



Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

March 2015

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

www.wesleysst.org

Phone 903-885-3383

Fax 903-438-2324

*Our Lord has written
the promise of the resurrection,
not in books alone,
but in every leaf in spring-time.*

- Martin Luther



Wesley Church Family,

Thanks to each of you for your prayers on behalf of our daughter, Vivian. Her surgery went well and she is doing great. In addition to the prayers we are especially thankful for all your calls, hugs and other ways you have expressed your love and care for us. We are blessed to be part of such a loving congregation and Sunday School class. We have definitely experienced the power of prayer these last few weeks and give thanks to God for answered prayer.

Max & Ilene Massey

Dear Wesley Family,

This card seems insufficient to thank you for the heartfelt outpouring of love that you covered us with during the loss of our Jamie. You were able to make a horrible loss take on a sanity and a blessedness for everyone in our family., and every saddened heart who came to her service and celebration of life. Jamie would have been pleased and gratified to know of your open-handedness in Christian love on her behalf.

Your Friends Always,
Enola Gay and Family

To each and everyone of you at Wesley Methodist Church, we want to thank you for all the calls, cards, hugs, flowers, food and the use of the church for the funeral of our hero, Jim Barnhart. During a time like this, we realize how much our friends and family really mean to us. Your expressions of sympathy will always be remembered.

With love and thanks,
The Family of Jim Barnhart



Upcoming Sermons

- March 8 A Being Saved Community
- March 15 Looking Back to Go Forward
- March 22 Surely, Lord!
- March 29 Psalms and Songs
Palm Sunday
- April 5 HE IS LORD!!
Easter Sunday
- April 12 Walk the Walk, Talk the Talk
- April 19 Believing and Behaving Our Faith
- April 26 Loving and Sharing Our Faith
- May 3 Serving in Our Faith
- May 10 Obedience in Our Faith
- Mary 17 A Witness to Our Faith
- May 24 Walking with Us!
- May 31 The Three-in-One God!



Church Library

Have you ever looked to see what good reading material lurks behind the Library/Conference Room door? Try scanning the books one day. There are many types of literature just waiting to be read. Here are some samples:

- **Light Fiction** - Several series published by Guideposts, Beverly Lewis, Nicholas Spark, K. Kingsbury, Debbie Macomber, and Jan Karon
- **Humor** - Women of Faith Speakers including Patsy Clairmont and Barbara Johnson. Holy Humor!
- **Special** - Christmas stories, Devotionals, Billy Graham, Beth Moore, Charles Swindoll and Bible Reference books.



Baby Shower for

Anna Hathcoat Calavan

2:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 14

Wesley Parlor

Registered at Wal Mart and Amazon.com

Wal Mart Registry: Anna Calavan State of Residence: Missouri
Amazon gift cards are available at CVS, Walgreens, Dollar Stores, etc.

P.S. The gender of the baby will be



March Mission Emphasis Community Cupboard

Items generally not available at
the North Texas Food Bank

Jelly Sugar Flour Oatmeal
Canned Meats Hot Cocoa Cake Mixes
Powdered (Dry) Milk

Comfort Items Not Normally Available

Shampoo Toothpaste Bar Soap
Sanitary Pads

Items Available at Transportation Costs

We can also use cash donations. We can buy a can of fruit, a vegetable, or soup for 13 cents from the North TX Food Bank



Little Acorn School March Newsletter

Important Dates

March 16 - 20 Closed for Spring Break

If you have recently received new shots, please bring the updated shot record by the office.

Devotional Stories

March 2 - 6 Faith
March 9 - 13 Sharing
March 16 - 20 Spring Break (Closed)
March 23 - 27 God Made Me

Children's Mardi Gras Pa-



**From
Pastor
Steve**

Can't See the Forest because of the Trees!



I'm sure at some point in your life you have heard the expression, "I can't see the forest because of the trees!" When you or I focus on one tree at a time and do not get an overall view of the forest or of the woods, we do fail to see the beauty of the whole by focusing on one tree at a time. This metaphor applies to every aspect of "doing or being" church together as well. When each one of us sees on our Sunday school class, the choir, UMYF, children's ministry, Backpack Buddies, Little Acorn School, or even one of the committees we serve on at our church, we are unable to see the BIG picture or the "full view" of ministry.

Wesley UMC has for over 12 years carried its vision: Invite. Disciple. Serve. I think my dear friend and former Wesley pastor, Wally Williams, is credited with that vision statement. The more I pay attention to it, the more I appreciate it. It sounds good. It looks good. It even feels good. But the question I wrestle with is: Do we live it and take it seriously? Well, honestly, each member or regular attendee at Wesley will ultimately have to answer that. But as I observe Wesley (the forest/woods) as a pastor who has been here for 8 months and who is engaged in discerning what path we need to follow in becoming more fruitful and more faithful in our ministry, I feel a disconnect from most of us toward the vision or mission of Wesley Church. In many ways, the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) is all about "reclaiming our meaning as a church where we are" and "redefining where we want Wesley to go in the future." Pray for your HCI team and Pastor to have discerning hearts and minds as we continue Phase One, please!

I have heard various way of describing a church. One I like is, "We are a hospital for sinners, not a club for the saints." I way taught as a child to see the church this way. When we come together for worship, we are the gathered church. When we leave to go home, we are the scattered church. Truthfully, the "place" we meet most often is a building. It is when people meet together, (Jesus said, "Where two or more are gathered in My name, I will be there with them!") that the church is present. Often, the church meets as a group of men drinking coffee, women eating lunch together, groups taking Holy Communion to nursing homes and to shut-ins, meeting together to put Backpack Buddies together, groups assisting folk in cleaning up their homes and/or yards, and many other generous helping hands and prayerful kinds of ways. I just never know when I might encounter Jesus through a Wesley-led group! PTL!

The more powerful things that I have learned in the HCI process thus far has been the impact of defining ministries using the "SO THAT" connector phrase to identify which

ministries TRANSFORM (change) people's lives and keeping our ministry SIMPLE enough that EVERYONE of us can tell each other what we are all about at Wesley. The "Invite. Disciple. Serve. must be explained so we "say what we mean and mean what we say." For example, try this: Invite OTHERS. Disciple OTHERS. Serve OTHERS. that gives direction, movement, flow and focus to our mission. Then we need to explain as simple as possible what we mean in each of those key words. Invite. Disciple. Serve. SO THAT we all are on the same page. Since church members to folks from "birth to the grave," we must always be learning, re-learning, revising, and improving who we are. It is not one person's job to declare, "This is where we are and this is where we are going." It takes the whole church working together to get the job done. Just remember, friends, "We're in this thing called CHURCH together." And we keep on learning.

I love to see things happening, but I am being reminded that activity does not equal being fruitful or even being faithful. We are here on earth for such a short time. In Biblical language, we are called to be stewards of Gods grace. How are we doing? How much Grace are we offering to one another, our neighbors, our family, our friends, or total strangers? In his most recent book, veteran writer, professor, and Methodist theologian, Steve Harper, declares there are Five Marks of Genuine and Fruitful Methodist Followers of Christ: Love God, Rejoices in God, Give Thanks, Prays Constantly, and loves Others. In the five most recent books I've read, those same distinctives have been named. With God's help, we will move closer to God and to others in our love and service. In the meantime, please remember to pray: For Wesley, for each other, for HCI, for your pastor and staff, and for our common call to ministry in this community.

(BTW, the snow this morning on the trees was mighty beautiful!)



Kara Lane was named Professional Educator of the Year at the 2015 Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Thursday, February 22. Congratulations!



Inspired Leadership for Community Transformation

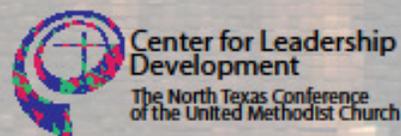
Are you looking for a way to meet an **urgent** need and make a true **impact** on your community?

Want to develop the skills to leverage your **passion** and **leadership** to create a real **transformation**?

Want to be part of a Christian **team** that **leads together**, not alone?

Come to our Luke 4 Initiative East District Taste and See event and learn how your church can be a part of this new initiative that is transforming the North Texas Conference - one community at a time!

East District "Taste and See"
Sunday, March 22 | 3:00-6:00pm
Kavanaugh UMC
2516 Park St.
Greenville, TX 75401





REILLY SPRINGS JAMBOREE

HOPKINS COUNTY'S ORIGINAL MUSIC VENUE



JACK & KRISTYN PHILLIPS & HARRIS

WESTERN SWING

Round Up

**SAT
MAR
21**



**7
PM**



WITH

Candace Lewis, Caroline Grace Wiseman & Abby Payne

REILLY SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER

100 S. LAKE ST. BOONVILLE, HOPKINS COUNTY

For information contact: Enola Gay 903-438-3568

CS
Jack Phillips
Production
2010



Wesley United Methodist Women in Action!

United Methodist Women (and men) of Wesley are invited to attend the World Day of Prayer to be held Friday, March 6, 2015, at St. Phillips Episcopal Church, 1206 College Street. The program begins at 11:00 a.m. St. Phillips will provide lunch following the worship service.

The churches actively involved each year in World Day of Prayer are St. Phillips, St. James Catholic Church, Our Savior Lutheran, First UMC, First Presbyterian and Wesley.

UMW will be having a bake sale on Palm Sunday, March 29. The homemade casseroles, desserts, soups, etc. will be sold by donation. The next Sunday, April 5 will be Easter. This is a good time to get goodies to feed your family and friends!

Our next regular meeting will be Tuesday, March 17. Dicie Rue Cook is program leader for the day. All the women are invited to attend.

In Loving Memory of Jamie Bounds

By: Stanley and Mary Lou Foster
Diane Dixon, Gary and Rachel Lewis

In Loving Memory of Jim Barnhart

By: Jo Ann Johnson Jerry and
Shirley Glossup
Gary and Rachel Lewis Max and Lou Jane Drummond

In Loving Memory of Jennifer Lee Glover, Jim Barnhart, Weldon Lucas, Charlie Epperson, and Myrtle Thar

By: Jack and Janie Godfrey

In Honor of Julie Weir

By: Marvin and Louise Jones



We are happy to welcome Martha Johnson to the Wesley Family! Martha transferred her membership from Shooks Chapel UMC.



Healthy Church Initiative meets from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at Wesley on Saturday March 21 in Fellowship Small/Parlor.

Wesley HCI Team will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26 in the Community Classroom.

Lily Order Form

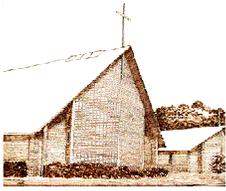
United Methodist Women are taking orders for lilies to be placed in the sanctuary Holy Week. The cost of each plant is \$10.00. Please make checks out to UMW. Deadline to order is March 29.

Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Total Lilies Ordered _____



The Wesley Witness
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Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

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www.wesleysst.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on

facebook

Wesley UMC,
Sulphur Springs
or

www.wesleysst.org



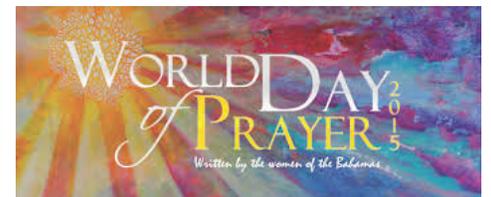
**United
Methodist
Women**

**1:30 p.m.
Tuesday
March 17**

Program: Dicie Rue Cook
Hostess: Jo Watts/Rhonda Alley



**Sunday
March 8**



**11:00 a.m.
Worship Service
Friday, March 6
St. Phillip's
Episcopal Church
Lunch Provided
following the
service**