



Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

February 2015

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

www.wesleysst.org

Phone 903-885-3383

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*Love is patient,
Love is kind.*

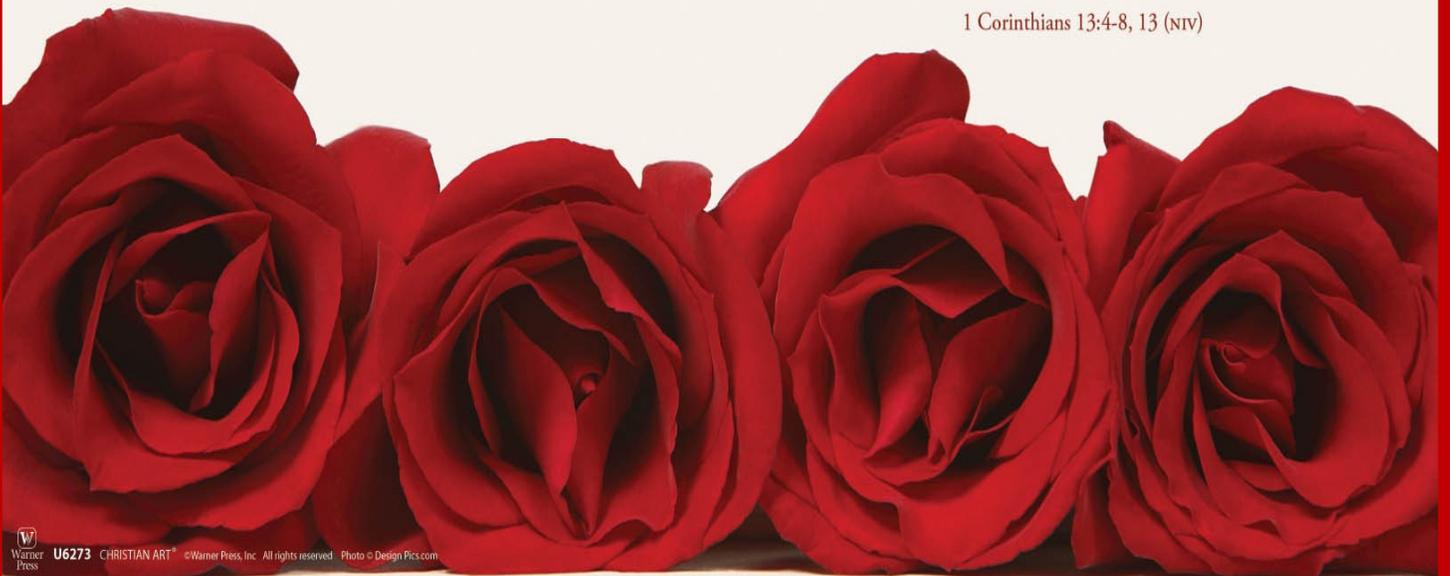
*It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered,
it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil
but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts,
always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails....*

And now these three remain:

faith, hope and Love.

But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13 (NIV)



February Mission Emphasis School Supplies for Travis Primary School



Backpacks



Magic Eraser



Dry Erase
Markers



Plastic Folders with Brads



Primary Journals



i-Pads are an immensely effective learning tool in the classroom. The student becomes fully engaged in learning when using an i-Pad.

There are thousands of apps designed especially for the iPad. Just about every subject, learning style and grade level is covered. The principal at Travis Primary School, Betty Lawson, has asked if we would consider helping them purchase more i-Pads. There will be jars in the Sunday school classrooms and at the back of the sanctuary for donations. We can partner to purchase an i-Pad or perhaps a Sunday school class might like to purchase one or two. Let's get together and give our children the best resources for learning that we can!



Little Acorn School News

Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow

Important Dates

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------|
| Feb 13 | Valentine's Party |
| Feb 16 | Closed for Presidents' Day |
| Feb 19 | Scholastics is Due |

Reminders: Supply fees are due so please get these turned in. Tuition is due no later than the 10th of each month.

DEVOTIONALS

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Feb 2 - 6 | Fruits of the Spirit |
| Feb 9 - 13 | No Devotional |
| Feb 16 - 20 | Jesus Feeds 5000 |
| Feb 23 - 27 | John the Baptist |

Being Mission-Oriented and Reaching Out!

I would like to thank everyone for trusting me to take on the role of Chair for the Outreach/Missions Committee. I am excited to be part of this team and for the missions we have planned so far. I would also like to invite all of you to participate in our missions. What can I do, you ask? Pray, pray again and then pray some more. Pray for us, that we might hear God's word, that we understand His will, and that He guide and direct us in all we do. We can all do this and it doesn't cost us anything but time. That one was easy – this one might not be so much. We need your help in shopping for items, delivering the goods, putting together gift bags, and/or monetary donations. You can also stay involved by giving us feedback; please share your concerns and ideas with us.

One of our biggest needs is the Backpack Buddies mission. These backpacks are filled on Wednesday afternoons, just prior to mealtime. They then need to be delivered to Travis Elementary School; and here is how you can help – if you have a truck and the time, plus a healthy back, help load and deliver the bags. If you can help, please contact Jim Skaggs, our Backpack Buddies Guru.

Our mission for February will be collecting school supplies for the kiddos and their teachers. Check out the missions board for items needed.

In March we will focus on the community cupboard – Bonnie will let us know which item is the most needed.

April and May will be in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention and Domestic Violence. When children are removed by Child Protective Services, they do not have time to collect their belongings. Once placed in foster care they receive clothes, personal items, toys, etc. So far so good – but, these children don't always remain in their initial placement; in fact, many of them move several times – with nothing to carry their "stuff" in. So, in April, we are asking for duffel bags, roll-on bags, small travel bags, that these children can put their new belongings in and take with them. (Most often all they have is a pillowcase or trash bag).

Our May mission will focus on victims of domestic violence. We will be collecting personal items for women; Bonnie will provide a list of specific items needed. And in June we'll look for box fans.

Greeters are needed! What a wonderful way to participate in our church's ministries. Have you ever visited a church where no one greeted you? Where no one showed you where to enter? And most importantly, for us women at least, where the restrooms are? Greeting – another way to make a new friend! Please let one of us know if you'd like to be a greeter.

So, you see, you are needed! And yes, you can participate – maybe not physically; maybe not financially, but you can with prayers. We have a beautiful church, attended by beautiful, caring people – be part of it, really part of it. Our church was a gift from Jesus, what we do with this gift is up to us.

Blessings,
Silvina

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Jill Barclay	Mary Barnhart	DeLana Beadle	Dominic Ayala
Twan Bennett	Brian Black	Chuck Boston	Casey Brewer
Denise Bridges	Cletus Brown	Carson Bryant	Harold Bryant
David Cartwright, Jr.	Phoebe Carmody	Kathy Crowson	Nell Crowson
Steve and Dicie Rue Cook	Cristine Dixon	Dorothy Easley	Barbara Formby
Yogi and Stacy Davis and Family	Robert and Mary Glover	Art Francis	
Debbie Godfrey	Jack and Janie Godfrey	John Hagerty	Doris Herman
Magan, Tim and Easley Henderson	Frank Hernandez	Bill Hinchcliff	
Marvin and Louise Jones	Corina Korth	Suzanne Lindley	Carol Lortz
Algarine, L. B. and Dana Jordan	Mary Ann McCormick	Michael Matthews	
Allison, Wade and J.W. Mullinax	Gary Moon	Kim Moore	Penny Moore
Terry and Sue Nelson	Jarod Newton	Red Penny	Thomas Peters
Cara O'dell and Ben Walker	Ricky and Kay Orr	Matthew Prochaska	
Agnes Ponder	Margie Pope	JoAnn Prince	Roger Redick
Gary Regan	Steven Reyes	Randy Roberts	Gina Routon
Jim and Marty Rose	Don Sills	Jim Skaggs	Betty Smith
Phyllis and Ken Scott	Don Stewart	Ceely Stout	Allan Thar
Pat and Floyd Spears	Elton and Louise Stewart	James Tucker	
The Tubb Family	Steven Vickery	Bill Watts	Julie Weir
Bo West	Natalie White	Donna Wilhite	Donald Wilson
Frances Smith Williams		Janet Young	

Healthy Church Initiative/HCI Team

The Nickie Young Family **The Family of Jennifer Glover**

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, Mytishi, Russia

Our Country and Our Leaders Military Personnel and their Families

EMS, Fire Fighters, Hospital Personnel

New additions to the prayer list are in **BOLD**

Note: Names added to the prayer list will remain on the list for 30 days.

They will be relisted by request. Please help us to keep the list current

Wesley Homebound

Doris Rawls Mary Burks Dell Cline Billie Newsom Bobbie Holder

Vivian & Bill Shell Muriel Lucas Sandra McIntire Maxine & Lloyd Hiller



**Ash
Wednesday
Worship
7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary**

Healthy Church Initiative (HCI)

The following article is part 1 of 2 on HCI. Part 1 explains the first 5 of 10 ways Wesley can renovate. Renovate doesn't mean tearing down walls and applying a fresh coat of paint, although sometimes that helps. It means changing, sometimes drastically, the way Wesley functions as a church. In next month's newsletter, the last 5 ways to renovate Wesley will be presented. If you have questions about HCI, please talk with any of Wesley's HCI team. They are: Pastor Steve and Dicie Rue, Dylan di Donato, Stanley and Mary Lou Foster, Dorothy McCaig, Donna Korth, Marieke deWitte and Pat and Janet Skauge. Any one of these team members will be glad to explain or clarify HCI. So, let's jump right in!

As most of you know, Wesley has embarked on a journey to strengthen our church so we can give God our best effort and be even more fruitful. **There are 3 steps to the HCI process, and Wesley has entered the first step, which is called the Shared Learning Experience.** The purpose of this step is to grow leaders within our church that understand some foundational principles that we'll need to know in order to apply the concepts later in Phases 2 and 3.

Our present reality is that both membership and worship attendance has been dropping in United Methodist churches in North Texas and in the country. Participation is declining. It peaked in 1980. 20% of our citizens are not affiliated with any religion. Five years ago that percentage was 15%. 80% of churches have peaked or are in decline. **Only 2% are growing by new profession of faith.**

So, the truth is that if we don't renovate we're going to die! Many people would already say that we United Methodists are already an endangered species.

Here are the first five ways to renovate our church.

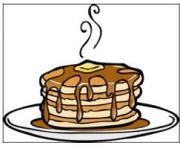
1. **Pastor.** A church must be pastor-led rather than pastor-centered. In a pastor-centered congregation the role of the laity is to come a little, do a little, give a little, and say a whole lot. **In the pastor-led model, a leader's job is to provide leadership vision, and it is the congregation's job to confirm it.** The pastor and leaders' focus should be on the church's health; not on keeping everyone happy.
2. **Understand Our Present Reality.** We need to understand our community. We need to know its demographics, know its history and stories and gather "walk-around" information. In other words, why we say loudly "**WE ARE WESLEY**". We need to understand where on the church life cycle we are – from birth to death – realizing that the cycles are becoming shorter and shorter.
3. **Get the Basics Right.** The five practices of fruitful congregations are: Radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. On Sundays Wesley must do the following with excellence: children's ministry, passionate worship, and radical hospitality.
4. **Create Momentum.** If we want to catch momentum, we must: Change something; get a quick win; do certain practices well, over and over; lead by example – the church won't go where the leaders have not already gone; preach change.
5. **Inspire Through Worship.** We must think in 8 minute time frames. We must think multisensory. We must use series, so that people anticipate. We must think visual.

Remember, the Healthy Church Initiative is a process not a program. Its purpose is to help churches more effectively carry out their mission to make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

See you next month for more about the Healthy Church Initiative.

Pat Skauge





Pancake Tuesday **Children's Parade**

We'll have fun as a church on Tuesday, February 17, as well celebrate Pancake Tuesday; also known as Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras. Its roots lie in the Christian calendar, as the last hurrah before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Our children will present a Parade of the Stars that night after we enjoy pancakes, bacon, sausage, milk, water or orange juice. Pancakes will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Parade will follow.

Marieke and Emily Glass will coordinate the Parade. Suggestions: decorate your bike, wagon, cart or tricycle similar to parade floats. Mardi Gras colors are gold which represents power, purple which represents justice and green which represents faith.

Contact Mrs. Marieke at 903-348-3611 or Mrs. Emily at 903-243-6222 if you have questions.

In Loving Memory of Jamie Bounds

By: Scott and Shirlee State
Wesley UMYF



In Loving Memory of Jim Barnhart

By: Elton and Louise Stewart
Diane Dixon
Max and Ilene Massey
Charles and Marge Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Berry and Sue

East District LA- ITY DAY with Bishop McKee

Saturday, February 21



9:30 - 12 Noon

**Sulphur Springs FUMC Fel-
lowship Hall**

**This is your chance to
dialogue with the
Bishop and to ask questions
about trends and
happenings in the UMC.**

**From
Pastor
Steve**

We Talk about Things like This!

For years, Pastor Bob Brown and later his successor, Rick Landon, has a 1-minute sport at 8:29 a.m. on WVKL-AM Radio in Lexington, Kentucky. Both of these pastors would end their "Word for the Day" for the day with tag line: **"Come to Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington! We talk about things like this!"** I love those words and I'd like for us at Wesley UMC to respond to folk by saying, **"We ARE Wesley and we talk about things like this!"** So where in the world am I going with this article? Glad you asked!

I believe, as your Pastor, I must prepare myself before any worship service, Wednesday night chat, committee meeting, or any other group or gathering as well as I can. I rely on past learning experiences, excellent mentors/role models, reading recent books, articles and journals, attending continuing education sessions, district and conference meetings/gatherings, etc. I freely share thoughts with people via the social media--Facebook and e-mail, in particular--and often see and learn new thoughts, ideas, and ways of "being the hands and feet of Christ" from other church leaders. I consider myself very grateful for a great college and seminary education and have also taken the Methodist Study classes at Brite Divinity School/TCU and Perkins Seminary/SMU. Certifications and awards I have earned are a result of encouraging churches I have pastored over the past 40 years! Yes, already Wesley UMC has aided in my continuing educational growth!

As a sampling of what I am reading, I wanted to share with you books and articles I am digesting at the moment (I read, chew on it, then digest it).

Books: *Not a Fan* (Kyle Idleman) -- an HCI read

Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results -- an HCI read

Taking Your Church to the Next Level: What Got You Here

Won't Get You There -- an HCI read

Grace: More than We Deserve, Greater than We Can Imagine (Max Lucado -- re-read)

A Passionate Life (Mike Breen and Walt Kallestad)

The Ragamuffin Gospel (Brennan Manning -- re-read)

A few of the clergy issues articles:

"10 Areas Where Pastors Need Training for the 21st Century" (churchleaders.com -- Thom Rainer)

"Dear Church: Here's Why People Are REALLY Leaving You" (churchleaders.com -- Ben Sternke)

"8 Things Jesus Never Said" (churchleaders.com -- Jarrid Wilson). Numerous Facebook messages and some e-mail articles directed my way. As long as I am able and alive, I need to read, listen, and observe others to sharpen my ministry skills and deepen my passion for being fruitful in ministry.

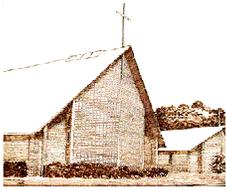
During Lent, which begins **Ash Wednesday, February 18**, and concludes on **Holy Saturday, April 4** (the day before **Easter Sunday**), we will ENCOUNTER a different person with Jesus "on the road to the Cross" during each of our Sunday services. On each Wednesday during Lent and on the Wednesday after Easter, we will be sharing the "Beatitudes of Jesus" found at the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:1-12. Hopefully we'll "encounter" people in the Bible that mirror many of us on Sundays. Then, on Wednesdays, we'll discover more about the "blessedness" of being a Christian in our ordinary, daily experiences. It is so important that we "connect" with the Early Church and Christians and understand even in a very, very low-tech world, people were touched person-to-person, one-on-one, if you please, with the glorious, **Good News that Jesus is Lord!**

We'll have fun as a church on Tuesday, February 17, as we celebrate Pancake Tuesday (also known as Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras)! Our children will present a Parade of the Stars that night after we enjoy pancakes, bacon, or sausage, along with oj, milk coffee and water (you may buy a soda, if you want!). Marieke and Emily Glass will coordinate the parade and several of our men (yours truly being one) will cook the pancakes, bacon and sausage. Did I mention we intend to have fun? Then the following evening, we'll share **Stone Soup** together (you volunteer the meats and veggies and we'll combine 'em!) followed by our annual **Ash Wednesday Service** in the sanctuary. We'll gather for both times at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday is one of the "holiest services" we share together as Wesley UMC throughout the whole church year.

We're off and running in 2015! It's already been a good month. It's going to be a good year. **We talk about things like this at Wesley!** Join our conversation!

2014 Giving Statements

**will be available for pickup
on Sunday mornings and on
Wednesday night. They will
be on a table in Wesley Hall.**



The Wesley Witness
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www.wesleysst.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on

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Wesley UMC,
Sulphur Springs
or

www.wesleysst.org

**Tax-Aide Program
Federal Income Tax
Preparation
at No Cost**

**Tuesdays and
Saturdays**

**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
February 3 - April 14**



**United
Methodist
Women**
**1:30 p.m.
Tuesday
February 17**

Program: Rev. Beverly Olsen
Guest Speaker
Hostess: Bonnie Gilmer

**Staff Parish
Relations
Committee
Meeting
6:00 p.m.
Monday
February 16**

