



Wesley Circuit Rider

united methodist church

Volume XXXX, Issue 9

March 1, 2006

40 DAYS OF PURPOSE

A PURPOSE-DRIVEN LIFE CAMPAIGN

Week Two — You Were Planned for God’s Pleasure

Bringing enjoyment to God through worship, living for his pleasure, is the first purpose of your life. When you fully understand this truth, you will never again have a problem with feeling insignificant.

Well, we’re off and running on the 40 Days of Purpose Campaign! Last Sunday we explored three of the greatest questions of life: Why am I here? Does life matter? And what is my purpose? There is still time to get in a 40 Days of Purpose Bible Study or Sunday School Class. Call Kathy Haskins in the church office for more information.

This Sunday, we will hear about the first purpose, and perhaps the most revolutionary one, Worship. Worship may be the most misunderstood word in the Church. Come next week and hear what God has to say on the subject!

Complete these readings from *The Purpose Driven Life* for the week of:

WEEK 2: You Were Planned for God’s Pleasure (Worship)

DATE

- Day 8 Planned for God’s Pleasure _____
- Day 9 What Makes God Smile? _____
- Day 10 The Heart of Worship _____
- Day 11 Becoming Best Friends with God _____
- Day 12 Developing Your Friendship with God _____
- Day 13 Worship that Pleases _____
- Day 14 When God Seems Distant _____

Small groups will discuss these readings in their groups the week of March 5th. We have sold out of *The Purpose Driven Life* book. You can still get a copy at a local reseller.

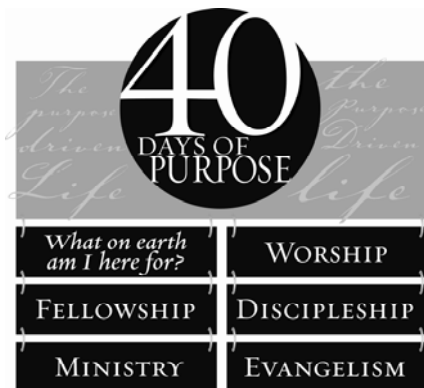
Scripture verse for the week: Mark 12:30 (NIV)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

We invite you to commit this scripture to memory as we consider Worship — one of God’s purposes for our lives.

Please pray for the 40 Days of Purpose Campaign:

- Pray that it will deepen our church’s faith and prayer life, and especially our worship.
- Pray that lives will be changed as we study God’s word and God’s purposes in small groups.
- Pray specifically for your own group or Sunday School class.



Birthdays

March 6

Dalton Stroud
B. Terrell

March 7

Gina Bass
Skye Becerra
Madilyn Christian
Gary George
Nelda Hicks
Kirsten Larson
Suzanne Williams
Jared Wright

March 8

Brenden Adair
Claire Cleveland
Victor Finley
Travis Hare
Michelle Hobbs

Katie Hudson
Mildred McMahon
Jennifer Scarborough
Evan Smithey
McKenzie Stauffer
Sarah Summers

March 9

Marcus Bowman
Wendell Crow
Mike Danbom
Heather Elise Holden
Carole Marsh
Annette Riddle
Caroline Roebuck
Barbara Smith
Alyce Spell
Lynette Taylor
Noel Turner
Billy Wilson

March 10

Justin McCullough
Christine Monkhouse

March 11

Doris Brumfield
Kim Joosten
Natalie Kent
Devon Korry
Blake Pruitt
Eddie Sims
Marian Stampley
Scott Wilson

March 12

Chase Diaz
Brooke Owen-Thomas
Holly Scarborough



Memorials

Building Fund

In loving memory of Miller Davis
Barbara Hall

Budget Fund

In loving memory of Dan Thomas
Dorothy Thomas Whiteley
Lois M. Head
Mary & James White

In loving memory of Miller Davis
Nell Clark

In loving memory of Olivia Wright
Nell Clark

In loving memory of George Isbell
Nell Clark

Prayer Garden

In loving memory of Duron Harmon
Daily Walkers
H.B. & DelRaye Gibson
Mr. & Mrs. Bill C. Ball
Mr & Mrs Mike Ball
Alice Shub
Mrs. W.C. Bryd
Bob & Sandy Jones

Hand Bells

In loving memory of Lonnie Colvin
Bob & Sandy Jones

Church Office Hours

The Church office hours are Monday—Thursday, 8:30—4:30pm and Friday 8:30—12:30 pm. If for any reason there is only one person in the office by themselves, the doors to the outside will be locked. There is an intercom system that has been installed so that we are always available to you and can let you into the building.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in honor of Cody, Cory and Victoria Cash.

Offering and Attendance

Sunday, February 19, 2006

Budget	\$ 13,410.42	8:00 am	123
Other	\$ 8,23.94	9:15 am	234
Total	\$ 21,643.36	10:30 am	342
		Sunday School	346
		Total	699

Wesley would like to extend its deepest sympathy to:



Dewey and Sharon Lytle on the death of Dewey's brother, Roland Lytle.

E.R. (Red) & Barbara Mattison on the death of Red's brother, John Mattison.

The family and friends of Dorothy Shaver.

Bob Lytle and friends on the death of Bob's wife, Marianne Lytle.

Please know that our prayers and thoughts are with each of you during this difficult time.

Children's Ministry— Building Champions for Christ!

Bible Training

Bible Training for third and fourth graders will start on Sunday, March 5th. The 9:15 am Sunday School class will be learning how to use their Bibles, They will be running through Bible drills and playing other Bible games. Come and see what the special book has to offer as we learn our way through the Bible.



Coffee Cans

Coffee cans are needed for the children's ministry area. Please bring the cleaned cans with the lids to the church office or set them outside the education storage closet, across the hall from the teachers lounge in the CE building. Thank you for your help.

Teacher Needed

The Children Ministries is looking for a teacher for our new 3 year old class. The preschool class of 3's and 4's has grown and it is time to split the class. We are looking for one teacher to stay with the class while parent aids will be needed to float on a monthly schedule. If you feel this would be your calling, please contact Debbie Bass at the church office, 892-7733. Come and share the love of Christ with the younger members of our church.

PNO – Parents' Night Out — Friday, March 3rd, 2006, 6pm – 10pm. PNO is an opportunity for your children, nursery through 5th grade, to enjoy an evening at the church with their friends while you enjoy an evening out. Church member cost are \$5 for first child, \$3 each child of \$10. Non-member until a total church cost are \$8 for first child, \$5 each child until a total of \$15. Come to the Praise Center entrance and sign your children

Up for a great evening. If you have any questions, please contact Kelli Reyes @ 782-0234 or Debbie Bass @ 892-7733.

Easter

Easter is coming. The Children Ministries needs donations of candy and eggs for this year's Easter Egg Hunt, April 15th. Eggs and candy may be dropped by the church office or placed outside the Education Supply Closet. Thank you for your support.

Purpose Driven Life

Why are we here? The children of Wesley will learn why they were created while using fun & games.. Dinner starts at 5 pm and we gather at 5:45 pm in room 112/114. Come & join the fun!

Important Dates

May 13th—Saturday
Mother, Daughter, Sister, and Friends Luncheon
Watch for more details.

June 5th-9th
9:00 am—12:00 pm.
Vacation Bible School (VBS)
Marketplace—Jerusalem come join the adventure.

June 26th—30th
District Church Camp
Lakeview, Texas
Cost is \$175 and payment plans are available. Children entering 4th grade and older are eligible for church camp.

Sanctuary Lamp

There is still time for you to get your requests in to Malana for the sanctuary lamp to be burned in honor or in memory of someone. I know some of you have special days you would like to reserve, so be sure to get those dates in to Malana as soon as possible. Remember, it is only \$5 for each honoree or remembrance that you request. If you have any questions, please call Malana in the church office, 892-7733.



Knot Just Another Knitting Group!

Our "Warm America" knitting group is coming along quite well. At last count, we have made enough squares to make 2 afghans and are on our way to our third! When they're completed in the next few weeks, they'll be sent over to the Salvation Army. It's "knot" to late to join and learn to knit! If you have always wanted to learn, come and join this fun gang. We'll help you learn and you can laugh and enjoy some time with friends. (Even after two months, some of us still make pieces which no

self-respecting geometry book would call a "square" but the blankets will provide warmth for someone who needs it.) Room 104 - 5 PM every Sunday.

If you'd like to help but don't think knitting is for you, how about donating yarn? Our most prolific knitters have gone through several skeins already. Send those you have around the house or pick up a few from Wal-Mart or a craft store. Please make sure it's machine washable and a worsted weight. Bring it to Kathy in the office or give her a call if you need more information about this rewarding and relaxing experience. We plan to continue the project throughout the year.

Fully
Rely
On
God





James' Epistle

We are beginning the 40 Days of Purpose Campaign. I believe these next 40 days will be a life-changing journey for us. Rick Warren, the author of the bestselling book *The Purpose Driven Life*, has laid out five purposes God created each of us to fulfill. Rick Warren is the founding pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Orange County, California. Saddleback is one of the nations' largest churches with attendance averaging over 20,000 on a weekend. I attended several conferences at Saddleback a few years ago — it is an amazing church! Obviously, Rick Warren is an effective pastor and skilled communicator. I believe he has captured the essence of the biblical teaching regarding God's purposes for our lives. At the same time, I do not necessarily agree with everything Rick Warren says in his book.

Specifically, in chapter two, "You Are Not an Accident," Rick Warren describes God's plans for our creation. In so doing, I believe he goes too far in his assertions that become a predestination view of

God's plans. Predestination is the teaching that says God has already planned the events of our lives. We have no choice. What happens has already been determined by God.

For example, Warren states: "God prescribed every single detail of your body. He deliberately chose your race, the color of your skin, your hair, and every other feature. He custom-made your body just the way he wanted it. He also determined the natural talents you would possess and the uniqueness of your personality." He goes on and says, "Because God made you for a reason, he also decided *when* you would be born and *how long* you would live. He planned out the days of your life in advance, choosing the exact time of your birth and death... God left no detail to chance. He planned it all for *his* purpose... Nothing in your life is arbitrary. It's all for a purpose." (*The Purpose Driven Life*, pp. 22-23)

We as Methodists do not believe this is the correct reading of the Bible. We believe that God created us with the freedom to choose. We can choose to follow God's ways or our own ways. Unfortunately, we consistently choose to follow our own ways and as a consequence we live in a world marred by sin.

Not everything that happens to us is God's perfect will. We live in a fallen world. It is not God's will that tragedies happen. It is not God's will that wars and disease are a way of life. It is not God's will that

evil seems to triumph at times. These are the result of sinful choices made since the days of Adam.

God knows everything that is going to happen. God sees the past, present and future. He knows every detail of your life, but that does mean that he has determined every detail of your life.

That is why Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done *on earth as it is in heaven.*" God's perfect will is not always done on the earth. Not everything that happens is God's will. I do not believe that God has laid out a specific plan for your life or mine and everything that happens has been pre-determined by God. Yes, God has created us to fulfill His purposes in our lives. In this, Rick Warren is absolutely correct. It is, however, your choice to live God's purposes or not.

At the same time, the Bible does teach that God's providential hand is guiding history to its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Someday the kingdoms of this world will give way to Jesus Christ who is the true King of kings and Lord of lords. On that day the Kingdom of God will reign and God's perfect will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JW'.



Message Series Schedule

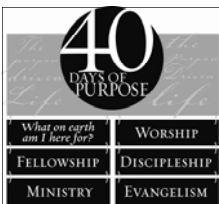
February 19	Don't Waste Your Life
February 26	What on Earth Am I Here For?
March 5	You Were Planned for God's Pleasure
March 12	You Were Formed for God's Family
March 19	You Were Created to Become Like Christ
March 26	You Were Shaped for Serving God
April 2	You Were Made for a Mission
April 9	What Have We Learned?



Is it time to find out where you fit? Where you fit in God's world? Where you fit at Wesley? Are you

wanting to find something completely new and different? Looking for a place where you know your ideas and opinions will be welcomed?

Friends at Wesley meets at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday in Room 104. Everyone who wants to become a part of something larger, learn more about what it means to be a Christian in 2006, and to share questions and concerns in a safe place with others who are asking the same questions, we'll see you there.



Classes and Groups

If you want to get the most of reading The Purpose Driven Life and even more from the sermon series, be sure to find a group that's best for you and join now!

S u n d a y s :

9:15—Fellowship Class, Library; 50-50 Class, Rm 101
 10:30—Friends at Wesley, Rm 104; Daily Walkers, Rm 108
Tuesdays: 10:30 am—Book Study, Debbie Bass, Rm 104
Wednesdays: All meet in Praise Center at 6:00 pm
 Talk Back with the Pastor—Jim Bass, Room 108
 The Purpose Driven Life Book Study—Bryan Blevins, Room 202
 Pathway to Purpose (for women)- Kathy Haskins, Room 106
 Small Groups—coordinator, Peter Miller, Praise Center
 Purpose Driven Prayer Meeting—Elvis Davis, Room 101



Did You Know?

Did you know that of the next 100 people you meet, approximately 60 are eligible

to give blood. *On average, only 5 do.*

Anyone in general good health, 17 years old or older, who weighs at least 110 pounds can donate blood.

Diabetics, people on blood pressure medication or those with rheumatoid arthritis are all eligible to give blood.

If your iron level prevented you from donating once in the past, it does not mean that you cannot ever give again. More often than not, that is a temporary condition.

If only 40% of Wesley's active membership gives, all of Wesley will be covered under the Donor Benefit Plan. That means Lifeshare will reimburse up to \$500 per person for many of the fees attached to blood transfusions for one year.

How rare is your blood?

O +	37%	O-	6.6%
A+	35.7%	A-	6.3%
B+	8.5%	B-	1.5%
AB+	3.4%	AB-	0.6%

O- is the universal donor

AB+ can only donate to other AB+

**Be an everyday hero: donate blood.
 Wesley Blood Drive—Coming Soon!**

Upper Room Devotionals

The Upper Rooms for March and April are out in the Welcome Center and near the main doors to the Praise & Worship Center. The church is glad to make these wonderful daily devotional books available to members and guests. There are the regular small publications and the large print editions as well. Please remember that the \$1 donation for each book helps to defray to cost.

Also, if you are interested, the Upper Room publishes a very different sort of devotional called *Alive Now*. It has essays and poetry, as well as more unusual photographs and artwork. Each issue is built around a Christian theme and can be a wonderful addition to your daily reading. (We receive only 12 copies of this every other month.) Call or come by Kathy's office to get a copy of *Alive Now*.



More Field Trips...

The February Grown-Up Field Trip to see the newly renovated Temple Emanuel and the "Art of the Hebrew Bible" exhibit at the SE Texas Art Museum was a great success. Everyone who came along was enlightened and very impressed with the beautiful temple which has recently undergone major



r e n o v a t i o n s .
 We are considering—for the 2006 spring bluebonnet & wildflower trip—going to College Station and including a visit to the George Bush Library in late March. This would be an overnight trip, so I'll need an idea how many are interested before making any reservations, etc. Call and let me know what days of the week are best for you if you'd like to join us. Last year's trip to Brenham was great fun! Kathy's numbers 892-7733, 790-3540—khaskins@wesleyumc.com

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The people of Wesley United Methodist Church are called to know God and to make God known.



Church Staff

<p>Rev. Jim Bass Senior Pastor jboss@wesleyumc.com 866-1117 home</p>	<p>Beau Hicks Facilities Manager bhicks@wesleyumc.com 892-2595 home</p>
<p>Rev. Peter Miller Associate Pastor pmiller@wesleyumc.com 892-2534 home</p>	<p>Malana Hearn Church Secretary mhearn@wesleyumc.com</p>
<p>Rev. Elvis Davis Associate Pastor 866-4296 home</p>	<p>Renee Cash Financial Secretary rcash@wesleyumc.com</p>
<p>Kathy Haskins Adult Ministries khaskins@wesleyumc.com 860-5107 home</p>	<p>Aleta Gibbs Nursery Coordinator</p>
<p>Drew Swanson Student Ministries dswanson@wesleyumc.com 892-2567 home</p>	<p>Dwight Peirce Orvalee Husband Organists</p>
<p>Debbie Bass Children's Ministries dbass@wesleyumc.com 866-1117 home</p>	<p>Preschool and Mother's Day Out 892-7012</p>
<p>Noel Turner Music Ministries Nturner@wesleyumc.com 861-1751 home</p>	<p>Linda Carroll Preschool Director</p>
	<p>Kay Bender MDO Director</p>

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 5
 Traditional Worship.....8:00 & 10:30 am
In the Sanctuary

Contemporary Worship.....9:15 am
Praise & Worship Center

Sunday School.....9:10 am
 Second Hour Classes.....10:30 am

Coffee with Pastor.....2:00 pm

Knitting Class.....5:00 pm

Monday, March 6
 Monday Evening Study Group..6:30 pm
 Boy Scouts.....7:00 pm

Tuesday, March 7
 Girl Scouts.....6:00 pm
 Women's Bible Study.....6:30 pm
 Cub Scouts.....6:30 pm
 AIAnon.....7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 8
 Ash Wednesday Services
7-8 am, 12-1 pm, 5-6 pm
 Communion.....12:15 pm
 Wednesday Evening5:00 pm
 Programs.....6:00 pm
 AA Meeting.....7:30 pm
 Overeaters Anonymous.....7:30 pm

Thursday, March 9
 Brown Bag Bible Study.....12:15 pm
 Senior Games Day.....1:00 pm
 AA Meeting.....7:30 pm
 Alateen.....7:30 pm
 AIAnon.....7:30 pm

Friday, March 9
 No activities

Saturday, March 4
 Lawn Service.....7:00 am
 AA Meeting.....7:30 pm