

Coming After the Holidays . . .

## Epiphany Walk ~

Our annual Wesley Memorial School Epiphany Walk will occur on Thurs and Fri, Jan. 5 & 6 during the school morning for children in Preschool 3's and 4's and in Kgt 5's. This is the time for celebrating the "reveal" of Baby Jesus to the Wise Men. The children will have a scheduled time to walk with their class group to meet several costumed characters – each reading a Scripture and sharing a song and a "clue" to help the class find the Baby. The children also collect symbolic gifts along their journey to present to the Baby at the reveal. It is a beautiful experience for the boys and girls, and always emotionally touching for our teachers and parent helpers.

And for the entire family...

## Family Epiphany Walk!

**Date: Saturday, January 7**

**Time: Come anytime between 10 am – 12 noon.**

There will be a guided tour walk of several families together leaving every 15 minutes. Your walk will take approximately 30 minutes. After the "reveal", families will be invited to enjoy hot cider and cookies in our Asbury Room.

**~All families and their neighbors welcome!  
All ages together!~**

## Student Interns ~ We Love Our Teens!

12 students enrolled in Early Childhood Education at High Point Central High School are currently assisting us. The students arrive by school bus around 9:30 am (their 1st period) with Instructor Mrs. Priscilla Graves on Weds, Thurs, & Fri. Our interns have weekly assignments, and are SO enthusiastic as they help with learning center activities. Your children are enjoying the "extra attention" from their new teacher friends. Look for the photos & names of our interns outside each classroom door. We are pleased that Wesley Memorial has been selected by Guilford County Schools to participate in this course of study.

"The Pitter Patter" is available for viewing on-line at [www.wesley Memorial.org](http://www.wesley Memorial.org). Go to "Wesley Memorial School", "Our Communication", then "Pitter Patter Newsletter" and select the current one.

## COME HAVE LUNCH WITH SANTA!

A traditional holiday event for  
Wesley Memorial School Children & Families

**Date:** Friday, December 9

**Time:** 12 noon – 1 pm

**Place:** Church Dining Hall

**What to Bring:** Parents & children BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH, including beverage.

You may bring a camera, too!

Children and their parents/grandparents/caregivers will eat together. *Santa Claus* (beautifully portrayed by **Mr. Johnny Schultheiss** and *Mrs. Claus* (the charming **Sarah Woollen**) will be present on a small staging area beside the Children's Christmas Tree. Parents may take their own photo, or our *Santa's Elves (parents & staff)* will take a digital picture that you may purchase for \$2. No reservations required – just come!



Santa and Mrs. Claus met lots of new friends at last year's lunch, and they look forward to meeting more this year!



# The Pitter Patter

Volume 7 No. 3

December 2011

Wesley Memorial School • High Point, North Carolina

## Message from the Directors

Dear Parents:

Little Eyes ~ Advent season at Wesley Memorial School is our favorite time of the year! Little eyes are wide with wonder as teachers tell the story of Jesus' birth in simple narration, and children beg "Tell it again!" "Tell it again!" Mary the mother. Joseph the father. Jesus the special baby. Animals in Bethlehem stable. **LOVE.** The children begin to "play it" over and over in nursery classes through manipulatives of large, unbreakable crèche figures. In the preschool and kindergarten, children enjoy dress-ups of burlap and scarves as they dramatize the Scripture reading from Luke 2. In all of our rooms, teachers gather their young students around a table at close of day for the lighting of the Advent wreath. Wiggly bodies briefly stilled, darkened classrooms take on a reverent hush as boys and girls are mesmerized by the candlelight. It is Advent and the children can FEEL that something very important is happening.

**The Christmas Spirit is so evident among the families of our school.** You have been SO GIVING. Preschool and kindergartners proudly completed extra chores at home and raised \$405.47 for **UNICEF**. This money will be used to provide immunizations for children overseas. All classes helped line the hallways with over 1000 **canned and dry food items at Thanksgiving** time for hungry families in our own community. **Kids Kare Bags** are overflowing with Christmas gifts and health supplies for children who are homeless.

Indeed the children remind us . . . we make room for Jesus when we follow His example to give selflessly and spontaneously. So parents and grandparents, let's all pledge to keep Christmas in our hearts throughout the year. Little eyes are watching.

Love and Peace,

Susan Sumpter and Susan Kelley

**And Mary brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ~Luke 2:7**

Younger children will enjoy this echo story "Listen to the Animals." Child repeats the animal sounds and the last line of the story :

### LISTEN TO THE ANIMALS

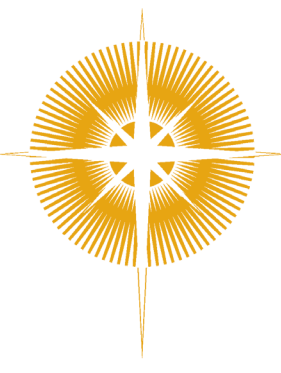
Listen to the animals.  
This is what they said,  
As they watched baby Jesus, sleeping in his bed.  
The cows went (moo)  
The sheep went (baa)  
The chickens went (cluck, cluck)  
The donkey went (hee-haw)  
The rooster went (cock-a-doodle-doo)  
All saying, "BABY JESUS, WE LOVE YOU!"



### IN CASE OF SNOW . . .

It is our policy to make our inclement weather decisions independently of Guilford Co. Schools. We will communicate our cancellations or delays of TTW on:

- \* Fox 8 TV High Point, Channel 10
- \* News 2 TV Greensboro, Channel 9
- \* Call our Wesley Memorial School to hear recorded message, 884-4232



## Special Holiday Events at Wesley Memorial ~ Every Family Welcome!

❖ **Sunday, Dec 11 ~ Vivaldi's Gloria** presented by The Chancel Choir, 11 am Sanctuary

❖ **Sunday, Dec 18 ~ Children's Live Nativity/ White Christmas** at 2 services: **8:45 am Contemporary in Fellowship Hall & 11 am Sanctuary**

Families are invited to bring a gift wrapped in white. Gifts will be distributed by Open Door Ministries in High Point. This year, Open Door has 3 major needs: warm clothing (coats, sweaters, socks, gloves, hats, etc.); underwear; or children's toys. Please label your gift for a man, woman or child. Also label what is inside!

❖ **Sunday, Dec 18 ~ Wholeness and Healing Service, 7 pm Chapel**

Special reception in Asbury Rm following the service, which is for those who have lost loved ones during the past year, or suffer from other life challenges. Sponsored by Stephen Ministries.

❖ **Friday, Dec 24 ~ Christmas Eve:**

- **Christmas Eve Lovefeast**, 5 pm Sanctuary
- **Contemporary Christmas Service**, 8 pm Fellowship Hall
- **Holy Communion and Candlelight Service**, 11 pm Sanctuary

❖ **Sunday, Dec 25 ~ Christmas Day!**

10 am Worship service in the Sanctuary (casual attire welcome!)

**No children's Sunday School** so families can worship together.

### WESLEY MEMORIAL SCHOOL & THE WAY STATION OPEN HOUSE!

**Thursday, January 26 – 7:00 pm**

Informational session for parents and grandparents.

Meet teachers, visit the classrooms, hear about our curriculum and age-level "specials!" We look forward to sharing with you as you plan for next school year!

### SHARING LOVE AT CHRISTMAS with our Church Staff

The children & teachers will be gathering around the Children's Tree in the Dining Hall on **Thurs, Dec 8 & Fri, Dec 9**. We will present each church staff worker with a Holiday Treat Bag (filled with your shared goodies!) We'll have fun letting each worker tell about his/her job at Wesley Memorial. For example: Keith and Tommy, "Mr. Maintenance Friends" fix our trikes & come running if we put too much toilet paper in the potty! Darren & Johnny drive the big buffer machine that makes our hallways look like mirrors! Jan, our Housekeeper, cleans tables & dusts. Rev Al Ward tells stories about Jesus.

We thank you for letting your child bring in just ONE item (prior to Dec 8) to place into one of the bags. Suggested items are box of cookies or candies; nuts; gum; or fresh fruit. The Early Childhood Team will combine all items brought in by the children to create the treat bags. We are so thankful for the (35) workers & regular volunteers at Wesley Memorial who help us daily "behind the scenes."



### REGISTRATION FOR WESLEY MEMORIAL SCHOOL 2012-13!

**Can you believe it's almost time to plan for NEXT school year?**

Watch for your packet of registration materials to be given out in mid-January. Packets will note priority weeks for church members to register (begins Jan 17) followed by priority weeks for non-members already in our program (begins Jan 30.) Parents may register younger siblings when re-registering older children. Parents may also register for our Before School Childcare and After School Childcare. Remember The Way Station is also available for children in Fours and Fives. The Way Station is open daily, 1:30-6:00 pm!

### Special Holiday Programs Presented By Our Kindergartners!

Your family is invited to attend (even if you don't have a Kgt-age child yet!)

**Fri, Dec 16, 9:30 am in the Sanctuary**  
Kgt-5 Class of Dawn Miller & Debbie York

**Fri, Dec 16, 11am in the Sanctuary**  
Kgt-5 Class of Wendy Kitley, Hannah Dougherty, and Shirley Boyles

(Both Kgt 5's classes will dismiss at 12 noon on Dec 16. Children enrolled in The Way Station will be provided childcare until it opens at 1:30 pm.)



### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Last school day before holidays will be **Friday, December 16.**  
Closed week of Dec 19-23 and week of Dec 26-30

Kindergarten Fives will dismiss at noon on Dec 16 following their Christmas Pageant & Refreshment/Fellowship time. Fives enrolled in The Way Station will be provided with childcare until it opens at 1:30 – bring your lunch.

Afterschool Childcare for Infants-Fours will be on regular schedule on Dec 16 until 1:30 for children already enrolled.

**Monday, Jan 2 – Teachers return for Workday; no school for children**  
**Tuesday, Jan 3 – Wesley Memorial School Re-Opens!**

## The Advent Wreath

Your boys and girls have been watching their teachers light the Advent wreath. Teacher lights the candle(s) and the class recites the following poem. A new verse is added each week and one more candle is lit. (Week 1 - one candle lit & sing 1 verse. Week 2 - two candles lit & sing 2 verses, etc.) You may wish to continue to do this at home with a Family Advent Wreath. Here is some information for parents. Children cannot be expected to understand all the symbolism, but they love the tradition!

The Advent Wreath is green. The circle symbolizes the *never-ending joy of God's love*. The greenery is a sign of *new life*. Place 4 purple candles around the circle – one to represent each of the 4 weeks prior to Christmas that we call **Advent**. In the center, 1 white candle. The candles symbolize *the light that came into the world*.



First candle is for **Wonder and Waiting**. Second candle is called the **Bethlehem candle**, for expectation of the birth of baby Jesus. Third candle is the **Shepherd's candle**, for sharing Jesus with others. Fourth candle is the **Angel's candle**, symbolizing love. And finally, the white candle in the center is to be lit on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day as we celebrate **The Birth of Jesus**.

### ADVENT CANDLE POEM (to sing or say)

1. **One candle, one candle, one candle shining bright. Advent, Advent, Advent has begun tonight.**
2. **Two candles, two candles, two candles shining bright. Christ was born, Christ was born, Christ was born on Christmas Night.**
3. **Three candles, three candles, three candles shining bright. Shepherds, Shepherds, Shepherds saw a dazzling light.**
4. **Four candles, four candles, four candles shining bright. In the sky, in the sky, in the sky a star is light.**
5. **Five candles, five candles, five candles shining bright. Sing for joy, sing for joy, sing for joy, It's Christmas Night!**