



# Wesley Circuit Rider

united methodist church

Volume XXXXI, Issue 7

February 22, 2007

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 9:15 March Greeters

These are the greeters for the 9:15 service in March:

- March 4 Delraye Gibson
- March 11 Joyce Fancher
- March 18 Janis Prestridge
- March 25 Pattie Sistrunk

### Children's Ministry Needs

\* Small Boxes (such as check-book boxes) for children's projects this spring.

\* Awnings (such as dining tents for camping) to be used during VBS in July.

If you have any of these items, please contact Rev. Pam Besser at [pbesser@wesleyumc.com](mailto:pbesser@wesleyumc.com) or 892-7733.

### Lenten Reflections

Watch the Children's Ministry section on Page 3 each week to learn what our children think about our church and Lent.

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## A Lenten Tree?



A tree. What better way is there to symbolize new and ongoing life?

Throughout the month of December, churches all over the world are decorated with Advent wreaths and Chrismon trees. Children and adults alike look to these symbols year after year as a way of remembering the significance of the birth of our Lord. Now with the coming of Lent and spring, our thoughts turn even more to new life. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus; Lent is a time of spiritual preparation for events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection.

### The Symbols

#### The Evergreen Tree (Sunday before Ash Wednesday, February 18)

The tree does not lose its needles during the winter and it is a symbol of eternal life.

#### The Color, Purple: (February 25)

The purple bows brighten the tree as well as to emphasize this color, which is used during the Lenten season. Purple is a symbol of royalty and, during Lent, we are reminded about the time when people recognized Jesus as a king.

## American Flag Ministry

Did you see the American flags lining the church property on Folsom and Major on Sunday and Monday? Many people remarked on their beauty. Would you like to see it continue through the year on national holidays?

Throughout the year, the scouts (and other helpers) will place the flags as a tribute to our great country. The seven flag holidays are:

- |           |                  |            |              |
|-----------|------------------|------------|--------------|
| February: | President's Day  | September: | Labor Day    |
| May:      | Memorial Day     | September: | 9/11         |
| June:     | Flag Day         | November:  | Veterans Day |
| July:     | Independence Day |            |              |

The flags were placed by our own Scout Troop #65. Each flag costs \$50 and 20 flags were purchased by the scouts. The remaining 30 flags are being placed by Wesley families and individuals.

To contribute a flag, contact Renee Cash in the church office, 892-7733 or [rcash@wesleyumc.com](mailto:rcash@wesleyumc.com). Let her know how many flags (\$50 each) you want to purchase and if it is in memory or honor of someone.

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



## From the Pastor

### Time for Spiritual Housecleaning

**Only Forty Days Until Easter!** Can you believe that it is now Lent? Time is certainly passing quickly these days! There's so much to do and now we have only forty days to get it done. That is, if we're talking about spiritual

preparation for Easter. (We're not talking about shopping for Easter clothes.)

"Fat Tuesday" and Ash Wednesday have come and gone, and now, I hope that you are deciding upon your Lenten discipline. Every year, I know that some of you have given up sweets and others have decided to pray more. Whatever your discipline is... remember that it lasts for forty days!

If each of us will spend some time in spiritual reflection, we will all find a need for a new form of discipline during the forty days of Lent. I always look forward to this time of the year. As you get ready to do your "spring cleaning" around your house, remember to do some spiritual housecleaning as well.

Through the winter months, I always seem to gather a few cobwebs of thought and a little dust on my determination. How about you? For the next forty days, I plan to do some real self examination and quiet reflection in quiet time spent with the Lord. Instead of worrying about new clothes for Easter, I prefer to concentrate on the armor of Christ.

I want to be ready for Easter. I know you do too. Whatever you decided to do for Lent, remember forty days is all the time we have to prepare for Easter. Let's get started today!

*Robert*

P. S. Big thanks for the special music on Sunday---to Bill Keating and his family and friends and to the Wednesday Adventure Club children. Next time you see Terri Adams, Linda Minnick, Kaye Spell, or Bill Keating let them know how much you appreciate their efforts. Great job!

## Preschool & Mother's Day Out

### Registration for the Fall

Registration for the 2007-2008 school year is now open for those children presently attending Wesley Preschool or Mother's Day Out and for church members. We will open registration to the public on March 6.

The registration fee is due at the time of registration. You may come by the school office to pick up the necessary paperwork.

## New Members

We welcome our newest member who joined Wesley on Sunday, February 18, 2007:



**Charles "Bubba" Haney**

11420 Williford Rd

Lumberton, TX, 77657

(409) 755-6307

## Thank You

We would like thank all who gave support during our nephew's, Ryan Barnes, battle with cancer. He is now resting in the presence of God. Your prayers were comforting to both Ryan and his family.

*Jerry and Gerri Barnes*

Dear Wesley Family and Friends,

Thank you for all your cards, visits, concerns, phone calls, and especially your prayers during Joe's illness and after he passed away. Your love and support has been a true blessing. May God bless each one of you.

With sincere appreciation and love, *Gerry Kirkland and Family*

We would like to thank you for all the prayers, calls, and visits during the recent hospital stay and surgery of Billy Harold Erwin, father of Bryan Erwin.

Thanks to all of the prayers, the surgery was successful and recovery is occurring beautifully.

Thanks again,

*Billy Harold and Nancy Erwin*

# Children's Ministry

For more information, contact Pam Besser at pbesser@wesleyumc.com

## What is your favorite thing to do at Church?

*A Lenten Reflection by*

Adventure Club Class: 3, 4, & 5 year-old Class

Teachers: Abbi Allen, Carri Jeanis, Kasey Connors

“Pray and chug like a train” – Thomas Bunch

“Music Class” – Lizzie Gonzalez

“Play” – Emma Maddox

“Come play with Emma” – Trace Fuselier

“Play outside” – Blake Jeanis

“Sing” – Julia

“Playing with brother”- Hannah

“Play games” – Garrett

“Play” – Joyce Catherine Badon

“Making crafts” – Justin Lyons

“Crafts”- Julianna Mouton

“Play with playdough in Sunday school” – Weston Connors

“Hide” – Matthew Lyons

*Watch for Lenten Reflection from other classes next week!*

Thanks to the Adventure Club children for singing in the 9:15 and 10:30 worship services.

It was wonderful.

## Safe Sanctuary Training

Safe Sanctuary training will be held this spring for all those working with children or youth at Wesley. Please make plans to attend one of these trainings. Both will be in the Dining Hall.

Sunday, March 25, at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 2, at 6:00 p.m.

## Vacation Bible School

The dates for this summer's VBS will be July 23-27, 2007.



Blitz 45 T-shirts are on sale. They are black and white camo with an orange logo and letters. The cost is \$10. Contact Rev. Pam

Besser or Casey Tucker to purchase a shirt.

# Youth Ministry

For more information, contact Drew Swanson at dswanson@wesleyumc.com



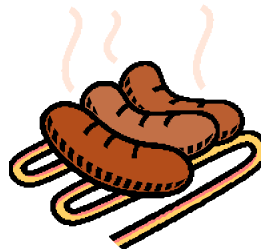
## All Night Lock Out – March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Join over 200 youth for the annual District Youth Lock Out. YOU MUST SIGN UP BY FEBRUARY 25. The cost is \$20. We will leave Wesley on Friday, March 2, at 8:00 p.m. and return Saturday morning by 7:30 a.m.



## Ski Trip Fundraiser

The youth will be having a link sale on Saturday, March 3. All profits will go toward our Spring Break Ski Trip to Winter Park.



## Youth ASCENT

Wednesday Night Studies for Youth

6:00–7:15 p.m.

Join us for a meal at 5:00 p.m.

February 28 – Suffering: We Can Overcome

March 7 – Perseverance: Do You Have It?



## Confirmation Class Has Begun!

Confirmation students meet with Pastor Robert on Wednesdays from 4:15-5:15 p.m.

## NO ACTIVITIES MARCH 11-17

We will begin again on March 18.



## Faith Lessons on the Promised Land

*God puts his mark on a people and their land—and extends it to the faithful today.*

Take a round trip to ancient times, places, and customs, and back again. This study is a lively, interactive journey which is more than fascinating—it's faith-inspiring and life-changing.

Filmed in Israel, this is the first in a video series which brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance. By weaving together the Bible's historical, cultural, religious, and geographical contexts, teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan reveals keen insights into Scripture's significance for modern believers.

Take the lessons you learn from the past into real-life applications that impact the way you live your faith. Sessions include: *Standing at the Crossroads, Wet Feet, First Fruits, Confronting Evil, and Iron of Culture.*

You are invited to join this special five-week Lent study which begins on Sunday, February 25, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 104.



## Broken Bridges: February's Movie

Everyone is invited on Wednesday, February 28, to come see this month's feature:



*Broken Bridges*. It is a great movie about a down-and-out country music singer who returns to his home town when his brother dies. Reunited with his high school sweetheart, he also meets his teenage daughter for the first time. A love story about dealing with the past and moving forward, it stars real country singer Toby Keith.

The Afternoon at the Movie is on the last Wednesday of each month at 2:30 in the Youth Center. Come see the movie shown on the great new screen, with a good sound system, and in a quiet building.

## Special Gifts (received through February 11, 2007)

### Budget Fund

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Betty & John Powell  
In Loving Memory of Mary  
Richardson  
Given By: Senior Games Day  
In Honor of Roy & Lynda Follmer  
Given By: Lois Head

### Parsonage Fund

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Sarah Summers  
In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Marilyn Miller  
In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Tommy & Ange  
Hebert  
In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Fidelis Sunday  
School Class  
In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Bubba & Pat Lane

### Building Fund

In Honor of Roy & Lynda Follmer  
Given By: Lois Head  
In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Keith & Mary Kessell  
In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland  
Given By: Keith & Mary Kessell  
In loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Ed & Arlene  
Richardson & Family  
In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Billy & Evelyn  
Duperier  
In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland  
Given By: Tommy & Ange  
Hebert  
In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Milton & Betty  
Nicholas  
In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Joe & Rose Connors

### Choir Fund

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Don & Lillian  
Northcutt  
In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Betty & Mary Kovar  
In Honor of Noel Turner, Dwight  
Pierce & All the Choir  
Members  
Given By: Betty & Mary Kovar  
In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Armon & Orvalee  
Husband

### Society of St. Stephen

In Loving Memory of Julia  
Yvonne Allardyce  
Given By: Gerry Kirkland

### Prayer Garden Fund

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett  
Given By: Evelyn McDonald

# Scouting News

A gazebo built in memory of Billy Fairchild was dedicated on Scout Sunday, February 11, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. It was part of the Eagle Scout projects of Matthew Bender and Logan Smithey, who were helped in the construction and finishing by Troop 65 scouts, parents, and friends. If you have not seen it up close, stop by and visit. It is a wonderful place for meditation and prayer, and may also be used by brides for their photographs.



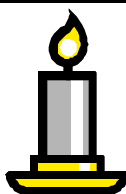
*Logan Smithey, Robert Besser, Mrs. Fairchild, and Matthew Bender in the gazebo.*



*Matthew Bender, Logan Smithey, Rev. Robert Besser, and Rev. Elvis Davis "cutting the ribbon."*

# Sanctuary Gifts

You may have the Sanctuary Lamp burn in honor or memory of a loved one. For more information, contact Malana Hearn in the church office.



# Calendar

## Sunday, February 25

8:00 am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
 9:15 am Contemporary Worship, Praise Center  
 9:15 am Sunday School, Classrooms  
 10:30 am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
 10:30 am Second Hour Sunday Classes, Classrooms  
**1:00 pm Wildcatters Hockey 2:05 game, meet in DH to carpool**  
 1:30 pm Symphony League Gathering, Dining Hall  
 5:00 pm Knitting Class, Room 102  
 6:00 pm Cub Scouts—Wolf Cubs, Room 108

## Monday, February 26: BISD Early Dismissal

6:30 am Crosstalk, BISD—Kolache Factory  
 8:30 am Attendance Volunteers, Workroom  
 9:00 am Counters, Conference Room  
 6:30 pm Monday Evening Group, Room 104  
 7:00 pm Boy Scouts, Youth Center Green Room

## Tuesday, February 27:

10:00 - 11:00 am Staff Meeting, Conference Room  
 1:30 pm Crafters, Room 102  
**5:30 pm Trustees, Conference Room**  
**6:30 pm Administrative Board, Choir Room**  
 7:00 pm Kairos Meeting, Conference Room  
 7:30 pm Al Anon, Rm 101, AA Meeting, Rm 112

## Wednesday, February 28:

7:00 am Crosstalk, HJISD, Day Break  
 9:00 am Circuit Rider Volunteers, Teacher's Lounge  
 12:15 pm Communion, Sanctuary  
**3:30 pm Prayer & Card Ministry Meeting, Conference Room**  
**4:15 pm Confirmation 3 (Sessions 4 & 5), Youth Center**  
 King's Kids Choir, Choir Room  
**Wednesdays @ Wesley**  
 5:00 pm Dinner (King Ranch Chicken Soup)  
 5:45 pm Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
 6:00 pm Adventure Club studies for children, Youth Ascent, Adult Bible Studies, Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting  
 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room  
 7:30 pm N Major, St. Francis Women & Men AA, Rms 101,112,106  
 7:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous, Room 108

## Thursday, March 1:

7:30 am Crosstalk, LISD, Southern Maid Donuts  
 12:00 pm Brown Bag Bible Study, Parlor  
 12:30 pm Senior Games Day, Youth Center Building  
**7:00 pm Deborah Circle, Parlor**  
 7:30 pm Al Anon, Rm 101, AA Meeting, Rm 112

## Friday, March 2:

6:00 pm Parent's Night Out  
 8:00 pm Youth Lock Out—leave Wesley

## Saturday, March 3:

7:00 am Church lawn maintenance (volunteers are appreciated)  
 7:30 am Youth Lock Out – pick up at Wesley  
 7:30 pm St. Francis AA Meeting, Room 112

## Sunday, March 4

**2:00 pm UMW, Parlor**  
 5:00 pm Knitting Class, Room 102  
 5:00 pm Sunday Night Live, Dinner, Youth Center  
 6:00 pm Sunday Night Live Programs, Youth Center

*If you have additions, deletions, or changes to the calendar, contact Malana Hearn at [mhearn@wesleyumc.com](mailto:mhearn@wesleyumc.com).*

# Our Faithfulness

## Our Attendance

<b>Sunday Worship</b>	February 18th
8:00 a.m.	147
9:15 a.m.	241
10:30 a.m.	391
Total	779
<b>Sunday School</b>	February 18th
Children	123
Youth	30
Adults	196
Total	349
<b>Adventure Club</b>	February 14th
Total	98

## Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to and prayers for the families of:

**Milton Allardyce's mother**,  
Julia Yevonne Allardyce, who  
passed away on February 7, 2007,

**Pam Beard's grandmother**  
who passed away in January, and

**Fran McManus' aunt**, Hazel  
Manning, who passed away on  
February 7, 2007.

## Our Gifts

**2007 Church Budget \$1,257,029**  
*(incl \$274,884 for debt service)*

Needed Each Week	24,174
Received This Week	29,852
Needed Year-to-date:	169,215
Received Year-to-date:	180,271
Difference	11,056

### Non-Budgeted Gifts Received:

Building Funds	\$1,340
Society of St. Stephen	25
MOSAIC	75
Parsonage Fund	85
Choir Fund	30
Scout Fund	25
Youth Fund	25

**Monthly Debt Service:** 22,907

### Special Thanks to The PRINTery

for donating the paper for our  
weekly bulletins and Circuit  
Rider and the printing of the Cir-  
cuit Rider.

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Linda Carroll  
Preschool Director  
Kay Bender  
MDO Director

# Guests

Nick & Joanie Acevedo  
Arthur Baize  
Juanell Beckham  
Sharon Boldt  
Angela Brock  
Patrick Brown  
Joann Cherry  
Nancy Crawford  
Katherine Davis  
Loretta Davis  
Lee Decuir  
Blaine & Darla Duplecion  
Vivian Emmert  
Carl & Mary Gerace  
Cynthia Gillette  
David & Connie Grimes  
Henry & Virgie Harper  
Erica & Wesley Hatcher  
Joe & Shawna Henderson  
Sylvia Hughes  
Wanda Lanham  
Don Lanham  
Sandra Laudano  
Rob LeMaster  
Clay Lindsey  
Kim Miller  
Marcie Morgan  
Gavin & Patrice Myers  
Kyler & Peyton Spears  
James Parsley  
Karen Parsley  
Thomas Pearson  
Ginny Pope  
Ann Sandefur  
Bailey Swanson  
Melodie Thompson  
Shawn & Nikki Walker  
Ryan & Stacey White  
Ann Williams  
DeAnn Young

*For more information about  
joining Wesley United Methodist  
Church, contact Rev. Mark Bunch  
at mbunch@wesleyumc.com.*

# News and Coming Events

## Wesley & An Astros Game—2007 Edition!

We got our seats for Minute Maid Stadium as the Houston Astros take on the Pittsburgh Pirates on Saturday, August 25. Contact Kathy to reserve your seats on the bus and in the park. The game is at 6:00 p.m. and our seats are in the bullpen adjacent to the Astros bullpen. We will be close enough to marvel at the speed and movement of major league pitches! The cost for the trip (bus and game tickets) will be \$40 each.



## 50-50 Talent Show

It's time for the 50-50 Talent Show again and time for you to "get your act together." The show will be

Sunday, May 20, at 6:00 p.m. There will be a limited number of acts, so call Mabel Matthews at 753-3140 to get your act on the list. Let's have fun!!!



## Attention Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

There will be an informational meeting for all parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to discuss their child's integration into the youth program as 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Please join us on March 4, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 112/114. Robert, Mark, Drew, and Pam look forward to meeting with each of you.

## Church-Wide Trip to the Texas Wildcatters Hockey Game



February 25  
Game Time: 2:05 p.m.

Place: Ford Park

Cost: \$12

Tickets on sale this Sunday!  
To carpool, meet in the Dining Hall at 1:00 p.m.

To purchase a ticket, contact Pam Besser at 892-7733 or [pambesser@wesleyumc.com](mailto:pambesser@wesleyumc.com).

## Money Back Guarantee!

There is really no money involved, but we guarantee that you will have a great time if you come on out and join the group for Games Night on Friday, February 23. They begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Center and everyone is invited!

There are games of chickenfoot dominoes, cards, Scrabble, and even unusual board games occasionally. No experience is needed—everybody learns together. It is all just for fun, and laughter is the sound of the evening. The only cost is to bring a snack to share with everyone and be ready to enjoy a nice time with great people. Child care is always available, too.

## Sharing Our Faith

*Just a Moment...*



Father, the Psalmist says that You will guide me along the best pathway for my life and that You will advise me and watch over me. Many times, when I make a decision, I usually make it with the intent of achieving a specific outcome, based upon my earthly knowledge.

Today, I pray that you will give me the strength and the courage to practice my Faith and to allow You to guide me when I make my decisions. I pray that I will see just how wonderful the outcomes will be when I put You first in all that I do.

For it is in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

## Calling All Photos!

The Audio/Visual and Communication Teams are looking for old and new photos, film, and other memorabilia from the beginning of this church until now. These items will be incorporated into a DVD that is being made. Photos may be brought to the church office or you may send digital pictures to [pictures@wesleyumc.com](mailto:pictures@wesleyumc.com).



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*Circuit Rider* deadline is each Thursday.  
Email articles to [circuitrider@wesleyumc.com](mailto:circuitrider@wesleyumc.com)

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

## Happy Birthday!

*Listed are those of our church family who are celebrating a birthday next week. Keep these persons in your prayers for that day. Let's pray in unity for each other! It is our desire to have every Wesley member's birthday listed. If your birthday is not listed, please inform the church office.*

### February 25

Barbara Jones  
Eric Limbocker

### February 26

Amie Bourgeois  
Kasey Connors  
Patty Griffin  
Donna Johnson  
Barbara Mattison  
Larry Porter, III

### February 27

Erin Hines  
Suzy Holt  
Leah Raykovich  
Jennifer Schroeder  
Allison Vaughan

### February 28

Priscilla Craft  
Guyanell Hughes  
Sandra Malloch  
Jim Phillips  
Kay Timaeus  
Reed Tucker  
Christopher Robin Yohe

### February 29

Avis Perello

### March 1

Bobby Barton  
Cyndi Grimes

### March 2

Nancy Canizales  
Janice Christopher  
Lena Davis  
Darla Gaspard  
Lynda Kay Makin  
Betty Jo Ray  
Pat Reed

### March 3

Jason Hughes  
Robert Killian  
Joey Singleton, Jr.  
Lacey Willman