

Safe Sanctuary for Wesley UMC

Wesley UMC will be implementing a Safe Sanctuary Policy for children and student ministries of the church.

What is Safe Sanctuary?

Safe Sanctuary addresses the responsibility of the church to provide a safe and caring environment for all children, youth, and adult volunteers. It sets forth standards for volunteers to ensure that children and youth are safe from sexual predators and abusive persons. In part, it also safeguards those who volunteer with children and youth.

Why is Wesley UMC developing a Safe Sanctuary policy?

The Bible calls upon people of faith to care for and nurture children and youth, and calls upon the church to be a place of sanctuary. (See Mark 1: 13-16; Matthew 18:6-7; Luke 18: 15-17; Isaiah 11: 1-9; Psalm 27: 4-5.)

In addition, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church passed a resolution on "Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in the Church" in 1996. It was revised and adopted in 2004. The resolution calls local congregations to develop and implement educational programming on abuse, risk factors, and prevention strategies, to screen all volunteers and paid staff who work with children or youth, and to implement procedures designed to prevent abuse.

The Texas Annual Conference passed a resolution in 2004 which implements a Safe Sanctuary policy for all district and conference events effective June 1, 2005. The Conference policy includes the statement: "Each local church is required to adopt a Safe Sanctuary policy for their church by December 31, 2005 and submit the policy to the Area Provost." Due to Hurricane Rita, Wesley will be spending the first couple of months of 2006 reviewing, revising and adopting a Safe Sanctuary Policy.

A Safe Sanctuary policy will help safeguard all our children, youth, and adults, as well as the church itself. A Safe Sanctuary policy and procedures "are not based on a lack of trust in workers, but are intended to protect our preschoolers, children, youth, workers, employees, volunteers and the entire church body." (Texas Annual Conference)

What will Safe Sanctuaries mean for our congregation and its ministries?

Several changes, with respect to our volunteers, will be coming. Volunteers and paid personnel working with children and youth will undergo criminal background screening prior to serving. All persons working with children and youth will receive training on Safe Sanctuary issues. In order for this to happen smoothly, it will be helpful for volunteers to step up to serve more quickly, so we are able to take care of these details. For example, a minimum of two (2) adults will be required in each classroom or event.

What does it mean to "screen" volunteers?

In order to safeguard our children and youth, as well as our adult volunteers and the church itself, all volunteers (and paid staff) will sign a form allowing the church to conduct a criminal background check. This confidential check will be run through the company with which the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church has contracted, and will seek to identify persons who have criminal histories of child abuse/molestation/neglect and all violent offenses, as well as recent (less than 5 years) drug-related or DWI/DUI offenses. **All information shall be kept confidential by the Senior Pastor of Wesley UMC.** The determination of whether a particular crime is serious enough to result in Wesley UMC giving a negative recommendation shall be made by Wesley UMC in its sole discretion. Persons with these histories may be invited to serve in other ministry areas, rather than with children and youth.

If you have any questions concerning Safe Sanctuary, please contact one of the program staff: Kathy Haskins (khaskins@wesleyumc.com), Drew Swanson (dswanson@wesleyumc.com), or Debbie Bass (dbass@wesleyumc.com) or call the church office, 892-7733.

Birthdays

January 16

Tammy Bartlett
 Charles Beard, Jr
 Pasty Benoit
 Barry Bryant
 Stephanie Fox
 Joshua Gibbs
 Trent Kimery
 Freddie Smith
 Michelle Stewart
 Mike Stewart

January 17

Amanda Tucker
 Mrs. Narlin Beaty
 Chester Erwin
 Lynda Follmer
 Mickey Lothrop

January 18

David Coleson
 Ross Fox
 Tom Jones

Bruce Nobles
 David Samaha
 Logan Smithey
 Catherine Withers

January 19

Bill Ayers
 Lisa DeHart
 Holly Eshiman
 Patty McKinley
 Billie Sue Stanmire

January 20

Amber Allen
 Connor Foster
 Ashley Jones
 Lauren Loeb
 Ronnie Nobles
 Dolly Rush

January 21

William Coffman
 Ruth Dale

Dee Franklin
 Arianna Gibbs
 Amy Hall
 Stella Hines
 Angie Neil
 Kurt Pearson
 Deanna Westfall

January 22
 Wynette Cooley
 Jamie Bunnigan
 Dick Fleish
 Amanda Franklin
 Kathleen Gilbert
 Chris Jones
 Karah Kuecker
 Hope Reppond



Prayer Garden Fund

In loving memory of Kalika Beard
 Charles & Opal Beard

In loving memory of Papa Dee Mattar
 Charles & Opal Beard

Landscape Fund

In loving memory of Everett Reese
 Patty & Jon Burmeister

In loving memory of Melvin Kaye
 Patty & Jon Burmeister

New Classes Offered Starting 1-11-06

Invitation to the Old Testament

On Monday evenings starting on January 23, this group will follow this short-term Disciple Bible study. They will hear the story of God and God's calling of the people of Israel through the many "voices" of the biblical text. How does the story of Israel's covenant with God inform our own identity as heirs of that covenant? Anyone interested in a Bible study is welcome to join us at 6:30 in Room 104.

"Going Public with Your Faith"

Join Jim Bass for this 6 week class which will help you to take evangelism out of the religious box and weave it into your life at work. You spend hours every day in the most high-impact mission field in the world: your workplace! This study will walk you through a proven approach that respects the unique relationship you have with coworkers, clients or customers. Sessions include: Spiritual Economics, Earning the Right to be Heard, and Keep It Simple: From Cultivating to Planting. "Going Public" will meet in Room 104.

Offering and Attendance

The Sanctuary Lamp burns in honor of the Wesley United Methodist Staff.

Sunday, January 1, 2006

		8:00 am	125
		9:15 am	164
		10:30 am	354
		Sunday School	363
		Total	643
Budget \$	2005 48,979.61	2006 53,832.00	
Other \$	162,801.00	745.00	
Total \$	211,780.61	54,577.00	

Wesley would like to express deepest sympathy to Brandon & Alesia Ricks and family on the death of Brandon's grandmother.



New Classes & Groups in 2006!

The menu to kick off our Wednesday Evening Programs on January 11 will be Italian Sausage Casserole, green salad, french bread, desserts and all the trimmings. See you Wednesday.

Whatever your interests, whatever your generation, whatever you are looking for: we'll have something for you at Wesley this year. A few of the studies offered will be:

Old-Fashioned Prayer Meeting

This popular prayer meeting and hymn sing will gather in Room 101 with Elvis Davis once again leading the pack.

"Get A Life!"

For women only, this Wednesday class meets in Room 103 and will

debunk six myths in the quest for contentment. Even women who know Christ can sometimes find themselves with a less-than-abundant life. This high-energy, engaging study will show practical ways to find your best life.

"An Adventure in Healing and Wholeness"

Peter Miller will lead this Wednesday class in Room 108 which will provide you with a basic understanding of the holistic approach to health and of the relationship between prayer and healing. There will be a workbook for personal and group reflection and class discussion.

"When Godly People Do Ungodly Things"

This is a popular Beth Moore study for women. As Christians, we need to be constantly aware of the winds

of evil blowing in our world today and its desire to seduce us. We are in desperate need of developing God's heart and mind and this is a guide to authentic repentance and restoration. The group will meet on Tuesday evenings beginning on February 7 in Room 104 at 6:30 p.m.

"Fingerprints of God: Recognizing God's Touch on Your Life"

Do you realize that the God who raised mountains and set the ocean's waves into motion wants you to feel His tender touch. It may not be skin-on-skin, but God's touch is always personal and separates us from other beings. This study teaches women to recognize the six things we can experience because of God's touch: honor, intimacy, shelter, guidance, redemption, and refinement. The Brown Bag Bible Study group on Thursdays at 12:15 pm will begin this study on January 12 in the Parlor.

Children's Ministries

Building Champions for Christ!

Camp Wesley

Join us once again on Wednesdays beginning on January 11th for our journey traveling to the Fruit of the Spirit. We are learning what makes us different when Jesus lives inside of us. Don't forget to eat dinner in the dining hall before you make your journey to room 112.

Sunday School

Come join us at 9:15 am or at 10:30 am for our wonderful children's Sunday school.

Congratulations to Dena & Michael Wendle on the birth of their new daughter, Maylee. She was born on Friday, January 6th. She weighed 5 lbs 3 oz and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Her proud big sister is Devon.



Devotionals for Members

We have always been glad to provide The Upper Room Daily devotional books for anyone who would like to pick one up every other month. They are in the Welcome Center outside the sanctuary (and outside of the doors to the Praise Center when worship returns there). All we ask is that you drop a dollar into the can near the books to help alleviate the expense. However, we also get copies of another devotional book by the Upper Room Ministries. It is called *Alive*

Now. This isn't an average daily devotional, but a small book of spiritually nourishing essays and poetry with Biblical references for daily reading. If you would like a copy of this publication every other month, call, or email me at khaskins@wesely umc.com or let her know when you see her on Sundays. I currently only receive a dozen but would be glad to increase it if there is interest.

Pillows of Love

Providing Love & Hope for Women & Children in Need

This ministry provides beautiful pillowcases and Bibles to women and children who are displaced, in a recovery shelter, or a pregnancy center. It is based on Psalm 4:8 which says "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." If you, your class or group, would like information about this non-profit organization and how you can help, please call Kathy Haskins in the church office.

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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>
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<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, January 15
 Traditional Worship..... & 10:40 am
In the Sanctuary

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

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

Monday, January 16
 Monday Evening Study Group..6:30 pm
 Boy Scouts.....7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 17
 Women's Bible Study.....6:30 pm
 Cub Scouts.....6:30 pm
 AIAnon.....7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 18
 Communion.....12:15 pm
 Mary Martha Circle.....2:00 pm
 Wednesday Evening5:00 pm
 Programs.....6:00 pm
 AA Meeting.....7:00 pm

AA Meeting.....7:30 pm
 Overeaters Anonymous.....7:30 pm

Thursday, January 19
 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, January 20

Saturday, January 21
 Lawn Service.....7:00 am
 AA Meeting.....7:30 pm