Wesley Witness

Wesley's Vision...
Invite
Disciple
Serve

Wesley United Methodist Church

March 2016

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482
www.wesleysst.org
Phone 903-885-3383
Fax 903-438-2324

WE COME, O CHRIST, TO YOU
No Turning Back. No Holding Back.
Acts 26:19–24, 28–29 ESV

Seder Meal

Thursday, March 24, 2016
First UMC, Sulphur Springs

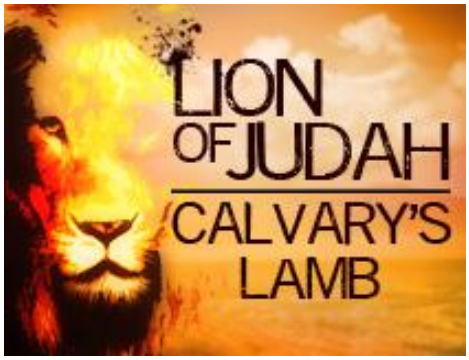
Wesley UMC will be joining First UMC to observe the Seder Meal.

The Seder is a meal observed by Jewish families all over the world. Through it, they remember the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. The Seder is based on Exodus 13:1-16 and it marks the beginning of Passover.

The word "Seder" means order. Each item of the meal is carefully placed on the Passover Seder plate to tell the story of the Israelite's escape from Egypt. We will observing a Messianic Seder, which draws the connection between the ancient Festival and Jesus our Messiah who is the Passover Lamb.

The Seder meal will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Ignite Worship Center (located in the First UMC Family Life Center). Seating is limited so please call 903-885-2185 to reserve your place.

The Wesley Chancel Choir presents



9:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 20

Baby Shower for Marisa Jones

2:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 20
Wesley Hall

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 20.

Name_____

In Memory of_____

_____

_____

In Honor of_____

_____

_____

Total Lilies Ordered_____

March Mission Emphasis

The Rainbow Room Wish List

Child Protective Services

Thank you so very much. All items will be greatly appreciated by the children of Hopkins County.

Pajamas for all sizes Boy and Girl (do not need Boys 3T)

All sizes of panties and underwear	Duffle Bags
All sizes sports bras	Blankets
Newborn Summer Boy and Girl clothing	Stuffed Animals
0-3 month Girl summer clothes	Baby Blankets
12 month Boy summer clothing	Towels/Wash cloths
18 month Boy summer shirts	Toothpaste
2T Boys summer clothing	Bath Soap
5T Boy shorts and shirts	Deodorant
6 Girl summer clothing	Hairbrushes/Combs
7 Girl summer clothing	Sippy Cups
Boys sizes 8 and 5	Baby Bottles
All sizes shoes for boys and girls	Baby wipes
Lice spray and shampoo	Brooms
Roach Foggers	Pine Sol
Clothing for all sizes Teenage Boys and Girls	Sponges
Body Spray boys and Girls	Pack and Plays

United Methodist Women

The local unit of United Methodist Women has begun a new year with a pledge service during 2016. In January we presented Jim Skaggs with a special membership pin honoring him with his service to Wesley. This represents a monetary gift to Mission in his name.

Our February meeting had a program presented by Pastor Steve and Bonnie Gilmer on spiritual and physical hunger. Some of our plans include a March program on the work don by CANHelp. The April program will be a presentation from the Methodist Children's Home in Waco by Kelly Lawson. We encourage all of our church members to attend this informative meeting. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in Wesley Hall.

Also in April we will have a bake sale with all donations to be given to Tim, Magan and Eisley Henderson to help with medical expenses.

Friday, March 4, is our opportunity to meet with our sisters in Christ at World Day of Prayer at noon at St. James Catholic Church.

We welcome all women in the church to join with us in serving God!

Diane Dixon, UMW President

What You Need to Know about HCI Weekend

1. **It is set for April 1-3, 2016**
2. **All day Friday is Staff interviews**
3. **Friday evening, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. is Focus Group for Non-Leaders**
   a. **This is for new members, those who don't have a leadership role, youth, older adults, faithful attenders.**
   b. **There will invites sent; there will be a sign-up sheet**
   c. **Child care will be provided**
   d. **The Pastor will not be a part of this meeting**
4. **Saturday morning, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.; Leadership Focus Group**
   a. **Board members are expected (required) to attend**
   b. **Child care will be provided**
   c. **Pastor is not expected to be there**
5. **All Church Workshop: 10:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.**
   a. **Everyone and anyone is invited to attend**
   b. **Staff and church leadership are required to attend**
   c. **There will be a sign-up sheet**
   d. **Pastor will be there**
   e. **Child care will be provided**
   f. **Lunch will be served**
6. **Sunday Morning: Lead Consultant will preach**
   a. **Reading of prescriptions will take place after the worship service**
   b. **No time scheduled for Q & A**
7. **Town Hall meetings (three) will be scheduled for Q & A**
8. **Church Conference with District Superintendent will be held to vote on accepting or rejecting prescriptions**

Children's Education Report November 2015-February 2016

In our Children's Department, we may be small in numbers, but we are great in Spirit!

During Advent, also the season of giving, we raised $20 - among the kids and teachers - to buy a flock of geese for those in need through Heifer International. We also bought/sent a goat for $120. This goat was paid for with Wesley Noisy offering money. This is a way how we as children learn to share our blessings!

We had a lot of fun at our Christmas party on December 16 playing games, eating snacks, making an ornament, and each receiving a gift bag filled with surprises.

On January 27, we went on a shopping trip to Wal-Mart, to join our church in reaching out to the Holy Highway Girls. We spent $317 (Noisy Offering money from several months) and bought a microwave, 2 nice frying pans, lots of note-books and pencils, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, some bath towels and then some! The kids did a great job comparing colors and prices!

We organized a Mardi Gras parade on Fat Tuesday. Several kids came decked out in green, purple and gold, circled around the crowd in the gym on their bikes, with wags and a stick horse while the jazz music was coming from our speakers! they all received certificates and a prize from our judges. The night after that, our oldest children joined the church during the Ash Wednesday service.

Currently we are busy getting 5 of our kids registered to attend Summer Camp C-2 from July 11-15 on our Methodist grounds in Bridgeport.

Last Sunday, we went with 5 children, 1 youth and 4 adults to the Bishop's Rally at Lovers Lane UMC. It was an exciting trip for confirmation-age kids from across the Conference to meet, eat, play and worship together!

On the schedule for March 23: Easter egg hunt and party.

Please mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School!! VBS, the first full week of August - August 1-5. Theme-Cave Quest. See you there!

In His Love,

Marieke deWitte

Sulphur Springs Senior Citizen Center

150 Martin Luther King Drive

sponsoring

Food Drive for Sulphur Springs Animal Shelter

Purina Dog Chow Purina Puppy Chow
Purina Kitty Chow Purina Cat Chow
Paws and Claws Scoopable Cat Litter

Food Drive is from February 22 - March 31

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope this letter finds you well! As the new year begins, I am reminded of the Lord's faithfulness to lead us through new seasons that are often challenging and uncomfortable, but always good. Although I know this new season of life will stretch and challenge my comfort zone, I am excited and expectant to see what comes of it.

I am writing to let you in on some very exciting news. this coming June, I will be leading a mission team to Gdansk, Poland. Our team will be partnering with Joy of Life Church to bring the truth and love of Jesus to the people of Gdansk. Joy of Life Church is a local ministry committed to breaking down the walls of strict religious guidelines and bringing the good news of the hope and joy found in Jesus. As the trip approaches, our team is preparing in a number of ways--financially, physical, and spiritually.

I would like to ask you to partner with this team. Firstly, I would ask you to be in prayer for this trip. Would you consider praying for the people of Gdansk, Poland? Pray the Lord would begin to prepare their hearts for the words they'll receive. I ask that you would also pray for this team. Pray that we would feel strengthened and encouraged in our time or preparation. Please be praying that these next few months would be full of seeing the Lord's goodness and love in growing our faith in Him.

Secondly, I ask that your would pray about supporting this trip financially. I am always a bit wary when it comes to asking for financial support, but I believe this team will be doing so much in Gdansk that I am willing to step out of my comfort zone. The cost of this trip is $2,500 (a little daunting, I know) but I have faith in the Lord's provision.

Thank you SO much for partnering with this team as we travel to Poland with the mission and hope to glorify the King and build the kingdom.

Psalm 47:8 " God reigns above the nations; He is seated on His holy throne."

Thanks!

Andi Clark

Ed. Note: If you wish to support this mission, the address is: PURSUE MISSIONS, PO Box 53850, Lubbock, TX 79453

In Loving Memory of Dell Cline

By: Harvey/Crusaders Class, Rick & Cheryl Spears, Diane Dixon, Vera Ann Johnson

In Loving Memory of Janie Swindell

By: Jack & Janie Godfrey, Mary Logan, L.B. Jordan & Family, Diane Dixon, Max & Lou Jane Drummond, Rick & Cheryl Spears, Jerry & Shirley Glossup, Max & Ilene Massey, Gary & Rachel Lewis, Vera Ann Johnson, Rhonda Alley, Charles & Marge Johnson

In Loving Memory of Tommy Lewis

By: Jack & Janie Godfrey, Mary Logan, L.B. Jordan & Family, Diane Dixon, Max & Lou Jane Drummond, Rick & Cheryl Spears, Jerry & Shirley Glossup, Max & Ilene Massey, Vera Ann Johnson, Rhonda Alley, Charles & Marge Johnson

In Honor of the Wesleyan Sunday School Class

By: Gary and Rachel Lewis

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Dominic Ayala, Gail Balmain, Rhonda Bawcum
DeLana Beadle, Carson Bryant, Anna Campbell
Margaret Campbell, Cassie Cavaliere, Stephanie Campbell
Serene Cody, Kathy Crowson, Francisco Cruz
Coen Cruz Escamilla, Cristine Dixon, Brayden Dixon
Silvina Epperson, Patricia Fisher, Norma Gadt
Ty and Jamie, Jayne Glenn, Beulah Godfrey
Robert and Mary Glover, Sally Hart, Reggie Hawkins
Magan,Tim and Eisley Henderson, Doris Herman, Dora Hernandez
Frank Hernandez, Sharon Hughes, Shelly Huff
Marvin and Louise Jones, Dana Jordan, Mary Ellen Little
Christa and Victor Kasztelanski, Della Loane, Zane Magan
Tana and Gary Moon, Mary Ann McCormick, David Mills
Ricky and Kay Orr, Sandra Parker, Red Penny
Remy Pibe, Ben Read, Truman Renshaw
Stan Rogers, Durwood Smith, Jason Stanley
Donna and Dave Spears, Pat and Floyd Spears, Ceely Stout
Elton and Louise Stewart, Allan Thar, Braden Tinsley
Chrystal Vargas, Ben Walker, Sara Wilkinson
Angie Wilson, Gracie Winters, Pam and Randy Hughes
The Family of Julia Kitchens Wilke
Andi Clark, the Mission team and the people of Gdansk, Poland
Healthy Church Initiative/HCI Team, HCI Weekend April 1-3
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, Mytischi, 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, Billie Newsom, Bobbie Holder, Bill Shell
Muriel Lucas, Sandra McIntire, Della Loane, Lloyd Hiller, Truman Renshaw

LAITY DAY WITH THE BISHOP

EAST DISTRICT

Saturday, March 5, 2016

9:30 a.m. Gathering • 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

First UMC, Terrell

If you are interested in going, there sign-up on the Wesley Hall bulletin board for those who would like to ride the bus to Terrell for Laity Day.

Thank You

Thanks to all of you who called, came, gave memorials or cooked after the death of my sister, Janie Swindell. Losing two sisters in 9 months has shaken me. My Wesley family has help me keep it all in perspective. Thank you.

Your Sister in Christ,

Diane Dixon

Homebound Ministry

We are in need of one more visiting team. At this time, we only have two teams visiting on the scheduled weekly visits. About the time we get discouraged in our visiting, someone unknowingly lets us know we're doing God's work. We have one lady, Mary, who can sometimes be frustrating to visit, told us yesterday that if we did not visit her, she would have no one! Her family lives in Kentucky and rarely, if ever, come to visit. The highlight of their month is when Pastor Steve visits and serves communion. In addition to our visiting teams we have 2 or 3 individuals who visit some of the homebound on their own time schedule…appreciated too.

Diane Dixon, Co-chair

World Day of Prayer

Noon Friday, March 4

Lunch follows at 12:30 p.m.

St. James Catholic Church

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration - the first Friday in March - to which all people are welcome.
- It is a movement which brings together women of various races, cultures and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.

Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world. The motto of the World Day of Prayer is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action."
Everyone is welcome to attend! Join with our friends at St. James Catholic, First UMC, First Presbyterian, St. Phillip's Episcopal and Our Savior Lutheran Churches as explore the depths of God's love and accept the invitation to receive the realm of God as a little child (Mark 10:13-16).

Garage Sale

Friday, March 18

Wesley Hall

and

Saturday, March 19

South Parking Lot

Benefits Magan, Timmy and Eisley Henderson. Medical Expenses

They will be setting up the sale in Wesley Hall Thursday afternoon and evening if you would like to donate items.

Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is a three-day experience of New Testament Christianity as a lifestyle. It is a highly structured event designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and through them their families, their congregations, and the world in which they live. Emmaus is a partnership between laity and clergy toward the renewal of the church.

For more information: there are brochures on the info table in Wesley Hall. You may also talk to an Emmaus alumni or go to: www.netemmaus.org

Upcoming Weekends

Men's Walk 16-130	April 21-24 at Lone Star, TX
Men's Walk 16-131	September 22-25, 2016 at Lone Star
Women's Walk 16-132	October 20-23, 2016 at Lone Star

Chrysalis "Flights" - (for 10th - 12th graders) are three-day events. This three-day spiritual renewal time provides an opportunity for you to learn more about faith, to experience Christian love and support, and to make new faith commitments. The point is to inspire, challenge and equip you for a closer friendship with Christ and for Christian action at home, church, school, and community.

Girls Chrysalis Flight	June 24-26, 2016
Boys Chrysalis Flight	July 15-17, 2016

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 1	Fran Francis
March 7	Della Loane
March 8	Rachel Lewis
March 9	Mary Logan
March 10	Jessica Nichols
March 11	Jake Gibson
March 12	Marieke deWitte
March 13	Marieke and Hendrik deWitte
March 16	Brenda McKinzie
March 17	Katherine Glass
March 17	Pat Skauge
March 22	Jacob Jones
March 23	Charles Johnson
March 23	Gail Clark
March 24	Jo and Bill Watts
March 27	Rheston Sills
March 28	Paula and Dennis Jordan
March 29	Jana Prochaska
March 29	Sandra Parker
March 31	Varie Ramos

The Wesley Youth Treated the congregation to a Valentine lunch following Worship on February 14

Bishop's Rally February 21, 2016
Lover's Lane UMC, Dallas

Joe Clark, Pastor Steve, Marieke de Witte and Theresa Garcia took several of our 3rd-5th Graders to the Bishop's Rally.

Wesley Youth Fundraiser January 29

Pancake Supper and Children's Mardi Gras Parade February 9

From Pastor Steve

The Journey of Lent

What a wonderful start on Our Journey of Lent at Wesley UMC! Our second consecutive celebration of Pancake Tuesday follow by our annual Children's Mardi Gras Parade was a time of fun, food and fellowship, known as the Three F's of a Methodist Church. Bikes, trikes, tykes, and wagons were feted in the Parade preceded by the delicious cooking of Rick Spears and his kitchen crew. Teamwork at its Wesley best! Indeed contributing their time, talent and treasure to kick off the Journey of Lent.

Ash Wednesday is the time we switch to a more serious reflection of our faith and trust in God in Christ Jesus. We marked it with a Stone Soup supper and the sign of the cross on our foreheads in our sanctuary service that followed. We were reminded through singing, the reading of Holy Scriptures, and our decision to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to the Glory of God. We were encouraged to repent of our sins and believe the Gospel. We were sent out to go and be the church. From the dirt of the earth and the ashes of our past sins we were strengthened for the whole journey toward the Cross.

Valentine Sunday was one of the most enjoyable events and meals I've ever enjoyed in the almost 48 years I have been in ministry! Joe Clark and our youth gifted us, Wesley UMC, with a delicious and blessed meal of chicken spaghetti, well-blended green salad, bread, drinks and homemade desserts. We were literally waited on hand and foot. Uniquely and elegantly decorated tables enhanced this festive occasion. A separate photo booth was part of the experience. Couples, singles, friends, etc. enjoyed a gift of a photo to remember for this occasion. Many thanks to Joe, his crew, and to our Youth!

Each Sunday, the Spirit of God is visiting our worship through all aspects as we praise God, worship God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, in our spirit-filled singing, and the reading and the preaching of the Word. "It is good and a very pleasant thing when the People of God work together."

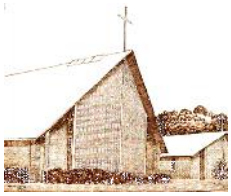
As I write this, I am preparing to share with the UMW a program on hunger and to introduce to them a unique ministry meeting the needs of the people in Appalachia in my native state of Kentucky. We'll learn about the Henderson Settlement in the Red Bird Missionary Conference of the UMC. I've traveled these roads on several occasions and know the abject poverty of this region. After all these years, I am thrilled to know that the United Methodist Church, through the Red Bird Missionary Conference (one of only three such Missionary Conference in the USA), is there on the ground, daily ministering in our name! That's a holy WOW!

By the time the March newsletter is done, we will have 1) started our Lenten book study on John: The Gospel of Light and Life by Adam Hamilton on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., 2) sponsored and prayed for our newest Emmaus pilgrim, Marisa Jones on Walk 16/129, 3) taken 6-8 of our 5th-7th graders to the Bishop's Rally at Lovers Lane UMC in Dallas, on Sunday, February 21, 4) had our first quarterly Ad Board meeting on February 23, and 5) celebrated our first Boy Scout Troop 77 Sunday on February 28. I also will be attending the Perkins Lectures sponsored by First UMC, Wichita Falls on February 29 featuring The Rev. Dr. Leslie Griffiths, Superintendent Minister, Wesley's Chapel, London, England. Dr. Griffiths is a well known writer, scholar, and preacher. What a way to fulfill my duty to receive continuing education as my obligation to myself, our church and to the North Texas Conference.

2016 is off to a great start with new members and an upcoming baptism of Charlotte Ferrall, daughter of Bethany and Chris Ferrall on April 3. We have turned in our Healthy Church Initiative book of required reports, studies, history, financials, community interviews, etc. Our HCI Weekend is in front of us on Friday, April 1 - Sunday morning, April 3. Please set aside these days to be present and to give your input to our visiting HCI Team. On behalf of your Wesley HCI Team, we sincerely thank Team Member, Mary Lou Foster, for chairing and preparing the work compiled in our HCI Wesley Report.

The Journey of Lent continues with these Holy Week events: Palm Sunday and the Easter cantata presented by the Sanctuary Choir, a Maundy Thursday Seder Meal with First UMC, Sulphur Springs at 6:00 p.m., a Service of Darkness on Good Friday here at Wesley, and the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Glory to God!

We welcome Chris, Bethany and baby Charlotte Ferrall to Wesley. They joined on Sunday, January 31.



The Wesley Witness
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Wes- ley UMC, Sulphur Springs or www.wesleysst.org

United Methodist Women

1:30 p.m. Tuesday March 15

Program: CANHelp: Joyful Hunger Pains
Hostesses: Jo Watts/Betty Warren

Good Friday Service of Darkness 6:00 p.m. March 25 Wesley Sanctuary

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 13