



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 2018

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

www.wesleysst.org

Phone 903-885-3383

Fax 903-438-2324

*May the new year be filled
with endless blessings.*



Cardinal Cottage

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Kay Atkins	Dr. I.L. Balkom	Charles Batty, Jr.
James Brown	Richard Brown	Cassie Cavaliere
Haylee Chester	Wanda Claryton	Sandy Davis
Nel and Billy Crowson	Rev. Gaither Day	Cristine Dixon
Benjamin Epperson	Silvina Epperson	Fran Francis
Gene George	Jayne Glenn	Jerry Glossup
Robert and Mary Glover	Jim Gregg	Janis Hargrave
Mark Heisler	Gary Huffman	Ronnie Jenkins
Magan, Tim and Easley Henderson	Jeff Johnson	Marge Johnson
Sharon and G.V. Hughes	Vera Ann Johnson	Dana Jordan
Christa and Victor Kasztelanski	Lynn Kincaide	Donna Korth
John Kramer	Rev. Van Lazaroff	Jennifer Lee
Latressa Logan	Jase Mabie	Zane Magan
Mary Ann McCormick	Lynn Merrick	Gary Moon
Linda Moore	Beverly Morgan	Rev. Dana Norton
Lee Ann Carpenter Oliver	Jill Reneau	Sara Robinson
Reed Schnieder	Beth Shurtleff	Clara Smith
Rev. Patty Soward	Floyd Spears	Beverly Stone
The Spears Family	Rev. Howard Strickland	Allan Thar
Sherry Swanson and daughter	Mark Warren	Karen Wedding
Mary Ann Wilson	Jimmy Winfrey	Ron Zitterick

Pastor Steve

Students, Teachers, Administrators, Personnel

Military Personnel and their Families First Responders, Law Enforcement,

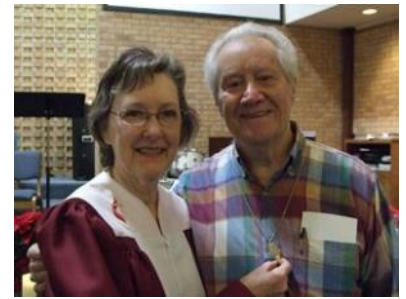
EMS, Fire Fighters, Hospital Personnel

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



United Methodist Women presented Joe Batty and Bill Watts special Mission Recognition Pins for their dedication and hard work. A gift to missions was made in their honor.



The Wesley Chancel Choir and Student Ministries presented BORN IS THE KING on Sunday,



Pastor Steve and Dicie Rue celebrated their 20th anniversary by renewing their vows at noon on December 24, 2017.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Kelly Moser	Jan 7
Jim and Vera Skaggs	Jan 7
Shirley Gossup	Jan 8
Ryan Spears	Jan 9
Bonnie Gilmer	Jan 13
Amanda Clark	Jan 14
Olivia Grisby	Jan 14
Elton Stewart	Jan 16
Rhonda Alley	Jan 16
Lynna Nichols	Jan 17
Billy Boughton	Jan 17
Spencer Thurman	Jan 26
Norma Gadt	Jan 29
Ricky Batty	Jan 30
Laila Boughton	

From Pastor

Haunted by “What Might Have Been?”

Have you ever had a recurring dream or thought of something that “could have been” if only you were willing to take a risk? I am reflecting on my almost 50 years of being licensed as a pastor (August 25, 1968). I’ve preached to as few as 4-5 people and to as many as 1,500 in multiple church denominations in these years. And I thought that when I was licensed to preach that I would be first and foremost a *preacher*. The thought of being a *pastor* probably was frightening to me (especially when I recall my effective, home church pastors). Yet, in the intervening years, I discovered the joy of ministry being called by that title: Pastor. Like most jobs, being a pastor has its highs and lows, its opportunities and challenges, and even its sad and glad times. It is also amusing to me that as a Baptist pastor, I was called *brother*. Being United Methodist, I am most often called *pastor*. I thoroughly enjoy the study, preparation, and preaching role; I am most happy to be serving as a pastor, however.

This brings me to my purpose in this article: “being haunted by what might have been?” Part of a poem by Gerhard Frost says:

Take all the risks.

Great words for one who is to teach.

Take the risk of loving;

it means you’ll be hurt,

Take the risk of listening;

It means that you will learn
and will have to change.

Take the risk of responding;

little by little, it will cost you your life.

Teaching is response,

Learning occurs within relationships,
and relationship involves risk,

the risk of knowing and of being known.

So no matter the person or persons we desire to get to know, invite into our life, or choose to be with, it always involves the element of risk--and maybe that’s why we opt out or cop out of making new friends or sharing our faith.

Fret not, Wesley folk, I bring you good news in 2018:

- We will continue our caring Outreach and Homebound Ministry weekly.
- We will provide Spirit-led worship via music, preaching, and Bible study.
- We will grow our new Breaking Bread Together Monday and Friday lunches.
- We will offer nourishing and low-cost Wednesday night meals.
- We will find more effective ways to minister to our children and youth.
- We will offer a place for TOPS, NA, and other non-profit groups to meet.
- We will offer our facilities to other UMC-related groups.
- We will worship once again at Buford Park in the early fall.
- We will host Christian singers, actors and plays, and more musical events.
- We will continue to be a part of the Hopkins County Stew Festival.
- We will be again (and have been) a member of the Chamber of Commerce.
- We will offer Easter and Christmas cantatas (or presentations).
- We will host an end-of-the-year for Little Acorn Preschool.
- We will participate in both District and Annual Church Conferences.
- We will be challenged to be *mission-minded* by our Wesley UMW.
- We will celebrate all the seasons in our church year (Lent/ Easter/Advent, etc.)
- We will make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (Mission statement of the United Methodist Church.)
- We will INVITE all in the name of Christ, GROW DISCIPLES with the Word of Christ, and SERVE with the love of Christ.

By God’s grace, WE WILL RISK our faith and our church by being *light* in the dark and lonely places and by being *salt* to people’s lives who need the seasoning of the Word of God. Together, We Can! Together, We Will!

Prayer: O God our Help in ages past and our Hope for years to come, may WE be Your Church wherever we are and to everyone we meet in 2015. Amen.



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

2018 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
 (Homebound, Nursing Home, etc.)
 Bereavement Ministries.....Chair-Dorothy McCaig
 Fellowship Ministry.....Carol Ann O'dell
 Archives and History.....Mary Lou Foster
 Membership Secretary.....Konnie Cross
 Head Usher.....Logan Thurman, Jimmy Winfrey
 United Methodist Women President.....Diane Dixon
 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, Volunteer-Kara Lane
 Church Business Manager/Treasurer.....Cheryl Spears

Members at Large to the Administrative Board

Class of 2018	Class of 2019	Class of 2020
Ilene Massey	Mary Lou Foster	Wanda Winfrey
Betty Phillips	Marisa Jones	
Gail Clark	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)
Class of 2018.....Carol Ann O'dell
Class of 2019.....Max Drummond
Class of 2020.....Jacob Jones
 Allie Thurman
 Joyce Davis

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
Class of 2018.....Didi Thurman
Class of 2019.....Max Massey
 Chair.....Mary Lou Foster
Class of 2020.....Rhonda Alley
 Jacob Jones

Board of Trustees

Chair (Elected by Trustees).....Steve Cook
 Minister.....Lou Jane Drummond
 Lay Leader.....
Class of 2018.....Stanley Foster
Class of 2019.....Kathy Darrow
Class of 2020.....Hendrik deWitte
 Doyle McKinzie.....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
Class of 2018.....Dicie Rue Cook
 Joyce Davis
Class of 2019.....Jim Skaggs
 Cheryl Spears
Class of 2020.....Amanda Clark
 Bethany Ferrall
 Ricky Batty

Worship Ministry

Team Leader.....Mary Ellen Kirkland
 Pastor.....Steve Cook
 Minister of Music.....Joe Clark
 Multimedia.....Stanley Foster/Rick Spears
 Head Usher.....Logan Thurman, Jimmy Winfrey
 Organist.....Carol Ann O'dell
 Pianist.....Mary Ellen Kirkland
 Communion.....Dorothy McCaig
 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)
 Donna Korth

Bus Ministry.....Joe Batty
Breaking Bread Together.....Bill Watts and Crew
Gift Bag Ministry.....Vera Skaggs



December 31, 2017, was very cold with the potential of icy roads. Worship and brunch were held in Wesley Hall.



Thank You

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:

Leroy Dixon Elizabeth Young	Diane Dixon
J.R. Campbell Eddie Campbell	Margaret Campbell
James Parker	Sandra Parker
Jerry and Mary Huffman Orin and Irene Scholz	Gary and Debra Huffman
Dick Brock	Shirley Brock
Chuck Glass Doris Herman	Emily and Garrett Glass
Ronny Stewart Our Parents	Elton and Louise Stewart
Logan Loved Ones	Mary Logan
Our Parents Mike Stubbs	Mark and Betty Warren
Mary Logan	Mary Lou and Stanley Foster
Algarine Jordan	L.B. Jordan Family
Doris and Aaron McKinzie Billy Gregg	Brenda and Doyle McKinzie
Tom and Esther Massey T.M. and Marietta Higgins Erica Kines	Max and Ilene Massey
Sang Ok Cha Our Parents	Jimmy and Wanda Winfrey
Don Temples	Lynna Nichols
Aubrey Makenzie Mullinax Andrew Riley Robinson William S. and Mary E. Rogers Wayman and Mary Cook Tabitha Cook Gary Cook	Pastor Steve and Dicie Rue
Russell W. Korth	Ron Watson
Dr. Bud Watts Sid and Christine Speck Carey Gibson Gene Alley Buddy Watts	Jo and Bill Watts
Raymond McCaig Randy Jenkins	Rhonda Alley
Leroy Easley Bob Wesson	Dorothy McCaig
	Wandean Easley

Poinsettias Given in Honor of:

By:

Our Children and Grandchildren	Hendrik and Marieke deWitte
Vera Ann Johnson	The Battys
Children and Grandchildren	Sandra Parker
Ethan Huffman Erica, Ryan, Adelaide and Emma Murphy	Gary and Debra Huffman
Gina and Bill Wilder Laura Glass Katherine and Grant Glass	Emily and Garrett Glass
Children	Elton and Louise Stewart
Elton and Louise Stewart	Judy, Randy & Billy Bob Stewart
Mary Lou and Stanley Foster	Mary Logan
Mary Logan	Mark and Betty Warren
Morris Logan Bill and Elizabeth Foster	Mary Lou and Stanley Foster
Our Children and Grandchildren Peggy and Jim Gregg	Brenda and Doyle McKinzie
Vivian and Wade Kines Marcy and Max Massey, Jr.	Max and Ilene Massey
Our Children and Grandchildren Friends Siblings Wesley UMC Homebound Visitors	Pastor Steve and Dicie Rue
The Choir	Red and Vernice Penny
Jake Gibson	Gary and Rachel Lewis
Lou Jane Drummond Betty Phillips Vera Skaggs	Jo and Bil Watts
	Rhonda Alley



2018 Apportionments

TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS \$23,662.00

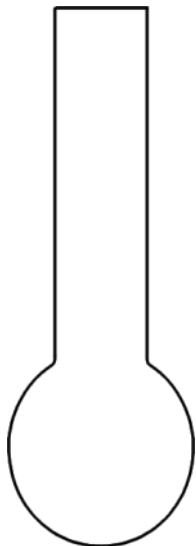
There is a list of where our money goes on the bulletin board. This year we will not adopt each apportionment as was done in the past.

Each one of us is encouraged to **Adopt a PORTION** of the Apportionments; the amount is determined by YOU.

You can adopt a portion by yourself, go together with someone else or as part of a Sunday school class. Check the thermometer on the Wesley Hall bulletin board and thermometer in the Sanctuary for updates on how much Wesley has paid.

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 connec-tional 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."



\$23,662.00

\$21,295.80

\$18,929.60

\$16,543.40

\$14,197.20

\$11,831.00

\$ 9,464.80

\$ 7,098.60

\$ 4,732.40

\$ 2,366.20

The Wesley Chancel Choir and Student Ministries presented **BORN IS THE KING** on Sunday, December 17.



In Loving Memory of Art Frances

By: Gary and Rachel Lewis Rick and Cheryl Spears
Diane Dixon Max and Lou Jane Drummond

In Loving Memory of Gene Lewis

By: Max and Lou Jane Drummond

In Honor of Brenda and Steve Cupps

Rhonda Alley Gary Lewis
By: Max and Lou Jane Drummond

In Honor of Breaking Bread Together Ministry

By: Sara Gibson



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

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www.wesleysst.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on

facebook

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



**United
Methodist
Women**

**1:30 p.m. Tuesday
January 16**

**Program: Pledge Service
Hostesses: Diane Dixon
and Bonnie Gilmer**



**Outreach
Committee
Meeting**

**6:00 p.m.
Tuesday
January 16**

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

