

Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

February 2022



“Yet a New Chapter in our Lives” from Pastor Steve

Wesley Family:

It was only three months ago that Dicie Rue and I met with our D.S., Cassie Wade to discuss the topic of “Retirement.” Out of that meeting, the date March 1, 2022 was decided for me/us to “retire.” Like many of you that have retired or watched a family member, friend, or co-worker retire, it has been a slow-motion experience. I guess I’ve always celebrated retirements of “the other old people,” yet accepting the fact I am at retirement age is a surreal experience.

Our plans are to move to Mineola, Texas during the month of February. We have started packing—with the great help of our youngest daughter, Ashley. She is a real pro at packing while consulting with her Mom. I enjoyed the job of taping boxes together slightly ahead of them. I think I recall someone telling me when we were packing to move from Paris, TX 12 years ago, something like this: “Packing is the pits!” Actually, going through my accumulated books of 50+ years can be the pits. (I’ve even discovered how many of them I have not read). All in all, we’ll Git’er done!

It is so tempting to recall or remember the past 7 years and 7 months serving here at Wesley. I do bow my head and give thanks for the folk (saints) Wesley lost to death. Truthfully, some of the best folk I’ve ever known or served as their pastor.. And in case you ever wonder about how we pastors deal with these losses, I will tell you: “We mourn. We feel each loss. We remember we are called to celebrate the lives of those who have gone on before us to their heavenly reward.” I also never forget the impression these folk made on my life. And I hope and pray I honestly and lovingly celebrate their lives among us.

I was licensed to preach in the Baptist tradition at age 17 by our home church: First Baptist, Princeton, KY on August 21st, 1968 just before the start of my senior year in high school. I am grateful to the many churches and pastors who invited me to preach in their area churches! It wasn’t until I was called to my first pastorate at Glensboro Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, KY that I was ordained on September 25, 1977. I’ve been preaching for 53 years and pastoring for 45 years. (Although I served as Interim Pastor for several years before my Ordination.) I have been so blessed by so many. I hope I have, in turn, been a blessing to many others.

And I/We are looking to a “new chapter” in our lives and ministry together. Will I preach or pastor again? Certainly, just not full-time. I would love to help a small church to push through these COVID years or assist an existing larger church as a staff person (volunteer or paid). I also intend to get my wood-working shop cranked back up, go fishing, and take some trips with Dicie Rue to shorten our Bucket List. A cruise is in our near future as is visiting family all over the USA! We’ll be working around “medical procedures” which Dicie Rue put off in 2020 while I was losing a gall bladder, an appendix, having a heart cath, getting a new aortic heart valve, passing a kidney stone, and enduring a mild case of COVID-19 during Thanksgiving (along with Dicie Rue). “For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and health,” we vowed to take care of one another on December 24, 1997. 2022 will #25 for us. Praise God!

I enjoyed an hour-long phone conversation with your incoming Interim Pastor this morning and will be exchanging information with him during the month of February. I have already purged my Wesley paper files and will be working on clearing my computer files soon. I see a new day coming Wesley and you will be receiving a new Pastor by July 1, 2022. Good to great days could be Wesley’s by praying for both of these God-appointed Pastors. This is certainly our prayer for Wesley!

I recently read where a pastor was asked about “church competition”. This was a stunning question for the pastor and, after soaking it in, this was the reply: “Churches are never called to compete. They are called to celebrate one another in ministry.” The biggest compliment one church can give another church is: “We celebrate your ministry and pray it will always be successful.”

In God’s Kingdom, we all sit at the same Table. In God’s Kingdom, there are no subdivisions. In God’s Kingdom, all ministry is sacred. In God’s Kingdom, we work together, we serve God together, and we never walk alone. The Holy Spirit walks alongside us. Jesus is Lord. *Soli Deo Gloria*. “To God be the Glory!”

February Birthdays

01: Ruth Clark
02: Betty Warren
Danny Prochaska
08: Dorothy McCaig
15: Jake Mahand
16: Wandean Easley
21: Max West

Anniversary's

08: Jimmy & Wanda Winfrey

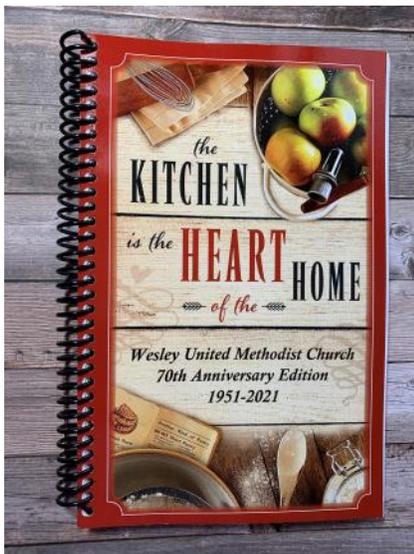
IN LOVING MEMORY

Vera Skaggs by Rhonda Alley

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Trustees: 8th at 6:30pm
SPRC: 13th at 3:30pm

**70th Anniversary
Church Cookbooks!
Available at church for \$20**



Thank You!
Thank you for the generous Christmas Gift.
I am so blessed to be a part of the
WUMC Staff.
Becky Marks

UMW

Mary Ellen Kirkland

Wesley UMW met January 18 for the Pledge Service for 2022. We thank Diane Dixon for her many years of leadership as our President.

New officers are President: Mary Ellen Kirkland,
Secretary: Gina Wilder, Treasurer: Mary Lou Foster,
Sunshine: Rachel Lewis.

The months for meetings in 2022
January, March, April, June, September, October, and
December on the third Tuesday of each month at
1:30pm.

We invite all women of the Church to join us
in our mission to serve.



Thank You Rev. Cassie Wade
For preaching at our January 23 Worship Service.
She will be preaching again on February 13.



The Wesley Witness
Wesley United
Methodist Church
614 Texas Street
Sulphur Springs, TX
75482

(903) 885-3383 Church Office
(903) 438-2324 Fax

www.wesleysst.org

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Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs

