



# Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

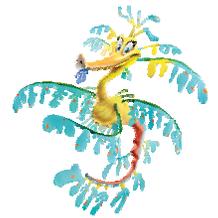
**August 2014**

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

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



## This Summer Take a Walk on



the



Side

At Weird Animals VBS, kids learn that nothing compares to the unconditional love of Jesus!



### Vacation Bible School

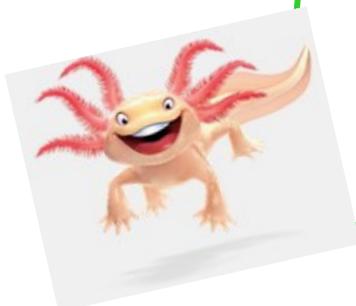
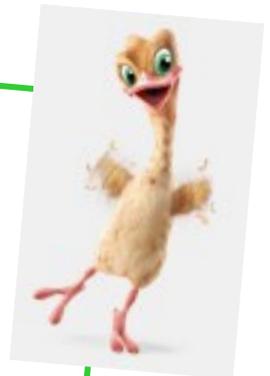
Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. - NOON

Ages 4 - Completed 5th Grade

August 4 - 8

Lunch Follows



# Upcoming Emmaus Walks

## Women's Walk #14-124

September 25-28, 2014 at Lone Star, TX

Led by Carol Ann O'dell

## Men's Walk #14-125

October 16-19, 2014 at Lone Star, TX

## Women's Walk 15-126

February 19-22, 2015 at Lone Star, TX

## Men's Walk 15-127

April 23-26, 2015 at Lone Star, TX

For more information, log on to:

[www.netemmaus.org](http://www.netemmaus.org) or talk to an Emmaus alumni.

**Note to Emmaus alumni: Team members are needed for all walks. If you are interested, go to**

[netemmaus.org](http://netemmaus.org).

## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Lonnie and Jewel Adams	Rhonda Alley	Jill Barclay
Jim and Mary Barnhart	Dominic Ayala	Janet Bates
Cody and Johna Blount and Baby	Carson Bryant	Ursula Campbell
Allen Cartwright	David Cartwright, Jr.	Barbara Coleman
The Carmody Family (Phoebe)	Steve and Dacey Rue Cook	
Kathy Crowson	Mary Dabiere	Brett Darrow
Jon Davis	Stacy Davis	Dorothy Easley
Charlie Epperson	LaJuan Foster	Debra Furbay
Trip Glenn	Jennifer Glover	Janie Godfrey
Magan, Tim and Easley Henderson	Doris Herman	Kristen Herschler
Frank Hernandez	Bill Hinchcliff	Brad Hinchcliff
Louise and Marvin Jones	Myndi Horne	Dana Jordan
Deb and Dave Nossotti	Jace Jordan	Bart Penny
Betty Pottorf	Majel and Roger Redick	Jo Ann Prince
Matthew Prochaska	Pat and Floyd Spears	Ray Roslewicz
Kim Shuey	Vera Skaggs	Janie Swindell
Nola Tadlock	Allan & Myrtle Thar	Burke Tinsley
Chrystal Vargas	Everett Wilder and Jenny Speer	
Frances Smith Williams		
Victims of severe weather in the US and around the world		
Families of those lost in the recent airplane crashes		
War in Israel and Gaza		
Children coming into the US from Central America		
Backpack Buddies	The Dinner Bell	
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		

## In Honor of Pam Hollingsworth

By: Elton and Louise Stewart



Finance Update

One Worship Service  
Sunday School

Sunday, June 29

Attendance

110

61

Stewardship

Offering anticipated to date	127,571.50
Offering through June 2	97,257.20
Offering June 29	3,653.00
Designated	221.25

Sunday, July 6

Attendance

One Worship Service  
Sunday School

110

81

Stewardship

Offering anticipated to date	132,324.25
Offering through July 6	101,386.50
Offering July 6	4,129.30
Designated	4,690.30

Sunday, July 6

Attendance

One Worship Service  
Sunday School

110

81

Stewardship

Offering anticipated to date	132,324.25
Offering through July 6	101,386.50
Offering July 6	4,129.30
Designated	4,690.30
Candy Machine/Youth	60.00

Sunday, July 13

Attendance

One Worship Service  
Sunday School

101

80

Stewardship

Offering anticipated to date	137,077.00
Offering through July 13	105,334.50
Offering July 13	3,948.00
Designated	744.20

Sunday, July 20

Attendance

One Worship Service  
Sunday School

105

80

Stewardship

Offering anticipated to date	141,829.75
Offering through July 20	106,988.50
Offering July 20	1,654.00
Designated	1,455.69
Noisy Offering	82.32

Sunday, July 27

Attendance

One Worship Service  
Sunday School

107

75

Stewardship

Offering anticipated to date	146,582.50
Offering through July 27	109,170.50
Offering July 27	2,182.00
Designated	244.00

**From  
Pastor  
Steve**

## **WE ARE WESLEY!**

Dicie Rue and I are very grateful to so many “Wesleyans” (Wesley UMCers, that is) who have prepared the parsonage, brought us meals and fresh veggies and extended warm hospitality to us this first month of our ministry with you. I am thrilled, even proud to say “WE ARE WESLEY”--all of us working together for the Kingdom of God.

It is important for me to say at the outset “WE” and not “some, most, you, or even I.” Together we grieve and rejoice, suffer pain and are healed, make mistakes or get it right, shrink or grow, etc. WE ARE WESLEY! Our church offers many things to people of all ages--Bible studies, meals, daycare, Sunday school, worship, TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), a facility shared with members and non-members, weekly visitation to homebound, nursing homes, assisted living places, or in their own homes, etc. Whatever is done must be done in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior! That is what makes us a church: WE ARE WESLEY together.

Let us grow in our love for one another, let us learn more about what it means to serve one another, let us pray for one another--let us be God’s Church telling God’s Good News of forgiveness, restoration, and salvation, and let us be God’s witnesses wherever we go--let us say by the grace of God we are saved and WE ARE WESLEY--each and every one of us!

I hope you detect the excitement, wonder and joy I feel to be your pastor at this time in your history. I wish I could turn back the hands of time and recall with some of you the “glory days of the past.” But I know I can’t do that. Yet, together, we can and will create a new spirit at Wesley which will enable us to do great things for the glory of God. With sincere appreciation of the Spirit of God opening doors,

stirring our hearts, and giving us yet another chance to be His Church in this place, I am glad to say, along with Dicie Rue, WE ARE WESLEY! To God be the glory, great things He has done and will do!

**Pastor Steve**

**P.S. Did I mention together WE ARE WESLEY?  
I hope so!**



## **Blessing of the Back- packs**

**Sunday, August 24**

**Bring your backpack to be  
blessed at the 9:30 a.m.  
worship service.**

**If you need a backpack,  
please call the church at  
903-885-3383.**

**We will be happy**

## **Children's Education Report May-July, 2014**

On the last night before our Wednesday Night Summer Break, May 28th, we took 7 kids to Walmart and bought 12 box fans. We paid for this with money from the Noisy Offering, to support our Church Mission emphasis for the month. We didn't nearly spend it all, as we are planning to buy lots of school supplies in August.

In June/July and August we only gather during Sunday School hours. Numbers have been a little low, hopefully only due to vacations!

During July, VBS prep is in full swing! With sign up sheets on the bulletin board, advertisement all over town, video clips during worship services and invites in the mail, we are planning and praying once again for at least 100 kids to attend! All teachers and helpers have been notified and e-mailed about the Ministry Safe policy of the United Methodist Church and a background check.

On the calendar for August: Aug. 4-8: Weird Animals VBS, from 9-12, with a free lunch following at noon.

For Aug. 10th, we're planning our Very Best Sunday, a VBS closing worship service, followed by a hot-dog lunch. Hope to see you there!!!

In His love, Marieke de Witte.

**VBS (Very Best) Sunday**  
We will need lots of cookies and brownies for the **FREE Hot Dog lunch on Sunday, August 10.**

**We anticipate having many guests: children, parents and grandparents.**

**There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board.**

**Also we will need help to set up tables and chairs, assemble drinks, put out paper goods, etc. and then clean up after lunch. Please sign the sheet indicating what you are willing to do.**

**Thanks!**

**August Mission  
Emphasis**

**School Supplies**



## **Pastor's Report to the Wesley UMC Administrative Board July 29, 2014**

The first month (July, 2014) has been a learning month for me in aspects of "life at Wesley." I guess learning on the job is the best way to get submerged in Bible studies, TOPS, Little Acorn School, the Sunday worship service, helping Trustees, planning the worship service, visiting in home, nursing homes, in hospitals, pruning trees and shrubbery at the parsonage, getting moved in, unpacking boxes, setting up the Pastor's study, eating out with members, drinking coffee with members, blessing and praying the youth off to camping/retreat, being introduced to the USPS and UPS delivery persons, meeting and hugging members both on and off the campus, and the like!

I applaud both the Worship Committee for the wonderful way the survey was handled and the care given to "being wide open" to the best way, at the moment, Wesley desires to worship. I also applaud the Trustees for meeting monthly to check off items needing attention on our properties as well as being open to additional issues brought to their attention. I am very grateful to Joe and Amanda Clark for their devotion to making our worship experience a "blended on" and involving whomever steps forward to help. Our musicians, Carol Ann O'dell, Mary Ellen Kirkland, and Mary Lou Foster are a great asset to Wesley and essential for our Music Ministry. I look forward to hearing our choir once again this coming Sunday! Thanks to Andi Clark for sharing her missions experience and her musical gifts in worship!

Dicie Rue and I thank you for making our move to Wesley a pleasant one. Lots of cleaning and getting the parsonage ready occurred ahead of our arrival and when we moved in, good was provided by several of you, individually, and in groups. Thanks for the home-grown veggies, especially the tomatoes!

Food for thought...we need to revive the form SOULDIERS Sunday school class, either keeping the name or starting with a new name. Dicie Rue and I are committed to leading it. We have visited the other three adult Sunday school classes and we believe there is excellent teaching and leadership in them. However, there are several folks not in an existing class and we need to provide a class for them. There is an excellent room available! Start ASAP...maybe even this Sunday informally and get organized, promote, etc.

The purpose of our church, as a part of the United Methodist Church, is "making Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) reminds us to "GO." We cease to be a church if we forget that. We must be an 'externally focused" church always "on the go" with the message of salvation for anyone. I like an old adage I saw years ago above the entrance to a church: "Enter to worship; Depart to serve." I believe that is the Wesleyan way. We "grow" disciples once inside the church. We have to "GO" to make disciples first. How do we go and grow? I like "lifestyle evangelism." The Golden Rule is operative: "Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you!" Another way is "Each One Reach One." Simple evangelism: tell others your "story" of how you got to know Jesus and how you got to Wesley UMC. After you/we "reach" them. then we are able to "teach" them. As your pastor, I'll visit anyone at any time at any place with or without you. (Be good if you at least go the first time to introduce me to that person, friend, family member, neighbor, etc.)

When I learned from the DS that I had been asked to come to Wesley, I was stunned, exceedingly happy, and overwhelmed--all at the same time. I'm getting to know you and you are getting to know me. I am encouraged, but I also know we must move forward and grow for the kingdom of God. I do not mind taking risks. I am aware I may make some mistakes. I won't quit or give up. I'll keep on learning. I'll keep on coming back until I get it right. My mindset is that of being your pastor as long as I have my health and my mind (or marbles!). Let's learn to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." Let us proudly say together: WE ARE WESLEY! With God's help, the best is before us. WE ARE WESLEY!

**Brother Steve**



# Wesley UMYF

The Wesley United Methodist Youth Group, Sulphur Springs, has had a blast doing fundraisers and group activities throughout the month of July. In the first week, we had a poppin' Fourth of July swim party. The following week we had a carwash fundraiser at Fire Station #2 in Sulphur Springs on Gilmer Street. The next week we had two major and exciting fundraisers; first, we had the Hamburger Fundraiser on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> and on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> we had the Bake Sale Fundraiser at the Farmers Market on Celebration Square downtown.

The Youth Group of Wesley United Methodist Church, Sulphur Springs and its Director are extremely thankful for a supportive and wonderful church, and because of your supportiveness, we were able to afford all the camping gear and food we needed for a weekend of fun! We sang and worshiped Jesus, swam, and rode paddle boats/kayaks/canoes over our camping retreat weekend.

While we close for our summer activities and enter into our fall festivities, I will be searching for small mission projects that the youth will be able to work here in our community. We can do yard work such as raking leaves, washing exterior windows, pulling weeds, etc. (No operating machinery of any sort if a youth; adults only {lawn mowers, leaf blowers, etc.} This is a safety precaution.) If you are in need of assistance, please contact Dylan di Donato. Cell: 903-348-5034 Office: 903-885-0705. Can't reach me? Try contacting Bonnie at the church office @ 903-885-3383.

Thank You,  
-Dylan Dante di Donato



# A Pastoral Letter from Your Bishops to the People of the United Methodist Church in Texas



July 17, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Today a humanitarian crisis is unfolding on our southern border with the arrival of tens of thousands of unaccompanied children. Many of you have communicated with us about your heartfelt desire to provide compassionate care for the unaccompanied children who are suffering in our midst. As bishops we have been conferencing with each other about how the people of The United Methodist Church might respond in a manner that is most faithful to the gospel.

We have also been in conversation with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), community leaders, and government officials. Our colleague, Bishop Jim Dorff, and other leaders in the Rio Texas Conference have just returned from three days on the border assessing the situation and representing the gospel and the church and encouraging people in a Christ-like response.

Let us be guided by the Biblical witness of faith:

- Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me for to such belong the kingdom of heaven.” (*Luke 18:15-16*)
- Jesus instructed us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe those in need, visit the sick and those imprisoned. Then he said, “When you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of min, you have done it for me.” (*Matthew 25:40*)
- We are to extend hospitality to strangers. (*Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:12*)

We do not understand all that these children have experienced in their home countries or in their arduous journey to our borders. We do know that their plight breaks the heart of God. Children are some of the most vulnerable members of the global community. Many come seeking to survive. They all need our compassion and care. At a time of concern about a struggling economy and national security, it is easy to give in to fear and to let that fear, rather than God’s heart, shape our hearts and our response. “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind,” (*II Timothy 1:7*). As followers of Christ, we have the power and wisdom of God to care for these unaccompanied children.

As the Bishops of the United Methodist Conferences of Texas, we call on the people of The United Methodist Church to:

- Pray regularly for the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being and healing of these children and families, wisdom for our government officials, and peace for the countries from which these children have come;
- Work with faith and community leadership to provide housing life necessities, pastoral/spiritual care, and as stable an environment as possible for these children and families while their long-term status is being resolved;
- Be attentive to seeing Christ in the faces of these children;
- Be alert for specific opportunities to offer ministries of compassion and care, which we will share as needs emerge.

In the words of John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, “Do all the good you can by all the means you can in all the ways you can in all the places you can at all the times you can to all the people you can as long as ever you can.”

In the name and spirit of Christ, we join with you in Christian love for these children. God bless you.

## **Needed!**

Two more people to visit shut-ins. If you have a few minutes per week for this very important mission, please contact Diane Dixon at 903-885-1671

## **New Sunday School Class**

Brother Steve and Dicie Rue will be in the old SOULDIERS Classroom this Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m. You are welcome to attend!

## **FOR SALE**

2 - 10 X 10 FT. GARAGE DOORS (came off the bus barn) Contact Doyle @ 903-439-5009 or Stanley @ 903-439-7027.

**Priced to sell!**

## EAST DISTRICT LAITY CELEBRATION

Reservations are **REQUIRED** for the:

- **WORKSHIP** - so we will know how many workshop handouts to print and how large of a room we will need.
- **DINNER** - so we can plan with the caterer for the right amount of food
- **WORSHIP** - so we will know how many worship bulletins to print and if we need to plan for overflow seating
- **CHILD CARE** - so we can have enough child care workers on hand
- ♦ Reservations and ticket purchases are to be made online at  
[www.eventbrite.com/e/204-east-district-laity-celebration-tickets-12231708369](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/204-east-district-laity-celebration-tickets-12231708369)

### Tickets are required for admission

Non-tickets holders will be

- ♦ Admitted to the workshop after ALL ticket holders are seated.
- ♦ Redirected to overflow for the worship until all tickets holders are seated.

You can view the event webpage at

[www.northtexasumc.org/east-district-news-and-events/east-district-laity-celebration-september-14-2014](http://www.northtexasumc.org/east-district-news-and-events/east-district-laity-celebration-september-14-2014)

## Jodi L. Cataldo Keynote Speaker for the East District Laity Celebration

Director - Laity in Leadership      General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church

Jodi Cataldo is married to Rev. Dr. Chet W. Cataldo (Retired Elder in Full Connection--Dakotas Conference) and they have three children: Dr. Jeremiah Cataldo (Professor--Meijers Honor College, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI); Tobin Cataldo (Director of Information Management, City of Birmingham Library System, Birmingham, AL); and Natalya Sataldo (Student-Licensed Practical Nursing, Southeast Technical Institute, Sioux Fall, SD).

Prior to coming to the General Board of Discipleship, Jodi served on the Board of Directors of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry during the current quadrennium, on the Board of Managers of the Upper Midwest Course of Study School, as well as continuing to serve as the Vice-Chairman of the North Central Jurisdiction Mission Council. Jodi was also elected as the 1st Reserve Lay Delegate to the 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

While working as the Director of Leadership Development for the Dakotas Conference from July 2010-November 2013, she was the staff person relating to Equipping the Local Church Link which included the Board of Ordained Ministry, Lay Servant Ministries, Congregational Development and Safe and Sacred Spaces. She also served as the Director of the Licensing and Lay Ministry School and as the Student Loan Officer.

Before coming on staff at the Dakotas AC, Jodi served as the Executive Secretary for Emerging Churches Resources/Mission Education from 2005-2010 at the General Board of Global Ministries where she was responsible for helping to develop contextual resources and Christian education programs in Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Cameroon, Senegal, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos, and Mongolia. Before coming on staff on GBGM, Jodi and her husband were missionaries in Lithuania for six years where she served as the Director of Christian Education and Resources.

Jodi considers it a distinct privilege to serve now as the Director of Laity in Leadership for the General Board of Discipleship, encouraging both clergy and laity to reclaim the Wesleyan movement, and to make disciples to transform the world!

# Vacation Bible School Preparations



Jessica and Jay creating baobab trees



Jim and Ryan and the beginnings of a waterfall



Donna and Diane work on Bible story boards

## Very Best Sunday (VBS)

The Vacation Bible School kids will be sharing songs, stories, and pictures about their week.

**August 10**      **9:30 a.m.**

Please have your children here by 9:00 a.m.

is invited to a **FREE** Hot Dog Lunch following the worship service.

# **Administrative Board Report**

## ***Wesley Has Spoken***

After Pastor Steve opened the Ad Board meeting Tuesday, July 29, with prayer, the committee celebrated the many, many ministries in which Wesley is involved. Topping the list is the celebration of having a new minister to lead us, hopefully for many years to come. Our May and June mission emphasis was box fans. We took 20+ fans to CANHelp, 12 of which were purchased by the children with the money they received from “noisy offerings.” The white board in the Wesleyan classroom was full as the list of ministries grew and grew. Wesley is very busy and very involved!

Mary Lou Foster, Worship Committee Chair, presented the results of the worship survey you completed. Your participation in the survey was outstanding! The Worship Committee met on July 23 to review the survey results and to make a decision about what kind of service Wesley should have and when we should worship. **The Administrative Board voted on the Worship Committee’s recommendation of a 9:30 a.m. blended service with Sunday school starting at 10:45 a.m.** The short 15 minutes between the worship service and Sunday school will give parishioners time to give and get many hugs, get refreshments, and visit the restrooms before heading off the Sunday school. There was lively discussion before the vote as Board members and others parishioners brought up their concerns and questions. When the recommendation from the Worship Committee was voted on, it passed unanimously. The new worship time of 9:30 a.m. will begin on Sunday, August 3.

The various ministry and committee reports received at this meeting will be posted on a bulletin board in Wesley Hall for you to read. Please take time to read the reports and stay informed on “church happenings.” You might find that something is going on that interests you and you might want to become involved. You might have a special skill that could help as well.

Under Old Business, there had been a committee assigned to look for a Sunday school teacher for a new class. The committee reported that they have not as of yet found a teacher for this new class. Ideally, if there are two teachers, they can share and trade schedules. The committee have talked to six possible teachers and the search continues.

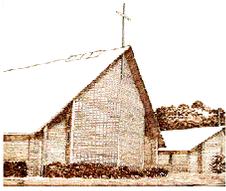
The status of the Healthy Church Initiative was discussed. The next step is for Pastor Steve to identify 8-12 laity to participate in the Lay Leadership Development (LLD). Steve contacted the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) coordinators and was told that training of the laity participants will begin in October.

The Board discussed the possibility of once again having Fall Roundup. There will be an organizing meeting of interested persons at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 13. Pizza and Pepsi (ed. note: also tea, Coke and Dr. Pepper) will be provided.

Pastor Steve read a letter from he and Dicie Rue describing their first month’s actions and observations. Let me say that they have hit the ground running...fast! Besides moving in and preparing their home for “creature comfort,” they have been extremely busy with church activities. I won’t go any further because their letter is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. They didn’t exaggerate in their letter. They are a busy couple. Thank you, God, for sending them to us!

In Service to God and to Wesley United Methodist Church

Pat Skauge, Administrative Board Chair



The Wesley Witness  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
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Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

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(903) 335-8010 Parsonage  
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[www.wesleysst.org](http://www.wesleysst.org)

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Wesley UMC,  
Sulphur Springs  
or

[www.wesleysst.org](http://www.wesleysst.org)

**Ad Board Approves New  
Worship Schedule!**

**9:30 a.m. Worship**

**10:45 a.m. Sunday School**

**Begins August 3**