

## Christmas in July ? Wesley Style!

It's really not Christmas in July, but it is the time to begin thinking about the upcoming season. And that's exactly what a group in our congregation has been doing.

Remember that Charles Wesley wrote thousands of poems and hymn texts, including "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and his brother, John, an evangelistic preacher, was one of the founders of the Methodist movement in 18th century England. Now imagine our fellowship hall coming alive with the backdrop of the Wesley home in Bristol, England during the Christmas season in 1750. Charles and Susannah Wesley are entertaining friends of the Bristol Society who are far from home. Charles' brother, John, is a special guest for the evening. Along with their housemaid, Betty, the guests are invited to sing carols of Christmas while waiting for the special guest to arrive.

For the past several months, a committee has been working on preparations for our upcoming dinner and musical play, "A Christmas Madrigal Dinner at the Home of Charles Wesley," which will be a fundraiser and take place on Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, the 3rd. The first production of this madrigal dinner was done by a United Methodist Church in Champaign, Illinois in 1980. It is an educational and inspirational story, including historical background on Christmas carols. It includes period costumes and music, as well as choir and audience singing of carols, a children's choir, and dancing.

This will be an event for the church and open to the public as well. It will start at 6pm on Friday and on Saturday, it probably will be a matinee. The ticket price will be \$10, which goes toward the fundraiser and to cover the production costs and dinner.

This can be a splendid way for us to instill in our congregation and community (and beyond) the renewed feeling of Christmas joy! Look for more information in the coming months, and please speak with Frankie or one of the pastors if you would like to be part of this special event.





## Announcements

### Room in the Inn returns from August 13 - 20.

A sign-up sheet and descriptions of the various volunteer positions are posted on the bulletin board opposite the front office. (Copies of the volunteer positions can be found in a folder on the counter in the front office.)

**For more information on the program and how you can volunteer, call Jane Williams.**

\*\* Also — personal care bags are made up to give to the women, and we are low on our donated supplies of motel-size shampoos and lotions. If you would like to donate, please leave the items on the counter in the front office.



Sunday, September 17

Last year we had one worship service in the picnic area, followed by our annual picnic. Many people enjoyed this, so we are planning to do it again! More details will be coming in August. We hope you'll plan to join us for a great day of worship and fellowship.

### Reminder

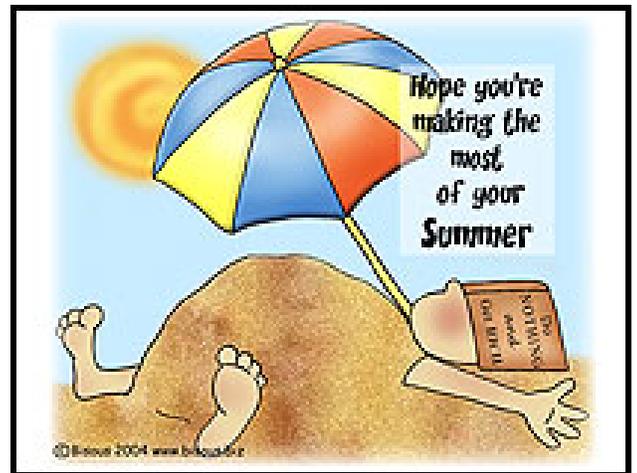
During the Summer, church attendance can be less since people are traveling more and involved in family activities because the kids are out of school. We'd appreciate it if you miss attending church during the summer, to please remember to still send in your regular offering. The church depends on these monies to keep God's work going. You can mail, or drop by, your contribution to the church.

### Save your shoe boxes!

While you're out shopping for your children to get them ready for school, save those shoe boxes with separate lids and bring them to the church office. This is for our supply of gift boxes that will be used for Operation Christmas Child.

### Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ Our next Blood Drive, in coordination with The Blood Connection, will be on **Saturday, September 16 from 10am - 3pm.**
- ◆ The Blood Connection is committed to meeting the needs of patients in our communities - local hospital and patient needs are met first. Only after their hospital partners are taken care of does TBC provide much needed services beyond our horizon to other hospitals and blood centers.
- ◆ If you plan to donate, **don't** donate any blood from now until the Blood Drive.
- ◆ More information to come about sign-ups.





Asheville Area  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

Presbyterian-  
Methodist House #26

The house is sponsored by local Presbyterian and United Methodist congregations. This is the 26th year that these two denominations have sponsored a house with Asheville Area Habitat. The congregations will collectively raise \$55,000 to pay for the materials to build the house and the volunteers like you will build it!

### Meet the Norris/Hunter Family

*It would be an amazing privilege to put blood, sweat, and tears into a home that is ours.*  
~from Nikita Norris and Regina Hunter's application letter

Nikita and Regina have the kind of fairytale love story that many wish for and few experience. When they met at work, they both knew they had found "the one." One year later they welcomed their daughter and began their life as a family.

As a self-described "power team" they work together to accomplish their goals. When Nikita goes to work as a Head Start teacher in Efowah, Regina stays home with their daughter and studies. When Nikita returns home, she goes to work at the Olive Garden, and he becomes the caregiver. They cherish the little time when they can all be together. This is one of the challenges of supporting a family in Asheville on a modest income.

As a native of Asheville, Nikita has been a witness to the rise in the area's popularity and in turn, the steady rent increases. With most apartments out of their price range, the family was grateful to find an income-based apartment in Arden. It wasn't ideal, but it served their needs at the time; or so they thought.

Within a year, mold began seeping through the walls and roaches crept in from a neighboring apartment. The neighbors were loud, and there was no room for an active toddler to play. Their complaints to the leasing office fell on deaf ears, and while they dealt with many issues on their own, most were out of their control. They came to realize that cost is not always measured in dollars and cents.

When a family friend told them about Habitat, they did not hesitate to apply. They were approved to purchase a 2-bedroom home in Habitat's Arden neighborhood, and not a minute too soon! With a baby on the way, the family will be greeting their second child and moving into their brand new 3 bedroom, energy efficient home at the same time. This house is sponsored by local Presbyterian and United Methodist congregations. This is the 26th year that these two denominations have sponsored a house with Asheville Area Habitat.

