

News Of Wesley

August 2017 Edition

Things are **OPENING** in August

Wednesday evening on August 23 Wesley is kicking off a new season of Wednesday at Wesley by throwing an open house party at our new building/old Chase Bank building, now known as "Wesley West". Not only will the building be open for you to explore, but there will be food trucks providing dinner, music, games, and stations for you to learn what events and activities are planned for the upcoming fall and winter Wednesday nights at Wesley. We will literally be taking over the Wesley West parking lots to celebrate! Come help us kick-off Wesley's 2017-2018 fall season and new building. Wesley is expanding and OPENING new opportunities for our entire family.



Wednesday, August 23 - 5:00 to 7:00 PM - at the Wesley West building

Parking is available in all Wesley lots (except for right around the West building).

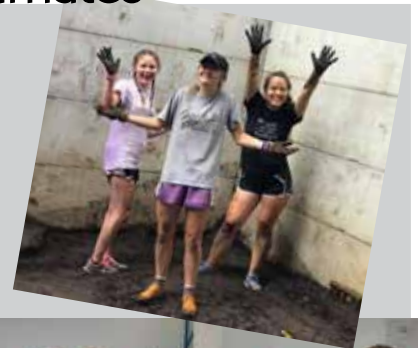
Wesley Takes on Tropical Climates Honduras & Costa Rica

"I never saw myself as a leader until this trip."

"We have the same Holy Spirit inside of us and we can do amazing things for God just like the disciples in the book of Acts."

Those are just a couple of the quotes from our Wesley youth returning from Costa Rica. Whether our mission is far away or right here at home, Wesley is making a difference. More quotes, pictures, and information on both trips inside this issue.

Thanks for your amazing service mission teams!



Acts 1:1-11



NOW
NEWS OF WESLEY



Sunday Services - 9:00 & 11:15 AM • Christian Education - 10:15 AM
502 East Front Street • Bloomington, Illinois 61701 • 309-827-8046 • wesley-umc.com

Soaking in the Dew Slow Down, Be Still

"Welcome to Wesley! We're so glad you're here"... is the greeting Kimberly and I have received countless times since arriving at the beginning of July. We are so grateful for your kindness since then and are glad we are here too!

I was preparing for our weekly staff devotion last week, and it occurred to me that we are quickly approaching the 'dog days of summer'. Soon vacations will give way to school preparation, trips to the pool or beach will become less frequent, and the weather will begin to cool. As I was reflecting on the shortening vacation season, I realized that Kimberly and I have yet to take a summer break. Of course this summer has been a little busy with the move and all, but I think it's still important to take a few days just to get away from the routine of daily life and to rest. So, as my mind began to ponder when and where we could vacation, I ran across the following words of wisdom from L. B. Cowman's Streams in the Desert:

Beloved fellow worker, you recognize the folly of a laborer attempting to work all day without eating, but do you recognize the folly of a servant of God attempting to minister without eating of the heavenly manna? Neither is it sufficient to have spiritual nourishment only occasionally. Every day you must receive the "renewal by the Holy Spirit." You know the difference between your whole being pulsating with the energy and freshness of God's divine life or feeling worn-out and weary. Quietness and stillness bring the dew. At night when the leaves and grass are still, the plants' pores are open to receive the refreshing and invigorating bath. And spiritual dew comes from quietly lingering in the Master's presence. Get still before Him, for haste will prevent you from receiving the dew. Wait before God until you feel saturated with His presence. Then move on to your next duty with the awareness of the freshness and energy of Christ. ... Dew will never appear while there is either heat or wind. The temperature must fall, the wind cease, and the air come to a point of coolness and rest— absolute rest— before the invisible particles of moisture will become dew to dampen any plant or flower. And the grace of God does not come forth to bring rest and renewal to our soul until we completely reach the point of stillness before Him. (Cowman 79)

Fellow workers in God's kingdom, I hope you'll be encouraged by the words Cowman chose to make her point, because they are good words indeed—we need rest. Rest is healthy for our bodies, our minds, our productivity, our relationships, etc. It's also necessary for our souls. God created us to take a break every now and again (Exodus 20:8-11). So, as we enter the final weeks of this summer, I ask you, "When was the last time you took a break? And, how did you reconnect with God during that time?" God longs to provide our souls rest. Won't you take a break with God?

Grace and peace,
Pastor Justin



Little Wonder Help

Wesley's Little Wonders is in need of volunteers to help take care of Wesley's youngest members. Volunteers are asked to serve 75 minutes a month and are needed during each service as well as the Sunday School hour. Contact Liz Tomera 847-224-1194, tomeras@comcast.net or see her in the nursery.



Wesley Financial Update

General fund receipts as of 6/30/17	\$ 673,734
General fund expenses as of 6/30/17	640,036
Surplus	\$ 33,698

If you looked at our year-to-date financial update last month, you saw a surplus of \$66,524. As you can see from the above figures, that surplus was nearly cut in half in one month! Some of the June deficit was due to a few one-time needs and timing of expenses during the month, but part of it was also due to lower than normal offerings. Fortunately, we had a surplus from earlier in the year to carry us through.

Please remember, as you take a well-deserved break from the hectic schedules of the school year, that the Church's expenses continue all year long. We anticipate lower expenses in July, then will need to get back on track by August to restart fall ministry programs. Statements were recently mailed so that you can see if you are on track with your financial commitment for 2017.

Thank you for your continued prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service.

What a Welcome

Kimberly and I would like to thank the church for its warm reception over these past couple of weeks. Thank you to everyone who helped us unload the moving truck on June 30, to everyone who has visited and welcomed us to the community, to everyone who prayed for our safe arrival and peaceful transition, to everyone who has provided food and gifts, to those who have invited us out or over for an introduction, and to everyone who organized or attended the reception between worship services on July 9! You have been so kind and generous and we feel so welcomed into the Wesley family! Thank you!

– Pastor Justin



Mark Your Calendars

Friday, July 28 - Sunday, July 30 - VBS
Vacation Bible School with
The Lads - register online

Sunday, July 30 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, August 6 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, August 13 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Wednesday, August 23

Open Celebration at new Wesley West
kicking off Wednesday at Wesley

Congratulations to

- new arrival Tessa Ann O'Shea born
to Eric and Missy O'Shea , proud big
sister Lilian, 5 and Sadie, 3 on July 16th

Thank You Wesley

Thank you to the Wesley members who sent cards, visited, and helped with transporting me to my doctor's appointments. I appreciated receiving the special prayer shawl too.

Special thanks to Pastor Keith Ferguson for his visits and to Colleen Hensley for helping me when I came home from my hospital stay.

- Charlotte Kinkade

To my Wesley Family

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and support during the loss of my dear Aunt Judy Moberly. She was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed by all. I will miss having her sitting beside me each Sunday.

In Christian Love
CarolSue Moberly DeBlaey

The ParkLands Foundation 50th Anniversary Celebration

For 50 years the ParkLands Foundation has been an undisturbed oasis in an otherwise farmed McLean County. Their mission - to preserve, protect, and ecologically restore historic natural lands in the middle and upper Mackinaw Valley watershed. The ParkLands nature preserve provides a haven for passive public recreation, environmental education, and scientific research.

This August, join Wesley in celebrating this wonderful, and little known, treasure by joining us in activities at the ParkLands preserve and here at the church.

AUGUST 5th - HALF CENTURY BIKE RIDE
Participate in a 7, 20, or 50-mile all day bike ride
Register online at www.parklandsfoundation.org/50th/

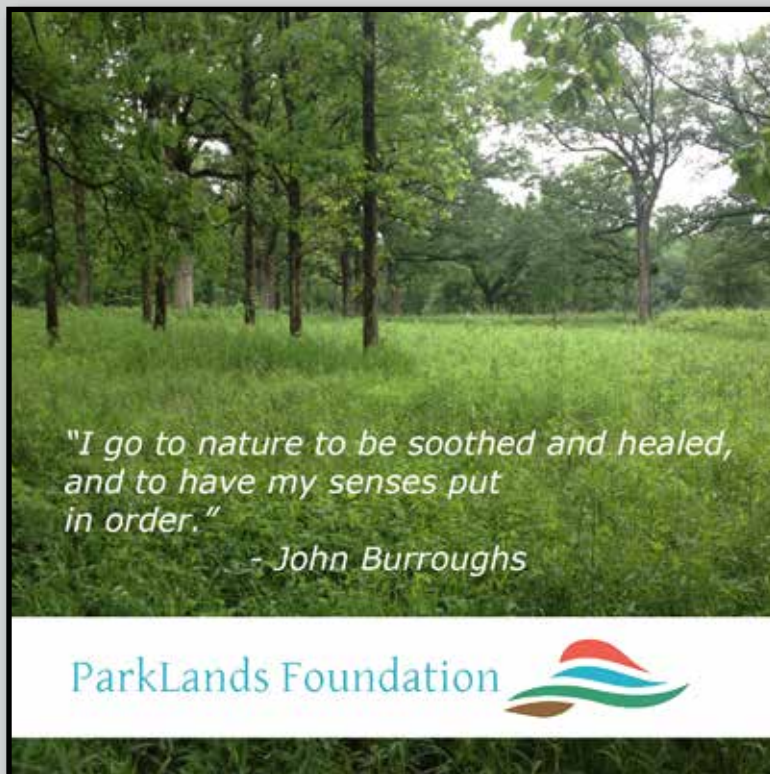
AUGUST 6th - 10:15 AM - Creation Care Forum begins
Speaker Guy Fraker in Wesley Lounge
1:00 PM walk meets in Wesley Lounge

AUGUST 13th - 10:15 AM - Creation Care Forum Continues

AUGUST 19th - 9:00 AM - West Gate Work Day

AUGUST 20th - 10:15 AM - Creation Care Forum Continues

AUGUST 27th - 10:15 AM - Creation Care Forum Continues



- Reverend Vaughn's August Sermon Series -
"Serving God, Saving the Planet"
August 6, 13, 27

Senior High Adventure

Our youth mission team just returned from Los Angeles de San Rafael Heredia, Costa Rica...3,326 miles there and back again...touching, not just a different culture, but new experiences and the opportunity to affect other young lives. For ten days they worked on extensive concrete projects and created and led a Vacation Bible School for local children. The team focused on serving others, serving each other, and serving God, by giving of their hearts and their time. Check out some of their comments on the front and back pages of this newsletter.

Junior High August Mission Trip - Gear Up!

Pack up your gear and get ready for an experience like no other starting Sunday, August 6 through Friday, August 11. Junior Highers will head north to Wisconsin to work with children and teens with special needs at the Christian Discipleship Farm in Sullivan, Wisconsin. Our Junior Highers, the campers, and their families will all camp during this unique week long VBS. Daily worship, team devotional time, and debriefing sessions will enrich and reinforce this special service experience. For more info visit - www.christiandisciplefarm.com.

Your prayers during this mission are appreciated.



Sunday Classes for All Ages 10:15 - 11:00 AM

ADULTS Sundays -

Stroll through the Bible with Richard Johnson at 10:15 AM in the Conference Room starting September 10th.

“Serving God, Saving the Planet” - begins Aug 20 in the Lounge. This will be part of a short sermon series as well as focus on the 50th Anniversary of the ParkLands Foundation. See more in the ParkLands Anniversary article on page four.

Other Adult Opportunities -

TUESDAYS

Tuesday morning in the lounge 7:00 AM - this Fall only
Women’s Study - 2017 Disciplines and other topics

WEDNESDAYS

Men’s Group - noon with lunch in the Garden Room studying “Moses”, by Adam Hamilton

Wesley Cares Singles - please see article on the bottom of page 7

THURSDAYS

Small group study of “Companions in Christ”
9:30 AM in the Garden Room starting September 7th

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Due to the great response this summer to Financial Peace University, we are considering offering this course by Dave Ramsey again this fall. If there is enough interest, a fall class will be organized. If interested please contact Kathi Pritts at kpritts@wesley-umc.com.

Children’s Ministry -

Fall Sunday School schedule resumes August 20th -
In August our elementary kids will continue learning about Respect. Our preschoolers will learn what a wonderful world God has given us.

August 2 and 9 (6-8 pm) “Arts and sports camps” will allow kids to learn a bit about theatre, badminton, woodworking, yoyo, music or dance. K-5th grades.

Leadership Retreat for 4th, 5th & 6th

August 11th - 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

As this age group faces big transitions this school year, this retreat allows for them to bond as a group, lead them through lessons in respect, and help them go from WISE into the junior high program. It will be a special time together. Mark your calendar. They won’t want to miss this. Email Kathi Pritts - kpritts@wesley-umc.com.

Vacation Bible School



Super Powered, Spirit-Filled Vacation Bible School

IT IS STARTING - BUT NOT TOO LATE
.....to register for Vacation Bible School.....
Join SUPER STARS, **The Lads**, for a powerful, fun, engaging, and spirit-filled VBS experience. Your kids won’t want to miss the music, dancing, crafts, and fun.

-- REGISTER ONLINE --

[www.wesley-umc.com/children/
vacation-bible-school/](http://www.wesley-umc.com/children/vacation-bible-school/)

**There will be classes for four-year-olds
up to 5th grade ONLY.**

VBS is collecting school supplies for The Baby Fold and jars of peanut butter for Safe Harbor.
Please bring them along.

- Schedule -

- Friday, July 28 -
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

- Saturday, July 29 -
10:00 AM - 1:15 PM

- Sunday, July 30 -
10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

11:15 AM - Kids sing with The Lads!



Spiritual Growth Retreat

Join the Vermilion River District UMW as they host a spiritual growth retreat here at Wesley. The program will be presented by Sue Coons, IGRC Spiritual Growth Coordinator.

"Running the Race with Perseverance"
 Saturday, August 12, 2017
 8:30 AM Registration
 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Cost for the day is \$10 which includes lunch and materials. Bring your Bible and an attitude for fellowship. Reservations must be received by August 6, 2017

Tickets will be available for purchase in the Garden Room on Sunday, July 30 & August 6

For more information, please contact Karen Fleming - karen@acomtreeconsulting.com

We hope to see you there for this uplifting event!

GEMS Growing Each Mom Spiritually

Are you a young mom looking for some new friends at Wesley? You're invited to visit the GEMS circle of the UMW, meeting the second and fourth Mondays of every month from 6:45-8:45 PM at the home of Missy Dundov.

As well as meeting our new associate Pastor Justin, we will continue our new study by Linda Anderson, "Growing Together."

For more information, please contact Liz Tomera at tomeras@comcast.net.

Hope and Faith

Hope and Faith Circles will resume meetings in the Fall.

Park UMC Thank You

We at Park United Methodist church want to thank you for being such a blessing to us. Our church would not have survived had you not taken up the task to extend the helping hand of Christian friendship. The Park congregation has been so fortunate to have been led by your spirit filled, compassionate pastors.

Your commitment to our hospitalized and homebound elderly has been a much appreciated gift. In addition, your church opened itself to educate our youth through youth groups and confirmation classes. By working together our two churches were able to bring hope to families in our community with the "Back to School Bash" and through your most generous support of our food pantry.

May the peace of God be with you and may you be reassured that a few blocks away your brothers and sisters in Christ are keeping you in their prayers. Thank you.

- Park United Methodist Church

JUST ONE

In August Just One will be collecting much needed supplies for the Salvation Army Safe Harbor homeless shelter. We would appreciate travel size shampoos, conditioners, lotions, toothpastes, and soaps. Please gather those unused hotel amenities you bring home from vacations in our suitcases. These can be put to good use by the overnight guests in our local shelter.

Thanks to the Wesley congregation for 19 boxes shipped to military personnel worldwide. They were so appreciated.

Thank you for your continued generous support.

The Church and Society Committee





Choir News

2018 Choir tour planning is well underway and we can now announce that our Jubilation Choir (Junior High & High School) and Exaltation Choir (High School/College) will be heading to...

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Sunday, June 10 to Saturday, June 16

Wesley Home Concert
Sunday, June 17
11:15 AM Service

We will be traveling by bus and there will be stops along the way. Those details are currently being organized. So stay tuned for more information AND surprises. This will be an amazing experience.

CHOIR SCHEDULE

Wednesday @ Wesley will kick off with a celebration on August 23 (see front page article) but the first Wednesdays @ Wesley with choir practices will be on August 30.

Jubilation Choir starts Sunday, August 27.

Catch a Movie

Movie, Meal and a Message will meet once again -

August 13th
Wesley Hall
5:30 PM

The movie will be "The Old Man and the Sea" starring Spencer Tracy. This 1958 classic is based on Ernest Hemmingway's timeless novel. Dinner and popcorn are available with a free will offering. Call the church office to reserve your spot.

Wesley United Methodist Church

502 East Front Street
Bloomington, IL 61704
Phone: 309-827-8046 Fax: (309)828-9625
www.wesley-umc.com

After Hours Emergencies:

Pastor Vaughn Hoffman (309) 212-2710
Pastor Justin Iverson (701) 809-1203

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Pastor of Visitation
Director of Music Ministries
Asst. Director of Music Ministries
Organist
Director of Christian Education
Early Childhood Coordinator
Director of Youth Ministries
Asst. Director of Youth Ministries
Business Administrator
Pastors' Executive Assistant
Receptionist
Clerical Assistant
Communication Coordinator
Facilities Manager
Custodians

Food Service Coordinator

Rev. Vaughn Hoffman
Rev. Justin Iverson
Rev. Keith Ferguson
Adria Schumann
Brenna Martin
Marcia Hishman
Kathi Pritts
Elizabeth Tomera
Frank Newburn
Stacy Ash
Myrna Simpson
Jody Robbins
Molly Brown
Colleen Hensley
Cindy Lorimor
Brad Schumann
Jim Robinson
Matthew Dahmm
Kathy Robinson

Wesley Cares Singles

Wesley Care Singles will meet

Saturday, August 19th
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Franklin Park, Bloomington

It's a "bring your own lunch" gathering. If the weather doesn't cooperate, meet at the church in the Lounge. This will be an excellent chance to catch up after our 2-month break and discuss plans for fall/winter. More information will be coming via email. If you have any questions, contact Dianne West at crfty.lidy.76@gmail.com, or 828-8028.

Holy Baseball

The Vermilion River District is hosting "Holy Baseball" - a fundraising game to support "Our Conference Kids".

Sunday, August 6
The Corncrib
1000 Raab Road
Normal, IL

worship - 3:30 PM | game - 4:35 PM
All tickets are \$10

Go to www.igrc.org for more info.

I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
Psalms 16:8

Lunch with a Special Speaker Missionary Connie Wieck



For over a decade Wesley has been sponsoring Chinese missionary Connie Wieck. With a strong constitution, a disciples heart, and patience beyond measure, Connie has worked throughout Asia teaching English and demonstrating Christ's love. Currently she is living in China and is making her way back to Central Illinois - an occurrence that happens only once every three years. She is visiting Wesley, and you will want to hear her unique and inspiring stories.

The Missions Committee has planned a lunch with Connie -

Wednesday, August 9th

Noon

The Garden Room

Lunch is \$5 per person. No reservations are required. Join us!

Is Wesley a Fit for You? Learn more about Wesley

Are you considering joining a new church but not quite sure?

Do you need more information to determine whether you are ready to join a church?

Are you ready to join a church, you know that Wesley is a fit for you, and you'd like to know the next steps?

If any of these questions apply to you, then you will want to join us for an informal meeting with Wesley's pastors and group leaders to learn more about our church and activities. But more importantly...you can get answers to any questions that you might have. Come meet with active long-time and recent members of the church.

Join us Tuesday, August 1st, 7:00 PM in the Lounge. Let's talk.



Substitutes Needed

Wesley's Bright Beginnings preschool is currently looking for substitutes for the 2017-2018 school year. When a teacher is absent the substitute will assist.

If you enjoy spending time with little ones and have availability Monday- Thursday morning from 9-11:30, please email Julie Loy at wesleysbrightbeginnings@gmail.com or call at 309-827-8046, ext 21.

Substitutes must pass a background check. Pay is \$25 a session.

Get Involved. Get Blessed. Habitat for Humanity -

This article series entitled "Get Involved. Get Blessed" is a new feature in the Wesley NOW (News of Wesley) newsletter. This series will spotlight various ways to get involved at Wesley - be they large or small - no matter what your interests, talents, or preference might be - you might find something that has you wanting to "get involved". The "get blessed" part just naturally follows. You'll find getting involved leads to meeting new people, giving back, and receiving amazing blessings. You'll also find you can make a difference. You are a disciple. It doesn't take much to change lives. Including your own. It happens all the time. So "Get Involved. Get Blessed."

Habitat for Humanity is up first.

Wesley UMC has been committed to Habitat for Humanity of McLean County for many, many years. Why? Because the organization is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing in our community and around the world. They do this by:

1. Constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes
2. Advocating for fair and just housing policies
3. Providing training and access to resources for families to improve their shelter conditions

Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman, and child should have a decent and affordable place to live in dignity and safety. They continue to stand on the principle that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all. A large part of their history is a commitment to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ through this service.

Everyone is welcome. Grab your hammers, tape measures, and other tools and be ready to put them to good use. Don't have tools? Don't worry. We will make sure you have what is needed. We can use everyone, regardless of your talent level.

Our remaining build dates are:

August 19th
September 16th
October 21st
November 18

If you are unable to help with the build and can bring snacks/drinks for the workers Saturday morning, please let us know. Break time is 10:00 AM Saturday morning.

For more information -

Jeff Snyder
jsnydes_normal@hotmail.com
(309)-310-5786

The location of the current build home is - 608 W. Mulberry, Bloomington

<http://www.habitatmclean.org/home>





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The Lads Invade Wesley
 July 28-30
 Vacation Bible School
DON'T MISS OUT
www.wesley-umc.com



“Their faith is holding on and believing they’ll be fine, EVEN when they have no idea when they’ll work again. God will provide. They KNOW it.”

“I want to be stronger in my follow through and really apply what I learned when I am back home.”

“It was eye-opening to see where the kids that came to our VBS lived and what their everyday life was like.”

“I feel like now not only am I a stronger leader, but a leader of leaders as I was able to help others on their leadership journey.”



WESLEY UMC SENIOR HIGH
 2017
 COSTA RICA MISSION TEAM