



Wesley's Vision

INVITE all in the Name of Christ  
GROW disciples with the Word of Christ  
SERVE all with the LOVE of Christ.

# Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

## December 2017

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

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

Phone 903-885-3383

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Stephen Andersen	Dec 1
Vera Skaggs	Dec 2
Frances Daniels	Dec 4
James Clark	Dec 4
Rachelle Sills	Dec 11
Leigh Moseman	Dec 17
<b>Carol Ann &amp; Gaylon O'dell</b>	<b>Dec 19</b>
Judy Stewart	Dec 21
J.C. Clark	Dec 21
<b>Sue &amp; Paul Smith</b>	<b>Dec 21</b>
<b>Louise &amp; Marvin Jones</b>	<b>Dec 23</b>
<b>Dicie Rue &amp; Steve Cook</b>	<b>Dec 24</b>
Gaylon O'dell	Dec 25
Stanley Foster	Dec 28
Ronny Darrow	Dec 28
Vernice Penny	Dec 28
Zachary Clark	Dec 28
Brad Gilmer	Dec 29
Carol Ann O'dell	Dec 30

## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Steven Anderson	Kay Atkins	Dr. I.L. Balkcom	Charles Batty, Jr.
<b>Gloria Batty</b>	James Brown	Cassie Cavaliere	Haylee Chester
Nell and Billy Crowson	Wanda Claryton	Sandy Davis	Rev. Gaither Day
<b>Cristine Dixon</b>	Benjamin Epperson	Silvina Epperson	<b>Fran Francis</b>
Robert and Mary Glover	Gene George	Jayne Glenn	Jerry Glossup
Magan, Tim and Easley Henderson	<b>Jim Gregg</b>	Janis Hargrave	Mark Heisler
Sharon Hughes	Ronnie Jenkins	Jeff Johnson	Marge Johnson
Christa and Victor Kasztelanski	Dana Jordan	Lynn Kincade	John Kramer
Rev. Van Lazaroff	Jennifer Lee	Gene Lewis	Latessa Logan
Mary Ann McCormick	Jase Mabie	Zane Magan	Gary Moon
Lee Ann Carpenter	Oliver Linda Moore	Beverly Morgan	Rev. Dana Norton
Ricky and Kay Orr	Jill Reneau	Sara Robinson	Reed Schnieder
The Spears Family	Beth Shurtleff	Rev. Patty Soward	Clara Smith
Rev. Howard Strickland	Bob Spencer	Floyd Spears	Allan Thar
Beverly Stone	Mark Warren	Karen Wedding	Jimmy Winfrey

Ron Zitterick **The Family of Art Francis-His memorial service will be Saturday, December 9, 2:00 p.m. at Wesley with visitation at 1:00 p.m.**

**The Family of Johnny Ferguson-Betty Phillips and Ronny Darrow's cousin First Responders, Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire Fighters, Hospital Personnel Our Country and Our Leaders Military Personnel and their Families Students, Teachers, Administrators, Personnel**

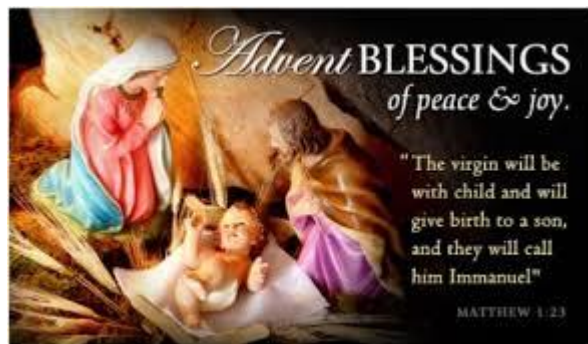
CANHelp CASA Backpack Buddies Abused Children and Youth Community Chest/Cupboard Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center North Texas Food Bank Holy Highway Girls Home Dallas Bethlehem Center - Wesley-Rankin Community Center

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

Fran Francis Bobbie Holder Muriel Lucas Lois Shannon Margaret Campbell Sandra McIntire Truman Renshaw Della Loane Martha Johnson Red and Vernice Penny Marge Johnson



## Advent and Christmas

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the Church calendar, the Christmas season lasts sundown on December 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (January 6). This is sometimes popularly referred to as "the twelve days of Christmas."

### What happens during Advent?

During the season of Advent, Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the arrival of the Lord into the world through the birth of his Son Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness. It is also a time to look forward to when Jesus will come a second time.

The beginning of Advent is when the preparations for Christmas really begin - the festive menu is planned, gifts are chosen and wrapped, carols sung, cards are written and posted and houses decorated.

### History of Advent

In the 5th Century, Advent began on 11 November (St Martin's Day) and took the form of a six week fast leading to Christmas. During the 6th century, Advent was reduced to its current length and later the fasting was dropped.

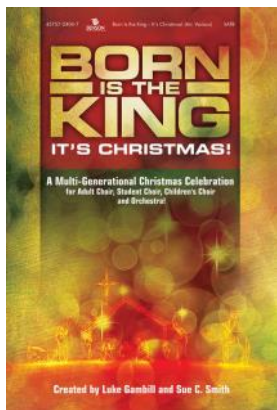
## Christmas Musical Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 13  
Following dinner

Dress Rehearsal  
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 16





The Wesley Chancel Choir and Student Ministries invites you to **BORN IS THE KING**, an exciting musical event featuring a multi-adult, student, and children's choir.

Please join us Sunday morning, December 17, as we highlight Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, and the Magi from afar. You are certain to enjoy hearing brilliant arrangements that capture the attention of the entire family as we share the powerful message of the birth of Christ.



### Breaking Bread Together Ministry (BBTM) Update

Because of your faithful response, Wesley's new vital food ministry, known as Breaking Bread Together, continues to make major thrusts into our community (parish) in providing two meals per week primarily for those who may not otherwise receive adequate nourish-

ment.

In October, our first month of service, BBTM provided 495 lunches and in November, 430 lunches for a two-month total of 925 meals. We are now preparing to take this ministry to the next level with another mailing in our parish area in hopes of growing our ministry to those needing this nourishment. Because you have demonstrated your support of BBTM, we are anticipating growing it to a possible need of 150-200 meals each time we serve!

We have in place an excellent volunteer staff of servants, most of whom have pledged to serve any day--any job and who consider their ministry to be nothing less than a labor of love. With this staff and your continued support, God will continue to be glorified in Wesley United Methodist Church. If you have any questions or desire further information concerning BBTM, feel free to talk to me (Pastor Steve) or one of our "Purple-clad Apron Servants!"



Christ caring for people through people

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry being used by thousands of congregations to increase care and outreach to hurting people.

Through Stephen Ministry, congregations are able to equip and empower a team of lay-people--Stephen Ministers--who provide one-to one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, unemployment, hospitalization, loneliness, divorce, financial stress, a terminal illness, or other life difficulties.

Visit [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org) to learn more about Stephen Ministry and to watch online videos stories about the difference Stephen Ministries are making in people's lives. There are also Stephen Ministers at Wesley you may talk to about the *confidential* care of a Stephen Minister. These folks are: Pastor Steve and Dicie Rue Cook, Silvina Epperson, and Bonnie Gilmer. You may also call Pastor Dean Libby at First UMC at 903-885-2185 or Tom Young at 903-612-8806.

### Memorials and Gifts

#### In Loving Memory of Pat Spears

By: Bill and Gina Wilder Rachel and Gary Lewis  
Max and Lou Jane Drummond Mary Logan

#### In Loving Memory of Frances Nelson

By: Diane Dixon Jerry and Shirley Glossup  
L.B. Jordan and Family Rachel and Gary Lewis

#### In Loving Memory of Bill Shell

By: Diane Dixon Rachel and Gary Lewis

#### In Honor of Muriel Lucas

By: Mark and Betty Warren



**6:00 p.m. Sunday,  
December 10**

**Grab a friend and join in  
an old-fashioned hymn sing!**

**Wesley's Kids Practicing for Born Is the King Christmas Musical**  
**9:30 a.m. Sunday, December 17**



**Volunteers took 23 kids to Wal\*Mart Wednesday evening after dinner and rehearsal. We purchased \$430 in donations (toys and clothes) for Blue Santa and Angel Trees. The money we spend on missions is from the **Noisy Offering** taken up on the third Sunday of the month. Thank you!**



## Poinsettia Order Form

United Methodist Women are taking orders for poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary during Christmas. The deadline for orders is December 17. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10. Please make checks payable to UMW.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Poinsettia(s) Ordered\_\_\_\_\_



# 2017 Fall Roundup



**From the  
Pastor**

## **The Joy of Serving!**

We're entering the final month of 2017 and I'm saying to myself, "How can that be?" Like several of you, I was just getting used to the 2017 date as I wrote, checks, notes, texts, FB postings, and e-mails! Time flies when you're having fun; i.e. working, going to school, and even waiting for Christmas!!

As I noted in last week's message, this Sunday, December 3, is not only the first Sunday of Advent, but also the beginning of another Christian year. And Advent in Christian churches like ours is observed as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. It is from the Latin word meaning "coming."

So, my important job is to tell you while we "see ahead on Christmas Day," we are to enter this time waiting, watching, hoping, expecting for the coming of the Christ child once again through the eyes of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and all the anticipation written in Luke, chapters one and two and Matthew, chapters one and two. That's right. The most significant event in Christianity occurs in only four chapters of our Bible--and not all of some of those chapters! It is true that several Prophetic passages point to the birth of Jesus--and the theme-line in the Bible ultimately points to Jesus of Nazareth. So, while we are "in the meantime..." until Christmas Eve, we, like Mary, the Mother of Jesus," ponder the wonder" coming again soon!

For parents with children of all ages, I suggest an Advent Calendar as a way to teach them, and you, the power of waiting and expectation. In our world driven by 24/7 news bytes, discounts at stores, Black Fridays (oops: I almost typed bleak Fridays!), Cyber Mondays, and Giving Tuesdays, is it any wonder we have issues with waiting, expecting, or anticipating? And with all the publicity focused on parades, Santa rides, ice sculptures, concerts, etc. (and all are good--but how much is too much?), then our church tradition says to tell the believers to slow down, be watchful and waiting, for the Christ is coming again (Advent). We have not mentioned decorating, the cooking, the baking, the gift wrapping, the house cleaning, etc. Whew! Or is that "ouch!"

So, buy an Advent Calendar, an Advent devotional guide, or read good books like The Gift of the Magi or watch A Christmas Carol together as a family and mark the time within the safety and comfort of your homes. Truly, it may be the best gift you'll ever give to one another as a family.

Many thanks to Mary Lou Foster, Carol Ann O'dell, and Gary Lewis for guiding Wesley through its annual Fall Roundup. We raised around \$7000 to enable our children

and youth to go to summer camps and our church to offer Vacation Bible School in 2018. As these are non-budgeted items, it is necessary to assist in these important and life-changing ministries.

Our annual Thanksgiving meal was festive and very well-attended. Truthfully, it was a feast! I know this is a collaborative effort on the part of all our adult Sunday school classes. So, many thanks to all!

We completed and turned in our Charge Conference materials at the annual district-wide gathering on Sunday, November 19. Apportionment-wise, we are still about two apportionments short (approximately \$4700) to pay out fully. Core leadership will have discussed this matter by the time you receive this newsletter. Just remember: every dollar counts and all dollars will go to ministry here in our district, our conference, and throughout the world!

I'm rejoicing in being numbered with the Breaking Bread Together servants! I cannot tell you the laughter and hard work this team of servants bring to our kitchen every Monday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. You'll find an article in this newsletter from that servant team! And to those of you who haven't given monetary support, God bless you! And we're getting better and hope to feed even more beginning this month and into the new year.

August 25, 2018 will mark the 50th anniversary of my calling and licensing to the Christian ministry. I certainly had no idea what I was doing or getting into! My pastoring and preaching has taken me to many churches in many places, at home and abroad. I've moved several times, married and buried a whole bunch of people, and yes, even stumbled along the way. "I know not what the future hold, but I know who holds my future. So, "waiting and waiting, I am..."

**HOLIDAY  
WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE**



**Sunday, December 17  
9:30 a.m.**

**Born Is the King  
Christmas Musical**

**Sunday, December 24  
10:00 a.m. Worship ONLY**

**December 24  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, December 31  
10:00 a.m. Worship ONLY**



## Fall Roundup





# November 19, 2017 BE THE SERVICE

## Wesley Youth Helped Load over 200 turkeys



Photos by Kara Lane





The Wesley Witness  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on

facebook

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



**NOON Tuesday**  
**December 12**  
**Salad Luncheon**



Money Tree  
benefiting  
Holy Highway  
Girls Home



Wesley United Methodist Church  
614 Texas  
**FREE lunches**  
Every Monday & Friday at  
**NOON**

Break Bread Together with  
Us!



**Christmas is  
Coming and...  
So Is the Grinch!**

During the month of December, the Wesley Youth will be conducting their "Grinchmas" fundraiser in order to raise money for summer mission trips and youth camps. Please visit the Youth's Grinch table on Sundays or Wednesdays to learn more. There are two ways you can participate:

1. You may purchase insurance that protects your home against the Grinch's ugly decorations.
2. You may pay a small fee to have a friend's yard "Grinched!"