowing God,  
the Sacred Presence.  
"God is part  
of the World  
he has made....  
even the very  
breath you take in."

Postlude  
"Tollite Hostias"  
is played by  
the organist  
as she pumps  
out music from  
the majestic  
organ pipes.  
A Heavenly closing.

Go Now to Serve.

Nancy Fransen  
July 17, 2011

## Wesley Church in my life

I was born into a family of Methodists, First United Methodist Church, in the Westfield, MA, where I was baptized June 19, 1960. From early in my childhood, we were really active in church. But when I went to UNH in 1978, I left the church. And, I wouldn't come back for 25 years.

In 2003, at the end of a very unhealthy relationship, I started going to church at Wesley United Methodist Church because I saw the love Wesley gave to a lady, Pauline Grant, they didn't know when her husband, John "Jack" Grant, died. I was beside her in his room at Presidential Oaks home when he died.

She was lost, sitting there, without anyone, as her knight in shining armor had just died. I asked her if any arrangements had been made. She had told me she thought they were married in a Methodist Church in Hooksett 19 years earlier. I told her about Wesley Church; then I called Pastor Joel Guillemette. There was no record of her being a Methodist as far as they could tell; but they still loved her anyway, in the name of Christ. I thank God for that divine appointment.

I started going to Rejuvenation regularly. In January 2004, I joined Church, in May I graduated law school, and I sat for the NH Bar in July. Later that summer I knew God was calling me to study his Word, for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in my life. I started attending Disciple I bible study that fall, the Tuesday of Labor Day week. In our group were Ruth Foss, Ginny Gerseny, Renee Rand, Richard Lessard, Bill and Joanne Merisotis, and Pat Trent.

It is fair to say that Wesley Church and Disciple I Bible Study changed my life, both in terms of my personal life and in terms of the discovery of the gift of poetry.

Ruth and I fell in love while studying God's word. We started dating on 10/16/04, I proposed on 11/9/04, and we were married on 12/17/04 outdoors on the stone bridge in White Park in Concord, across from the Law School. We renewed our vows before our church family on 4/23/05, officiated by Pastor Joel. I gained a wonderful wife Ruth, and daughters Erica (now 15), Shyanne (now 11), and Shaniqua (now 9).

And I became active at Wesley as Church Treasurer, on the Finance Committee, and Church Council, as a middle school Sunday School teacher, and on the 2007 mission trip to Downeast, Maine. Ruth completed college and studied at Boston University School of Theology toward her Masters in Divinity. Ruth is now a Licensed Local Pastor serving at Suncook United Methodist Church and she is following God's call to ordained ministry. I am very blessed.

And I have been blessed with a gift of poetry from God. By the summer of 2004, I had written about 200 poems. I really started to write from my faith when I opened God's Word in 2004, and when went on the Walk to Emmaus in 2007. I promised God I was going to let God use me to share his message through this gift of poetry. I am now up to 12,450+ poems.

And, to continue the story I started with, in 2010, I looked through an old photo album from Pastor Si Continelli, one of the retired pastors of Suncook United Methodist Church. That was during a rough patch last year when I was really struggling with what my call was. Sure enough, there was a wedding picture of Pauline and Jack Grant on their wedding day in 1984 at our church. She had been right all along. And finding that picture, for me, is a reminder to remain faithful and act in Christian love, even when we struggle.

**Raymond A. Foss**  
**August 2011**

## **And It Grew Again**

It took up at least six square feet of the church parlor. No one really knew who it had belonged to — it was simply a fixture in the parlor. Its home was by the window, between the wall and the harvest table. Its long tentacle limbs stretched out in every direction.

Could it be that it yearned for the companionship of the overgrown shrubbery in the Courtyard? Did it feel that if it stretched further, it would assume the full greenery of the nearby garden? Whatever its age, it had the awkward lanky look of a teenager with bones growing faster than the muscles which controlled them.

Kay was helping me push it one way or another as we tried to set up tables for our luncheon. As we got one branch out of the way, another popped up. “What this thing needs is a good pruning,” she muttered almost under her breath.

After the meeting was over, Kay disappeared. We were taking the cloths off the tables when she came back into the room. She waved at me, and I realized she had a pair of pruning shears in her hand.

“Are you going to prune it?” I asked.

“Do you think anyone will care?” she asked me.

“Heavens, no. Everyone will be grateful.”

That was all she needed. She knelt down and began to cut off branch after branch, about three inches from the soil. I was in total shock. My idea of pruning was taking six or eight inches off the ends of the branches. Her idea of pruning was to give the plant new life! Without saying a word, I picked up the branches as they fell on the floor and together we took them out to the trash.

We stood in front of the pot and looked at the tiny shoots still visible. “I’ll give it a good drink and next week, when it’s over the shock, I’ll give it fertilizer.” And so she did.

Every month she tended the plant, and it began to grow and flourish. I am sure she talked to it and prayed over it. She would say to me, “Have you looked at the plant today? Did you see the new leaves?” And I would say, “Yes, I did. It is just beautiful, Kay. And it’s all because you pruned it.” “Well,” she said, “you will never know how scared I was when I made that first cut. I was sure I would get thrown out of the church!”

It was not long after that that Kay learned she had cancer and too soon she left us. In the church parlor she has a living green memorial, one that she created. Kay’s plant is beside the window, growing exactly like its gardener directed.

**Wesley Associate Pastor**

Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Wesley!

Sharing the life of God with people in Wesley UMC for four years was a blessing to me and my family. It was time of great learning and growing both as a clergy and a follower of Jesus because Wesley was a church filled with people who desired to learn about what it means to be the follower of Jesus and grow. I enjoyed working with teens through confirmation journey where we expanded the horizon of our faith and understanding. The year following September 11 attack the confirmation class and some of the parents visited an Islamic Society in Manchester to watch their prayer time and share fellowship. One of teens told me just before we were about to enter their building, "I really don't think we need to visit this place. Coming to Wesley church and worshipping there is good enough for us. I don't know why we are doing this!" After two hours of watching and sharing, the same teen asked me as we were about to leave, "Pastor We, when will we be back here again? This is cool and they are nice people!"

"Safe and Open Church for All" was the slogan we worked together to express the spirit of our faith during that time as we have become a reconciling congregation welcoming all people. I remember the church conference as the members were sharing their opinion and faith regarding this sensitive matter. Not all of the people had the same mind. But all of them share the same spirit, the spirit of humility and openness.

Making 6000 phone calls to invite people in our community to our new contemporary worship service "Rejuvenation" was also one of a kind experience. I happened to make a call to the senior pastor of Trinity church right across the street from us!!! We had a pleasant conversation about why he couldn't come to this worship!

There are too many memories that are still alive and inspiring to share here. But they will be shared through the years as the witnesses to the life and spirit of God in the hearts and lives of people who desire to learn and dare to follow Jesus!!!

(This letter was received after the booklet was printed.)