



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

August 2018

614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482

www.wesleysst.org

Phone 903-885-3383

Fax 903-438-2324



PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Jordyn Ausmus	Jack Baker	Clint Barkley	Betty Bassham
Charles Batty, Jr.	Delana Beadle	Bethany Nichole	Allison Bostick
Morgan Brown	Cassie Cavaliere	Wanda Clayton	Nell Drummond
Clifford and Sandra Davis	Silvina Epperson	Debra Furbay	Gene George
Eddie Fenstermaker	Jayne Glenn	H.W. Halcomb	Dorothy Hargrave
Donny and Beulah Godfrey	Roy Herman, Jr.	Mark Heisler	Robbie Jones
Magan, Tim and Easley Henderson	Lynn Kincade	Jase Mabie	Zane Magan
Christa and Victor Kasztelanski	Sarah Markovic	Kris McWilliams	Bobbie Moseman
Fred and LaDonna Kusta	Sandra Parker	Nan Price	Carolyn Roland
Mary Ann McCormick	Mildred Schulz	The Spears Family	Nancy Stobough
Elton and Louise Stewart	Allan Thar	Betty Tucker	Mark Warren
Barbara and Jim Williams	Karen Wedding	Gracie Weston	

First Responders,

Wildfires & Flooding
 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

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 Lois Shannon Margaret Campbell
 Sandra McIntire Della Loane Martha Johnson Red and Vernice Penny Marge Johnson



Wesley United Methodist Church

614 Texas

(Corner of Texas & Bellview)

FREE lunches

Every Monday & Friday at NOON

Break Bread Together with Us!

Preparing for Vacation Bible School



Save the date! Photography for our new directory is September 4, 5, 6.

Our goal is to have everyone included for our most complete family directory ever!

Wesley Arts and Crafts Fair

Saturday, September 8

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wesley Hall

Vender Space Available:

10' x 10' \$30

8' x 8' \$25

**Applications may be picked up at the Wesley Church office
614 Texas Street, Sulphur Springs**

**There is also a link to the applications and more information on our web
site: www.wesleysst.org or on our Facebook page:**

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs

Applications must be received by August 10.

Applications received after that date will be put on a waiting list.

**Applications may be mailed or faxed to 903-438-2324 or e-mail to
Richard or Chelsea Batty. Their contact information is on the application.**

Wesley United Methodist Church

614 Texas Street

Sulphur Springs, TX

903-885-3383

From Pastor

Choosing to DO the Right Thing

One of the key core values Methodists and Wesleyans have championed is *free will*. Though definitions may vary between learned folk (theologians and philosophers, for example), the following is a basic overview definition:

“Free will is the ability to choose between possible courses of action unimpeded (not stopped or blocked). Free will assumes that we are free to choose our behavior in how we act, react, support or oppose, or accept or reject an action or statement. Free will is closely linked to the concepts of responsibility, praise, guilt, sin, and other judgements which apply only to actions that are freely chosen. Free will is personal choice unhindered.”

Biblically speaking, free will occurs “in the beginning” stories that are in the first few chapters of the first book of the Holy Bible (any translation!) we know as Genesis. The complementary Bible book in the New Testament is the Gospel of John. Our spiritual parents, Adam and Eve, chose to eat what the Bible says is “the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Note that Adam was TOLD by our Creator God to not do this “before God created Eve, his helper. Why is this important? Simply this: It was AFTER Eve had been created, tempted by the evil snake, Satan, that Adam did eat of this fruit (and we are never told what kind of fruit it was!) Sadly, I know Bible-believing menfolk that take glee in pointing this out as if Adam (a male) only did this to please his helper (a female). (Genesis 2:8-24)

To amplify free will or being able to choose or have a choice, Genesis 4:1-15 is the recorded story of Adam and Eve’s first two children, Cain and Abel. Once again, choice is offered to these young men to provide when they bring an offering to God representative of their occupations. Cain was a dirt farmer and Abel was a sheep farmer. In this Biblical story, God chooses Abel’s offering of a firstborn of his herd of sheep and Cain offers the first fruit of the ground. To be honest, we do not really know, though we can speculate-if we choose, why God chose Abel’s offering over Cain’s. One thing we can note is, choices in life come in many forms, many times, every day. Frankly, all of us make some very good choices as well as choices that, from an outside perspective, challenge our minds and hearts. And, perhaps, it is the motive that lies in Cain’s heart when he chooses to kill his own brother that we should note. Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) reminds us: “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.” And, Jesus, in the New Testament, declares, “But the words that you speak from the heart--that’s what defile (mar or spoil) you.” Matthew 15:19

And, it seemed almost every day with Moses leading the National Israel away from slavery in Egypt toward the Promised Land that he confronted his own folk to choose to let God lead them instead of choosing their own ways! It was actually Joshua who bravely and confidently stated to the Nation Israel after he became Moses’ successor and did lead them into the Promised Land (the land of Canaan; the land flowing with milk and honey): “Choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!” Joshua 24:15

At Wesley, we accept this core value of free will. In everything we choose to do--all forms of ministry, worship, outreach, fellowship, etc.--we’ve made a choice on how, when, where, and whom we will serve. I believe we are at a pivotal moment in our history in choosing to be the people of God located at 614 Texas Street (or not?). We are an aging church. Much of our effective ministry is rightly directed at our aging member attendees as well as those saints unable to attend (thank you Homebound visiting team!). Members who range in ages 20-50 (high-energy folk) is very low. On the other hand, it is our saints 60-99 that financially keep Wesley’s doors open--for the most part. We all can observe that our neighborhood closest to the church has been and continues to change. My experience is this: when a church senses changes in their prime ministry areas, they often look to move out to a more acceptable location.

I do not know if Wesley ever thought about this over the past 20-25 years. And I, for one, believe a church is called to be the presence of Jesus Christ in its own neighborhood! We are blessed with fine, paid-for, adequate space for all of our ministries as well as parking space, although the Trustees are aware of some re-working and re-paving, especially near our Little Acorn entrance and parking areas that need immediate attention. Overall, our facilities meet most of our ministry needs --though a new lighting configuration in our sanctuary, resealing of windows in Wesley Hall, parking as already noted above, and some cosmetic upgrades throughout all our buildings would simply enhance appearances to those guests whose eyes see things we regulars normally accept. We continue to forge a closer working relationship with Little Acorn Pre-school which is often not considered in the overall picture of Wesley’s multiple, effective ministries.

I said we are at a pivotal moment at Wesley. Leadership recognizes we must seek a new way or new ways to minister to the body, mind, and spirit of all our children and youth. An idea for family groups on Wednesday night has emerged as one way. I have set a meeting for Wednesday, August 15, to include at least all staff, elected core leaders, and the Fellowship Committee to begin intensive, productive discussions on a way or ways to “Grow Disciples with the Word of Christ,” leading to “Serving People with the Love of Christ,” as two thirds of our Church Vision Statement declares. It is interesting that with our Wednesday night children and youth, they have been coming without being “Invited in the Name of Christ!”--the other one third of our Vision Statement.

Several of us have observed that a goodly number of our elders have chose to not attend our Wednesday night gatherings; i.e. meal, etc. I’ve been told some of this is due to an energetic, if, not at times, rowdy group of youth and children who seem to be everywhere and frighten our elders, some of which are unsteady on their feet. I do hear you on this note! So, with great assistance from Joe and Amanda Clark, we’re proposing an effort to engage these precious children of God in family groups with adults, on a rotating basis, getting to know our guests/children by sharing their stories while engaging no more than 2 children and 2 youth in these family groups.

(Continued on the Next Page)

From
Pastor Steve
Continued

A time of worship follows in our sanctuary sitting in the family groups, a short devotional is shared for all, and then, in family groups, provided questions help to engage your new "best friends" with 3-4 questions and Bible verses accompanying the shared devotion. Though the August meeting at 6:30 p.m. is geared to the groups listed above. it will be open to anyone who is willing to learn more how we be the people of God called Wesley Church.

Let me be clear. We recognize the absence of an adult supporting many of our children and youth who've found their way here is a great concern. This is WHY I decided to listen to this way (and I am very open to hear other ways!) to move forward in a positive way in "Making Disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (Our UMC Mission Statement). I am insisting that we love our neighbors, teach values and discipline to ALL children and youth who CHOOSE to see Wesley Church we their church, and encourage each of us ADULTS to CHOOSE to serve as positive role models and mentors to those whom God sends to us. Certainly, I might add that our current ministry ways are lacking a Discipleship track with children and youth. And to buy us some time to engage in honest, hope-filled dialogue, we will not begin our regular Wednesday night meal and ministries until September 5 at 6:00 p.m.

This I do know: discussion and communication are important means to reach a consensus on a new way forward for Wesley's ministry with our youth and children. Therefore, I strongly encourage parents and grandparents to be actively involved as WE THE CHURCH do the best work of ministry we can. We will start anew; we will set a time, perhaps 6-8 weeks in a new way forward to share our insights and observations; and we will, along the way, insist through loving ways, that those children and youth who CHOOSE to be here, are guided in respectful, discipline by all adults. I sincerely believe this is the Church being the Church inviting ALL in the name of Christ as well as "teaching them to observe all that I (Jesus the Christ) have commanded and I (Jesus) will be with you forever and ever."

A final word from Jesus: "For whether two or more are gathered in MY name, there I AM with you!" Matthew 18:20. We are not alone, my friends. God is with us. Amen.

Sunday, August 12
following Sunday School

The Wesleyan Class is hosting a fundraiser for apportionments.

Menu: Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Biscuits, Gravy, Green Beans, Dessert

Notes from the Lay Leader



It surely is summer in Texas! The heat is excessive and the air conditioners are working overtime! And with that lead-in, let's talk about money.

There are several repairs the Trustees need to make around the building and the parking lot and oftentimes the reason these are not done in a prompt manner is because of a shortage of money. We try to always keep enough money on hand for a major catastrophe. For instance, if one of the air conditioner goes out, then we must have the money to repair it immediately. Please be diligent in your tithe and, if possible, put in a little extra for our usual summer shortage. It seems that we forget to give in the summer at Wesley. Even though we may be gone on vacation, we still need to remember our tithe to the church.

Vacation Bible School was a success, as always. Thanks to Marieke and volunteers who work each year to ensure that we minister to our children and to the neighborhood children as well. What would we do at Wesley, without volunteers? Please say thank you to our staff and volunteers who see that the ministries of our church continue.

The Wesleyan Class is hosting a fundraiser for apportionments Sunday, August 12, following Sunday school. Please put this on your calendar and be generous in your giving. The food will be delicious and the fellowship will be enjoyable. Those Methodist apportionments have to be paid!

I believe in Wesley Methodist Church and I believe that we will meet our financial obligations as we always have in the past. We just need to pray about this and see what God expects us to do. He expects us to keep His church alive and ministering to our needs and to the needs of the community.

God bless and try to stay cool!

Lou Jane Drummond, Lay Leader



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Donna Korth	August 2
Cal Clark	August 12
Cheryl Spears	August 14
Shirley Brock	August 17
Mike Gilmer	August 17
Chelsea Batty	August 26
Joyce Davis	August 26
Jim Skaggs	August 26
Louise Jones	August 31
Didi and Logan Thurman	August 22
Kathy and Ronny Darrow	August 30



We need used printer or toner cartridges. We purchase office supplies with the rebates we get from recycling.



**VBS
2018**





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on

facebook

Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



Back to School Fair
School Supply Drive
Friday, August 10
3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Hopkins County
Civic Center

School Supply List for Back to School Fair August 10.

Wesley will have a booth and will be giving away pencil pouches filled with 2 pink erasers, a box of 24 Crayola crayons, 2 glue sticks, several pencils and a pair of metal Fiskars scissors. The goal for the Back to School Fair is 150 pencil pouches. Thanks to a generous donation by a Wesley member, the pencil pouches have been purchased.

Please have items at the church by Monday, August 6.
You may also give \$\$\$.

- **Box of 24 Crayola Crayons**
- **Metal Fiskars Scissors**
- **Pink Erasers**
- **#2 Pencils**
- **Glue Sticks**