



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 2019**

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

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

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*Valentine's Day Blessing*

*Love one another;  
as I  
have  
loved  
you,*

*John 13:34  
(KJV)*



## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Richard Adams	Patsy Ardis	Jordyn Ausmus
Charles Batty, Jr.	Delana Beadle	Bethany Nichole
Richard and Jackie Bishop	Cassie Cavaliere	Wanda Clayton
Allison and John Bostick	Marilyn Davenport	Silvina Epperson
Beverly and Michael Chapman	Eddie Fenstermaker	Gene George
Don and Mary Gilmer	Jerry Gibby	Jayne Glenn
Donny and Baulah Godfrey	Jeff Godfrey	Dorothy Hargrave
Jack and Janie Godfrey	Roy Herman, Jr.	Mark Heisler
Pam Hollingsworth	Mindi Home	Louise Jones
Magan, Tim and Eisley Henderson	Dana Jordan	Lynn Kincade
James and Pat Hulen	Christa Kasztelanski	Mark Lacek
<b>Jeff and Pat Johnson</b>	Jase Mabie	Zane Magan
9Bobbie and Leigh Moseman	Roger Perish	<b>Betty Phillips</b>
Nan Price	Terry Smurthermon	Michael Spurlock
Elton and Louise Stewart	Nancy Stobough	Allan Thar
Lucy Vaden	Loretta Vaughn	Bill Wallpe
Betty and Mark Warren	Barbara and Jim Williams	Ron Zitterick

Students, Teachers, Administrators, Personnel  
 Military Personnel and their Families    First Responders, Law Enforcement, EMS,  
 Fire Fighters, Hospital 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

*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

Bobbie Holder    Muriel Lucas    Lois Shannon    Margaret Campbell  
 Sandra McIntire    Martha Johnson    Vernice Penny    Marge Johnson

**Please note: Memorials as of January 27, 2019**



### In Loving Memory of Max Drummond

**By: Gene and Pat George                      Max and Ilene Massey**  
**Red and Vernice Penny                      Sandra Parker**  
**Hendrik and Marieke deWitte              Dorothy McCaig**  
**Eva Phillips, Tina Phillips, Lee Ann Frazier**

### In Loving Memory of Mack Phillips

**By: Diane Dixon                                      Elizabeth Green**  
**Rachel and Gary Lewis                      Tammy Coker**  
**Hendrik and Marieke deWitte              Dorothy McCaig**  
**A. O. Phillips Family                          Sandra Parker**  
**The John Crowson Family                  Max and Ilene Massey**  
**Jimmy and Wanda Winfrey                  Stanley and Mary Lou Foster**

### Needed: "A Few Good Men"

Question from the father, "If your God is such a loving God, then why does He allow.....?" Do you want to know what the Son said in answer? This is discussed in Guys Group Sunday mornings from 10:45-11:45 a.m. upstairs in Wesley Hall.

This is a new small group for young men reading the book "Letters from a Skeptic." Facilitator is Paul Clark.



## PRESIDENTS' DAY

Contrary to popular belief, the observed federal holiday is actually called "**Washington's Birthday.**" Neither Congress nor the President has ever stipulated that the name of the holiday observed as Washington's Birthday be changed to Presidents' Day. Additionally, Congress has never declared a national holiday binding in all states and each state decides its own legal holidays. This is why there are some calendar discrepancies when it comes to this holiday.

**So how did Washington's Birthday come to be called Presidents Day? Many calendars list the third Monday of February as Presidents' Day and many U.S. states list the holiday as Presidents' Day. Of course, all of the 3-day retail store sales are called "Presidents' Day" sales and this vernacular has also been influential in how we reference the holiday.**

## This Is the Church!

From  
Pastor  
Steve

One of the best things I learned from my mentors in ministry was this simple truth, "The Church founded by Jesus Christ via the Disciples, especially, Simon Peter (Matthew 16:18), is not an organization, but it is a living organism. Perhaps you, like me, memorized a little poem that says, "*Here is the church. Here is the steeple. Open the doors and see all the people.*"

*Ecclesia* is the Greek word that is used often for the church. The literal meaning of the word is "*the called out ones.*" It can also be an assembly or a gathered group of people. Jesus told His Disciples this in John 14:16 "*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed (that's a good Methodist word!) you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatsoever you ask in My name the Father will give you.*"

Those of us who served Wesley Church on the Healthy Church Initiative learned the significance of the two words *so that*. In their book, *Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results*, Lovett H. Weems, Jr. and Tom Berlin, share this: *A first step is to find a way to redeem the ongoing tasks of ministry from operational necessities to areas of fruitfulness. Two words are central to the task: SO THAT, those who learn to use these words will find that virtually everything they attempt begins with a concern for the fruit of the proposed effort...an example: I WILL DO \_\_\_\_\_ SO THAT \_\_\_\_\_ WILL HAPPEN.*"

As a local church in the UMC, we are called to be the Body of Christ. It was the Apostle Paul who referred to us (the Church) by that metaphor. In order to be "*faithful and fruitful*, every member of the local church (Wesley) is in ministry and is also an extension of Jesus Christ's body. Every part (member) of the Body of Christ serves a function for the common good of all. Some may have more responsible roles; however, do not miss this: every member of the Body of Christ should be doing good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (household of faith=the Church). The biblical ideal (or mandate) is for all believers be ministering to others—no matter what!

I would remind each of us who served on the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) that we learned that HCI was a process. As I have reflected on it, I question how many of us have really taken this to heart? Have we just "chalked it up as another program whereby we increase our attendance or membership? Or have we remembered how difficult it is to get everyone on the same page when examining our *raison d'être* (the reason for the church existing). Weems and Berlin caution us when we determine a need for something new (program, class, group, ministry, etc.): "We will do \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ will happen."

Two instances of new things we are doing now that we did not do before HCI are: Breaking Bread Together Ministry (feeding 35-50 or more people on Mondays and Fridays weekly) and the women's group studying the book, *Girl, Wash Your Face* (anywhere from 15+ who meet during Sunday school every Sunday morning). Two seniors in our church, both in their 80s (!) are the ones who started these two groups. In both cases, they each were able to share with me their *raison d'être*. Both also approached me and asked me if I would support their efforts. I was glad and grateful to say, "Yes, of course!" And now a new men's group has been birthed from the women's group. Hear me loud and clear: one thing I've learned in many years of ministry: when a lay person is led to offer something new, most of the time, as pastor, I need to get out of their way!

In everything we do as a local church, we are called to be both *faithful and fruitful*.

In 1746 at the Third Conference of Methodist preachers, John Wesley asked those coming to be ordained, "*Have they fruit?*" In other words, Wesley was saying do these preachers have anything to show for their ministry? Have any lives been transformed? Have any professed faith in Jesus through their ministry of word and sacrament? Have hurting or hungry people been invited into their ministry? Are they compassionate and full of mercy? Have they fruit?

Being *fruitful in ministry* is our number one challenge as a local church. We are the Church, "the called out ones." Every time we share our Communion ritual, (Breaking Bread Together as the Church), we are reminded. "*Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*" This is our past, our present, our future as Believers. Faithful AND fruitful is our mandate. As creations in the image of God (Imago Dei), we are called to be the church at all times and in all situations. After all, as we learned or now we know:

"*Here is the church. Here is the steeple. Open the door and see all the people.*"

Now Wesley folk: go and be the Church!



### W.I.T. OR WHATEVER IT TAKES

These two volunteer ladies, Debbie Nichols and Bonnie Gilmer, after working all morning and part of the afternoon serving in the Breaking Bread Together Ministry of Wesley United Methodist Church, decided the filter over the stove needed to be changed out. So they called for maintenance **NOT** but rather went searching for stepladders and proceeded to change the filter.

They had just gotten started when a qualified volunteer supervisor arrived on the scene and in no time the three had the dirty filter changed. **BUT** wait, there's more...after changing the filter, the ladies decided the whole vent hood needed cleaning and dedicated their efforts to that onerous chore. The supervisor remained to completion of it all. With several such dedicated servants as these three, it's no wonder that this church ministry has become a vital part of the church outreach to our community.

Bill Watts, Breaking Bread Together Ministry

## 2019 Apportionments

**TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS \$22,147.00**

Methodism's founder John Wesley encouraged his followers to spread the good news, transform hopelessness into hope and assist God's children wherever they may be. We gather regularly with our congregation and put money into the offering plate, and through a carefully crafted system of United Methodist mission and ministry, our gifts stretch around the world. The contributions to the local church have regional, national and international impact through our connectional giving system. Most of the money given support the local church's work. A small portion funds regional ministries. A portion of the giving goes to the general church to fund programs nationally and internationally, agreed upon by General Conference delegates. We share the cost of these ministries, with each local church being responsible for contributing a fair portion or "apportionment."

### A Brief Description of the 2019 Apportionments of the North Texas Conference

#### GENERAL CONFERENCE

##### WORLD SERVICE FUND

The basic benevolence fund for our church, distributed to various programs agencies by a precise formula to support their missional responsibilities. The agencies serve both as a resource to local churches and an extension of local churches in action on a national and world level primarily through World Service budgets.

##### MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND

Money for theological seminaries and continuing education programs with 75% being administered by the general church and 25% by our Annual Conference.

##### BLACK COLLEGES FUND

Financial help to upgrade the standards of buildings, facilities, and operational expenses of the ten Black Methodist colleges and one Black Methodist medical school.

##### AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND

Funds for the development of the first private university in sub-Saharan Africa.

##### EPISCOPAL FUND

The salary, travel, and office expenses for the bishops of the United Methodist Church.

##### INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION FUND

The support for general church activities, ecumenical in nature, so that United Methodism might be in mission and ministry with other Christian communities.

##### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION FUND

The funding of administrative work on the church's general level, including the cost of holding General Conference and financing church agencies administrative in nature.

#### JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

##### LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE

A special project of the South Central Jurisdiction for the Mexican-American School in El Paso, Texas.

#### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

##### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Funds for the Center for Leadership Development, which is responsible for identifying, recruiting, equipping, and developing young, diverse, lay and clergy principled Christian leaders. Includes our work in faith development and discipleship and the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Board of Laity and the Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

##### NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Funds for the Center for New Church Development and Congregational Transformation, which is responsible for starting new faith communities and transforming existing congregations.

##### MISSIONAL OUTREACH

Funds for the Center for Missional Outreach, which is responsible for our ministry with the poor and our efforts to improve global health.

##### CONNECTIONAL RESOURCES

Funds for the Center for Connectional Resources, which is responsible for providing the necessary services to leverage our resources and support our efforts to address the priorities of the Annual Conference. Includes the central treasury, clergy and staff benefits, property concerns including the conference-wide property and liability insurance program, administrative support services, and camp and retreat operations.

##### BOARD OF PENSIONS AND HEALTH BENEFITS

Funds for the Comprehensive Protection Plan (disability and life insurance) for pastor, pension supplements for those churches and pastors whose compensation is under the Denominational Average Compensation, and Board of Pension and Health Benefits operating expenses. Also includes supplemental funds for health insurance premiums for current retired ministers and pastors and dependents whose salaries are below denominational average compensation, and funding for our past pension and retiree medical liability obligations.

##### AREA ADMINISTRATION

Funds for the Bishop's office and residence, including the Conference Communications Office.

##### DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

The salaries, expenses, and benefits for the four district superintendents in the North Texas Conference, as well as the Cabinet emergency fund.

##### DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION FUND

Funds for the expenses and operation of the district offices and programs as well as providing upkeep on district parsonages.



Diane Dixon presented a Special Mission Recognition pin to Julie Weir from United Methodist Women. Thanks, Julie, for your dedication and love for Wesley's Kids!



Paul Clark sang at the January 13 worship service. We love your music!



Logan Thurman, aka The Candy Man gives out candy during the Children's Sermon. Logan brings candy for the kiddos every Sunday. Yum!



The Wesley Witness  
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[www.wesleysst.org](http://www.wesleysst.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



United  
Methodist  
Women

**1:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, February 19**

Program: Bonnie Gilmer

Hostesses: Rachel Lewis

Dorothy McCaig

**Fundraiser  
Luncheon  
for  
Apportionments**

**Sunday,**

**February 17**

following Sunday School



**Wesley United  
Methodist Women  
are hosting the**

**World Day of Prayer**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Friday, March 1**

**Lunch follows**

**Please join us!**