



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

July 2019

614 Texas, Sulphur Springs, TX

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facebook

www.wesleysst.org

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Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs





Maxson Geron West, son of Sara and Paul West, was baptized June 2.



Debbie Nichols joined the Wesley Family June 2. Welcome!



Bill Watts was recognized by AARP for 20 years of faithful service of preparing taxes for many people.



Pam Hollingworth was honored for being a dedicated servant of the Breaking Bread Together Ministry.



Donuts with Dad
May 16, 2019



Pictures by Mary Lou Foster

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Richard Adams	Patsy Ardis	Jordyn Ausmus
Charles Batty, Jr.	Delana Beadle	Shari Beers
Allison and John Bostick	Landon Burgin	David Bryant
Beverly and Michael Chapman	Cassie Cavaliere	Wanda Clayton
Antonio Cummings	Billy Daniels	Mason Delbridge
Eddie Fenstermaker	Virginia Emerline	Cindy Evans
Don and Mary Gilmer	Mike Gilmer	Jayne Glenn
Jerry and Shirley Glossup	Jeff Godfrey	Dorothy Hargrave
Donny and Baulah Godfrey	Ashley Harris	Roy Herman, Jr.
Frank Hernandez	Mark Heisler	Pam Hollingsworth
Magan, Tim, Easley, and Baby	Finn Henderson	Mindi Horne
James and Pat Hulen	Patty Hudson	Louise Jones
Jeff and Pat Johnson	Dana Jordan	L.B. Jordan
Laura and John Lee	Lynn Kincade	Mary Logan
Rachel and Gary Lewis	Jase Mabie	Zane Magan
Sandra Parker	Pastor Steve	Nan Price
Rose Raines	Bill Sidebottom	Michael Spurlock
Elton and Louise Stewart	Nancy Stobough	Anna Mae Stolz
Betty and Mark Warren	Allan Thar	Hays Warren
Sean Wells	Ron Zitterrick	

Community Chest/Cupboard North Texas Food Bank
 Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center 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

Marvin & Louise Jones	Sandy Heisler	Sandra McIntire
Reid Rawls	Marge Johnson	Muriel Lucas
Lois Shannon	Martha Johnson	Elton & Louise Stewart



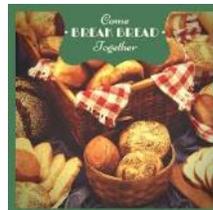
July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Bill Wilder	July 2
Rick Spears	July 3
Marisa and Jacob Jones	July 7
Konnie and Ronnie Cross	July 8
Dana Jordan	July 10
L.B. Jordan	July 12
Jana and Danny Prochaska	July 12
Brenda and Doyle McKinzie	July 12
Magan and Tim Henderson	July 14
Marisa Jones	July 16
Gary Lewis	July 22
Peggy and Jim Gregg	July 22
Julie Weir	July 23
Brantley Jones	July 24
Marge Johnson	July 26
Allie Thurman	July 29
Mattie Thurman	July 29
Malcolm Kirkland	July 31



Independence Day (colloquial: the Fourth of July) is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence of the United States on July 4, 1776. The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain and were now united, free, and independent states.^[1] The Congress had voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2, but it was not declared until July 4.^[1]

**July 4-5, 2019
 The Church
 Office
 will be CLOSED**



**Breaking Bread will
 serve Friday, July 5.**

From
Pastor
Steve

Faith Is a Journey!

In a 1920 periodical called *The Christian Advocate*, a man known as Lynn H. Hough used the following quote within his outline for a Sunday school lesson discussing a letter from the Apostle, Simon Peter.

“He wanted his friends to realize that *life is a journey and not a destination*; that the heart must be set upon those matters of character which are eternal and not upon those matters of sensation which pass away.”

Journey is defined as *traveling or a passage from one place to another*. Our English word trip can be used as a synonym for journey.

Destination is defined as *the place to which a person or thing travels or is sent*. Destination is thought of as a *journey's end. It is purposeful intention*.

So, to clarify the difference between *journey and destination, journey is ongoing whereas destination end with a stop and an objective*.

Twenty years ago before I moved to Texas, I never envisioned two things: 1. living in Texas (or any place outside of Kentucky!) and 2. becoming a United Methodist pastor. It was not on my bucket list or future plans. I had been in Baptist higher education for 26+ years at the same college. I had invested myself in my community of Georgetown, KY. I never imagined changes both in my family and the college where I was employed would alter my *destination* from the world in which I worked until I was 50 years old. If anyone had tried to tell me I'd be making career changes and familial changes prior to these events, I would tune them out and shut them down. Sometimes, events in life change will change you!

For several years, my career path was finishing an Ed.D and making my *destination*, the end of my journey, in a high level of college administration either at a public or private institution. The college presidents I worked under encouraged me. I was encouraged by a number of sitting college presidents, vice presidents, and deans throughout the country. And even with these folks leading me along places and introducing me to successful people in all areas of life, I was restless.

Perhaps it was the opportunity to pursue a Ph.D in Greek and/or New Testament as I was completing my Master of Divinity degree from seminary at the invitation of my Greek and New Testament professor. That would have been a wonderful *journey* studying under Dr. Alan Culpepper—now president of McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University in Macon, GA. As an aside note, imagine my joy when taking the UMC *Disciple Bible* Courses when Dr. Culpepper appeared on a DVD sharing his thoughts on the *Johannine Literature: Gospel of John*,

the Three Epistles of John, and the book of Revelation.

When I first sensed the call of God on my life to be a minister, I pictured myself more as a preacher or an evangelist. And, truthfully, I was 17 years-old and a rising senior in high school. I never drifted away from church—actually never had a desire. My family encouraged me to see church as a family, a fellowship, and a place where God resided. Of course, I had my disappointing moments trying to live as a Christian disciple. And there were those times that my older brother suggested we go to church, get a church bulletin, but not stay for church/worship! Playing the pinball machine at the Choo Choo Inn was much more exciting. It was all good until Pastor Sam Thomas, a native Texan, dropped by to see out dad at the service station, where he worked on Sunday once or twice a month and said, “Brother Cookie, I’ve been missing your boys at church!” This spelled trouble!

For certain, *life is a journey and not a destination!* During some of the most difficult times of my life when I was ready to run away from life, it was my friends, mostly pastors, that held my hand and would not let me despair of the pain of brokenness and discouragement. Though I was trained to be a pastor and had been a bi-vocational pastor, working at a full time job and pastoring part time, on several occasions, it was this group of pastors friends that commissioned me to move to Texas *in the power of the Holy Spirit and preach the Word, love my parishioners wherever I would be sent, and seek out a pastor support group* to teach me how to be a Methodist pastor/preacher. What friends I still have!

So after Oak Park, Paris, First UMC, Cooper, and Shooks Chapel, I was sent here to Wesley. Proverbs 16:9 says, “A man’s heart plans his course, but the Lord determines our steps.” I’m still on a *journey*. I’m still learning how to pastor.

Who knows my destination after Wesley? I serve at the pleasure of our Bishop, Mike McKee, and the NTC Appointed Cabinet. I’m 68 years-old and can serve as a full-time clergy until age 72. You do the math. I’ve always quoted the grand hymn, *Wherever He Leads, I’ll Go*. I never, ever thought I’d be a grafted Texan and a Methodist! However, when you choose to say yes to God, buckle up and enjoy the scenery and never give up since, *The Lord God determines our steps.*”

Have faith in God when your pathway is lonely,
He sees and knows all the ways you have trod.
Never alone are the least of His children;
Have faith in God, have faith in God.

Have faith in God, He’s on His throne;
Have faith in God, He watches o’er His own.
He cannot fail, He must prevail.
Have faith in God, have faith in God.



The Wesley Witness
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs

Wesley Summer Fun Adventure Day

July 13, 2019

Theme: Created by God
Build for a Purpose

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ages: 4 yrs.—5th Grade



Schedule:

Visit Children's Museum in
Commerce in the morning

Admission FREE

Lunch at NOON

**VBS Activities in the
Afternoon at Wesley**

****Helpers:** Let Marieke know if you
need child care for children under 2.