



Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

April 2016

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

www.wesleysst.org

Phone 903-885-3383

Fax 903-438-2324



Love ye therefore the stranger:
for ye were strangers
in the land of Egypt.
(Deu 10:19 KJV)

Methodist Children's Home was established in 1890 through the efforts of Bishop Joseph S. Key of the Northwest Texas Conference and Dr. Horace Bishop of Waco's Fifth Street Methodist Church. The city of Waco bid successfully for the orphanage by donating cash and a 10-acre estate to the Home. Today, Methodist Children's Home is located on the original site.

Mission Statement

Methodist Children's Home offers hope to children, youth and families through a nurturing, Christian community.

CORE VALUES

Christian Principles

Apply the principles of the Christian faith which serve as the foundation for this ministry.

Relationships

Build healthy relationships through communication, respect, trust, and love.

Responsibility

Be accountable for self and others.

Growth

Provide opportunities for spiritual, emotional, physical, and intellectual development.

Service

Show compassion through generosity and care.

Hope

Believe in the possibilities of the future.

Ways to Help

Since the beginning in 1890, Methodist Children's Home has relied upon the prayers and gifts of faithful friends, enabling us to provide superior services for children and youth.

Charitable Giving Methodist Children's Home serves children based on their needs, not their family's ability to pay. While parents are asked to provide financial support for their child's care, less than two percent of our budget comes from family payments. Generous individuals, churches and organizations provide the financial support necessary to continue serving the young people of Texas and New Mexico.

Making a Referral We realize there are many children across Texas and New Mexico who could discover hope for their lives through our program of care. Our friends and benefactors are vital in helping us find more children and families who many not be familiar with our ministry.

Scheduling a Tour or Guest Speaker MCH provides guest speakers and campus tours of the Waco campus and Boys Ranch that offer an inside look at this ministry.

Volunteering MCH offers a variety of volunteer opportunities that enable adult role models to build positive, healthy relationships with residents.



Boys Ranch

Campus Life



Family Outreach

Help Us Give Our Children a Future to Look Forward to.



Methodist Children's Home is prepared to provide assistance to:

- children who are neglected, delinquent-prone and in need of supervision;
- children whose family circumstances do not allow the family to adequately care for them;
- children with mild emotional or behavioral problems, such as argumentativeness, stubbornness, not following rules or not taking responsibility for their actions;
- children whose families are experiencing a crisis, such as stepparent conflicts or family involvement in drugs and alcohol;
- children whose parents must be separated from the family due to medical or psychiatric problems, or incarceration;
- families facing financial problems or crisis;
- children suffering from the trauma of rape, incest, death, abuse or abandonment;
- children who are depressed or withdrawn;
- children whose parents or conservators are afflicted with health conditions that prevent them from maintaining full responsibility for the child;
- children having problems at school due to anxiety or negative peer pressure that interferes with motivation, learning and productive activities; and
- parents and children who have decided that a "separation time" is a prerequisite to family healing.



Heathy Church Initiative Weekend

Attention: Our Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) Weekend is almost here. Don't blink or you will miss it.

Friday, April 1, is the first day. Staff interviews will be conducted all day by the consultation team. That evening from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. is our Focus Group meeting for people who do not have leadership roles in the church. We **need** anyone who is not on the Administrative Board to attend even if you did not sign up. Childcare will be provided.

The Administrative Board is asked to meet with the consultation team **Saturday, April 2**, at 9:00 a.m. The **All Church Workshop** begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 2. We will be done by 3:00 p.m. This is for **EVERYONE!!!** Childcare will be provided and lunch will be served. Members of the Board are reminded to bring dessert. The rest of the meal is being prepared by the HCI Team.

Sunday morning the Lead Consultant will preach and following the service will read the report from the team. It will include our Five Strength, Five Weaknesses, and Five Prescriptions. No questions will be taken at this time. We have 3 Town Hall meetings scheduled to answer questions and hear concerns. The Town Hall meetings will be held on **Thursday, April 7, from 10:00 a.m. - NOON in Wesley Hall**; on **Saturday, April 9, from 10:00 a.m. - NOON in Fellowship Small**; and on **Monday, April 11, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in Wesley Hall**.

On **Sunday, April 17**, following the worship service and Sunday school, the District Superintendent, Rev. Vic Casad, will lead a church conference and we will vote by secret ballot to accept or to reject the prescriptions.

REILLY SPRINGS JAMBOREE

Hopkins County Original Music Venue

presents



Jack's Western Swing Roundup

April 16, 2016 7:00 p.m.

with Caroline Grace Wiseman, Abby Payne & Devon Dawson

Reilly Springs
Community Center
109 CR 1439
Sulphur Springs, TX

NORTH EAST TEXAS CHORAL SOCIETY

INVITES YOU AND YOUR MOTHER TO

THE

BRIGHT LIGHTS OF BROADWAY

MAY 7 & 8

at THE ROC

115 Putman Street by First Baptist Church

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

PURCHASE AT LOCAL BANKS,
FROM CHORAL SOCIETY MEMBERS,
AT THE ROC AND ONLINE
(Tickets are available in the church office)

www.netchoral.org

SATURDAY

7:00 P.M.

COFFEE & DESSERT
SERVED

SUNDAY

3:00 P.M.

COFFEE & DESSERT
SERVED



United Methodist Women News

Bake Sale

Sunday, April 10

9:00 a.m. - Noon in Wesley Hall

By Donation

Benefiting Magan, Tim and Eisley Henderson

Cakes Pies Cookies Soups Casseroles (including breakfast casseroles)

Any cooked donation is welcome. Everyone is encouraged to purchase a baked good for lunch!

On Tuesday, April 19, we will host Kelly Lawson at our monthly meeting. Kelly is originally from northeast Texas and works for the Methodist Children's Home in Waco. Methodist Children's Home is celebrating 125 years of hope for children, youth and families. We invite you to join us (men too!) for this informative meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the Wesleyan Classroom. Refreshments will be served.

**This will also be the May Mission Emphasis. More information on the Methodist Children's Home is in this newsletter.

Every Wednesday from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., the Wesleyan Campus Ministry at Texas A&M-Commerce serves a free lunch to students. On April 27, the UMW will be taking a home-cooked meal to the students. We look forward to serving and to meeting them!



Little Acorn School April Newsletter

Important Information

- April 15 Yearbook money is due
- April 20 Spring pictures at 8:00 a.m.
(Lifetouch is doing our pictures)
- April 26 Pictures for the slideshow are due
(Graduates ONLY)

Be sure and send light jackets because we will be going outside. Please send your nap bags and an extra set of clothes each week. We will not provide them. We will have to call you to bring them if you forget.

Devotionals

- April 4 - 8 Jesus Loves the Little Children
- April 11 - 17 Forgiveness
- April 25 - 29 Jesus Calms the Storm
- May 2 - 6 Review all devotionals and work on the

End of Year Program

This is the last month for Devotionals. We will be working on the End of Year Program during the month of May.



The Chancel Choir presented Lion of Judah/ Calvary's Lamb on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016.



Dear Friends,

A huge, heartfelt thanks to all of you for the prayers, cards and visits.

Silvina Epperson

Dear Wesley Family,

Once again you have gone above and beyond for our family and we cannot thank you enough. What started as a little garage sale to help with our upcoming trip to Cleveland, turned into a huge event that blessed us way beyond that. to everyone who donated to the sale, came and bought, came and worked so hard at the sale, setting up. organizing, helping my family, we are beyond grateful. Thank you for letting us use the gym and thanks so much to the very gracious Tax-Aide crew, for letting us be an inconvenience to your ministry. This church has shown our baby girl more love and support than we could ever ask for. the Lord has used your works and your love to bless us. Thank you for loving our family, taking such good care of us and helping to carry this burden with us. We are blessed to call you family and call Wesley home. We love y'all.

Timmy, Magan and Eisley Henderson

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

Pictures from the Egg Hunt March 23





Easter Egg Hunt

The older kids stuffed and hid the eggs and the younger kids hunted the eggs. (More pictures on Facebook.

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs)



PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Rhonda Alley	Buddy Arnold	Dominic Ayala
Gail Balmain	Statler Batterton	Rhonda Bawcum
DeLana Beadle	Carson Bryant	Anna Campbell
Margaret Campbell	Cassie Cavaliere	Stephanie Campbell
Coen Cruz Escamilla	Kathy Crowson	Francisco Cruz
Cristine Dixon	Brayden Dixon	Silvina Epperson
Ty and Jamie Funderburk	Patricia Fisher	Norma Gadt
Robert and Mary Glover	Jayne Glenn	Jim Gregg
Sally Hart	Reggie Hawkins	Doris Herman
Magan, Tim and Easley Henderson	Dora Hernandez	Frank Hernandez
Pam and Randy Hughes	Joe Higgins	Sharon Hughes
Shelly Huff	Jean and John	Dana Jordan
Marvin and Louise Jones	Della Loane	Muriel Lucas
Christa and Victor Kasztelanski	Zane Magan	Glenda McMahon
Mary Ann McCormick	David Mills	Kim Moore
Tana and Gary Moon	Irene Osbon	Red Penny
Ricky and Kay Orr	Richard Patterson	Officer Matt Pearce
Betty Pettigrew	Remy Pibe	Varie Ramos
Ben Read	Truman Renshaw	Stan Rogers
Pat Skauge	Durwood Smith	Jason Stanley
Donna and Dave Spears	Pat and Floyd Spears	Allan Thar
Ceely Stout	Thea	Dylan Tyndell
Braden Tinsley	Chrystal Vargas	Ben Walker
Bill Watts	Angie Wilson	Gracie Winters

Remember those families affected by the bombings around the world
Victims of bad weather

The Family of Truman Dicken The Family of Surene Cody
Andi Clark, the Mission team and the people of Gdansk, Poland Mission Trip
Joy! Mary Ellen and Malcolm Kirkland's granddaughter, Caelyn Pilette, was
baptized Wednesday, March 23, at First UMC.

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, 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 Billie Newsom Bobbie Holder Bill Shell
Muriel Lucas Sandra McIntire Della Loane Lloyd Hiller Truman Renshaw

In Loving Memory of Janie Swindell

By: Jimmy and Wanda Winfrey



In Loving Memory of Gene Lewis

By: Gary and Rachel Lewis Diane Dixon

From the Youth Minister

It hasn't been long since the Christmas holiday had just passed and we were beginning to focus our attention on getting the kids back to school, looking for cool youth activities and lessons, and planning for Easter.

My, my, how time flies! And as I return to work on this Monday morning, I can't help but to think ahead to what's next on the calendar. It seems like we, myself in particular, are always rushing on to whatever is "next." While this "rush-rush-rush" isn't necessarily bad, it often times comes at the expense of taking the necessary time to reflect and absorb the details of the present.

Take Easter for example; Easter reminds us of God's unending gift of grace, His precious gift of mercy, and of His relentless love that is shown to us through Jesus Christ. It is these unfailing truths that make Easter so exciting and such a great opportunity for spiritual growth. Personally, during the past month, I have found myself dwelling on this one question, **"What does the gift of God's grace, mercy, and love mean for me?"** Initially, my answer to this question was more than likely very similar to many of your answers, which is that Salvation has been purchased with the blood of Jesus and that this Salvation is freely given to all who accept Jesus as Lord. Wow! Really, if you didn't get at least a little bit excited when you read that last sentence, you should read it again...out loud...with fervor.

Without a doubt, this truly is what God's gift means for me, but still I found myself asking the question again and again while reminding myself of how we serve an awesome God who not only loves us more than we could ever know, but how the love He gives is what sustains us, it is what keeps us, it is what gives us life. In realizing our own desperate need for what can only come from Him, we in turn must recognize our own responsibility to extend that same grace, mercy, and love to those who desperately need it. Admittedly, this is something we often times have difficulty with, but before anyone begins to be selective as to whom we should extend grace, mercy, and love, remind yourself of all those wonderful truths we rediscover each Easter. Let those truth remind you that it is not someone who is unworthy of grace, rather, it is YOU, it is I, it is WE who are unworthy.

Go with God,
Joe Clark

We are pleased to welcome Jim and Peggy Gregg, Jimmy and Wanda Winfrey, Paul and Sue Smith, and Sang Ok Cha to the Wesley Family! They joined Easter Sunday, March 27.



**From
Pastor
Steve**

It Is the Journey that Matters

It was Ernest Hemingway who once said, **“It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters, in the end.”**

Upon beginning my Walk of Faith in the Wesleyan tradition, I soon learned from Wesleyan/Methodist pastors to see it as a journey. And so I am now on my Journey of Faith. Yet, I must add, that these same Wesleyans have also given me a Walk to Emmaus. With Hemingway I agree: “it is the journey that matters in the end.”

It is no secret that I enjoy reading. I'm finishing 4 books at the moment: **How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels** (N.T. Wright); **The Collapse of Parenting: How We Hurt Our Kids when We Treat Them like Grown-ups** (Dr. Leonard Sax); **All the Places to Go: How Will You Know** (John Ortberg); and **Visioning: God's Blueprint for Developing and Maintaining Vision** (Andy Stanley). These four writers cast a broad spectrum in our Christian faith: Anglican, Protestant, Presbyterian, and Baptist. Yet the goal of each one is to focus on the things which improve our understanding of our life lived under God and the power of the Holy Spirit. One is a retired Anglican Bishop/Theologian, another both a practicing MD (Family Medicine) and a Ph.D. in Psychology, and the other two are creative pastors in California and in Georgia. You learn a lot from folk like these that it is “The journey that matters in the end.”

The closing lines of one of N.T. Wright's book jumped out at me:

The Gospels are, and were written to be, fresh tellings of the story of Jesus designed to be the charter of the community of Jesus' first followers and those who, through their witness, then and subsequently, have joined in and have learned to hear, see, and know Jesus in word and sacrament.

How's that for one sentence summarizing an entire chapter!

We have concluded our **40 Days of Lent**. We began with a Pancake Tuesday meal and Mardi Gras Kids Parade followed solemnly the next day with **Ash Wednesday**, where we were marked with the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. We were reminded we are **“dust, and to dust we shall return.”** It was a journey to mark time--40 days in fact--until **Easter Sunday morning**. Along the way, we made efforts of giving up something for Lent or maybe we decided to give away something. As Hemingway noted, “In the end, it is the journey that matters!”

And along this journey, we heard The Good News sung exceptionally well by our **Sanctuary Choir**, participated in a **Seder Meal Celebration** with our friends at First UMC, pondered the shadows and stones on **Good Friday**, and celebrated our Lord's Resurrection again on **Easter Sunday**. We even studied together **The Gospel of John** on Wednesday evenings, hosted **AARP/Tax Aide** every Tuesday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., showered **Marisa Jones and baby girl, Jolie Leona**, and continued to be God's Church at this place called **Wesley** daily. Yes, it is all about our journey of Faith together as faithful followers of the Lord Jesus.

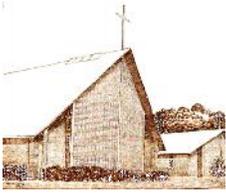
And our journey continues...by the time you receive this newsletter, we will be ready for **HCI (Healthy Church Initiative) Weekend** Friday, April 1--Sunday, April 3. As part of your journey of

faith here, it is very important for you to be a participant in three key events: (1) Friday night Focus Group for non-leaders of all ages from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.; (2) Saturday morning meeting for Administrative Board (Ad Board) from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.; (3) and the All Church Workshop from 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. which includes lunch provided by your HCI Team. I appreciated our Team Chair, Mary Lou Foster, and her encouraging words recently shared on Palm Sunday: “HCI is not about what we are doing wrong and need to do it right. It is about how we can do even better.” She is so right. I face this every Sunday when I am preparing for preaching and worship: How can I communicate more effectively the Gospel I preach and entrust my life and my vocation? Most preachers/pastors I know regularly evaluate our effectiveness. Most often this is how I respond to my calling to preach: I'll keep on preparing and coming back until I get it right!. I'm certain I shall go to my grave with that message imprinted on my heart.

It is good to remember these words of the Apostle Paul as we journey: **“We are what God had made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”** (Ephesians 2:10 NRSV) In other words, the same God who made you also made the doors for you to go through and the tasks for you to do. Let us, ALL of us, be faithful in our journey together. In the meantime: **Invite. Disciple. Serve.**



Wesley was honored with Scouts and their leaders from Troop 77 in the worship service on February 28. They presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Wesley was given the beautiful cross and eagle. It is in Wesley Hall for all to enjoy.



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

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Wes- ley

UMC,
 Sulphur Springs

or

www.wesleysst.org



United Methodist Women

1:30 p.m.
 Tuesday
 April 19

Program: Kelly Lawson
 Methodist Children's Home
 Hostesses: Donna Korth/Konnie Cross

Church Conference

Following Worship
 Sunday, April 17

Sunday School
 after the
 Church
 Conference



Ad Board Meeting
 6:30 p.m.
 Tuesday
 April 26