



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 2020

614 Texas, Sulphur Springs, TX

903-885-3383

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

903-438-2324 Fax

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs

[facebook](#)





Saying thank you isn't enough when it comes down to all the many things you have done for us over the last month. Shirley loved this church and everything about it very much!

You have proved once again through your actions that Wesley is a church that cares.

We appreciate your prayers, visits, phone calls, food, memorials, and every other way you have attended to us through this time. The lunch for our family was much appreciated on the day of the service. Thank you to all the people who worked and to those who prepared food for us.

Pastor Steve, Joe and Amanda, Lou Jane—thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the service. It was special to us as her family as well as others who were there. Tears and laughter were the order of the day.

We ask that your continue to keep us in your prayers as we go through the weeks ahead. Grief is hard, but something we must work through, as our lives have been forever changed.

Jerry Glossup, Deana Ragsdale, Diane Glenn, and families

#### To the Bereavement Committee

Thank you so much for serving our family and close friends on Saturday, January 11. The food your provided was delicious, the tables you set so pretty. Thank you for your hard work, the love you showed to our families and friends. Plus, thank you for sending leftovers home with us. Truly, our church is blessed to have the ministry your provide. I am grateful!

Love,

Gail and Family

#### PRAYERS AND CONCERN

Richard Adams	Jordyn Ausmus	Marilyn Baxter	Delana Beadle
Allsion and John Bostick	The Beers Family	Melissa Bosworth	Charlotte Burns
Devyn Byars	Wanda Clayton	Hazel Collins	Jim Cooper
Natalie Darrow	Janeen Francis	Steve Fitch	Eddie Fenstermaker
Kathleen Fletcher	Renee Francy	Don and Mary Gilmer	Troy Garrett
Jack and Janie Godfrey	Kelly Gilmer	Jeff Godfrey	Frank Hernandez
Kristi Hodgkiss	Kristian Houston	Kaycee Ivey	Mindi Horne
Ashley, Chris and Jeremiah	Lucille Jenkins	Magan, Tim, Eisley and Finn Henderson	
Ronnie Jenkins	Louise Jones	Max Massey	Larry Maeker
Patrick McInvale	Becky Moore	Beverly Morgan	John Moser
Forest Mullins	Debbie Nichols	Johnny Nichols	Gaylor O'dell
Sandra Parker	Rose Raines	JoAnn Roach	Jim and Kim Rivers
Russell Scott	Sylvia Sellers	Nancy Stobough	Debbie Stribling
Gary Stribling	Allan Thar	Randall Voss	Sara Wilkinson
Becky and Danny Walker	Barbara Williams	Ron Zitterick	Tax-Aide
Betty and Mark Warren	Rosemary Adams	Walkefield	<b>The Family of Peggy Dunsmore</b>
CASA CANHelp Backpack Buddies		Our Country and Our Leaders	
Schools, Teachers, Administration, Staff, Students		First Responders, Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire	
Fighters, Hospital Personnel		Community Chest/Cupboard	North Texas Food Bank
Abused Children and Youth		Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center	Dallas Bethlehem Center
Wesley-Rankin Community Center			

#### WESLEY HOMEBOUND

Marvin & Louise Jones Reid Rawls Marge Johnson Muriel Lucas Elton & Louise Stewart Lois Shannon



John Moser and Kaden Kirkland performed at the All-Region clinic/concert in Mt. Pleasant January 25.



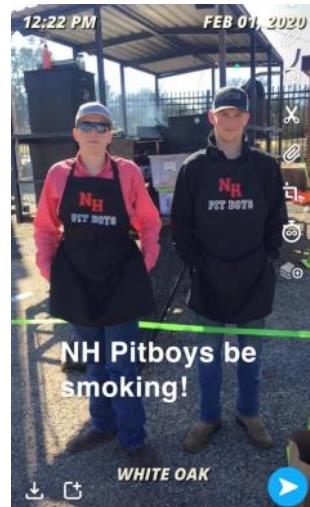
## PRESIDENTS' DAY

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.



North Hopkins  
FFA Chapter  
District  
Convention,  
Paris  
Kenna Lane  
was elected  
District  
Reporter



This weekend the  
NH Pit boys made a  
great showing at their  
first competition.  
Congratulations  
Cade K and Rylan S!!  
Beans = 14th place  
Dessert = 12th place  
Ribs = 17th place  
Brisket = 9th place

From  
Pastor

## The Messiness of Church

I entered ministry with a call to preach wherever. Most of my preaching has been in an organized church—the Body of Christ. Yet, when asked, I have also preached on wagons before an outside gathering, at several outdoor campsites, in other denominational or even non-denominational churches, and college campus revivals. It was my “father in the ministry,” Rev. J. Bill Jones, who tolled me to first practice preaching when asked by churches or vacationing pastors, get on with both my college and seminary training, and then when I was called to my first church, request to be ordained by the ministry. My local church in my tradition at the time was authorized to license me to preach the Gospel! I was licensed in August, 1968. I was ordained in September, 1977.

Two words pop into my mind when people have asked to describe ministry: messy and flexible. I had the pleasure of helping to train a significant number of college students in the basics of ministry after completing seminary in 1978 and continuing until 2000. It was then that, through pastoring, I'd already learned how messy church life can be when not everyone agrees or even will perform the job they were asked by a nominating committee to do.

As a younger minister and naïve, I would often send a member to the “member” assigned to do the work in question. Little did I know that often questions without answers died for a lack of response! And I wondered why those “questioning members” seemed to push away from me. I think this was about the time I started to monitor committees and occasionally wind up cleaning up something, washing dishes, taking out the trash, or making sure the church doors are locked. Wait a minute! I still do this!

Though I do not recall when I learned this or even from whom, my teaching of ministerial students found me using the word flexibility as a survival tactic. I sent out college student preachers almost every Sunday, as well as professors and executives. I reminded them that were guests of “said church/pastor” and to remember to interact with the person or group that would meet them on site. I can guarantee you that all of those students also heard me say this and even explain it, “Remember to be flexible. You may need to change a sermon or a song that fits with a theme or anticipation of the church/pastor.” And then I always concluded with ‘splaining flexible. Bend, but do not break. When you bend, you’re still intact as a whole person. However, if you do break, you will be a divided person.

It was only after being in a part-time and full-time pastorate that I learned that messy could be applied to church work. It was experiencing ministry with the church folk on a daily basis where I saw messy at work (or not)! I guess I'd never thought life with God's people, Christians, disciples, or followers as being messy. But, alas, just as church happens, messy happens. We experience it often nowadays at Breaking Bread twice a week, Wednesday night fellowship meals, Narcotics Anonymous (thrice a week), AARP Tax-Aide (twice a week—February 4 through April 14), children and youth (twice a week), nursery (twice on Sunday), weddings, funerals and family meals, special events, etc.

If only every group meeting in our facilities would only take time after they finish an activity to spot check any messy place and that would decrease a lot of messiness. But wait. Messy is not only applied to usage of a facility, it also applies to the fact that messy can be brought into the church by an individual from a messy home life, or lack of one, poverty, hunger, job loss, needing to be right, or any attitude which tears away at another person. Jesus, in Matthew

11:28-30, gives us help here, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and the burden is light.” And the Apostle Peter added, “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He (Jesus) cares for you.” (I Peter 5:7) Remember: God loves you—no matter what!

I do want to thank many Wesley folk who sent cards, texted me, and inquired about my recent surgical issues. I am grateful to serve a church where folk are willing to lead worship services, prepare year-end reports, share devotionals at Breaking Bread, and doing the work of ministry. And, at Ad Board, I heard, for the first time, we came within a few dollars of reaching our goal of \$12,000 for Fall Roundup! May we “keep on keeping on at Wesley!”

### In loving memory of Shirley Glossup

By: Larry and Donna Nelson and Family Diane Dixon

Pat and Janet Skauge	Vera Ann Johnson
L.B. Jordan and Family	Bill & Gina Wilder
Gary and Rachel Lewis	Donna Korth
Ronny and Kathy Darrow	Silvina Epperson
Rick and Cheryl Spears	Max and Ilene Massey
Gaylon and Carol Ann O'dell	Silvina Epperson
Lou Jane, Julie and Steve Drummond	Rhonda Alley
The Family of Ralph and Harriet Casey	Mary Grandstaff
Marvin and Louise Jones	Jerry and Peggy Gibby
Don and Barbara McKinnerney	Lisa Phillips
Charles and Gail Westbrook	Betty Gideon
North Hopkins Water Supply	JoAnn Johnson
Jimmy and Wanda Winfrey	Joyce Davis
Paul and Jane Lawrence	Betty Green
The James Goldsmith Family	Vernice Penny
Dennis and Paula Jordan	Mrs. J.H. Huffstetler
Jerry and Betty Ferrell	Jim and Vera Skaggs
Brenda and Doyle McKinzie	Chris and Kathy Steele
Marieke and Hendrik deWitte	

### In loving memory of Mack Phillips

By: Vera Ann Johnson

Silvina Epperson

### In loving memory of Max Drummond

By: Silvina Epperson

### In loving memory of Mary Logan

By: Silvina Epperson

### In loving memory of James Clark

By: Larry and Donna Nelson and Family

JoBeth Loeffler	Diane Dixon
Steven and Leslie Lewis	Lisa Phillips
Rick and Cheryl Spears	Vera Ann Johnson
Gary and Rachel Lewis	Bill and Jo Watts
James and Vera Skaggs	Amy Perkins
Ronny and Kathy Darrow	Donna Korth
Chris and Kathy Steele	Silvina Epperson
Carol and Joe Bybee	Marci and Dale Owens
Patricia and Timothy Blanchard	Larry and Anne Willmann
Bob, Peggy and Preston Weaver	Rhonda Alley
Joyce Davis	Betty Green
L.B. Jordan	Scott and Shirley State
Jim and Vera Skaggs	Allen and Terry Ramsay
Brenda and Doyle McKinzie	Paula and Dennis Jordan
Kevin and Suzanne Masterson	Bill and Gina Wilder
Lou Jane, Julie and Steve Drummond	Max and Ilene Massey
	Jimmy and Wanda Winfrey



The Wesley Witness  
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Methodist Church  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on



Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday  
January 21

Program: Milly Nylan

Refreshments: Pastor Steve  
and Dicie Rue

Fundraiser Luncheon  
For Apportionments  
**Sunday, February 16**  
following Sunday School



Ham



Mashed Potatoes



Green Beans



Salad



Dessert



Friday  
March 6  
First  
Presbyterian  
Church