



Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

May 2016

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

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United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women are having a busy year with lots of projects and good programs. As a result of hearing the Methodist Campus Minister from TA&M-Commerce in January, we are preparing a meal for 50 students and we are taking it Wednesday, April 27 to serve in the Methodist Student Center.

In February, Pastor Steve gave a program on hunger and poverty and Bonnie told us about a Methodist mission area in Appalachia.

Wesley has long supported CANHelp, so in March, the Director, Shanna Martin, came and told us the scope of the many programs they provide. Also in March we participated in the World Day of Prayer at St. James Catholic Church.



Last week we had a guest speaker from the Methodist Children's Home in Waco. Kelly Lawson told us the history of the home and how it

has changed to meet the needs of thousands of children. It is 125 years old and receives no funding through apportionments. It has an amazing ministry and needs all the support we can give to continue meeting the needs of children, youth and parents and making a real difference in their lives.

On April 10 we sponsored a bake sale. The funds donated that day amounted to \$1122.00. A check for that amount was given to the Hendersons to help with some of the expenses for Eisley.

UMW provided the lilies bought by church members to adorn the altar for Easter.

In May Linda Suche will be our guest speaker. Linda and her pastor husband, Henry, have been in our District for many years. Before retiring, Linda was an officer at City National Bank. Henry has served many churches including Gafford Chapel, Arbala and First UMC, Cooper. He is currently serving Pickton UMC.

On May 21, the District Day Apart will be held at First UMC, Quinlan. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with other United Methodist Women from all over the area.

As you can see, we are very active. We invite you to join us as we serve in the ministries of Wesley.

Diane Dixon, President



Reaching Out...

On behalf of the Outreach and Missions Committee, I want to thank you all for your continued support of Wesley's missions and outreach efforts. This year the Committee has decided to observe missions every other month rather than monthly. This decision was made in an effort to respect everyone's financial budgets. We recognize that money is tight and that we just can't do it all!

Our upcoming missions are:

- May - Methodist Children's Home
- July - School Supplies for Travis and Pack the Bus
- September - Community Cupboard
- November - Be the Service (Thanksgiving)

In May we will be supporting the Little Acorn Graduation Program, scheduled for Thursday, the 26th. We are asking for volunteers to provide sandwiches, chips (individual bags), cookies and brownies for the reception in Wesley Hall which follows graduation (in the Wesley sanctuary). There will be sign-up sheets available in Wesley Hall May 15 and May 22. Please prayerfully consider signing up. We anticipate needing 200 sandwiches. That's a lot of sandwiches, but if Jesus could feed thousands with just 5 loaves and 2 fish, surely we, together, can feed 200! And what an amazing opportunity to seek out an unchurched person or family!

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 13 at 6:00 p.m. The meetings of the Outreach and Missions Committee is open to all--you do not need to be a member. We welcome your attendance and we welcome your ideas, suggestions, etc.

May God continue to bless you and yours. See you in June.

Blessings,

Silvina Epperson



Little Acorn School May Newsletter

Important News

May 2 - 6
May 6
May 26
May 30

Teacher Appreciation Week
Muffins with Mom
End of the Year Program - Graduation
Closed for Memorial Day



It's Sunday morning. I've shown up to church. I'm in my seat. I've heard the worship leader's words. But, am I ready to worship. My mind is running. My morning has been rushed. My wife and I had a slight "disagreement" last night. My kids have two birthday parties this afternoon and I really need to mow the lawn before it rains tonight. Am I ready to worship?

While this may not portray you on any given Sunday, it is an honest glimpse into the possible craziness of each one of our lives. We are busy, stressed, blessed, worried, and wonderful all wrapped up together in a sometimes not so neat little ball. If you are like me, you were raised to believe that it's wise to "look your best" and to "put your best foot forward."

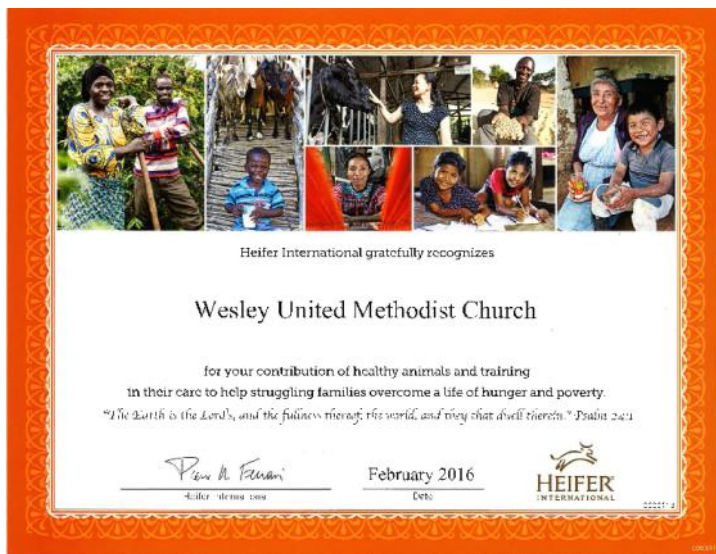
I was always taught that by doing these things we, we position ourselves for accomplishment and reinforce ourselves with an image of success. An on Sunday morning, as we step out of our homes with our "Sunday best" firmly in place, we hold to the notion of putting our best foot forward, and without a doubt, God deserves our very best. On the other hand, do we ever consider the possibility that the harder we try to make sure everyone sees us at our best, the more we hide those parts of ourselves that God really wants us to give up. Psalm 51:17 tell us, "My sacrifice oh God is a broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart, you God, will not despise" (NIV). And also in Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (NIV).

We waste so much time hiding that side of ourselves that God wants. That side of ourselves that shows how much we need Him. That side of ourselves that shows how desperate and broken we are without Him. We should always remember that God deserves our best, and while we press our clothes and fix our hair and straighten our ties, let us not confuse looking our best with the best part of us, and that is our willingness to show our need for more God in our lives.

Go with God,

Joe Clark

Way to go kids and Wesley! The children raised enough money to buy a flock of ducks, during December for Heifer International. The Noisy Offering from January was enough to purchase a baby goat. Currently, the children we are trying to raise money for a hive of bees which costs \$30. There is a container on the table in Wesley Hall and containers in the Sunday school rooms. If you would like to contribute some change to help the kids, please put it in the container. This is a copy of the thank you from Heifer International.



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**



May Mission Emphasis Methodist Children's Home

The Methodist Children's Home located in Waco is 125 years old. The 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 their 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. Also, Methodist Children's Home does not receive funds from apportionments.

The Outreach/Missions Committee decided that the best way Wesley can help is through a financial donation. There will be envelopes in the bulletin on May 15th and May 22nd for your gift. Thank You!



Thank you so much, Donna Nelson,
for the beautiful embroidery on the
Wesley prayer blankets!

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 16-131 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



MOTHER'S DAY is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many part of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May. It complements similar celebrations honoring family members, such as Father's Day and Siblings Day.

In the United States, celebration of Mother's Day began in the early 20th century. It is not related to the many celebrations of mothers and motherhood that have occurred throughout the world over thousands of years, such as the Greek cult to Cybele, the Roman festival of Hilaria, or the Christian Mothering Sunday celebration (originally a commemoration of Mother Church, not motherhood). In some countries, Mother's Day has become synonymous with these older traditions.

In 1912 Anna Jarvis trademarked the phrases "second Sunday in May" and "Mother's Day," and created the Mother's Day International Association. She specifically noted that "Mother's" should "be a singular possessive, for each family to honor its own mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers in the world. This is also the spelling used by President Woodrow Wilson in his 1914 presidential proclamation, by the U.S. Congress in relevant bills, and by various U.S. presidents in their proclamations concerning Mother's Day. *Wikipedia*

In Loving Memory of Tom Lewis

By: A brother to a friend and fellow veteran
Mark and Betty Warren

In Loving Memory of Mary Burks

By: Gary and Rachel Lewis
Jerry and Shirley Glossup
Diane Dixon



PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Rhonda Alley	Dominic Ayala	Gail Balmain
Laura Balmain	Clint Barkley	Wyatt Bass
Rhonda Bawcum	DeLana Beadle	Pat Bentley
Sarah Brann	Carson Bryant	Johna Burchfield
Anna Campbell	Cassie Cavaliere	Stephanie Campbell
Geneva Cooper	Kathy Crowson	Nell Crowson
Francisco Cruz	Cristine Dixon	Brayden Dixon
Max Drummond	Silvina Epperson	Santos Falcon
Ty and Jamie Funderburk	Patricia Fisher	Jayne Glenn
Robert and Mary Glover	Janie Godfrey	Dr. Richard Graves
Jim Gregg	Leann Harper	Reggie Hawkins
Magan, Tim and Easley Henderson	Doris Herman	Dora Hernandez
Frank Hernandez	Dr. Fred Hill	Kathy Hipkins
Pam and Randy Hughes	Carolyn Holly	Sharon Hughes
Jean and John	Shelly Huff	Sydney Joiner
Marvin and Louise Jones	Charles Johnson	Dana Jordan
Christa and Victor Kasztelanski	Robin Kilgore	Della Loane
Rev. Dean Libby's Mother	Muriel Lucas	Zane Magan
Mary Ann McCormick	Anna Mae Stolz	Glenda McMahon
Tana and Gary Moon	Patrick Owens	Ricky and Kay Orr
Officer Matt Pearce	Red Penny	Remy Pibe
Varie Ramos	Ben Read	Truman Renshaw
Stan Rogers	Jim Rooks	Patti Sells
Jim Skaggs	Pat Skauge	Durwood Smith
Donna and Dave Spears	Pat and Floyd Spears	Allan Thar
Deanna Spraggins	Jayne Stone	Jason Stanley
Louise and Elton Stewart	Ceely Stout	Thea
Braden Tinsley	Chrystal Vargas	Ben Walker
Betty Warren	Bill Watts	Wanda Winfrey
Gracie Winters	Steve Womack	

Joy! Nathan, Aubrey and Nathaniel Presley-Nathan will be Youth Pastor in Forney beginning in June

United Methodist Church General Conference, Portland, OR May 10-20

Healthy Church Initiative 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, Mytishi, Russia Abused Children and Youth

Our Country and Our Leaders Military Personnel and their Families

EMS, Fire Fighters, Hospital Personnel Methodist Children's Home

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



To Our Wesley Church family,

We are blessed to be part of such a strong Christian family. I am very thankful to have received my prayer blanket. Each prayer knot holds your thoughts and prayers tight within the blanket. It is also personalized, done as a ministry by one of our own! I will cherish my prayer blanket and hold it close to me. As I wrap myself in my blanket, I sense the strength of the many prayers said over it for me. My blanket will go with me and act as my shield and comfort as I continue this battle which I fully intend to win. We want to express our thanks to our very special church family. Wesley UMC expresses God's love through the love, kindness and tenderness of its parishioners. God Bless Wesley UMC.

Sincerely,

Pat and Janet Skauge

20th Annual

McGrede Faith Alive Series

May 1 and May 2

The Call to Discipleship

Guest Speaker: Dr. Vic Casad



Vic Casad is currently the District Superintendent for the East District of the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Prior to his appointment as DS he has served several churches in the North Texas Conference as well as Sound Bend UMC in Gainesville, GA while attending seminary.

Vic was ordained a Deacon in 1985 and Elder in 1988. He has a Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology. Emory University in Atlanta. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Perkins School of Theology, at Southern Methodist University in 1994. His undergraduate degree is from SMU. Vic has also received a graduation certification in alternative dispute resolution from SMU.

Schedule of Services

Sunday, May 1

8:30 a.m./10:45 a.m. "The X Factor of Communion" (John 2:1-11)
6:00 p.m. "The X Factor of Discipleship" (John 20:24-29)

Monday, May 2

12:00 p.m. "The X Factor of Spiritual Life"
(Matthew 4:18-19 and Luke 9:1-2)

Following the service in the sanctuary we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a luncheon.

The McGrede Families dedicate this preaching series in loving memory of their parents, Henry C. and Novie McGrede, who through their lives, left a rich heritage not only to their children, but to their church and community.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Rhonda Brock	May 9
Everett Wilder	May 12
Emily & Garrett Glass	May 14
Betty Phillips	May 16
Jacob Nelson	May 18
Janie Godfrey	May 20
Jessica Garcia	May 20
Rachelle & Ron Sills	May 21
Paula Jordan	May 26
Tilly Baumgardner	May 27
Aubrey & Nathan Presley	May 28
Judy & John Vandeventer	May 29

From
Pastor
Steve

Saddle Up and Hold On Tight!

Inside every man is a little boy who wants to be a man. I'm not sure why. I do not know if someone else has said it. It just "popped into my noggin!" Yet, I think it is also true for the opposite sex: inside every woman is a little girl who wants to be a woman. This is where I am going: when the Apostle Paul wrote his great Love Chapter in I Corinthians 13, toward the end he declared: "When I became a man, I put away childish things." (The *New Living Translation* says: "When I grew up, I put away childish things.")

We spend our years growing up from being dependent to becoming independent and finishing up being dependent once again. Life can be "a tale told by an idiot full of sound and fury" (MacBeth in Shakespeare). We are explicitly told by the Apostle Peter to "grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus." I am encouraged when I read that from a disciple that once denied Jesus even after he said though others would fall away or leave Jesus by himself, he would never do it. Yes, we do know the rest of that story: he did! But Jesus always had a special place in his heart for denying, doubting, and even betraying disciples not only like Peter, Thomas, and Judas, but also we 21st-century ones! We may give up, but God in Christ will never give up on us. No matter how mature or immature we may be or behave like, we are never forgotten or alone. God is always with us...even if it takes us a long time to mature in our faith journey. The hymnist puts it in these words:

From sinking sand, He lifted me. With tender hand,
He lifted me.

From shades of night to plains of lights; O praise
His name, He lifted me!

In May we will complete HCI Prescription One: forging a new Vision Statement (Who we are and how we address our mission to "make Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world). We'll celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 8, with Muffins with Mom and learn more about the mother and prostitute, Rahab, in our worship service. Should be interesting. We'll celebrate Pentecost Sunday on May 15 by wearing **RED** and being connected to the power of the Holy Spirit. Our fifth Sunday service will be led by Joe Clark and our youth. It's the Sunday before Memorial Day, 2016, as we pause to salute the men and women who have died in military service of our country. It was formerly known as Decoration Day when family and friends decorated the graves of their loved ones. Today we often think this is when summer officially starts, so we go

boating and swimming on the lakes, and we have those family cookouts and picnics. Folks, let us never forget those who gave their lives for the freedoms (just noted) we enjoy!

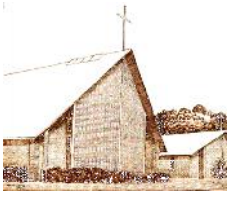
In the summer, our children and youth head off to camps and Chrysalis Flights (retreats). Our own Youth/Music man, Joe Clark, will be working one of these camps and your pastor will work a Boys Chrysalis Flight. Our middles and high school youth will participate in the annual Sulphur Springs Work Camp in early June...doing missions right before us. I am grateful to serve a church that invests in its children and youth and encourages service at home and literally anywhere around the world. And don't forget that our own Andi Clark will be leading a mission team to Gdanst, Poland this summer. And add some fun times to the mix for all ages, and what do you get? The Church being Church.

I still enjoy Western-themed movies. I grew up playing cowboys and Indians, but it was only recently I was told about my Cherokee bloodline. It was pretend time then and now I shudder to think how our Native American folk feel about being relegated to reservations or Indian Territory. I did not know the whole truth about things being one-sided (cowboys conquering Indians) then. But I do now. But one thing I've always known because I have sung it my entire life, "Red, yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight," and "Jesus loves the little children of the world."

These days I'm more of a Bonanza and Walker, Texas Ranger fan when it comes to westerns. The Cartwrights often took up for the little person. They had a Chinese cook. And Walker, Texas Ranger, well, he's a man! And it's kind of cool that this ole Kentucky boy lives near where Chuck Norris roamed in his show. Inside every man is a little boy who wants to be a man!



Charlotte Hope Ferrall was baptized Sunday, April 3, 2016. Also pictured are mom and dad, Bethany and Chris, and grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.



The Wesley Witness
Wesley United Methodist Church
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Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

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www.wesleysst.org

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or
www.wesleysst.org



United Methodist Women

1:30 p.m.
Tuesday
May 17

Program: Linda Suche
Hostesses: Varie Ramos/Janie Godfrey

Muffins with Mom
Sunday
May 8
following Worship



Little Acorn School

End of Year Program
6:00 p.m.
Wesley Sanctuary
Thursday, May 26

Reception in Wesley Hall
following the program