



A Word or Two From Kaye

By Kaye Brandt

On Palm Sunday of 1993 I joined Wesley Church. Since that day I have watched many other persons become members. I feel sometimes as though I should warn them. Even as I sit and talk to persons about becoming members and tell them about who we are here at Wesley, I want to say, "Beware!" After all, I certainly didn't know that becoming a member of this community would transform my entire life. But it did!

I first became involved in the Saturday Meals Program. (Watch out—it's addictive). On my first Saturday I began to think it was a strange thing for a shy person to volunteer to do—be a hospitality worker in a whole room full of strangers.

I wondered if I would really be able to do this on a regular basis. (I lasted almost five years and still miss it.) A short time after I joined the

church, I remember hearing myself say, "Yes, I'll be the team leader of the local mission committee." After I hung up the telephone I recall thinking, "I can't do this. I have never been on a church committee before—how could I possibly be the team leader? There is no way!" But being too shy to back out, I wrote an agenda (as detailed as you would expect from an accountant) and went to my first meeting with my knees shaking and my mouth dry. Guess what! I did it! As the team leader of

this committee I found myself one Sunday morning standing before the congregation speaking about justice and reconciliation. Again I had been sure, "No, I can't do this." Then

just three short years ago I found myself writing an article in this journal announcing that I was going

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"I will be leaving Wesley Church. I have been appointed by the Bishop and the District Superintendent to serve as the half-time pastor at Hobart UMC"

A Note from Larry

By Rev. Larry Nielsen

Annual Conference meets the first week in June. There will be the usual business of keeping a conference budgeted and running. There will be greetings from United Methodist colleges, universities and seminaries; from other ecumenical groups and denominations; and from

local hosts of the conference. There will be ordination of clergy and the reading of appointments - who is going where.

The real business will be around delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. These meet every four years and the former decides the rules of the United Methodist Church and the latter

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SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM from June 1st through August 30

Deadline for articles for the July Journal is June 21.

A Word or Two From Kaye

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to quit my accounting job at FMC and enroll full-time in United Theological Seminary. Who could have known?

It has been an exciting three years. Shortly after I began my classes at United Theological Seminary, I wrote a journal article saying, "It's much too much work and I love every minute of it." Today, I would use those very same words. There have been many milestones during these years. Each time, I have wanted to say, "I can't do this!" Yet, each time I found the strength to go on.

I have spent the last two years working here as a Student Pastor. It has been a challenging, but very blessed time. But just as I am beginning to feel that, "Yes, maybe I can do this", it's time to go on to the next step. After I spend this summer at Fairview University Hospital as a student chaplain, I will be leaving Wesley Church. I have been appointed by the Bishop and the District Superintendent to serve as the half-time pastor at Hobart UMC

on 46th and Nicolle. I have no doubt that God is calling me to this place, but it doesn't prevent me from wondering, "Can I do this?" I certainly don't know how I will ever say good-bye to this family of faith.

So, if I were addressing a prospective new member just now, I would probably tell them the bad news and the good news of becoming a member of the Wesley community of faith. First, the bad news is that once you are here for a while you will never be the same. I think that you will begin to really listen to those who have stories that are much different than yours. You will probably be challenged to think in new and more loving, inclusive ways. And the worst part of all (at least for me) is that one day you might have to say good-bye and move on. I have seen it happen many times before—Troy, Greg, Richard, Annie, Diane, Deb, Mike, and others too numerous to name. Yet, that brings me to the good news. If the time comes that you need to move on, you may say, "I don't want to leave" and you may even cry, but you will

never seriously say, "I can't do this." You won't say that because you will know that Wesley has helped you to grow spiritually. You will know that you are stronger and more whole than when you first arrived. You will know that you will never really leave, because your spirit will remain and in one way or another you will always be a part of this wonderful community, this family known as Wesley. You know that you will carry a part of Wesley with you always.

I am reminded of a friend of mine who picked the saying for the Wesley birthday cards, "Friends are the family you choose for yourself." I thank you, my family, for your prayers, financial help, and loving support. It is because of you that I will have the strength, the courage, and the faith to say good-bye. It is because of you that I can say to God's call, "Yes, I can do it!"

Love and God's Blessings,
Kaye

Thank you!

A very special thank you to Mabel Ferguson for encouraging people to volunteer their time and goodies for coffee hour after worship service. Great Job, Mabel! We also thank all of the persons who responded to Mabel. You have not only generously provided us with something to eat and drink, but have given us a grand excuse for staying around after church and catching up with each other's lives.

Choir Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, June 6 is the final Sunday that the Wesley Choir sings in the Worship Service until September. Jan Gilbert has written a new communion liturgy that will be used for the first time this Sunday.

We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful choir, talented directors, and gifted composers who add to our worship experience with their music. Thanks to all who participated for sharing your gifts and your time!

What's Happening to the Wesley Community

New Members

On May 23 we were happy to welcome David Dubin, Kris Jones, and Dave Jones to our church family!

David Dubin has been a Chemical Dependency Counselor and is now working on his MA in Psychology. He says that he has been on a long spiritual journey that led him to Wesley (*with some help from Mark Jackson*). He is a homeowner in South Minneapolis and a soon-to-be brand new "parent" of a puppy. Stay tuned for further details of puppy parenting! David will be the liturgist on June 6. David has joined on profession of faith.

Kris and Dave Jones have already been initiated into the

volunteer life of Wesley by working at Saturday Meals. Kris works for American Express Financial Services. Dave works for Lutheran Brotherhood. Kris and Dave live close by in Loring Green. They are transferring their membership from Central Lutheran Church.

Congratulations

Nana Nancy Goodell proudly announces the arrival of her grandson, Samuel Lundy Goodell. He was born on May 5, 1999 and weighed in at 8#15 oz. Mom Megan Lundy & Dad David Goodell are thrilled with Samuel's birth and are all doing well. Nana describes Samuel as "perfect beyond description". Welcome, Samuel!

News from Wisconsin

Mike Chatt is living in Wisconsin now with his father. He writes that he walks or rides his bike each day to the Indian Burial Ground Park. He says it is a good place to read or to meditate. He is also helping with Vacation Bible School at First United Methodist Church. He welcomes us to visit and says that he misses the Wesley family. We miss you too Mike!

Who's moving? Change Of Address:

(this information has been removed from the copy published on the Web.)

Building an Inclusive Church

A letter from Howard Johnson

Dear Friend in Christ,
"On behalf of the planning committee for the recent conference on 'Building an Inclusive Church.' I'm pleased to announce that Bishop Egerton's keynote address is now available on audio tape. His insightful address set a loving, thoughtful, faithful tone for the entire day. It challenged us to re-think what it means to be the faithful, loving body of Christ by reflecting on how the early church struggled to remain faithful amidst the divisive issues of their day. As I listened to the tape, I realized that those

of us who heard him on April 17th had been privileged to hear a truly outstanding statement of faith on the issue of homosexuality and the church. In those moments, ancient scriptures and the Christian faith came alive with compelling relevance for our time. Several people inquired about securing a tape of the conference. We have kept the price of the tape to a minimum in order to maximize the impact of the conference on the community of faith."

Grace and Peace,
Howard B. Johnson
Planning Committee Chair

P. S. Full text of the Bishop's address is on the Web at :

<http://www.winternet.com/~rwhenn/inclusive.htm>

Please send your request with amount of copies to be ordered at the price of \$5.00 each (includes postage and handling) along with your name, address and check (payable to: Hennepin Avenue UMC with *Egerton Tape* on memo line) enclosed to:

Howard B. Johnson
4300 West River Parkway #336
Minneapolis, MN 55406-3684

A Note from Larry

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elects new bishops and assigns bishops to conferences.

Our United Methodist Church is in the midst of struggling with the level of involvement of gay and lesbian persons within its ministry and how the UMC will relate to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. My church says some very helpful things and some very hurtful things in this

Please pray for our conference and for those who represent you at it. Pray for Wesley and the Reconciling Movement as we seek to bring healing and wholeness to all persons.

area of life. I take exception to every negative thing that is said. Our conference will have the chance to vote on a petition to General Conference that asks that all this language be

removed and that we go to neutral. This is a start and only a start.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu helped me see some ways of

thinking about this conflict. In an interview with Bill Moyers on public television, Rev. Tutu said that we was not liberating the black Africans from

oppression, but liberating white Africans from fear. The reaction of the conservative heterosexual Christian community seems to be based on fear. Fear of what is not known. Fear of what each person sees and feels within his or her self. Fear of wondering what would happen if all persons had the same rights of living in a blessed and legally recognized union with all rights. It is my hope that the fear that is evidenced may come to an end.

Please pray for our conference and for those who represent you at it. I will be there as your pastor, Janet WestLee is your lay member of conference, and Judy WestLee is a voting clergy member of the Annual Conference. Pray for Wesley and the Reconciling Movement as we seek to bring healing and wholeness to all persons.

Larry

Worship Schedule

Sunday, June 6, 1999 – Second Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

Premier of new communion liturgy by Jan Gilbert

Worship: 10:30 AM Choir Appreciation Day

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sermon: Stories of Faith

Sunday, June 13, 1999 – Third Sunday after Pentecost
Baptism

Worship: 10:30 AM

Scripture: Genesis 18:1-15; Matthew 9:35 - 10:23

Sermon: Laughing at God

Sunday, June 20, 1999 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship: 10:30 AM

Scripture: Genesis 21:8-21; Matthew 10:24-39

Sermon: God's Love Is Never Lost

Sunday, June 27, 1999 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship: 10:30 AM

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14; Matthew 10:40-42

Sermon: This Is a Test

Performing Arts 99

**Sunday, June 6,
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. -
Wesley Choir Concert and
Open House**

Share in the delightful melodies of our talented Wesley musicians as we celebrate Spring. There will be an open house from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM, tours of Wesley Church at 1:00 and 2:00 PM, and the concert at 3:00 PM. (There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be taken, with all proceeds going to offset the cost of plastering, painting, and roofing.)

COAM News

Ice Cream - with Attached Strings

The Cooperative Older Adult Ministry's (COAM) Ice Cream Social and Barbecue (really a light supper) on JUNE 17th will come with some interesting strings attached - *the Aluminum Strings*. Not to be confused with that longtime Twin Cities musical standby, the Golden Strings, these six stringed instrument players will present some old-time music at 6 p.m..

Now if you cannot abide ice cream, there will be a barbecue on a bun, chips beverage and cookie. (*Ah, c'mon - the ice cream is hand dipped and served in a dish!*)

The Strings, the barbecue and the ice cream will cost only \$6 (well, that includes the senior discount), but \$3 if you're younger than 12. Or you can bring the whole family for \$15. All proceeds go to support COAM's many programs and Lutheran Brotherhood branches 8210 and 8806 will match up to \$900.

The event will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church, 4120 17th Ave S. Food will be served from 6 to 7 p.m., with the program starting at 7. Delegates from COAM member congregations have tickets. Tickets are also available by calling COAM office at 721-5786 or at the door.

If you are interested in learning more about this program or would like to become a delegate to the board, contact Harmon Ruliffson. If you are interested in

participating in a day program sponsored by COAM but cannot afford the entire cost, please contact Rev. Nielsen or Judy WestLee. Wesley has some scholarship money set aside.

COAM Branson Tour set for five days

The tour to Branson, MO, always promises plenty of sights and entertainment, but COAM's five day tour in December will visit sights and celebrations along the way, stopping in Kansas City and Springfield, MO as well. Here are a few of the events and places included in this tour: the Branson Christmas showcase; Christmas Extravaganza; the Osmond Family show, featuring music of Andrew Lloyd Webber; the Lawrence Welk show, with the Lennon Sisters; the Bobby Vinton Show; Country Club Plaza Holiday lights (Kansas City); Precious Moments Village; Historic Valley Junction; and a Farewell Christmas Party Dinner.

This motorcoach tour leaves December 3 and is offered through Sunshine Travel of Apple Valley. The cost of the tour will be \$569 (double) and \$669 (single), and includes lodging, sightseeing, shows and six meals. Complete information and registration form is available by calling COAM at 721-5786. This is a very popular tour and will fill up fast!

COAM day tours

There's still space for the Hinkley and Old Log Theater tours, but don't delay! They are filling quickly! Hinkley trip in July 22

(8:45 am to 5:30 ish). The Hinkley Group will take in the Fire Museum and lunch at the famous Toby's. After lunch the group will board the lady Savannah paddle wheel riverboat for a ride around Sturgeon Lake. Cost is \$33 or \$36. Registration until July 14 or trip fills.

In any other part of the theatrical world, a play entitled "Axel and His Dog" might not even open. In the Twin Cities, however, it is a smash hit! That's because Minnesotans remember a time when it was another improbable smash hit 45 years ago. The play, now the old Log Theater in Excelsior, will be the focus of the COM day tour August 26th. "Axel" is fresh from its record breaking run at the American History Theater in St Paul and is a moving and hilarious story of an early-television personality, Clean Card, who was Axel, complete with a sort of Scandinavian accent and wacky stories for children & their parents.

Don Stolz, Card's sidekick in those days, wrote the stage play about the classic TV live production, Steve Shaffer and Stoltz's son Tom play the lead roles.

The tour bus leaves the Church lot at 10:45 am and will be returning about 3:30 pm with lunch at 11:30. The inclusive cost is 32 & 35. Registration will be until August 18 or until trip fills.

All tour info can be had by calling June Este at COAM at 721-5786.

From the Saturday Meals Kitchen

By Deb Black

Each month I receive a phone call from Mel asking, "Where is your journal letter?" Then I think it's time for my monthly begging. My dear Wesley family, you have always heard my pleas—it surely proves, "Ask and you shall receive." I just wanted to take the time to say thanks to all of you here at Wesley for your support and your efforts with our Saturday Meals Program.

There are so many folks here at Wesley that are or have been involved with this mission. I have heard just some of the many stories. Like the one about the turkeys that needed carving—carved by one of my favorite storytellers of all times. And one of my personal "fav's" — the day I had to take one watermelon and try to serve

126 folks. (I was *not* able to multiply this watermelon like our Lord did with the loaves of bread and the fish). I have both laughed and cried because of this program as well as making many friends and learning much. I have been able to see the past and I have seen part of the future through this program. I am pleased to have been able to experience both.

I received money this month from one who knew what it was like not to have extra money. In her own words, "I knew the time when splurging was buying Kraft Macaroni and Cheese and not the generic brand." How does one thank the kind of person that never forgets their own struggling years. (Not that this year was a breeze for this kind

soul.) I promised I wouldn't cry when I received the check, but I did. (Surprise!) Then when I looked later at the amount, I cried again. (So what else is new?) To this kind person—thank you for your donation, but most of all thanks for being you.

Who will call me next month to tell me that my journal letter is due. Mel, I'll miss you and your kind soul. To both Bill and yourself, "Thank you for your kindness in remembering our Saturday Meals program here at Wesley!"

As always all my love and many thanks to all of you.

Deb Black,
Saturday Meals Coordinator.

Sunday Volunteers

Please sign up in Lillibridge Hall or call the church office if you are able to fill in any of the blanks. We are also looking for Sunday morning continental breakfast hosts - once a month, very simple,...talk with Steve Juntunen or Kaye Brandt.

June greeters:

- 6 – Jean Engebretson & Ruth Quistgard
- 13 – Peggy Ramstad & _____
- 20 – Vera Engle
- 27 – Mabel Ferguson & Elaine Underdahl

June coffee hour:

- 6 – Jean and Kenn Beck
- 13 – Clare Gravon
- 20 – Mark and Terry Brainard
- 27 – United Methodist Women

June liturgists:

- 6 – David Dubin
- 13 – Lee Borah
- 20 – _____
- 27 – Scott Onasch

June Flowers:

- 6 – _____
- 13 – Dave and Kris Jones
- 20 – Judy and Janet WestLee
- 27 – Martha and David Mayou

Job Openings

Organist/Pianist, Music Director & Hand Bell Director at Excelsior UMC

Contact Judy Myers at 612-474-54711 ext. 12

Secretaries are needed:

Part-time positions, word-processing, and secretarial experience preferred.

Wesley UMC

Talk to Pastor Larry or call church office at 871-3585.

Joyce UMC

Call Pastor Ruth Hograbe at 822-5288.

Asbury UMC

Call for Gregg Collins at 721-5025.

Pearls of Wisdom

You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late

God's Little Devotional Book for Women

It is a mistake not to face our doubts courageously.

Jimmy Carter, *Living Faith*

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun, a bit o' work and a bit o' fun.

Sign in an old inn, Lancaster, England

I try to watch the words I say, and keep them soft and sweet;
For I don't know from day to day, which ones I'll have to eat!

Anonymous

When Mother Teresa received the Nobel Prize for Peace, someone asked her what the average person might do to promote world peace. Her answer was simple and true:

Go home and love your family.

The End of an Era

Mae Belle Doty has been leading the Family Education Center on Saturdays since 1968. She has been helping build family harmony utilizing Adlerian Psychology which calls for equality and encouragement. She has decided that it's now time to step aside (after ONLY 31 years!). The Wesley community of faith owes Mae Belle a great debt of gratitude for her loyal and very helpful service. Thank you Mae Belle.

Your Wesley Family

Thanks for Your Sympathy

Thank you to the Wesley community for your cards and prayers following the death of my 17-month old great-niece. I am grieving this tragic and untimely death. May God hold us all in loving care during this time of great sadness and loss.

In love and appreciation,
Floyd Ward

Wesley United Methodist Church
101 E. Grant Street
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Address Correction Requested

We're on the Web

TheWesleyChurch.org

*A Reconciling Congregation
Serving Minneapolis since
1852*



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Rev. Larry Nielsen, Pastor

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Important Dates

June Birthdays

03 - Bertha Sather
04 - Terry Qualey
08 - Jack Fithian
08 - Adam Black
08 - Sonja Abelmann
08 - Kenn Beck
10 - Mary Strasma
11 - Elaine Underdahl
21 - Marcia Qualey
24 - Steven Baldwin
25 - Katherine Engel
26 - Ervin Short
29 - Rosemary Payton

Happy Belated Birthday to David Dubin who celebrated on May 24th!

Wesley Church Picnic

Yes, we will be having a church picnic this year, but you must be patient. Where? When? Details are

unavailable at this time, but will be coming soon.

Other June Dates

Mark your calendars:

June 6, 3:00 p.m – Wesley Choir Concert

June 14 – Flag Day

June 17, 6:00 p.m. – COAM Ice Cream Social and Barbecue

June 20 – Father's Day

June 21 – Summer Solstice

June 26 and 27 – GLBT Twin City Pride. (Persons from Wesley Church will be marching in the parade on Sunday June 26.)

June 27 – Svenskarnas Dag