



Hampden Highland Highlights

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December 2015

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Who was Susanna Wesley?

Mother of Methodism

By Anne Adams

Part 6 of 6

<http://www.historyswomen.com/womenoffaith/SusannahWesley.html>



As his health slowly failed, Samuel continued to work on his life long project – a book called “Dissertations on the Book of Job.” Though Samuel hoped its publication would assure his family’s financial security it did not prove so. Written in Latin, the ponderous and scholarly account did not appeal to the average reader. Samuel could possibly have been more successful by writing shorter and more popular pieces, but he preferred to devote his talents to what he considered a high level of scholarship. After Samuel passed away on April 5, 1735 when John had paid his debts Susanna had very little. For the rest of her life she would depend on her children.

Soon after with Susanna settled in a daughter’s home, John and Charles Wesley joined a group of colonists settling in Georgia. For some time they had been searching for spiritual fulfillment and through various experiences in America and after their return to England they finally found the peace and assurance they sought. Their conversion not only fulfilled them spiritually but also inspired them to begin the preaching and outreach that would be a part of their new ministry, dubbed Methodism after a “methodical” religious routine John had developed while at Oxford. In 1740 John moved Susanna into the center of this new ministry in London, a former cannon factory known as the Foundery. The large building held chapels, a school, a clinic, and living quarters for John and other workers. Susanna would spend her final days among loving people involved in a new ministry and with her other children nearby. Then as the end neared and with her family around her, she instructed them: “Children, as soon as I am released sing a psalm of praise to God.” She passed away July 23, 1742.

Susanna’s place in Christian history is indeed based on what her sons accomplished but it could be said to have been her example and influence that helped them to do what they did. Susanna’s best legacy was indeed her children, particularly John. For it was in the Epworth parsonage that he acquired the focused leadership that would empower and inspire the man who “represents the force which has most profoundly affected English history,” as one scholar put it, referring to the 18th century.

“But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.”

2 Corinthians 4:7

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

—Martin Luther King Jr.

BIBLE READINGS

December 6th
2nd Sunday of Advent
 2 Samuel 11:1-5; 12:1-13
 Matthew 1:1, 6b
 2 Samuel 12:24-25

December 13th
3rd Sunday of Advent
 Jeremiah 33: 14-16

December 20th
4th Sunday of Advent
 Matthew 1:18-29
 Luke 1:39-45
 Matthew 1:1, 16-17

December 27th
1st Sunday after Christmas
 Luke 2:41-52

The wonder of Christmas

At Christmas, shivers in the spine have nothing to do with climate. Songs are sung not with the lips but with the heart. And light comes not from utilities but from the heavens.

—Author unknown

God with us

Faith isn't about knowing all of the right stuff or obeying a list of rules. It's something more, something more costly because it involves being present and making a sacrifice.

Perhaps that's why Jesus is sometimes called Immanuel – “God with us.” I think that's what God had in mind, for Jesus to be present, to just be with us. It's also what he has in mind for us when it comes to other people.

—Bob Goff, Love Does

Soup Sunday Schedule

December 6th - All Church Meeting

January 3rd - Communion Sunday

February 7th - Communion Sunday

March 6th - Communion Sunday



Please take Note

- The **Mt View Chambers Singers** will sing at our church on Dec 5th at 4 pm. If you have or would like to volunteer food for them (snack bags), please do so before the 5th. See Deanne Philbrick with any questions.
- The **Children's Christmas Pageant** will take place Sunday, Dec 13th at 6:30 in the sanctuary! Desserts will follow in the fellowship hall. If you or your child would like to be involved, please contact Jessie Davis for a role: jessiedavis@breweredu.org. Should the pageant be canceled for any reason, December 20th is the designated backup date.



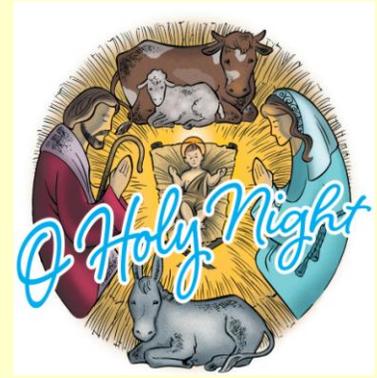
Worship Assistants for November

Sunday, December 6th

Communion Stewards: Chris Henderson, Linda Mosley & TBD
Lector: Anne Tatgenhorst
Acolytes: Lydia Harnish
Greeter: Charlene Jones
Usher: Tom Giroux
Counters: Darla King & Kathy Gallupe
Fellowship: SPRC (**Soup Sunday**)

Sunday School-

Pre-K/Kinder: Joyce
1-4: Laura O.
5-8: Noel M.
Nursery Assistant: Laurie M.



Sunday, December 13th

Lector: TBD
Acolytes: Sairah & Emma Damboise
Greeter: Sharon Bellerose
Usher: Conner Wellman & Amy Clement
Counters: Gloria Lee & Angela Damboise
Fellowship: Trustees

Sunday School-

Pre-K/Kinder: Joyce
1-4: Jim T.
5-8: Anne T.
Nursery Assistant: Amy C.

Sunday, December 20th

Lector: Dorna Thomas
Acolytes: Simon Thomas
Greeter: Jim Tatgenhorst & Kathy Gallupe
Usher: Thomas Family
Counters: Jay Willet & Gloria Lee
Fellowship: Christian Ed/Youth

Sunday School-

Pre-K/Kinder: Joyce
1-4: Katie W.
5-8: TBD
Nursery Assistant: Sarah T.

Sunday, December 24th

Lector: Pauline Kilhefner
Acolytes: Lydia Hanish & TBD
Greeter: TBD
Usher: TBD
Counters: Gloria Lee & Marilyn Boulier
Fellowship: TBD

Sunday School-

Pre-K/Kinder: TBD
1-4: TBD
5-8: TBD
Nursery Assistant: TBD

Sunday, December 27th

Lector: Linda Mosley
Acolytes: Sairah & Emma Damboise
Greeter: Noel & Laurie March
Usher: Jay Willey & Darla King
Counters: Darla King & Gloria Lee
Fellowship: Admin Council

Sunday School-

Pre-K/Kinder: Joyce
1-4: Kaela W.
5-8: Jessie D.
Nursery Assistant: Sarah T.

Christmas to-do list

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among brothers,
to make music in the heart.

—Howard Thurman

Welcome and attached

According to research conducted by the Barna Group, the holidays are tough for people who aren't connected to faith communities or other civic groups. They feel isolated by experiences that bring others joy, such as giving gifts, singing carols and attending religious services and parties.

"In past decades," writes George Barna, "there was an assumption that the holidays were a time when outsiders might explore church life. These days, however, churches and other religious institutions are not seen as safe or value-adding places by most outsiders. They see little reason to attend seasonal events, especially since those events often highlight their outsider status."

This Christmas, how can you help someone feel welcome *and* "attached" at your church?

Looking for fun? Try ringing!

Playing handbells is like a fun team sport. We are all in it together with the goal of sharing beautiful music to worship. Each member has a part to contribute to the whole. We play one Sunday a month during the school year and share a half hour program before the Christmas Eve Service. We practice on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00. It is easier to begin if you have played an instrument before. Each player has to keep track of only two notes, A and B for example. Some players will mark their notes. Perhaps they would use a green marker for the A's and a blue marker for the B's or they would pencil in "L" for left hand and "R" for the right hand. Some people like to pencil in the beats. Others rarely mark their music at all. Each player uses whatever method works best for them to add to the whole. It reminds me of the Scripture, "There are many parts, but one body" I Cor. 12:20

Each May the "Jubilation Ringers" as we call ourselves put on a Children's Fair in the Skehan Rec Center. The space rentals and a percentage of the sales is how we raise funds to purchase music and equipment. Through this fund, we purchased the new choir robes. So the only responsibility for the church budget is to pay the director. We could use a few more players. At present, we are playing as a 3 octave choir, but we have bells to play as a 4 octave choir and are just short 4 bells to be a 5 octave choir. If you think you would be interested in playing bells, see Tricia Clark or any of the members of the bell choir. We would be happy to show you the music and have you try the bells to see if you might like to join our team!

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS

For Your Information

Special dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 6, 2015*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 13, 2015*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 20, 2015*
- First Day of Winter, *December 21, 2015*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2015*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2015*
- New Year's Eve, *December 31, 2015*



January 2016						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



We are looking for some substitutes workers for the nursery. Please let both Isabella Urban and the office know if you are interested. Young people must be sophomores or older and taken the Red Cross Babysitting Class and/or child first aid & CPR. Adults are welcome, they will also need First Aid and CPR and an recent background check.



Dear Saints,

As I write to you, my household is engaged in the annual joyful chaos of preparation for Thanksgiving Day! I love the opportunity to prepare and share a decadent feast with friends and family, to engage the obligatory celebration activities (parades, football and the like), and to spend some time reflecting on the blessings we have and on the One from whom all Good Gifts come.

Thanksgiving Day remains one of the most family focused holidays in our culture—and the most other-focused celebration in the civic calendar. As a culture, we spend a lot of time focused on getting more—more money, more stuff, more, more, more! For one Thursday in November, before we turn back to getting on Black Friday (though often for others in our households), we are encouraged to Give Thanks, and to be grateful for what we have. Along with that, it's a day where we embrace generosity—both on our overflowing tables and in our thoughts and actions. The United Methodist Church even sponsors a Giving Tuesday (this year on December 1) during the week following Thanksgiving Day to support The Advance for Christ and His Church (www.umcmmission.org/advance).

As Christians, we ought to focus on giving thanks year round, and on developing an attitude of generosity for all that God has done for us. At the same time, learning to give well means we have more to celebrate! Then, we can celebrate what God is doing *through* us. That is a large part of the Christian discipline of tithing—yes, money supports the work of Christ through the Church, but more than that, learning to put God first, to give first, changes our perspective on living. If everything we have belongs to God, then when we give our first-fruits and embrace living on what we still have after that, we learn how to give and receive with grateful hearts.

Last week, the Finance Committee worked on our budget for next year—all around it is about level (using savings in fuel cost, down to about \$12,000 for 2016, to fund increases in several ministry-focused areas). We are doing wonderful things together for Christ in our community, but all of those require caring for our facilities, paying for utilities, compensating our staff, budgeting for studies, Sunday School, worship supplies and the like. Overall, the majority of Hampden Highlands UMCs budget depends on all of us giving generously. We budget to spend about \$210,000.00 for the overall operation of the Church, and can depend on about \$34,200 from fundraisers, endowments, bequests and other similar sources. That means we need about \$176,000.000 in giving during the year. That number is very similar to what we needed to achieve for 2015—but it helps us to set a goal, and work to meet it!

In the next week, you will receive an invitation to prayerfully consider a commitment to give to the work of HHUMC this coming year. We would like to see at least \$135,000 in pledged giving toward our giving needs for 2016. God has blessed us all with abundance—and giving from our abundance we could meet or exceed that goal. It would be wonderful to see all or most of the giving need pledged—as a community we could use the excess to develop new ministries to bless our community. I can imagine expanding our “Do Something” 5th Sundays into a monthly mission project, resources for After School study groups or Hang Out space at the Church, as well as completing the repaving of the parking lot and intentionally caring for the back field to make for better play space for our children and youth (maybe even a baseball field)? Together, we can transform our community and our world for Christ!

In Christ's Service with You,

The Rev. David Nicol, Pastor of Hampden Highlands UMC



Please note: Anything in *italics* takes place at *Ellingwood's Corner UMC*, 796 Lebanon Rd. in Winterport. You can call 223-2240 for more info.

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	2 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	3 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	4 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	5 Mt View Singers 4-5pm
6 9:00 am –Worship 9 am – Bible Study 10 am - Worship 11:30 am Nurture & Worship Committee	7	8 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	9 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	10 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm 5:30 pm Bell Choir 7pm Voice Choir	11 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	12
13 9 am –Worship 9 am – Bible Study 10 am - Worship Children's Christmas Pageant 6:30 pm	14	15 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	16 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	17 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm 5:30 pm Bell Choir 7pm Voice Choir	18 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	19
20 9 am –Worship 9 am – Bible Study 10 am - Worship 11:30 am Trustees Joint Blue Christmas Service at North Brewer-Eddington	21	22 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	23 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	24 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm Family Christmas Service 4pm Bells and Communion 7pm	25	26
27 9:00 am –Worship 9 am – Bible Study 10 am - Worship	28	29 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	30 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	31 Office Hours: 11am-2:45pm	1	2

“Expectancy is the atmosphere for miracles.”

—Edwin Louis Cole

