



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

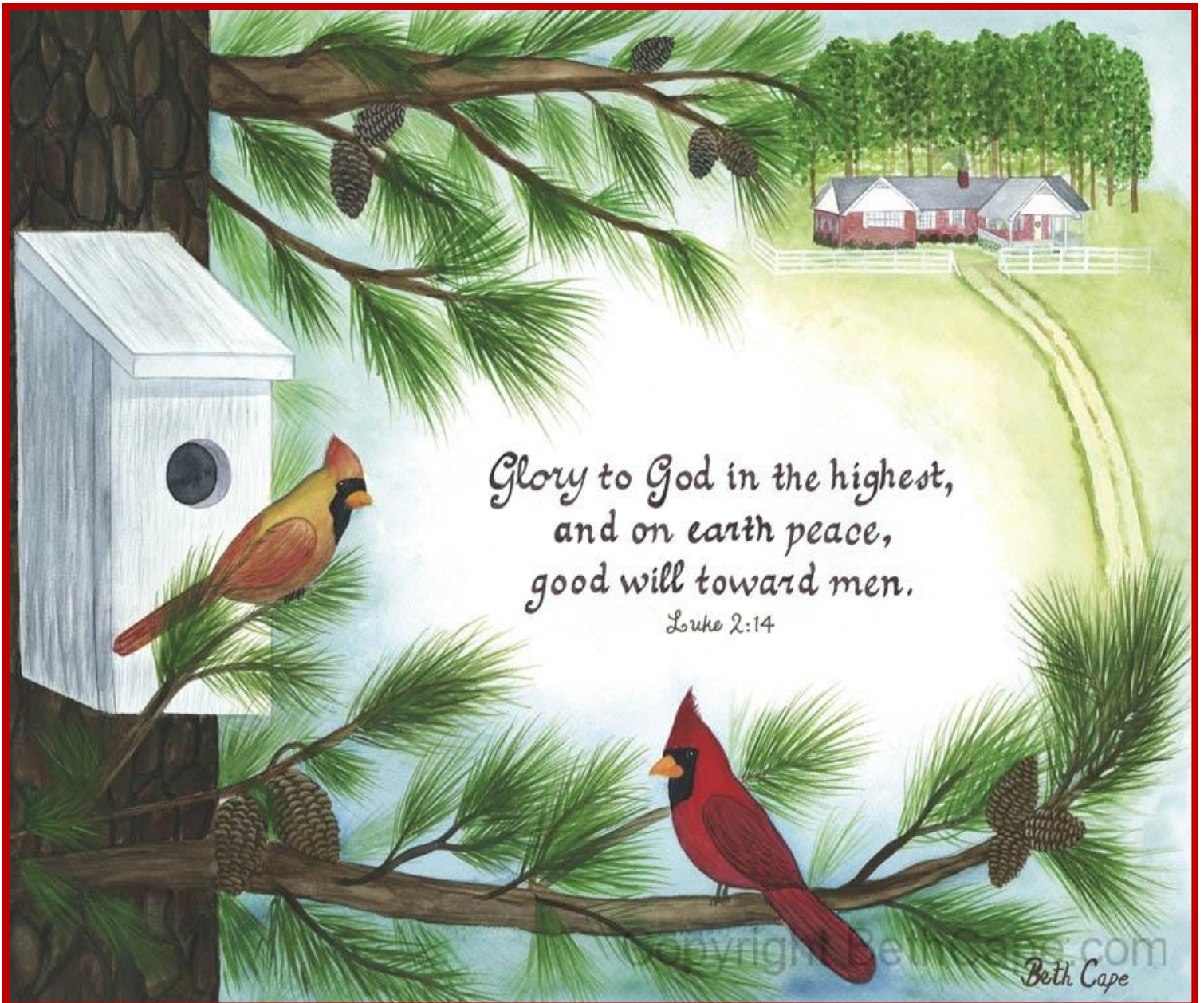
**January 2017**

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

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

Phone 903-885-3383

Fax 903-438-2324



*Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace,  
good will toward men.*

*Louke 2:14*

*Beth Cape*

## Blessings from Your Lay Leader

Wesley has come through again! Our apportionments will be paid in full, as our Finance Committee Chair, Pam Hollingsworth, said they would! Thanks to our Sunday school classes and our UMW for the fundraisers. Thanks to those of us who paid above and beyond our normal tithe to accomplish our goal. Let us start in January getting those apportionments paid again. As United Methodists, that is what we do.

The Christmas season is always beautiful at Wesley but it seemed a little extra special this year. Thanks to our children, youth, and Chancel Choir for the heartwarming program on Christmas Eve night. We should thank Joe Clark, Marieke deWitte, Mary Ellen Kirkland, Mary Lou Foster and others for this night of praise and glory. The sight of Eisley Henderson participating in this pageant was a blessing for all of us. And we are always blessed when Magan Henderson sings for us! To God be the glory!!!

As we start the year of 2017 let us be thankful for our many blessings. We have a caring and loving Pastor who loves us and cares for us above and beyond. He and Dicie Rue hosted the staff to a delicious Christmas dinner at The Cottage. And our thanks to Jimmy and Wanda Winfrey for the use of The Cottage.

What else can I say? We are blessed beyond measure! Let us continue to shine our light for all the world to see. They will know we are Christians by our love!

*Lou Jane Drummond*

---

## 6th Annual Hopkins County Turkey Trot

Thank you to our generous sponsors who make this event possible each year and for showing your commitment to the support of local children and their families. Because of your dedication, we have collectively given more than \$75,000 to the Turkey Trot recipients since we began in 2011.

Blessings,

Holly Ragan, Race Director  
& Hopkins County Turkey Trot Committee



The Children, Youth and Chancel Choir presented *The Christmas Story* on Christmas Eve.



## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

|                                 |                      |                   |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Rhonda Alley                    | Charles Batty, Jr.   | DeLana Beadle     |
| Sherry and Max Baxter           | Rebecca Blakemore    | Carson Bryant     |
| Cathy Bryant                    | Margaret Campbell    | Cassie Cavaliere  |
| Tom and Jane Ann Craft          | Leah Conner          | Chloe Cox         |
| Kathy Crowson and Family        | Kimberly Davis       | Sandy Davis       |
| Ty and Jamie Funderburk         | Heather Gautreau     | Don Gilmer        |
| Jerry and Shirley Glossup       | Steve Gilmer         | Brent Glenn       |
| Robert and Mary Glover          | Jayne Glenn          | James Heimer      |
| Jack and Janie Godfrey          | Doris Herman         | Pam Hollingsworth |
| Magan, Tim and Easley Henderson | Jana Hublick         | Hudson Hughes     |
| Marvin and Louise Jones         | Sharon Hughes        | Sarah James       |
| Christa and Victor Kasztelanski | Dana Jordan          | Corena Korth      |
| Robert and Charlene Maples      | Pricilla Lewis       | Michael Lindley   |
| Angela Little                   | Bear Littleton       | Jase Mabie        |
| Mary Ann McCormick              | Zane Magan           | Tokio Pevalta     |
| Tana and Gary Moon              | Kenneth Raleigh      | Greg Roller       |
| Ricky and Kay Orr               | Ron Sanders          | Patti Sells       |
| Jim and Vera Skaggs             | Lois Shannon         | LaVada Shelton    |
| Pat Skauge                      | Dustin Snyder        | Patty Soward      |
| Donna and Dave Spears           | Pat and Floyd Spears | Allan Thar        |
| Bob Tankersley                  | Braden Tinsley       | Mark Warren       |
| Bill Watts and Jo Watts         | Everlyn West         | Della White       |
| Frances Williams                | Ron Zitterick        |                   |

Our Country and Our Leaders    Military Personnel and their Families  
 Healthy Church Initiative/HCI Team    Community Chest/Cupboard  
 CANHelp    Backpack Buddies    North Texas Food Bank  
 Holy Highway Girls Home    Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center  
 Dallas Bethlehem Center – Wesley-Rankin Community Center  
 Way of Salvation UMC, Mytisch, Russia    Abused Children and Youth  
 EMS, Fire Fighters, Hospital Personnel

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

Doris Rawls Bill Shell Bobbie Holder Truman Renshaw  
 Muriel Lucas Sandra McIntire Della Loane Lloyd Hiller



On Christmas Eve the children, youth and Chancel Choir presented The Christmas Story

## KNOTS

All of us know what knots are. They have many uses. They connect two pieces of rope together. They help keep a tent secure with a special know that tightens the rope. They help keep a load on a trailer.

Knots also represent uplifting prayers, love, and hope! I received a prayer blanket. There are knots all around the blanket, tied by Wesley parishioners who prayed for me; knots tied by brothers and sisters in Christ, who love and respect one another. These brothers and sisters are the same people who pray over little children in need of extra help. The same people who, in many cases, themselves need extra help because of the loss of a loved one, or because of health issues.

When I go to bed at night, my prayer blanket is with me. When I feel down, when “issues” pull at me and try to get me down, I have my prayer blanket with me, covering me, keeping me warm, and sheltering me. It is the shield that protects me. These knots tie prayers to the rest of the blanket and surround me when I am wrapped in it, giving me the strength to carry on, to get better, to persevere! This blanket wasn’t given to me because I was near death; it was given to me so I would know the love and support of our church family has for each other, how much I am loved by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Because it is through His love for us we can say we love each other. It is because His love lives in us and through us to those less fortunate, who don’t know the peace of knowing Jesus Christ.

I know the strength of prayer. I watched it work in one of God’s miracles, Janet. I am also now considered cancer free and I thank God for that. I know He has more work for me and I humbly say, “Here I am, Lord!”

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you, Wesley, for my prayer blanket! It is very precious to me!

Grace and Peace!

Pat Skauge



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Kelly Moser                | Jan 7        |
| <b>Jim and Vera Skaggs</b> | <b>Jan 7</b> |
| Shirley Gossup             | Jan 8        |
| Ryan Spears                | Jan 9        |
| Bonnie Gilmer              | Jan 13       |
| Amanda Clark               | Jan 14       |
| Elton Stewart              | Jan 16       |
| Rhonda Alley               | Jan 16       |
| Lynna Nichols              | Jan 17       |
| Spencer Thurman            | Jan 26       |
| Kim Moore                  | Jan 28       |
| Norma Gadt                 | Jan 29       |
| Ricky Batty                | Jan 30       |

**From  
Pastor  
Steve**

## A NEW YEAR (2017) WHILE LIFE GOES ON...

Richard C. Halverson penned these words while serving as Chaplain of the United States Senate (1981-1995). Let's reflect on them:

**You can offer your ideas to others as *bullets* or as *seeds*. You can shoot them or sow them; hit people in the head with them, or plant them in their hearts.**

**Ideas used as bullets will kill inspiration and neutralize motivation. Used as seeds, they take root, grow, and become reality in the life in which they are planted.**

**The only risk in the seed approach: Once it grows and becomes part of those in whom it's planted, you probably will get no credit for originating the idea. But if you're willing to do without the credit, you'll reap a rich harvest.**

The recently-completed 2016 year was a year of new things and challenges. We began the 2nd year of the Healthy Church Initiative (which continues through this fall), we successfully completed a financial pledge campaign, through hard work and generous giving, we will be able to pay out our apportionments without borrowing monies from established accounts, and we ministered to more folks in the Sulphur Springs/Hopkins County area through Backpack Buddies., "Be the Service" Thanksgiving baskets, CANHelp, Community Cupboard, Homebound Ministries, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Youth Fellowship, and our special Christmas Ever "The Christmas Story" presentation (among other ministries)! When a member sees only a part of Wesley UMC's ministry from their Sunday school class, Chancel Choir, UMW, for example, it only seems to be small and not so "outreaching." However, when we consider everything we are about at Wesley, our arms reach out a great distance: in our community, our East District, our North Texas Annual Conference, and the entire global United Methodist Church! So, "together we can" do so much for the glory of God and for God's Kingdom (which knows no borders). As your pastor, I want to say thank you for being a part of this going and growing ministry through Wesley United Methodist Church. As Chaplain Halverson noted: We can offer our ideas (ministries) as **bullets** or **seeds**. I encourage us to remember the words of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthian Church in I Corinthians 3:6-7:

**"I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God gives the growth."**

Perhaps in this year, **2017**, we'll remember this as we do ministry together. We'll have moments when we'll **"rejoice with those who rejoice,"** as well as ones where **"we'll weep with those who weep."** Life has a way of moving on even when we're not ready to move on. I've been there. You've been there. We've all been there. It feels like we're stuck, yet time moves on, so life moves on. It may not be life as we once knew or experienced it. Yet one thing I've learned from my 65+ years on this earth: **It (life) goes on.**

So then, each of us are presented with choices almost each house, much less each day we live. How we choose to live is our (your) choice. I found the following words worth a thought as we start this new year. The author is not known, but the words are wisely said:

**We are most like beasts when we kill. We are most like men when we judge. We are most like God when we forgive.**

In the spirit of those words, I share a new prayer shared with me by a new friend I have made in 2016:

**"Dear Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me from my sin so You can hear my prayer."**

Wesley folk, keep on keeping on. May we sow the Word of God in every heart we meet. May we water that seed in those same hearts. May we be prepared to give God the credit for all that we try our best to do in 2017. May the joy of the Lord be our strength in all that we do. May the Grace of God saturate each of our lives so that "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Amen.



## Little Acorn School January Newsletter

### Important Dates

Jan 2 Day Care only  
Jan 16 Closed MLK Day

### Things to Remember:

**The semester supply fee is due before January 30. The supply fee is \$30 per child and covers supplies provided for your child.**

**Please put your child's name on any belongings they may bring to school such as coats, nap mats, lunch boxes, etc. Please remember that tuition is due at the first of every month. If tuition is turned in any later than the 10th of the month, there will be a \$25 late fee added to that month's tuition.**



### Devotionals

Jan 2 - 6 The Good Samaritan  
Jan 9 - 13 Jesus Heals the Man with Leprosy  
Jan 16 - 20 Zacchaeus  
Jan 30 - Feb 3 Fruit of the Spirit



**Needed!** Used printer cartridges. We purchase office supplies with the rebates we get from recycling.

## 2017 Administrative Board

|                                                |                   |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chair.....                                     | Jim Skaggs        |
| Minister.....                                  | Steve Cook        |
| Recording Secretary.....                       | Brenda McKinzie   |
| Lay Member of Annual Conference.....           | Diane Dixon       |
| Alternate Lay Member of Annual Conference..... | Mary Lou Foster   |
| Lay Leader.....                                | Lou Jane Drummond |

### Administrative and Program Ministry Leadership

|                                                                 |                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Committee on Staff Parish Relations Chair.....                  | Didi Thurman               |
| Committee on Finance Chair.....                                 | Pam Hollingsworth          |
| Financial Secretary.....                                        | Gina Wilder                |
| Church Business Manager/Treasurer.....                          | Cheryl Spears              |
| Board of Trustees Chair (Elected by the Board of Trustees)..... |                            |
| Outreach Chair.....                                             | Silvina Epperson           |
| Worship Ministries Chair.....                                   | Mary Ellen Kirkland        |
| Multimedia Team Leaders.....                                    | Stanley Foster/Rick Spears |

### Congregational Care Ministries

|                                            |                                                |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Care Ministries Leader.....                | Diane Dixon<br>(Homebound, Nursing Home, etc.) |
| Bereavement Ministries.....                | Paula Jordan/Wandean Easley                    |
| Fellowship Ministry.....                   | Carol Ann O'dell                               |
| Archives and History.....                  | Mary Lou Foster                                |
| Membership Secretary.....                  | Konnie Cross                                   |
| Head Usher.....                            | Max Massey                                     |
| United Methodist Women President.....      | Mary Logan                                     |
| United Methodist Youth Representative..... | Mattie Thurman                                 |

### Christian Discipleship (Education) Ministries

|                                             |                 |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday School Superintendent.....           | Joyce Davis     |
| Assistant Sunday School Superintendent..... | Joe Batty       |
| Youth Sunday School Ministries.....         | Joe Clark       |
| Children Sunday School Ministries.....      | Marieke deWitte |
| Wednesday Night.....                        | Gloria Betty    |

### Ministry Staff

|                                        |                      |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Church Secretary.....                  | Bonnie Gilmer        |
| Youth Ministry.....                    | Joe Clark            |
| Music Minister.....                    | Joe Clark            |
| Child Care Ministry.....               | Julie Weir/Kara Lane |
| Church Business Manager/Treasurer..... | Cheryl Spears        |

### Members at Large to the Administrative Board

|                      |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Class of 2017</b> | <b>Class of 2018</b> | <b>Class of 2019</b> |
| Ilene Massey         | Mary Lou Foster      | Wanda Winfrey        |
| Betty Phillips       | Marisa Jones         |                      |
|                      | Rachel Lewis         |                      |

### Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

|                                                               |                      |                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Pastor - Chair.....                                           | Steve Cook           |                      |
| Co-Chair.....                                                 | Lou Jane Drummond    |                      |
| 1 Young Adult (Required by Discipline) and 1 Youth (Optional) |                      |                      |
| <b>Class of 2017</b>                                          | <b>Class of 2018</b> | <b>Class of 2019</b> |
| Vera Skaggs                                                   | Max Drummond         | Jacob Jones          |
| Paul Clark                                                    | Mary Logan           | Gary Lewis           |
| Carol Ann O'dell                                              | Allie Thurman        |                      |

### Committee on Staff Parish Relations

No Less than 5 or More Than 9  
1 Young Adult Required by Discipline  
1 May be Senior High Youth

|                                      |                      |                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Pastor.....                          | Steve Cook           |                      |
| Lay Leader.....                      | Lou Jane Drummond    |                      |
| Lay member to Annual Conference..... | Diane Dixon          |                      |
| <b>Class of 2017</b>                 | <b>Class of 2018</b> | <b>Class of 2019</b> |
| Didi Thurman                         | Max Massey           | Rhonda Alley         |
|                                      | Mary Lou Foster      | Jacob Jones          |

## Board of Trustees

|                                  |                      |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Chair (Elected by Trustees)..... | Steve Cook           |                      |
| Minister.....                    | Lou Jane Drummond    |                      |
| Lay Leader.....                  |                      |                      |
| <b>Class of 2017</b>             | <b>Class of 2018</b> | <b>Class of 2018</b> |
| Stanley Foster                   | Kathy Darrow         | Hendrik deWitte      |
| Garrett Glass                    | Jimmy Winfrey        | James Clark          |

### Committee on Finance

|                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chair.....                           | Pam Hollingsworth              |
| Lay Leader.....                      | Lou Jane Drummond              |
| Lay Member to Annual Conference..... | Diane Dixon                    |
| Pastor.....                          | Steve Cook (Ex-officio)        |
| Administrative Board Chair.....      | Jim Skaggs                     |
| Trustee Chair.....                   | Elected by Trustees in January |
| Business Manager/Treasurer.....      | Cheryl Spears (Ex-officio)     |
| Financial Secretary.....             | Gina Wilder                    |

#### Members at Large to the Finance Committee

Marisa Jones Emily Glass Jana Prochaska

### Outreach Committee

|                      |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Chair.....           | Silvina Epperson     |                      |
| <b>Class of 2017</b> | <b>Class of 2018</b> | <b>Class of 2019</b> |
| Marieke deWitte      | Jim Skaggs           | Amanda Clark         |
| Vera Skaggs          | Cheryl Spears        | Bethany Ferrall      |
| Dicie Rue Cook       |                      |                      |

### Worship Ministry

|                                                |                            |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Team Leader.....                               | Mary Ellen Kirkland        |
| Pastor.....                                    | Steve Cook                 |
| Minister of Music.....                         | Joe Clark                  |
| Multimedia.....                                | Stanley Foster/Rick Spears |
| Head Usher.....                                | Max Massey                 |
| Organist.....                                  | Carol Ann O'dell           |
| Pianist.....                                   | Mary Ellen Kirkland        |
| Communion.....                                 | Mary Logan                 |
| Church Secretary.....                          | Bonnie Gilmer              |
| Youth Sunday School Ministry.....              | Joe Clark                  |
| Alternate Lay Member to Annual Conference..... | Mary Lou Foster            |

### Fellowship


|            |                             |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| Chair..... | Carol Ann O'dell (and Crew) |
|------------|-----------------------------|

### Little Acorn School

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Pastor.....        | Steve Cook               |
| Lay Leader.....    | Lou Jane Drummond        |
| Trustee Chair..... | (Elected by Trustees)    |
|                    | Amanda Clark Donna Korth |



Dear Homebound Ministry Friends,

Thank You  Just a note to say thank you, thank you and thank you again for all the fellowship, visiting, and for being my friends. You are my special blessing friends. I love each and every one of you.

May God bless you,

Muriel Lucas

From the Wesley Staff:

Thanks for the monetary Christmas gifts. It is a joy and blessing to serve alongside the members and supporters of Wesley UMC!

Poinsettias Given in Memory of:

By:

Our "Heavenly" Grandchildren:  
 Aubrey Makenzie Mullinax  
 Andrew Riley Robinson  
 Our Parents:  
 Wayman and Mary Cook  
 Dr. and Mrs. Wm. S. Rogers  
 Kirk Edward Fletcher

Algarine Jordan  
 Our Parents  
 Dick Brock  
 Shirley Brock

Wanda Renshaw  
 Manual and Marietta Higgins  
 J.C. and Ethel Ferrell

Tom and Esther Massey  
 T.M. and Marietta Higgins  
 Erica Kines

James Parker  
 Roy Herman  
 Gina Wilder

Chuck Glass  
 Garrett Glass

Mom and Dad:  
 L.L. and Louise Voss

Bobby McDonald  
 Myrtle Thar  
 Cheryl Spears

Morris Logan  
 Bill and Elizabeth Foster

Doris and Aaron McKinzie  
 Dick Brock  
 Mae Pratt  
 George W. Pratt

Our Son  
 Our Parents  
 Don Temples  
 Dollie Jean Temples

Leroy Easley  
 Our Grandparents  
 Our Family  
 Leroy Dixon  
 Morris Logan  
 Raymond McCaig  
 Our Parents:  
 Wallace and Ruth Kirkland  
 Freeman and Ruby Barkley

Pastor Steve and Dicie Rue

L.B. Jordan  
 Gary and Debra Huffman

Hendrik and Marieke deWitte  
 Jerry and Betty Ferrell

Max and Ilene Massey

Sandra Parker

Emily and  
 Jackie Voss Thornton and Family

Jackie Voss Thornton

Mary Lou and Stanley Foster

Brenda and Doyle McKinzie  
 Mike and Rhonda Brock

Elton and Louise Stewart

Lynna Nichols

Wandean Easley  
 Danny and Jana Prochaska  
 Billy and Frances Daniels  
 Diane Dixon  
 Mary Logan  
 Dorothy McCaig  
 Malcolm and Mary Ellen Kirkland

Poinsettias Given in Honor of:

By:

Vera Ann Johnson  
 Wesley UMC  
 Pastor Steve and Dicie Rue's Anniversary  
 Our 4 "Earthly" Grandchildren  
 Our 5 Children and "their Partners"  
 Friends (Near and Far)

Gaylon O'dell's 70th Birthday (12/25)  
 Our Children  
 Our Granddaughters:  
 Adelaide Meta Murphy  
 Emma Maiken Murphy  
 Our Children and Grandchildren

Max and Ilene Massey  
 Vivian and Wade Kines  
 Marcy and Max Massey, Jr.  
 My Children and Grandchildren  
 Russell Korth  
 Doris Herman  
 Garrett, Emily, Katherine and Grant Glass  
 Everett and Jenny Wilder  
 Gail Herman  
 Katherine and Grant Glass  
 Our Parents:  
 Gina and Bill Wilder  
 Laura Glass  
 Our Family  
 The Emmaus Group that meets at WUMC  
 Pastor and Dicie Rue Cook

Jimmy and Wanda Winfrey  
 Pastor Steve and Dicie Rue  
 The O'dell Family  
 L.D. Jordan  
 Gary and Debra Huffman  
 Hendrik and Marieke deWitte  
 Jerry and Betty Ferrell  
 Max and Ilene Massey  
 Sandra Parker  
 Ron Watson  
 Gina Wilder  
 Emily and Garrett Glass  
 James and Gail Clark  
 Donna Korth



Poinsettias Given in Memory of:

By:

Sid and Christine Speck  
 Buddy Watts  
 Hoot Gibson

Gene Alley  
 James Parker

Jo Watts  
 Rhonda Alley  
 The Thurmans  
 Logan, Didi, Allie, Mattie and Spencer



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

(903) 885-3383 Church Office  
(903) 335-8010 Parsonage  
(903) 438-2324 Fax  
[www.wesleysst.org](http://www.wesleysst.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on

**facebook**

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



**United  
Methodist  
Women**

**1:30 p.m. Tuesday  
January 17**

**Program: Pledge Service  
Mary Lou Foster & Rachel Lewis**



**Outreach  
Committee  
Meeting**

**6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday  
January 17**

**Ad Board Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday  
January 24**

