



Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

November 2014

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

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



**O come, let us sing unto the Lord. Let us
make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation. Let us come before his presence
with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise
unto him with psalms. Psalm 95: 1,2**



Little Acorn School November News

Important Dates

November 13th Scholastic is due

November 21st -Thanksgiving Feast for
Miss. Adrianna, Miss. MaKayla, Miss.
Kayle's Class

November 24th-28th-Closed for
Thanksgiving

Important Reminders

I just want to say a huge thanks to all of you for helping sell cookie dough. It was the best fundraiser we have ever had.

The class that sold the most was Miss. Adrianna's class they were treated with McDonald's lunch. Raleigh Pryor was our top cookie dough seller and she received a \$100.00

Be sure you bring updated shot records when your child gets new shots. If you have a four year old and have not turned in your hearing and vision test please do so ASAP.

Nov 3rd -7th Jonah and the Whale
The rest of November we will be working on Thanksgiving Feast so no Devotional

**The Wesleyan Sunday School Class
will be hosting the Holy Highway girls
with a pizza party on Friday,
November 14, in Wesley Hall at
6:00 p.m.**

**Needed: Shampoo, conditioner, bath and
body items, hair goodies such as head-
bands, scrunchies, brushes, etc.**

**Monetary donations are also welcome to
help with special projects.**

From Pastor

Ministry Beyond the Walls

Several years ago, I attended a conference outside Denver known as **The Externally Focused Church**. For

three days, I heard speakers I'd never heard, never met, or never read their books. I think I was only one of 5 people from the state of Texas with attendees from all over the USA. Finding myself among new friends and professionals in ministry was a new experience for me. For over 25 years, I'd put together all kinds of Bible and ministry-themed conferences and meetings, and, as a result, had several well-known writers and speakers. As it turned out, the only person I "knew" was a seminary classmate (1978) I'd not seen in over 25 years, David Crocker, from Knoxville, TN. It was a joyful time to be with him and we shared a few meals together and stayed at the same hotel.

It turned out that he was there as a presenter and I attended his workshop entitled: **Operation Inasmuch**. He has also written a book by that title and I bought a signed copy from David. It details the experience he and his Knoxville church experienced with other churches in "doing ministry in their community among the poor and the needy and the aged. Methodists commonly refer to this as "A Day of Service." First UMC, Sulphur Springs, celebrated one of these days during the summer.

Go forward three months and now our church, Wesley UMC, is in the midst of a "process" known as The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI). One of the books we will be reading is Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson's book, **The Externally Focused Church!** Yes, I've read the book and even attended "the" conference by the same name, but I never was able to put into actions the numerous things I learned from those excellent presenters, including by my friend, David Crocker.

In modern-day speak, you could say, "Been there, done that, and bought the book!" But I could not say this, "**Now I have put it into my ministry toolbox!**" From what I've gleaned from Wesley folk, you've experienced other programs, but not a process. In order to rebuild and strengthen Wesley UMC, it is essential that we DO NOT repeat our past. We MUST follow through, examine our ministries very carefully, keep what is working well and effectively, and RENOVATE OR DIE! I've never buried a church in my ministry. I have been involved in bringing alive and rebuilding churches "to the glory of God."

Is there a "secret" to renovating, rebuilding, and breathing life into an existing church? Not really a secret. It takes training, knowledge, assessing where we are as a church, and then a lot of hard work implementing changes and recommendations "prescribed" by church coaches or guides. Make no mistake about it: Wesley UMC is a good church, offers ministry in varied ways to all ages, and is on the corner of Texas and Bellview with this mission: "**Making Disciples for Jesus Christ for the**

transformation of the World." How we are currently doing that will need to be altered, tweaked, and in some places, renovated (going into the core of ministry and begin again in new and challenging ways!) As your fairly "new" pastor, I am committed to seeing this Healthy Church Initiative process through so that, in the end, our ministry is better and more effective than it has been in recent years.

This is Biblical. The Apostle Paul was "amazed" when writing his letter to the churches in Galatia and in chapter 3 refers to them being "foolish" for letting someone come among them and "trick them" in believing them and their teaching. Paul corrects them by saying they had received "the Good News by the power of the Holy Spirit" and to reaffirm their belief in Christ Jesus as their Lord. In other words, churches often "begin" their faith journey on a "Missional Course," then get involved in "other things" for good reasons, but steer away from preaching, teaching, and sharing the Gospel of God's Love through Jesus Christ our Lord. We exist to "**make Disciples for Jesus Christ**" (learners and followers) "**for the transformation of the world.**" We are to be **Change Agents** by being Light and Salt to our world; Sulphur Springs and Hopkins County, Texas.

I am grateful to be your Pastor. I was assigned, placed, or sent to this charge. I am called to minister (serve) Christ and Wesley UMC using my gifts and graces. It is a JOY to be "with you." With God's help, we will follow through with HCI and see "our church" transformed. Yea, even all of us transformed to be the very image of God in Christ. May it be so! Amen.



Pastor Side Note: I have been asked my reaction to our 39th annual Fall Roundup. Mack Phillips told me "I'd been stewed!" Diane Dixon told me former pastor and friend, Ben Read, called it "organized chaos."

For me, it was seeing the whole church working together akin to a bee hive: worker bees following the leadership of our Queen Bee, Carol Ann O'dell. Leaders lead, managers manage, and followers follow. Everyone had a place and everything fell into place.

2014 Fall Roundup





Pack College CARE Packages

6:30 p.m.

Monday, November 24
Wesley Hall Kitchen



Watch for the sign up list on the
bulletin board in Wesley Hall.

Wesley Thanksgiving Feast

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday
November 19



November Mission Emphasis

We have two opportunities for mission in November.

Community Cupboard

These are items that Community Cupboard cannot get from the North Texas Food Bank.

- Stuffing
- Mashed Potatoes
- Gravy Mixes
- Canned corn
- Potatoes
- Corn Meal
- Flour
- Sugar
- Cake Mix
- Cookie Mix

These items will also help with Thanksgiving meals for families. **Money** is also a great help! They can purchase food at a cheaper rate than individuals can.

Other items needed:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Soap (bar, body wash, etc.)
- Can Openers
- Hand Sanitizer

Jar Ministry

Dana Sills teaches at a small, poor school district in East Texas and she has asked if Wesley would donate their spare change (or \$\$) to help buy Christmas gifts for these students. The Outreach Committee has agreed that this will be an excellent opportunity for us to make a difference in a child's life!

There will be a jar in each Sunday school classroom and one at the back of the sanctuary for donations. If you have questions, please talk to Dana Sills or Dorothy McCaig.

Sewing Ministry for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

In August, 2006, a sewing ministry began at Calvary UMC in Paris which has blossomed into a very fulfilling ministry. We have an average of eight ladies who come each Thursday to prepare school bags for UMCOR. To date, we've made approximately 8,000 school bags that have been delivered to the Sager-Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA.

At the current time, we have an immediate need for heavy-duty fabric, such as denim, canvas, or upholstery material. We cannot use camouflage or patriotic materials due to the fact that the school bags are shipped all over the world.

I am appealing to the churches in the East District for help with either fabric or monetary contributions. Please contact Sharon Bremseth at 903-782-9252 or cell 903-669-2527. The ladies of our sewing ministry will be grateful for any help given.

Also, I would be happy to visit with anyone interested in beginning a sewing ministry in their local church.

Sharon Bremseth, Calvary UMC

According to UMCOR instructions, the fabric must be larger than 14 x 16 inches (finished size of the school bag) so if you have scraps or end-of-bolt pieces that fit this criteria, they will be gladly accepted; otherwise please donate fabric that has been cut from the bolt.

Administrative Board Meeting 28 October 2014

The quarterly Administrative Board Meeting was held on Tuesday 28 October at 6:30PM in the Wesleyan classroom. The meeting was opened with a prayer from Pastor Steve. Many, many ministries were celebrated, including Little Acorn School, VBS, Backpack Buddies, increased presence of children and youth, Healthy Church Initiative, Wednesday evening Fellowship and meals, Church Work Day and many, many more. We received ministry reports from Little Acorn School, UMW, Outreach, Homebound, Children's Ministry and Youth and committee reports were read. These reports will be posted on a bulletin board in Wesley Hall along with the minutes of the two meetings. Please take a moment to read these reports and minutes and stay informed on the activities of your church.

The committee reviewed the agreed upon distribution of Fall Roundup funds in a called meeting held on Tuesday, October 7, 2014. The following was decided as the amount to disperse and to what ministries/organizations:
10% to local ministries:

\$2000.00 Advertising;
\$ 500.00 Church Camp;
\$5000.00 Digital sound equipment – Media upgrade;
Replace carpet in church foyer (Trustees are to get bids).

All proceeds over the indicated amount will be placed in a Trustee fund for sanctuary updating.

I want to thank all Wesley Church members who have agreed to serve on Wesley's committees and ministries, especially the members of the Administrative Board for their willingness to serve Wesley United Methodist Church. Please keep the Administrative Board and all the Church committees members in your prayers as we complete this year's activities and begin a new year!

Let's keep the momentum! Let all you know that you belong to Wesley. We are Wesley!

In service to God and Wesley United Methodist Church,

Pat Skauge
Chair

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Rachel Barber	Jill Barclay	The Bawcum Family
Jim and Mary Barnhart	DeLana Beadle	Dominic Ayala
David Cartwright, Jr.	Carson Bryant	Vickie Campbell
Steve and Dicie Rue Cook	Phoebe Carmody	Kathy Crowson
Jon Davis	Stacy Davis	Nell Drummond
Mart Wesley Garrett	Dorothy Easley	Charlie Epperson
Robert and Mary Glover	Jennifer Glover	Janie Godfrey
Doris Herman	Huel Hammond	Frank Hernandez
Magan, Tim and Easley Henderson	Bill Hinchcliff	Mildred Julian
Marvin and Louise Jones	Della Loane	Muriel Lucas
Ilene Massey	Kim Moore	Penny Moore
Allison, Wade and J.W. Mullinax	Beverly Mulson	Sandra Parker
Deb and Dave Nossotti	Ricky and Kay Orr	Bart Penny
Matthew Prochaska	Roger Redick	Jim Skaggs
Ken and Phyllis Scott	Kathleen Fletcher Smith	Stella Snider
Pat and Floyd Spears	Lacy, Gabe and Ceely Stout	Larry Spradlin
Cliff Stites	Nola Tae Tadlock	Burke Tinsley
Allan Thar	John Topkings	The Townsend Family
Brian and Kimberly Tubb and Children		Ann Wilkinson
Frances Smith Williams		

We remembered Weldon Lucas, June Anderson, Connie Channer, Carrie Martin, Tyler Townsend Crayton, and James Hiller, Jr. on All Saints Day November 2. Please pray for their families.

Joy! RAIN Breast Cancer Survivors

War in Israel and Gaza Orthodox Christians in Iraq
Children coming into the US from Central America
Victims of severe weather in the US and around the world
Backpack Buddies North Texas Food Bank 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
EMS, Fire Fighters, Police and Sheriff Depts. Hospital Personnel
The Middle East Ukraine

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 Bobbie Holder
Billie Newsom Vivian & Bill Shell Muriel Lucas Sandra McIntire.

Upcoming Emmaus Walks

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 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.

Healthy Church Initiative Explained

Our church has entered into an exciting process called the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) that will help us more effectively carry out our mission “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” We’re in this process not because there is something wrong with us, but rather, because we want to give God our best effort and be even more fruitful.

There are three steps to the HCI process and we are entering the first step which is called the Shared Learning Experience. The purpose of this step is to grow leaders within our church who understand some foundational principles that we will need to know in order to apply the concepts later in Phases 2 and 3.

Although our church has recruited a small HCI team – made up of our pastor and laity – to attend seven HCI sessions over this school year, our whole church will be invited to begin learning these key concepts. The HCI team will help teach us. The more of us who understand, the better the results will be later in Phases 2 and 3.

So become involved and be part of the team! Get to know the people who are on our HCI team. Ask them questions. Expect to hear about some of the key ideas they are learning which apply to our church’s situation. And keep our pastor, our leaders, and this process in our prayers. May we grow stronger and become even more fruitful as a result!

The church laity who are currently on our HCI team include: Dicie Rue Cook, Stanley and Mary Lou Foster, Mary Ellen Kirkland, Donna Korth, Dorothy McCaig, Majel Redick, Jim and Vera Skaggs, Pat and Janet Skauge, Marieka de Witte and Dylan di Donato.



Dear Wesley Methodist,

Thank you so much for your recent gift of school supplies, clothing, and money. It has been and will be a great blessing to our students. Also, we continue to tell others of the great work that Jim Skaggs and the other do in providing our Backpack Buddies each week. Thanks again for all your support.

Travis Primary School

Thank you Wesley United Methodist Church for all the wonderful and thoughtful things you did for us during Weldon’s long illness and for me during his death and since.

There are no words that can express what it has meant for us for all the calls, prayers, visits, cards, food and other kind deeds we have received from members of this church.

May God bless each and everyone is my prayer.

Sincerely,

Muriel Lucas



In Memory of James Hiller

By: Diane Dixon Jerry and Shirley Glossup
Gary and Rachel Lewis Max and Lou Jane Drummond

In Memory of Weldon Lucas

By: Gary and Rachel Lewis Diane Dixon
Jerry and Shirley Glossup JoAnn Johnson
Max and Lou Jane Drummon Margaret Campbell
Harvey/Crusaders Class Max and Ilene Massey

In Memory of June Anderson

By: Gary and Rachel Lewis Diane Dixon
Jerry and Shirley Glossup Max and Lou Jane Drummond



Two Veterans Day Celebrations

Sulphur Springs High School Veterans Day Program

Honoring Past and Present Military and Spouses

Noon Reception

Sulphur Springs High School Library

1:00 p.m. Program in the Gymnasium

Performances by the SSHS Band and Guests

RSVP to Johna Burchfield
Administrative Assistant to
Josh Williams, Principal
903-885-2158 X 2211
Fax 903-439-6116

Walmart Stores Inc. #417

Annual Veterans Day Dinner

Greetings,

It is truly an honor to live in a country where so many have fought and died so that we may be free. Whether you served during war or peace time, we appreciate the selfless act of your pride and dedication to the US. Armed Forces.

You are cordially invited to help us celebrate you and your loved ones who fought to promote freedom and equality for the citizens of the United States of America.

League Street Church of Christ

November 11, 2014

6:00 p.m.

Please RSVP with Katherine Janway or
Judy Worley at 903-439-3144 .

Poinsettia Order Form

United Methodist Women will be taking orders for poinsettias beginning **November 22**. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10. Please make checks payable to UMW.

Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Total Poinsettia(s) Ordered _____

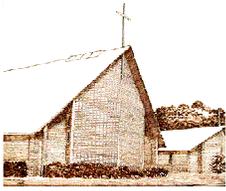


Used Printer Cartridges Needed

Wesley can recycle 20 **used** printer cartridges each month at Staples. Cheryl Spears can also recycle 20 cartridges each month. We use the rebate on the cartridges to purchase office supplies such as copy paper. If you have any cartridges, please do not throw them away! It helps to keep our office expenses down!!!

Please put them in the box on the mission emphasis table in Wesley Hall.





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



**United
Methodist
Women**

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

November 18

Program: Diane Dixon
Refreshments: Diane Dixon
and Rachel Lewis

North East Texas Choral Society

Once Upon a Christmas



Adults: \$10 Advance / \$12 Door

Children 12 and under \$5

Family Tickets 2 Adults and Children \$25

Saturday, December 6, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 7, 2014 2:00 p.m.

Hopkins County Civic Center, Sulphur Springs, TX

Tickets are accepted at either performance

**You may purchase tickets from Carol Ann O'dell, Mary Lou Foster,
Bonnie Gilmer, Tire Town or from any NET Choral Society member.
They are also available at local banks or online at www.netchoral.org**