



# Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

**February 2016**

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

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

Phone 903-885-3383

Fax 903-438-2324



Those  
who love  
me, I will  
deliver, I  
will  
protect  
those who  
know my  
Name.

Psalm 91:14



Because of the Lord's great  
**Love** we are not  
 consumed, for His compassion  
**never fails**  
 It is new every morning,  
 great is your faithfulness. **3:22-23**



**In Loving Memory of Algarine Jordan**  
 By: Mary Sue and Ashley Gilbreath



## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Dominic Ayala	Rhonda Bawcum	DeLana Beadle
Carson Bryant	Anna Campbell	Margaret Campbell
Stephanie Campbell	Cassie Cavaliere	Judy Cheatham
Surene Cody	Claudia Cook	Brayden Dixon
Coen Cruz Escamilla	Steve Drummond	Patricia Fisher
Ty and Jamie Funderburk	Jayne Glenn	Donny Godfrey
Robert and Mary Glover	Jack Godfrey	Reggie Hawkins
Magan, Tim and Easley Henderson	Doris Herman	Dora Hernandez
Frank Hernandez	Sharon Hughes	Shelly Huff
Marvin and Louise Jones	Chalisha Johnson	Charles Johnson
Christa and Victor Kasztelanski	Dana Jordan	Tommy Lewis
Mary Ann McCormick	Della Loane	Muriel Lucas
Tana and Gary Moon	Zane Magan	J. T. Mullinax
Ricky and Kay Orr	Gaylon O'dell	Sandra Parker
Jean Ann and Richard Raleigh	Red Penny	Remy Pibe
Cathy and Mike Smith	Ben Read	Durwood Smith
Donna and Dave Spears	Jason Stanley	Ceely Stout
Pat and Floyd Spears	Allan Thar	Braden Tinsley
Elton and Louise Stewart	Chrystal Vargas	Kati Voss
The Thompson Family	Ben Walker	Mark Warren
Andrew and Debby Trout	Gracie Winters	

Healthy Church Initiative/HCI Team      Community Chest/Cupboard  
 CANHelp      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      Abused Children and Youth  
 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  
 Bill Shell    Muriel Lucas    Sandra McIntire    Della Loane    Lloyd Hiller



## Little Acorn School News

### Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow

### Important Dates

**Feb 3**      Scholastics is due (you can order online or send your order to school)

**Feb 12**      Valentine's Party (Each teacher will have a sign-up sheet in her room.) It will not be a big party like we had at Christmas. Each class will do fun activities all day in their rooms and have a fun lunch. The kids will also be exchanging Valentines.

**Feb 15**      Closed for President's Day



### Reminders

Supply fees are due so please get these turned in. I need all tuition turned in no later than the 10th of each month.

### Devotionals

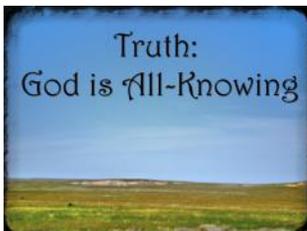
<b>Feb 1 - 5</b>	<b>Fruit of the Spirit</b>
<b>Feb 8 - 12</b>	<b>No Devotional</b>
<b>Feb 15 - 19</b>	<b>Jesus Feeds 5000</b>
<b>Feb 22 - 26</b>	<b>John the Baptist</b>
<b>Feb 29 - Mar 4</b>	<b>Faith</b>

**From the Youth Minister**

Fifteen years ago, I invited a young woman out for dinner and dancing. She accepted and we spent the evening talking, dancing, and getting to know one another. It was later in the evening that I learned that she was a youth pastor here at Wesley. It was at that point that I began to think to myself, "What are all the things I have said so far that were inappropriate?", and, "Maybe this wasn't the best place to bring her, and lastly, "Now that I know that she's a youth pastor, how am I supposed to act?" It's funny to look back now with the realization that not only was that night the beginning of my relationship with my wife, but also, and more importantly, on that very night, that God was using a young woman to minister to a young man who desperately needed God.

We often think that ministry is something that happens in the church or in an environment that is "acceptably clean" by the standards of fellow church goers. We don't usually think of ministry occurring in some bar on the edge of town, or in a local convenience store, or even at the work place. In fact, I would go as far to say that we often miss opportunities for ministry because we think that the setting is inappropriate or that we are simply ill-equipped. A great example of this can be seen in John 4, "the woman at the well." Jesus realized the needs of the woman, so He began to minister to her. When the disciples returned from the town (4:27), they were surprised to see Him speaking with her because it contradicted what "the church" considered to be acceptable. Although Jesus obviously had a huge advantage, because, being the Christ, He is all knowing, this story does illustrate a very important lesson, and that is, we as Christians must be willing to go into situations where no one else will go, if we want to reach people that no one else is reaching. Now I can hear your response: "How can we go if we don't know where we're going, or, how are we going to know what to do when we get there?" My response is this: Pray for a willingness to be sent, pray for a heart that sees the needs of others, and then give praise to God for the victories you will claim in His Name.

Since I made public my decision to be Youth Pastor here at Wesley, several people have asked me questions like: "How do you plan on...?", "What are you going to do about ...?", "How are you going to handle...?" And to be perfectly honest, the only real answer to these questions quite simply: "I don't know, but I serve a God who does."



**Pancake Tuesday**

**6:00 p.m. February 9**

**followed by**

**Children's  
Gras Pa-**



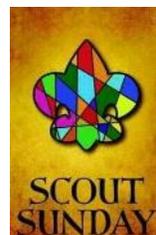
**Mardi  
rade**

We'll have fun as a church on Tuesday, February 9, 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



**Stone Soup  
and Soul  
6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday  
February 10**

**The Ash Wednesday Service will be in Wesley Hall following the meal.**



**Sunday, February 28, will be Scout Sunday. Members of Troup 77 will be participating in the worship service. The Cub Scouts in Troup 77 meet here at Wesley.**



## HCI Update January 2016

Our work is complete and the Healthy Church Initiative Self-Study is ready to submit to the Conference Office. Our Consultation weekend has been rescheduled to the first weekend in April. The dates now are April 1-3, 2016!!! The work is not done, however. There will be preparations for the weekend that will need to be made so the weekend will run smoothly. Be prepared to help as needed.

The Self-Study required interviewing Community Leaders and a suggested list was given. The team divided up into pairs and volunteered to interview leaders such as the Superintendent of SSISD (Mike Lamb), the City Manager (Marc Maxwell), the Chief of Police (Jay Sanders), a Hospital Rep (Jackie Thornton), Nursing Home Administrators (four) and a Funeral Home Director (Price Orwosky).

Here's what Mike Lamb had to say about Wesley UMC:

**Greatest Community Strength:** We have a "bit of magic" in our area. Mike explained it this way: Friendships are strong; there is a "love" expressed for friends; a lot of respect shown to one another, for the community; a "no retreat mentality" he experiences in the Metroplex in education.

**Greatest Community Concern:** Sulphur Springs has 60% children in the low socio-economic level in schools. While we have a lot of good families, we have a significant number of "single-parents."

**Our Greatest Need:** Once again, that "60% socio-economic" number of student families.

What do you see as the importance of the community's churches: Partnering with schools is a great asset. However, since the district is well aware of 60% socio-economic factor, reading, feeding, and mentoring could be vastly improved "working with" the lead of the school personnel. Churches do help the children/students to gain a morality base.

What role do you see the SSISD playing in our community? Education makes a difference in anyone's life! Did you know that our US prisons are being built based on the Third Grade Reading Scores? Our role is a BIG role and an essential in concert with families and with community groups.

What Education Values are promoted? Teachers and Educators promote healthy, Christian values.

How is it impacting our community? Not sure, yet. However, the SSISD does promote the "Dare to Dream" Program which is very visible in Metroplex schools. Also, SSISD has the WILDCATS Value Program (which each letter standing for a value).

What partnerships with SSISD & Community Entities? Again, Mentoring, Tutoring, Reading...working together.

What do you know about our church? You are a part of the Hopkins County Christian Alliance (HCCA), you do the Backpack Buddy Program at Lamar Elementary, and you reach out to those in need. (You do the Wednesday Meal? No, that's First UMC, but we did for a while host that even when construction was going on at First. I thought I passed once and saw it on my way to Austin...)

Specific Role/Programs/Projects our church could be doing to strengthen our community's well-being? Again, by Feeding, Mentoring, Tutoring, Reading, etc. in our schools.

If you would like to know what other community leaders had to say about Wesley, the entire report is available for your reading enjoyment. Just ask Mary Lou or Pastor Steve and we will let you see it. It is not a secret report, just a very large one so only one master copy has been printed.

Remember, HCI is a process. It helps us 'see' what we do well, areas that need improvement, things we may need to discontinue or change how we do it. Change is a scary word but this process is meant to help us discover what we can do to make disciples for Christ for the transformation of the world here at the corner of Texas and Bellview.



**Youth-Sponsored  
Valentine Lunch**  
**Sunday, February 14**  
**Following**  
**Sunday School**  
**Cost: Donation**

From  
Pastor  
Steve

## Messy Ministry!

Nothing like a good **Peanuts** cartoon to begin one's day. Lucy is at her five-cent psychology booth where Charlie Brown stopped for advice about life.

**"Life is like a deck chair, Charlie,"** she says. **"One the cruise ship of life, some people place their deck chair at the rear of the ship so they can see where they've been. Others place their deck chair at the front of the ship so they can see where they're going."**

Dr. Lucy looks at her puzzled client and asks, **"Which way is your deck chair facing?"** Without hesitating, Charlie replies glumly, **"I can't even get my chair unfolded."**

I think all of us at one time or the other can relate. LOL indeed!

I've had the joy over the years to both be mentored by outstanding ministry folk and also be a mentor to others, especially young ministers in college. There are two constants I've always emphasized: 1. Ministry is not always anti-septically clean and 2. Always be flexible so you can bend and not break. I always told my college students to write these two things down for two reasons: 1. It would be on the final exam with me and 2. Flexibility adds life to ministers!

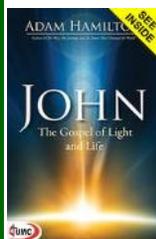
If you would allow yourself the open to stop and reflect on your life, you will note that living is more than existing. When we are born (created), we become a living being. Parents and other humans care for us and nurture us and we begin to grow. Without these touches of life, we would only exist, provided we could find food and drink to maintain an existence. It is only when someone decides or chooses to aid in our existence then we truly begin to grow.

Our spiritual life requires this same assistance. Someone, parents, friends, family, teachers, coaches, siblings., etc., took the time to introduce us to church and to God in Christ Jesus. Maybe we were even baptized as a child. That is a beginning point in our spiritual life. We Wesleyan Methodists know that as Prevenient Grace, that is, "God acting before we have knowledge of God or can even know God is there." Yet, we can get stuck in this moment if that is all we ever do. So the Bible encourages us to "grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ." Aha! There it is. The word. GROW. And how does a living being grow? Only with the help of other human beings. In the spiritual sense, we "stir up the gift that is within you" (II Timothy 1:6). Every one of us have been gifted by God's Grace to do the work of ministry, to develop Wesleyan habits of Works of Piety and Works of Mercy. To "not only be hearers of the Word but also doers of the Word" as James 1:22 tells us.

I like that word "stir." Like most words, it has both positive and negative connotations. Yes, someone can agitate you or provoke you to say or do something just by their body language or use of their voice. That'll stir you up! Likewise, I enjoy cooking soups and stews and this requires some stirring so that the broth is mixed (stirred up) with the meat and the vegetables and the herbs and spices are stirred in evenly as well. This is why I often paused in mentoring one-on-one sessions and reminded my students to watch both their body language as well as their voice intonations when speaking to an individual or small or large group. People will catch our message more often visually than verbally. Oh, us humans!

I am stirred up with our church's decisions to pursue becoming a better church with the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) process, the affirming of "Call to Youth and Music Ministry" to Joe Clark, and being the presence of Christ in our neighborhood to live out our United Methodist Mission of "making Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." What we say and do at Wesley UMC is making a difference in lives. We pray. We sing. We fellowship. We visit. We celebrate. We mourn loss. We study the Bible. We give gifts of money and assistance. We love children. We love youth. We love our senior adults. We rejoice with those who rejoice and we weep with those who weep.

I thank God every day for putting me into ministry. I am grateful my Annual Conference placed me here to serve. My prayer continues to be: "O Lord, may I willingly serve you with gladness." To God be the glory. Amen.



## Lenten Study

*John*

*The Gospel of Light and Life*

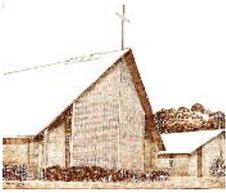
by: Adam Hamilton

7:00 p.m. Wednesdays

The study begins February 17

and continues until March 23

**There is a sign-up sheet on the Wesley Hall bulletin board. Books will be available for \$13.00 each.**



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on

facebook

Wes- ley

UMC,  
Sulphur Springs  
or

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



## United Methodist Women

1:30 p.m.  
Tuesday  
February 16

Program: Pastor Steve

**2015 Giving  
Statements**  
are available for  
pick up.  
They will be in  
Wesley Hall **ONLY**  
on Sunday mornings  
and on Wednesday  
nights.

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

**Tuesdays and  
Saturdays**

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
February 2 - April 16