



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

February 2018

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

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*You are my hiding
place; You protect
me from trouble.
You surround me
with songs of
victory.*

Psalm 32:7

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Kay Atkins Charles Batty, Jr. Richard Batty
Delana Beadle Richard Brown Claude Bryce
Cassie Cavaliere Wanda Clayton Sandy Davis
Cristine Dixon Silvina Epperson Don Gadt
Troy Garrett Jayne Glenn Jerry Glossup
Jack Godfrey Janis Hargrave Mark Heisler
Magan, Tim and Easley Henderson Patty Hudson Gary Huffman
Christa and Victor Kasztelanski Dana Jordan Lynn Kincade
Jase Mabie Zane Magan David Maeker
Mary Ann McCormick Gary Moon Bobbie Moseman
Lee Ann Carpenter Oliver Carolyn Roland Reed Schnieder
Melvonda Smith The Spears Family **Beverly Stowe**
Kelly Sutton Allan Thar Sue Ulmer
Mark Warren Karen Wedding Winfield School
Students, Teachers, Administrators, Personnel
Military Personnel and their Families
First Responders, Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire Fighters, Hospital Personnel
Community Chest/Cupboard CANHelp CASA
Backpack Buddies North Texas Food Bank Abused Children/Youth
Holy Highway Girls Home Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center
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 Della Loane Lois Shannon
Margaret Campbell Sandra McIntire Truman Renshaw
Martha Johnson Red and Vernice Penny Marge Johnson



Lent

Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays), begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter.

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally “turn around” and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

(The United Methodist Church)

Outreach Committee Report

The first meeting of 2018 was held Tuesday, January 23. The committee discussed pursuing a grant from Walmart to support Backpack Buddies. Joyce informed the committee that the new year for Walmart begins February 1. Steve will pursue.

Backpack Buddies - We are serving 77 children for Como-Pickton and North Hopkins and 15 children at Travis Elementary. Tira UMC sends a check each month to help support the North Hopkins BPB. Steve sent a letter to other churches in the North Hopkins area and in the Como-Pickton area asking for help in supporting BPB. They declined.

Applications for North Hopkins and for Como-Pickton have been submitted to the North Texas Food Bank. Gena Prickett, BPB coordinator, is assisting with this process. It may be May or June before we know if their applications have been approved.

Breaking Bread Ministry - Currently average 40-65 people on Mondays and Fridays. (this does not include the volunteers who prepare and serve the food). The cost averages \$200 per week. The Committee agreed to support this ministry either financially or with food products. A food and funds drive was suggested and was agreed upon. Silvina will meet with Bill Watts to gather information on how best to support this ministry.

Laity Training - Committee members were encouraged to attend the laity training at First UMC on Saturday, January 27. A part of the training will address mission outreach.

Identifying Needs within the church - In addition to the ministries mentioned above, the committee discussed Wednesday evening meals. Currently, there are about 30 children and youth attending. Most of them, as well as many adults, are not financially able to contribute. It was suggested that we invite church members to sponsor a meal in addition to paying for their own meal. February-May \$250 or \$15 per week will cover 10 children/youth or 3 adults. An announcement will be made on Sunday morning asking members to consider sponsoring meals.

The next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 20. Everyone is invited to attend. We also welcome suggestions as to how we can better serve. Silvina Epperson, Chair

New Beginnings New Ideas Refreshed Hearts

We are a committee excited to reach out and spread love. Thank you for being willing to serve!!



Little Acorn News

Important News

February 14 - Valentine's Party- Each teacher will have a sign up sheet in their room. It will not be a big party like we had at Christmas. Each class will do fun activities all day in their room and have a fun lunch. The kids will also be exchanging Valentines.

Reminders

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

Devotionals

Feb 5 - Feb 16 No Devotional Feb 19-23 Jesus Feeds 5000
Feb 26 - March 2 John the Baptist

From
Pastor

On Meeting New People

Today I had to get my Toyota 4-Runner inspected and pay my 2018 taxes on the car so that I can continue to drive it. While feeling a tad bit embarrassed about waiting until the final day of January to do this, I did experience a couple of God moments while there and when leaving.

My first God moment was the clerk at the District Office who performed her task as smoothly and nicely as I've ever been treated when paying out of my pocket for something. She was friendly, conversive and professional. I asked her if they took a debit card and she said, "Yes, but we do add a small charge to it." I had my checkbook, so I elected to avoid this charge which actually brought a smile to both of our faces.

My second God moment occurred as I was returning to my car after my inside, smooth transaction with the District Clerk's office. An elderly lady and I passed on the sidewalk, we made eye contact and I immediately said, "Good morning." She replied, "Oh, yes, son, it is a good morning!" That was it. Yet, the thought of my having been blessed by two total strangers grabbed me in such a way to make me aware of my and your opportunities in all places--that is, everywhere--to be the presence of God in our neighborhood!

I know I am a gregarious, people-loving person. It has been said of me by family and friends; "Steve never meets a stranger." I suppose it is true. It is not something I really work on, study about, or see a psychologist for help. I guess it's in my genes. My dad was a friendly, conversive auto mechanic who taught me about meeting others as I watched him. Some of my family are similar to me, but not all of my siblings. And one of my favorite things to do is to observe people in shopping malls, athletic events, concerts, and grocery stores--among other places! I even agreed, while in seminary and working part-time in a bank mailroom, to go to the S&H Bar and Grill in downtown Louisville, KY to get the best fish sandwich I've ever eaten! My 6 co-workers placed me between them so that I would feel protected by a sometimes raucous crowd at noon every Friday! On the other hand, The Rev, my working name, insisted on meeting and greeting everyone I saw there. After a while, my co-workers declared as went to S&H another Friday, "You're on your own now, Rev!" I smiled.

I am reminded of two things expressed in sayings: (1) don't criticize me until you walk in my shoes (or moccasins) and (2) be kind to others for you do not know what they are going through.

I am repeating a Mark Twain quote I used last Sunday (January 28). "It's not the things I do not understand in the Bible that really concerns me. It is the things I do understand!" Coupled with this quote, my mind races back

to the Goodwill Sunday School Class at Oak Park UMC in Paris (my first appointment) and the ONE Bible verse that class quoted to each other at the end of their lesson every Sunday: "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:32) You reckon if we lived by this verse, practiced this disciple daily, and truly welcomed strangers, people we meet on the streets, people who dare to be our Sunday guests at Wesley, children who come to us from broken homes (or not particular place they can call home), or the best dressed and most outstanding person in this area, we would be authentic people of God?

I pay tribute to my family who loved me even though there were times I did not deserve their love or affirmation. Today is one of my grandson's birthdays (Bristoe Johnson). Our daughter, Amy, posted this on Facebook about her only son: "In spite of your incessant dabbing, you're awesome." I replied, "He is awesome. Just remember where he got his genes!" I take great joy and delight in reminding our children every time they say something about their child (my grandchild): "Wonder where they got it or heart that?" What goes around most often comes back around. We are our words, ways, and actions.

We grow as we go and we sow. This is a solid, biblical principal taught by Jesus to His first Disciples and now to His 21st century ones. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 is written in the present, continuous state in Koine Greek, "As you are going" as opposed to simply "Go!" Most of us are hesitant to be told to do something. Jesus said, "In your going"...and sow those seeds (as in scatter them). We CAN do this. So, LET'S DO THIS, WESLEY!

Pancake Tuesday

6:00 p.m. February 13

followed by

Children's Mardi Gras Parade

We'll have fun as a church on Tuesday, February 28, as well celebrate Pancake Tuesday; also known as Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday. Its roots lie in the Christian calendar, as the last hurrah before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. We will enjoy pancakes, bacon, sausage, milk, water or orange juice. Pancakes will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. Our children will participate in the parade following dinner. The theme for this year's parade is Agape Love. **If you have a trike, bike or wagon you can loan us for that evening, please bring it the Sunday, February 11 or at least by 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 13.**

Notes from the Lay Leader

How blessed we are to live in a free country! How blessed we are to be free to come to church and worship our Lord and Savior! We are blessed!

Webster's dictionary says a church is a building for public Christian worship. The Bible says the church is the represented body of Christ. What is the church to you? Is it a place where we come to worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ? Is it a place where we are all welcomed? Is it a place of refuge for us in times of trouble and a place of great joy regardless of our state of mind? Let us be sure that Wesley Methodist Church is the represented body of Christ and that we are the examples we are supposed to be. Matthew 19:14 says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Let's continue to welcome our children and youth with open arms. These children are hungry for food and they are hungry for love and a hug! We are making progress in teaching them how to act, how to have manners and respect for others. It is a work in progress and so let us not grow disheartened; let us keep on keeping on.

Please remember our apportionments and pay extra on them if you are able. Some of us pay extra every month but it has to be above your normal tithe. Apportionments are a fact of life in the Methodist Church and we are Methodists. If you are a new Methodist and do not understand about the apportionments, then feel free to ask Pastor Steve. He will be able to answer your questions.

I feel honored to be a part of a loving congregation and to have a caring pastor. Pray for our church and for our youth and children. Pray for Joe and Marieke and their helpers, as they continue to minister to the future of our church. We are blessed!

Lou Jane Drummond



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Ruth Clark	Feb 1
Betty Warren	Feb 2
Danny Prochaska	Feb 2
Rylan Sills	Feb 6
Ron Sills	Feb 8
Dorothy McCaig	Feb 8
Wanda and Jimmy Winfrey	Feb 8
Don Gadt	Feb 13
Betty and Mark Warren	Feb 14
Bonnie and Mike Gilmer	Feb 14
Jake Mahand	Feb 15
Mandi Brock	Feb 15
Wandean Easley	Feb 16
Jack Godfrey	Feb 18



**Youth-Sponsored
Valentine Lunch**
Sunday, February 11
Following Sunday School
Cost: Donation

Children's Department Report

After school was back in full swing in the fall of 2017, Wesley kids started adding numbers! By the end of October, we had 20-24 kids attending on a regular Wednesday night for a meal and activities, and between 6-8 kids on Sundays. During November and the first half of December, we practiced with Mary Ellen, Rhonda, Brenda and Steve for the Christmas cantata. The children were going to act out the story and sing a few songs during our Music Ministry's presentation of "Born Is the King." On December 17 we had 18 kids dressed in costumes, and about 20 in total participating in the Christmas story! It was a wonderful service! Lots of their parents and some grandparents came to visit also. Afterwards each child received a Christmas bag filled with a reading book, coloring booklets, some crafts, fruits and candy!

Every third Sunday of the month, the children collect the Noisy Offering and receive an average of \$55-75 from our congregation. Every few months we decide the best way to spend this money on a mission project. Last November we adopted 3 children from the Angel Tree and went shopping with 22 kids and 10 adults to Walmart on Wednesday night. Each group had 4 kids and 2 adults, a list and a shopping cart. After 30 minutes, we had bought \$240 worth of clothing for the Angel Tree, and \$150 worth of toys for Blue Santa. We all had a great time, and were reminded once again: It's a blessing to be able to give!

Starting in January, 2018, we've divided our Wednesday night group into 2 groups. Gloria and I teach K-3rd grade in Fellowship Small and Amanda Clark teaches the 4th and 5th graders in a classroom upstairs. So far, so good!

Coming up: Mardi Gras parade on Fat Tuesday immediately following the pancake supper. The children will be circling Wesley Hall on their decorated wagons, trikes and bikes. Theme this year: Agape Love. **If you have a trike, bike or wagon you can loan us for that evening, please bring it the Sunday before or at least by 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 13.**

Mark Your Calendars: VBS dates for the summer of 2018. July 16-20. After lots of responses from last year's evening VBS, we have decided to go again for the evening times. We'll be serving a light supper at 5:30 p.m. and VBS will follow from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday. A special program where we hope to pack the church will be scheduled for Friday night! Hope to see you there!

In His love,
Marieke deWitte

The Wesley Youth are going to Cooper Lake State Park on Monday, February 19, for a day of nature that includes fishing and hiking. Bring a sack lunch and meet at the church at 9:00 a.m.
Entry fee is \$5.



The Wesley Witness
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on

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Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



**United
Methodist
Women**

**1:30 p.m. Tuesday
February 20**

AARP Tax-Aide

**Tax-Aide Federal Income Tax
Preparation
from AARP Foundation**

**Tuesdays and Saturdays
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Wesley UMC Wesley Hall
Begins Saturday, February 3
Ends Tuesday, April 17
Cost: FREE**

Pancake Tuesday

6:00 p.m.

