



Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

July 2015

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482
www.wesleysst.org

Phone 903-885-3383
Fax 903-438-2324



2 Corinthians 3:17

Neighborhood Block Party

June 13, 2015





July Mission Emphasis



School Supplies for Little Acorn School

Items Needed:

Bottles of Glue

Crayons

Ziplock Bags (All Sizes)

Washable Markers

Construction Paper

Washable Watercolor Paints

White Paper (for the kids to draw on)



Memorials

In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Young

By: Martin Major Hendrik and Marieke de Witte
John and Sue Young Scott and Alison Horn
Don and Norma Gadt Charles and Marge Johnson
Billy and Mary Frances Daniels Bonnie Huffstetler
Stanley and Mary Lou Foster Mike and Rachel Smith

In Loving Memory of Thomas Higgins

By: Don and Norma Gadt Charles and Marge Johnson
Billy and Mary Frances Daniels

In Loving Memory of Aline Horn

By: Don and Norma Gadt Charles and Marge Johnson
Ridgeway Baptist Church

In Loving Memory of Wanda Maikins

By: Billy and Mary Frances Daniels

The History of America's Independence Day

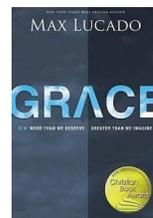
"Taxation without representation!" was the battle cry in America's 13 Colonies, which were forced to pay taxes to England's King George III despite having no representation in the British Parliament. As dissatisfaction grew, British troops were sent in to quell the early movement toward rebellion. Repeated attempts by the Colonists to resolve the crisis without military conflict proved fruitless.

On June 11, 1776, the Colonies' Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and formed a committee whose express purpose was drafting a document that would formally sever their ties with Great Britain. The committee included Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. Jefferson, who was considered the strongest and most eloquent writer, created the original draft document. A total of 86 changes were made to his draft and the Continental Congress officially the final version on July 4, 1776.

The following day, copies of the Declaration of Independence were distributed, and on July 6, The Pennsylvania Evening Post became the first newspaper to print the extraordinary document. The Declaration of Independence has since become our nation's most cherished symbol of liberty. pbs.org



Bible Study



A new Bible study - GRACE: More than We Deserve, Greater than We Imagine by Max Lucado will begin next Wednesday, July 1, at 6:00 p.m. and will conclude at 7:30 p.m. Books are now on sale at cbd.com for \$5.00 (regularly \$19.28). Let Pastor Steve know if you want to be a part of this group and we can order as many books as we need and save on shipping fees!

Sign-up sheet is on the Wesley Hall bulletin board by the kitchen. *Bring Your Own Grub.*



Nourishment for the Hearts of the Youth

Youth are like seeds; they are ready to be planted, but they also need the proper nourishment in order to grow strong and healthy. Just with all forms of nature,

youth go through storms of their own, but like a seed, they are not yet able to protect themselves from these storms.

Fortunately for seeds, they only have a few storms to be wary of: birds, strong winds, and being scorched in the noonday sun. Youth, on the other hand, have various forms of storms that they can and do encounter. One occurs daily; the nasty storm of always “trying to fit in”. The constant desire to be like someone else is overwhelming and energy inefficient -- it also consumes all aspects of their lives.

Another storm that brews comes from their family. Not always does a youth find him/herself loved and cared for by their families. It is crucial that we show compassion and love to each youth that we encounter because we do not always know what storm a youth...let me rephrase that; we do not always know what storm a youth or an adult is going through.

There are more storms that we can count that affect each and every one of us every single day. Most of these storms appear differently and in three different forms; psychological, emotional, and physical. Youth need guidance and direction, not just instructions and orders. It is our job as Christians and as leaders to show them the love of Christ through our actions and kind words, and not to forget that they need a compliment every now and then to know that they are appreciated. Remember, it take a village to raise a child, but most importantly, it take the whole congregation to love a youth.

Summertime

The youth would like to return the love of Christ that has been shown to them by helping church members during the summer months. Up until now, the youth have helped with Sulphur Springs Work Camp by taking the first four days of their summer and dedicating that time to help families within the Sulphur Springs area by painting their homes and by making connections with the homeowners.

The week after Work Camp, we went to Silvina Epperson's house to refurbish a set of chairs and tables on her porch with the spray paint she provided. We also re-stained her porch swing. This past week, we assisted the Spears family with mulching their gardens. In the upcoming weeks, we have several projects and activities prepared and we look forward to spreading the Good News of Christ through our actions.

Dylan Dante di Donato
Director of Youth Ministries

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Dominic Ayala	Jill Barclay	Bill Barkley
Mary Barnhart	DeLana Beadle	Alec Bridges
Poss and Sherry Baxter	Rhonda Brock	Cletus Brown
James Brown	Carson Bryant	Damon Byars
David Cartwright, Jr.	Phoebe Carmody	Jillian Cartwright
Catie-Catherine Ferguson's granddaughter		Brooke Chavez
Steve and Dicie Rue Cook	Kathy Crowson	Larry Crowson
Nell Crowson	Cristine Dixon	Linda Downs
Mary Lynn Ferguson	Dorothy Easley	Barbara Formby
Maggie Skaggs Foster	Bonnie Gilmer	Shirley Glossup
Robert and Mary Glover	Harvey and Crusaders Class	
Magan, Tim and Eisleigh Henderson	Doris Herman	Frank Hernandez
Maxine Hiller	Bill Hinchcliff	Dewayne Hobgood
Janie Kirkland	Correna Korth	Charles Johnson
Linda Johnson	Algarine Jordan	Cynthia Lewis
Mary Ann McCormick	Mary Ellen Little	Tommy Lewis
Idalon McCoy	Christine McPhearson	Gary Moon
Helen Moore	Allison, Wade and J.W. Mullinax	Terry Nelson
Ricky and Kay Orr	JoAnn Prince	Matthew Prochaska
Sara and Phil Robinson	Micah Reed	Andrea Seale
Jim and Marty Rose	Mary Jo and Dale Smith	Patti Sells
Donna and Dave Spears	Jayne Stone	Ceely Stout
Pat and Floyd Spears	Jeanne Swatsell	Velma Swatsell
Allan Thar	Chrystal Vargas	Bo West
Sara West	Donna Wilhite	Abused Children and Youth
Healthy Church Initiative/HCI Team		The Family of Ed Patch
Vacation Bible School		
Backpack Buddies	North Texas Food Bank	
Holy Highway Girls Home	Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center	
Dallas Bethlehem Center – Wesley-Rankin Community Center		
Way of Salvation UMC, Mytisch, Russia		
Our Country and Our Leaders	Military Personnel and their Families	
EMS, Fire Fighters, Hospital Personnel		

WESLEY HOMEBOUND

Doris Rawls	Mary Burks	Dell Cline	Billie Newsom	Bobbie Holder
Vivian & Bill Shell	Muriel Lucas	Sandra McIntire	Della Loane	
	Maxine and Lloyd Hiller	Algarine and L.B. Jordan		



Muriel Lucas, Sandy Heisler, Kim Moore and Truman Renshaw

Sulphur Springs Work Camp



Dalena



Monica



Mattie



Allie



Jessica



Dalena



Luke



Hootie

From
Pastor
Steve

From the Barber Shop to the Pulpit... Being Methodists in Hopkins County

Some of you know I get my hair cut at Briley's Barber Shop just across from the courthouse in Sulphur Springs. But not until my last haircut had the owner, Mike, cut my hair. As I sat down in the chair and Mike was draping the "hair apron" me did I know he was a Methodist since he used these "Methodist words": "So are you coming back for another year at Wesley?" I said, "Indeed I am!" He smiled and I instantly knew I was talking to a fellow Methodist.

Let me go back 13 years to my first Methodist church in Paris. I was asked by a member in April of 2002 if I was going to be back for another year. It really caught me off-guard. I wasn't sure how to answer that question until I chatted with my friend, Burt Palmer, then pastor at Calvary UMC, Paris, and now the pastor at Polk Street UMC, Amarillo. Burt smiled and said, "Cook, if you have not been called by the DS (Methodist lingo for District Superintendent) by now, you will be back!" He then told me about the consultation process that is in place for all parties in Methodist churches: Church/Pastor, DS/Cabinet/Bishop. It was, as is said, a teachable moment for me. So when Mike asked me if I would be back for another year, I knew immediately I was talking to a Methodist!

Being Methodist and talking Methodist go hand-in-hand. I remember the great JOY of learning about John Wesley's expression and interpretation of Grace. Shucks, I'd been singing "Amazing Grace" as long as I can remember. But from previous church experience, I was not taught about the "One or Undivided Grace" expressed in at least three ways: **Prevenient** (think preceding) grace which is God acting in our lives before we ever know God, such as the baptism of a baby, or actually sense God at work in our lives; **Justifying** grace is the moment we are made aware of the presence through God's Spirit wooing us toward the love, mercy, and forgiveness of our sins (the salvation experience); and **Sanctifying** grace is the ongoing process of God restoring God's image in us which was marred by the sin of Adam and Eve (Genesis 1-2) and going on toward perfection, being made perfect in heart of holiness life (great Wesley words). To be sure, we Methodists affirm much of what most Protestants believe: God expressed as the Trinity, salvation by faith only in Jesus Christ, the Church as the Body of Christ, the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism, confession of our faith, forgiveness of sin, etc. But when it comes to **Grace**, we are distinctive and we live out Wesley's three basic rules as the People of God in community: 1. **do no harm**, 2. **do good**, 3. **attend**

upon the ordinances of God (prayer, searching the Scriptures, and receiving the Lord's Supper). These make us **Wesleyan United Methodists!**

I don't think my barber knew the "can of worms" he was opening within me when he asked that simple, but uniquely Methodist question: "Are you coming back to Wesley for another year? But thanks to friends like Burt Palmer, Doug Miller, Pete Adrian, Eddie Jean Adams, Vivian Crowson, Brian Bosworth, etc., I am "going on to perfection" now!

While I'm "gracing you" with this article, allow me to share what we Methodists received from our founder, John Wesley, as **The Means of Grace** (ordinary ways we experience God's Grace but by no means "limits" God's Grace to us. These include the following: **Works of Piety** such as receiving **Holy Communion (or the Lord's Supper)**, **Public Worship of God**, **Ministry of the Bible (Holy Scriptures)**, **Prayer (family, private and public)**, **Fasting (abstaining from food to honor God)**, **Holy Conferencing (at the District, Conference, and General Conference levels as well as retreats, etc.)**, and **Works of Mercy** for humanity (**clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, and visiting those in jails or prisons**). These are several, but not all, of the ways God honors as Means of Grace to "one another!"

The hymnist said it right, "*Marvelous Grace of our loving Lord; Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt; yonder on Calvary's Mount outpoured, there where the Blood of the Lamb was spilt.*" Another thing I should say is, we preachers are always open to a new or fresh word wherever. It may be in the barber shop or at the grocery store or from a friend's voice or even a text from Facebook. Hebrews 4:12 says it best: "**The Word of God is living and active ...**" **GRACE!**

Wesley Bus Ministry

Do you need a ride to church?

Call the church office for more details.

903-885-3383



Groups

EVEREST

Conquering Challenges with
God's Mighty Power



Pike

Lip-smacking snacks



Klymer

Glacier Games



Cliff

Incredible Music



Yeddy

Amazing Experiments

Surprising Adventures

New Friends



Mallory

Location: Wesley United Methodist Church

VBS will Last from: August 3 - August 7, 2015

Each day's fun begins at: 9:00 a.m.

The VBS day ends at: NOON with a free lunch following

For more information, call: 903-885-3383

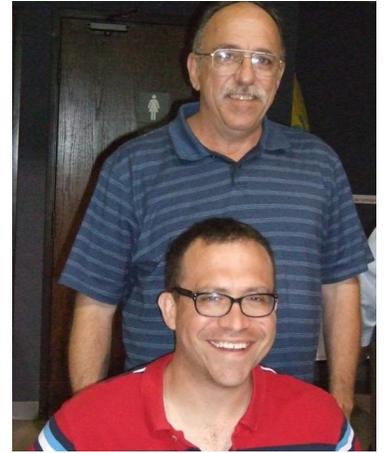
Donuts with Dad



Thank you, Ms. Marieke, for all you do for us. We appreciate it!



Jerry Glossup and Kenna Lane



Joe and Ricky Batty



Jana Prochaska and Malsolm Kirkland



Aubrey and Nathaniel Presley



Mattie, Allie and Spencer Thurman



Rick Spears with Jeff and Ryan



Garrett Glass with Katherine and Grant



The Zip Code Connection

The Zip Code Connection is an initiative of the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, launched in 2013 to eradicate poverty in two zip codes by 2025.

The Need: Poverty is not just about income, or eradicating poverty would just be about getting everyone more money. Rather, poverty is a complicated set of interdependent variables that we must attack more or less simultaneously. Communities that have been in poverty for multiple generations frequently have absent or broken infrastructure that is necessary to support hope and healthy connections to God, to neighbors, and to resources for all community members.

We believe that the Church is called to be a catalyst for connection in the community. And we believe that it is our obligation to be in ministry *with* our neighbors--not *to* or *for* them. We are following the heritage of our founder, John Wesley, who went to the coal mines to be in ministry with the people as they worked and who founded Sunday Schools to teach reading to the children of the miners.

Our goal is that these two communities--South Dallas/Fair Park and **Red River County (Clarksville)** -- are each recognized as good places to live, work, learn do business, raise children, and worship. Community members will have connection to God, to neighbors, and to the resources they need.

75426--and Red River County--is one of the poorest rural communities in the 21-county region of the North Texas Conference of the UMC. The 75426 Zip Code encompasses the heart of Red River County, but there are actually pieces of 6 other Zip Codes in the county. The statistics demonstrate not only the economic poverty level of the Red River County community, but also the vast difference in population density. 16 people per square mile here as opposed to more than 15,000 people per square mile in South Dallas.

How will we do it? Through our belief in ministry *with* -- not *to* or *for* -- our neighbors, and working side by side with them.

Convening neighbors and churches, organizations and individuals currently working in the Zip Code who are aligned with our mission to create new connections and collaborations to empower our neighbors.

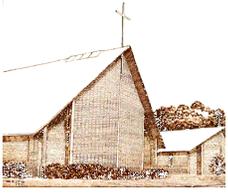
Learning together with our neighbors and churches--and the public in general--about the issues and the best practices for helping support communities of produces.

Leveraging the political and economic influence of our members and the collective assets of the neighbors to advocate for changes in the systems and circumstances that keep the communities in poverty.

On **August 2 at 5:00 p.m.**, **First United Methodist Church in Commerce** will host an informational meeting on the Zip Code Project. The speaker will be **Melinda Watters, Connections Director for Red River County.**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Bill Wilder	July 2
Rick Spears	July 3
Bonnie Huffstetler	July 7
Bobbie Holder	July 7
Dana Jordan	July 10
L.B. Jordan	July 12
Marisa Jones	July 16
Gary Lewis	July 22
Julie Weir	July 23
Brantley Jones	July 24
Mary Barnhart	July 25
Dana Sills	July 26
Marge Johnson	July 26
Allie Thurman	July 29
Mattie Thurman	July 29
Malcolm Kirkland	July 31
Marisa and Jacob Jones	July 7
Konnie and Ronnie Cross	July 8
Jana and Danny Prochaska	July 12
Brenda and Doyle McKinzie	July 12
Magan and Tim Henderson	July 14
Betty and Mack Phillips	July 18



The Wesley Witness
Wesley United Methodist Church
614 Texas Street
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

(903) 885-3383 Church Office
(903) 335-8010 Parsonage
(903) 438-2324 Fax

www.wesleysst.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on

facebook

Wesley UMC,
Sulphur Springs
or

www.wesleysst.org

VBS Schedule

July 15 **6:00 p.m. Dinner** - Mandatory meeting for **ALL** VBS teachers and helpers - Curriculum handout

Please let Marieke know if you are coming. She needs a count in order to order food. Call/text **903-348-3611** or e-mail **dwitt313@hotmail.com**.

July 19 **1:30 - 5:00 p.m. Come and Go Decorating for VBS**

July 26 **1:30 - 5:00 p.m. Come and Go Decorating for VBS**