

## Weekly Update: May 24, 2016

### A Word From Pastor Darryl

This past Sunday we continued our sermon series entitled *“Reclaiming Our Wesleyan Vitality.”* We began two Sundays ago with the sub-theme *“Susanna Wesley – Mother of Methodism.”* Then for our *“Make A Difference Day”* the reflection was *“Into The Streets – Putting Faith and Love Into Action.”* The sub-theme for this past Sunday was *“The Secret of Abundant Living.”* John Wesley, with his trumpet voice called people to *the full joy of living*. This is the call we are to make today if the Church is going to be strengthened and sustained in its ministry. People everywhere want the secret of full and adventurous living. This was no bright idea of Wesley. He found it in the New Testament and what he rediscovered comes charged with the authority of Jesus Christ, for it is Jesus who says, *“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”* (John 10:10) *“The Secret of Abundant Living”* offer us two simple things: We must know where life is to be found. Secondly, we must explore its possibilities to the full. Some people are searching the hidden corners of life, when all the time life stares us in the face. The whole of the New Testament states quite plainly that life – eternal in quality and abundant in nature - is God’s gift, we cannot earn it, we cannot pay for it, we can only receive it. It is given by grace and received by faith, and it is right within our reach – it stares us in the face! We are awakened to the blessed reality that we have been placed within the radius of God’s grace. Abundant living means loving God with all our heart, and soul, and mind, and strength, and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. It is also our Wesleyan understanding of holiness – social holiness – love in action one may say, often described as perfect love. Perfect love or abundant living means practicing the spiritual disciplines of the Faith, but it also means speaking out against all forms of injustices *“until that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream...”* (Amos 5:24). Abundant living opens the door for rich and poor, the “young guns” and the chronologically gifted, the hurting and healthy, Mexicans and Americans, Christians and Muslims to rub shoulders together. It opens the door for all of us who were once no people but now we are God’s people because God’s love shows no favoritism; as a matter of fact, love shows no “isms” at all! This is the life – abundant life for which all people hunger! It brings a way to tread, and it brings power to tread it, and it brings the One who treads it with us. As always, I am praying for you and with you daily. May God’s love and blessings be always with you, and my love to all of you. Invite someone to join us for worship this Sunday!

### Daily Bible Reading – 2016      Shaping Our Life Experience

Excerpts from both the Old and New Testament are included each day. This is a great way to support your ongoing growth in faith and the Christ Church community as well.

May 24: 1 Chronicles 11-13; John 9:1-23

May 25: 1 Chronicles 14-16; John 9:24-41

May 26: 1 Chronicles 17-19; John 10:1-21

May 27: 1 Chronicles 20-22; John 10:22-42

May 28: 1 Chronicles 23-25; John 11:1-17

May 29: 1 Chronicles 26-27; John 11:18-46

May 30: 1 Chronicles 28-29; John 11:47-57

## In Our Prayers

**Guy Ferrelli** – at home, **Fred Painton**, **Patty Keller**, **John Lopez**, **Nancy & Frank Annunciata**, **Carol Corsaro**, **Gaetano Castellino Sr.**, **Rev. Dick Harrington (former Pastor)** – failing health, **Elvira Gonzalez** – now living at **Brompton Heights**; **Glenn Hurst** and **Ed Maker** – at home;

**New pastor appointment process**

**Alex Dunbar**, **Lindsey Darling** & **Ian Johnson\* (deployed)** – all serve in the US Navy

## This Week at Christ Church

Tuesday, May 24 – New Vision Circle – Lunch at Loughran's Pub

Wednesday, May 25 – 6:30 pm – Praise Team rehearsal

7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 26 - 10 am – Life Lessons with Pastor Darryl

11 am – Visitation Team

Friday, May 27 - 7 pm – Game Night

Sunday, May 29 - 9 am & 11 am - Worship –

*"Reclaiming Our Wesleyan Vitality: Methodism Today & Tomorrow"*

## Opportunities to Make A Difference

**Food Pantry** - suggested items:

May 29 – Soups & Stews

*All food items, paper products and toiletry items are welcome anytime.  
Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations. Thank you!*

## Offer Hospitality - Host the Café

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Café to host some Sunday morning!  
Invite your family, friends, ministry team or group to join you!  
Share in this Café ministry of hospitality and welcome.

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## Upcoming events...

### **Sacred, Secular and Comedy Concert**

**Sunday June 5**

**4:00 pm – Reception to follow**

**With  
Valerian Ruminski**

Singing songs from all genres as well as a preview of music from the musical **“SHOT”** a story of the events of the 1901 Pan American Expo and the death of President McKinley, part of Buffalo history.

**A pair of tickets to “Shot” at Shea’s Theater have been provided by Valerian Ruminski and will be available in a silent auction!  
Look for the bid sheet at church.**

Contact Carol Teresi (839-4373) for tix and to offer food and help with the reception following the concert.

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It’s foolish and wrong to mourn the men [women] who died. Rather we should thank God that such men [women] lived. ~ Gen. George Patton