



WESLEY PARK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Regular
Worship Hours
Resume
On
September 12.
8 AM
9:15 AM
10:45 AM

Regular
Office
Hours
Resume
On
September 7
Mon. - Fri.
8:30am - 5pm

Heartbeat

SHOWING OUR PASSION FOR JESUS
AND HIS PASSION FOR ALL PEOPLE

From the Laptop of Pastor Will

I'm guessing that most of us have been paying some attention to the controversy surrounding the proposal to build a mosque near the site of the fallen World Trade Center. Most of the poles show that approximately two-thirds of Americans oppose it on the grounds that it shows great disrespect toward the families of the 9/11 victims killed by Muslim extremists.

In New York City millions of dollars are being spent on television spots to rented signs on city buses. Opponents of the mosque are facing off with supporters almost every morning on the television news shows. Among those sharing their point of view are Christians.

So in light of all the complexities of the proposed Islamic cultural center and all the left over emotional memories of 9/11, as Christians we need to be thinking about this question: How do we, as followers of Jesus, respond?

Perhaps a place to begin would be to decide not to jump to conclusions, but even suspend judgment for a time. Because of the Bill of

Rights and the freedom it affords all people and because of the values of our Christian faith, we can look at this as an opportunity to learn. As hard as it is to do, this is a good opportunity for all of us to give a valid hearing to both sides of the perspective. I have tried not to allow anyone offering passionate or speculative accusations of Muslims box me in or close the case. I want to believe that between government agencies, watchdog groups and the press more and better information will surface. If these Muslims are, as are most Muslims, peaceable as they claim, then our approach

could be to acknowledge their rights, but beg them to move forward only with the greatest sensitivity. But if some kind of credible evidence were to surface about some kind of harmful intentions, then our government would



proceed with criminal investigations and possibly trials. Jumping to conclusions on either side strikes me as poor judgment at best, and perhaps even dangerous.

I would also hope that all concerned would be advocates of sensitivity. We all need to understand that just because we have freedoms, it does not mean that we have to exercise them every chance we get. We can

all feel the tension rising around this matter. To me it seems that it would be wise for the peace loving Muslim community to recognize that while they may have every right to build, the majority of people do not see it as being beneficial. On the other hand, we as followers of Jesus need to reflect long and hard on our response. Tension filled times such as these are ideal opportunities for us to demonstrate the truths of our faith. No matter what our personal political beliefs may be or the outcome of this matter, we need to remember Jesus did not come to bring about political revolution, but a

“ I certainly hold fast to the belief that Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. Of this I am not ashamed. ”

In The Blink of An Eye

In the blink of an eye is how quickly life can change. A phone call...the results of doctor's report...a decision. But, no matter whether the outcome is good or tragic, God has a reason and a purpose for us.

In The Blink Of An Eye— Mercy Me

You put me here for a reason
You have a mission for me
You knew my name and You called it
Long before I learned to breathe
Sometimes I feel disappointed
By the way I spend my time
How can I further Your kingdom
When I'm so wrapped up in mine

In a Blink of an eye that is when
I'll be closer to You than I've ever been

Time will fly, but until then
I'll embrace every moment I'm given

There's a reason I'm alive for a
blink of an eye

And though I'm living a good life
Can my life be something great?

I have to answer the question
Before it's too late

Cause in a Blink of an eye that is
when

I'll be closer to You than I've ever been

Time will fly, but until then
I'll embrace every moment I'm given

There's a reason I'm alive for a
blink of an eye

If I give the very best of me
That becomes my legacy

So tell me what am I waiting for?
What am I waiting for?

In a Blink of an eye that is when
I'll be closer to You than I've ever been

Time will fly, but until then
I'll embrace every moment I'm given

In a Blink of an eye that is when
I'll be closer to You than I've ever been

Time will fly, but until then
I'll embrace every moment I'm given

There's a reason I'm alive for a
blink of an eye

Bonnie

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY

On October 3, we celebrate World Wide Communion Sunday. As we celebrate communion world-wide, at Wesley Park we also want to celebrate it "church-wide". We will worship together as one family in Christ in the Family Life Center at 10 am!

Looking Ahead to the Fall

September 2 & 5:
1 HOUR OF WORSHIP AT 10 AM (Sanct)
"Work is God's Idea"

September 12:
Series: *The Way of Forgiveness*
"Accepting God's Forgiveness"

September 19:
"Marriage and Forgiveness"

September 26:
"Forgiving Others"

October 3:
1 HOUR OF WORSHIP AT 10 AM (FLC)
"Forgiveness: a Family Affair"

Lavon Thompson would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and sympathy that she received from the church family in the death of her daughter, Nina.

message of truth tempered by love. Part of his message and example, which would be unconventional and even unpopular in any culture, at any time, was a command to "love our neighbors," to "love our enemies," and "pray for those who persecute us." No matter what you view of Muslims, I'm pretty sure that at least one of these applies. Our

“Our faith informs us that God loves and wants a relationship with all involved.”

faith informs us that God loves and wants a relationship with all involved. So until this all unfolds, we as followers of Jesus need to make every attempt to dump as much love and grace into our culture as we possibly can and avoid adding any fuel to volatile attitudes that

can only increase the chances of violence. Having said this, I want to make it clear that I do not see the Muslim and Christian faiths as compatible and I certainly hold fast to the belief that Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. Of this I am not ashamed.

Thoughtfully yours,

Will

Fall Parade of Books

To be honest with you I had other plans for this piece. I really wanted to spend time reviewing the *Parade Magazine* survey and article on "Spirituality in America" from several weeks ago but it would take up more than the whole *Heartbeat*.

So what I have chosen to do is to give you the links to both the survey and the article. If you haven't had the opportunity to read them it is very interesting reading and a better snap shot of the world around us. Also a good snap shot of us.

<http://www.parade.com/news/2009/10/04-how-spiritual-are-we.html>

<http://www.parade.com/news/2009/10/04-spirituality-poll-results.html>

I thought I would pass along some of the books from my Fall reading list. Since it is my favorite season, I'll pass along three books of faith that also include football.

Coming Back Stronger-Drew Brees with Chris Fabry-It's a story of overcoming injuries and other personal trials. In the aftermath of one of the most devastating natural disasters in U. S. history, the city of New Orleans needed a hero. What they got was a SAINT. (Drew Brees uses the phrase, "If God got you to it, God will get you through it.")

UnCommon: Finding Your Path to Significance-Tony Dungy-Recently retired Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy delivers an outstanding follow-up to his bestseller *Quiet Strength* in his new book, *Uncommon*. The name of the book is derived from a quote by former University of Minnesota coach Cal Stoll, who said: "Success is uncommon, therefore not to be enjoyed by the common man. I'm looking for uncommon people."... (I should have read this

last year.)

The Winners Manual: For the Game of Life-Jim Tressel-Here you have a book by one of America's top football coaches and, most impressively, he writes about his mother's gratitude at being given the opportunity to be of service to her community, and how this specifically impacted his approach to football and the coaching of young people. (I know its *Ohio State*, that's why it's taken me this long to get to it. I have heard great things about coach Tressel. Just because the team regularly beats U of M and MSU is no reason to not read it, or is it?)

Just finished **Good Day! The Paul Harvey Story** by Paul Batura. It was so good that I know I have to read these two books this fall, **Paul Harvey's The Rest of the Story** and **More of Paul Harvey's The Rest of the Story** both by Paul Aurandt. (Now that I know the reason they did these stories. You will have to find out on your own, I won't ruin it for you.)

Nudge by Leonard Sweet- Brace yourself. This book is set to revolutionize your understanding of evangelism. (I like Sweet, he edits well, and he uses great words and keeps it real simple. If Will suggests it, it must be good.)

Spoken from the Heart by Laura Bush-No matter your politics, Laura Bush has always been a woman that most of us respect. She portrays the love of her man and her family. She loves to read; she likes to travel, take care of her home, and loves her country. Within this book, she has given us a piece of herself. (Have heard great things about this book and the events that changed her childhood.)

This fall we will have a Wednesday night SENT discussion group at



Wesley Park- "Having a Voice, in a Suffering Community and World in a Political Season". There are several books I have read and will read to be ready for this group. A couple of them are...

Beyond Left and Right: Helping Christians Make Sense of American Politics by Amy E. Black-Many Christians want to be politically active but feel underequipped and overwhelmed. Instead of drawing party lines, political scientist and former congressional fellow Amy Black offers a guide to the inner workings of American politics that encourages readers to make informed, faith based political decisions. (This could be perfect timing.)

Can America Survive? By John Hagee- 10 prophetic signs that we are the terminal generation. (I was asked to read this by a Wesley Park member. Normally Rev. Hagee isn't on my list; many pastors have a hard time with his teachings. Most that I ask, in fact. We'll talk about it.)

That isn't 10, but I always have one that pops up as a surprise. So I will keep one to be announced and will let you know when it hits the list. Happy reading!

Bice

2010-2011 MUSIC MINISTRY SEASON

Our new music ministry season begins this September. If you would like more information about any of these ministries, please call Bonnie Wheeler @ 534-4411 or by emailing bwheeler@wesleypark.org.



**THURSDAYS—beginning September 9
CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS**

Our rehearsals are every week on Thursday evenings from **7:15 – 8:45 pm**. Adults of any age are welcome to join us as we prepare 4-part choir music for **9:15 Sunday worship**. We sing almost every Sunday of each month...with the occasional holiday special.

THURSDAYS—beginning September 16

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSALS

SIGN UP is scheduled for Thursday, September 16 @ 6:30

All children ages 3 years through 5th grade are invited to join us Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:00 pm. We sing for our church family September through April.

There are 3 children's choirs:

CHERUBS: ages preschool 3 yrs. through 5 yrs.

JOYBELLS: Kindergarten through 2nd grade.

JUBILEES: 3rd through 5th grade.



Youth Music Ministry Opportunities

At printing time, the time and place for rehearsals had not yet been determined. These details will be announced in our weekly worship folders as they are decided. If you are a Youth and would be interested in putting together a Youth Band or a Youth Choir, please let Eric, Tabi, Erin or Bonnie know that you are interested.



HEIFER HAPPENING

Planned for October 9

We will be hosting Heifer Happening, "A Living Gift Market to help End World Hunger", from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Saturday, October 9.

- Learn how Heifer International helps impoverished people become self-sufficient with income-producing animals and training.
- Talk with people who have visited Heifer International project partners in different countries.
- See the live animals at interactive informational booths.



- Listen to David Boothby, retired Heifer International Midwest Region Director, give a presentation of a Heifer International study tour to Nicaragua at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm.
- Meet Chris Quinlan, Heifer International Community Voluntary Coordinator from Wisconsin, and get up-dates on what's new in Heifer International.
- Watch children participate in a "goat cake walk" and other activities.
- Eat lunch at "Heifer Café".

- Look over free resources for teachers to help them develop a global perspective with ideas for service-learning locally and globally.
- There will be an opportunity to purchase symbolic animal gifts for struggling families who will repay the "living loan" by passing on one or more of their female animal's offspring to other families in need. Global Gifts and HAPI (Haitian Artisans for Peace International) will have handicrafts that help provide income for people in third world countries. There is no admission charge. Everyone is Welcome! Family Fun for All! For more information call Nancy Spalenka at 616.249.0513.

WELCOME BACK TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

There will be a Welcome back Teacher training and dinner for Worship Centers teachers and helpers on **Thursday, September 9th from 6:30 to 7:30** in Worship center I.

Pizza and refreshments will be provided. (along with Child-care)

Preschool teachers are also invited to attend and learn about what teaching tools are available this year.

Come share, learn and see what new tools we have to teach these wonderful children of Wesley Park.

Please RSVP to Bill or Liz, in person or by email.



what

Wednesday Family Night Dinners to Resume October 6th

Our Fall Theme "Shaped in Christ"

Please join us as we gather church wide for our Wednesday night dinners and SENT (Small) Group meetings that will center around...

SPIRITUAL FORMATION IN CHRIST

"...until Christ be formed in you." Gal. 4:19b

"...Spiritual formation in the tradition of Jesus Christ is the process of transformation of the inmost dimension of the human being, the heart, which is the same as the spirit or will. It is being formed (really, transformed) in such a way that its natural expression comes to be the deeds of Christ done in the power of Christ..."

We serve food from 5:30 to 6:15. We will have a church wide dinner devotional at 6 while we are gathered.

SENT groups meet from 6:30 to 7:30 in various rooms of the church.

Childcare provided Nursery through Preschool. Education for children K-5th downstairs in Worship Center II. Youth (6th-12th) meet in their rooms.

Join us as we continue our Journey being shaped by Christ

Wednesday Night Offerings :

Will Clegg -

Real Church -

Book Study

Meets in Pastor's Office

Bonnie Wheeler -

Women Who Walk Alone -

Book Study

Meets in Living Room

Bill Bode -

Having a Voice in a
Suffering Community
and World in a

Political Season

Meets in Sanctuary

Laura Graham -

Pearl of Wisdom -

Knitting & Fellowship

Meets in Library

Mary Mingleorff -

Visiting Ministry Training

Special 3 -4 week course

Dates & Location TBD

Do you have a SENT group that should be on this list? Send Mary Beth an email with some details and we'll put it in!

Senior Saints Resumes

September 21th

At 12 PM

Join us for our Fall

'Homecoming'

SENT GROUPS

Purls of Wisdom

A ladies fellowship and discussion group open to knitters and non-knitters alike. Join Bonnie Wheeler & Laura Graham as they share their knitting expertise and their walk with the Lord.



Saturday Night "Movie Group"

A group for adults who enjoy cinema and venture out once a month for a movie & fellowship.

Led by Nicole Bates.
(*Child care can be provided for a nominal fee by a local teen)



Faith, Fitness & Friendship - On break until fall.

Heifer International

A fellowship of individuals seeking to promote the work of Heifer International and sponsor a Heifer Happening at Wesley Park in October of this year. Led by Nancy Spalenka.



Encouraging One

Another

Cindy Lang hosts this Ladies' bible study on Tuesdays at 7 PM. There is the opportunity to walk before hand if interested. Call Cindy for details.



Freddi's Angels

Freddi Angus

hosts this group

at her house on

Friday evenings

at 6:30 pm. Members make sure that every shut-in and military member away from home gets cards and encouraging notes. Next meetings are: Sept 10, Oct 8 and Oct 22.

Ladies Bunko Night!

Tuesday, September 14

7pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring \$5 for the donation/prize pool and an appetizer or dessert to share with the group.

Please RSVP Anne at 616.532.5508 or annebengtson@comcast.net

CASH FOR LABELS

Wesley Park Women's Ministries will be collecting Spartan products UPC codes to raise funds for the programs we support. This is an easy way for all members of the church to contribute. For every 1,000 labels we collect, we will earn \$20.00. All labels are accepted **except** canned pop, refrigerated biscuits, and items with an imprinted label (motor oil). For glass items with a glued label, the label can be removed by first soaking in warm water. Start saving the UPC codes now and watch for the container where they may be placed at church. Any questions call Lynn Vander Lugt @ 534-8720.



ANGEL FOOD RESPONSE

Recently, a long time AngelFood client called the office. She had sold her home and she, her husband and father were moving back to her childhood home. Her father is dying and they wanted him to be some place familiar and meaningful.

She just called to say that she will miss us and to thank us for everything that AngelFood has done for her. She was so appreciative of all the volunteers who always had a smile on their face for her. She also wanted to thank us for not looking down on her family because they didn't have the money to buy at the regular grocery store. She started to cry on the phone because she was so grateful to us and for Angel Food.

GREAT job, guys!!!!

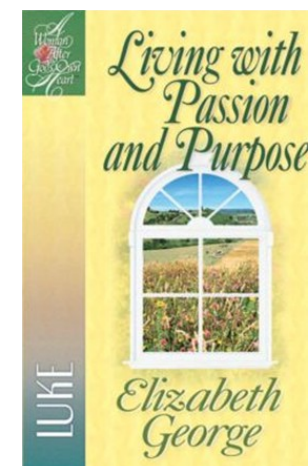
If you work with this ministry, you should be proud. You guys are doing a GREAT job!!!!

MEALS MINISTRY

My name is Aimee Terry and I'm the new leader of our Meals Ministry. This ministry is very near and dear to my heart. My husband Eric and I were relatively new members to Wesley Park when our son Landon was born. He was our first child and we were fumbling to adjust to being new parents as well as trying to recover physically from a very long and difficult delivery. We were supported by our Wesley Park family without even asking. Members provided us with a week's worth of delicious dinners. Not only were we hungry for food but we were definitely hungry for God's presence in our lives. Our Wesley Park family provided both. We felt cared for and certainly experienced God's loving hand upon us as we ventured into the new territory of parenthood.



I am so excited to let everyone know that this ministry is back up and running, but it needs your help. Please let me know if you or someone you know is in need of meals following a family loss, medical procedure, or new baby. WE are here to HELP! If you are also interested in becoming part of this ministry by providing meals, please contact me. I would love to have 5-10 more volunteers. 534-5556 or euvsardaimiee@hotmail.com



Ladies Bible Study at Cindy Lang's on Tuesday's Starting September 7th At 7:00 P.M. If you are interested in attending please call 531-0862

Elizabeth George's Living with Passion and Purpose is the newest release in the popular A Woman After God's Own Heart Bible study series. This study is of the book of Luke with gentle encouragement and solid Bible teaching. This study reveals how readers can become more like Jesus in their daily lives.

"Christmas by Candle Light Dinner"

the evening of
December 6, 2010



We are pleased to announce the program for the evening will be "The Three Wise Women" presented by **Julie Baker**. Julie is an author, songwriter and recording artist as well as the executive producer of the national ministry Time-Out for Women! She has sung with Sandi Patty, Kathy Troccoli and Larnelle Harris. Her goal is sharing the love of God through her music, speaking, writing and teaching.

Youth Schedule September, 2010

Youth Leaders:

Eric Terry

534-5556 (H) 446-7679 (C)

eterry@wesleypark.org

Tabi Fischer

322-2702 (C)

youth1@wesleypark.org

Erin Hartley

745-6490 (C)

youth1@wesleypark.org

Looking Ahead (Subject to change)

October 3rd - Kids Food Basket service opportunity 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

October 5th - Parent/youth meeting, 7:00 p.m. in youth room

October 6th - Wednesday Youth Group begins, 2:45 - 7:30 p.m.

October 7th - Food Truck service opportunity, 5:30 p.m. at church.

October 8th or 9th - Pumpkins delivered for pumpkin patch fundraiser.

October 23rd - Community carnival fundraiser at church, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Sundays

Youth Worship, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service, 10:45 a.m.

September Events

Thursday, 2nd - Harvest Gleaners Food Truck, 5:30 p.m. in church parking lot. Come and help provide food for those in need!

Sunday, 12th - Start of school year bash @ the Terry's, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Bring a side dish to pass (burgers, hot dogs, beverages, and tableware provided.) 3935 41st St. SW, Grandville, 49418.

Saturday, 18th - "To Save a Life" community movie showing/fundraiser, 7:00 p.m. in the FLC. Popcorn and pop provided.

Sunday, 19th - Mission trip meeting for all 8th grade and up youth and parents to determine site for summer 2011. 12:30 p.m. in youth room. Pizza and pop provided for lunch.





Wesley Park United Methodist Church

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"Showing our passion for Jesus and His passion for all people"

ROYING REPORTER

"Just Helping My Friends"

by Mary Mingledorff

I stopped in "Shape Your Life Studios" on 1290 36th St. SW, Wyoming, to meet Kathy Bartnick, an active Wesley Park community advocate and worker. An hour later I left, lighter in spirit and eager to tell Kathy's story.

Kathy grew up in Youngstown, Ohio. Her parents are strong Christians and Kathy participated actively in her youth group. She sometimes regarded herself as the "crazy black sheep" of the siblings. She "ventured away", living 12 years in East Lansing and the last 12 years here in Wyoming.

Kathy married Jon Bartnick and became step-mom to Kyle, now an adult. A few years ago she experienced some personal needs, including the need to lose weight. She met our Freddie Angus and Beth at Curves. She began teaching kick boxing in our Family Life Center. Then Kathy and Jon met with Will and began participating in our 10:45 gathering. In Kathy's words, "We embraced the Methodist Church and Will."

Kathy and Jon enjoyed exercising together. They transformed their living room into a spinning

(indoor cycling) center and Kathy offered personal training in the basement. She initially saw it as "just helping my friends". The coming and going at their house increased to such a degree that parking became a problem and the city warned them about running a business out of their home.

In March they took "a leap of faith". They found a site, remodeled it inside and opened the doors of "Shape Your Life Studios", a business with two distinct parts: spinning and personal group training for women. Kathy says, "The business came from us getting our acts together."

Both Kathy and Jon have day jobs, in addition to this business. They feel so blessed and enjoy the people connections. Kathy is particularly sensitive towards persons who have no idea that God loves them. Last winter she started our Sunday evening SENT group, "Faith, Friends, and Fitness". This is a discussion group for women which she hopes to start up again this fall. She also enjoys helping with the 3-5s children at Wesley Park.

Thank you, Kathy for your willingness to extend your friendship network to include many of us.

Flu Clinic Sunday November 7
9:00 AM TO 11:30 AM Open to the Public

Wesley Health

will be dissolving Sept. 30, 2010. Anna will be working on getting current clients settled after Sept 30, and will assist any referrals after September 30 to find a pharmaceutical program. Only medications for people connected to Wesley Park Church will be paid for. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Anna Rabine by e-mail, at 531-5429 or 534-4411.

Thank You Anna for your many years of patient listening and caring for other's needs. You are a blessing and we appreciate you!

Attention All Pumpkin Lovers!!

The 3rd Annual Youth Pumpkin Patch fundraiser is coming in October! This fundraiser jumpstarts the youth fundraising for the year. Pumpkins will show up either the 8th or 9th of October. We will need help unloading and setting up the patch. Secondly, for the three weeks that it runs we will need help staffing the patch. Look for more information soon in the bulletin and during announcements.

