

NEWS BRIEFS

If you would like to schedule an event or meeting at Wesley in 2007, please come by the church office and fill out a reservation form. This is very important. Please don't assume the meeting is already on the calendar. Please stop by to make sure. THANKS!

Where Are Our College Students?

We are trying to locate our full-time college students so that we can keep them informed of church happenings and let them know we have not forgotten them. Our plan is to periodically send cards and "care packages" to let them know we are thinking about them. If you have a college student or know of a member that is a full-time college student, please complete and turn in the following information:

STUDENT'S NAME
COLLEGE ADDRESS

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Lay Leadership Committee/Ministry Team Training

Sunday, January 14

Wesley United Methodist Church

All church leaders, ministry chairs, and teams are urged to attend.
Contact Robert Besser for more information.

Administrative Workshops include:

Trustees
Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Stewardship

Program Workshops Include:

Caring Ministries
Becoming a Welcoming Church (Evangelism & Publicity)
Children's Ministry
Connecting to Campus Ministry
Developing Youth Ministry
Disciple Bible Study
One Day Mission Trips & Rita Recovery
Lay Leaders
Starting Singles Ministry
VBS Preview

Church-Wide Trip to the Texas Wildcatters Hockey Game



Sunday, February 25, 2007

Game Time: 2:05 p.m.

Place: Ford Park

Cost: \$12

If you would like to purchase a ticket, please contact Pam Besser at 892-7733 or pambesser@wesleyumc.com.



From the Pastor

No Complaints

As I write this article on New Year's Day, I just read an interesting idea. I always love to pass on an idea I've never really tried, so in case it is so impossibly difficult to do so, I can say, "Well, it was someone else's idea!" This idea came from a Ms.

Crenshaw. She had gotten it from a friend. So if this idea doesn't work, there are actually several people to blame!

Here's the idea: Throughout 2007, make the commitment to have at least one day per week as a "No Harping Day." It is very easy to let negativity take hold and run one's life, color all perceptions, and taint every thought. So once a week, Ms. Crenshaw is striving to banish all negative thoughts and to go through the day without complaining about anything. She says she will even stop co-workers who happen to complain to her on Thursday, her chosen day.

It is a startling notion...a whole day without complaints. It would mean I'd have to just take my soggy fries from the hamburger joint and not berate the poor teenager working for minimum wage for not living up to my culinary standards. It might mean I couldn't comment—even to myself—on the driving skills of the other motorists on Calder or on I-10. If I'm channel surfing on my "no harping day," I'd probably better stay away from any channel where Jerry Springer might appear.

What would it mean for my child, were I to adopt such a day into my schedule? What would it mean for your child if you were to do the same? Would they fall into the great unknown if we didn't harp on them about cleaning up their room, at least one day per week? Would their health be shattered if they didn't finish the vegetables on their plate just for that one day? I don't know. It's a whole new idea for me. Or maybe he'd just say, "Wow, Dad's in a great mood today!"

And what would we do with all the extra time we'd have on such a day? Just think, since we're not complaining so much during the day, I'm wondering if it might not free up some time to discover the blessings that surround us:

- Time to know the joy of children who may not be perfect, but they are ours, and pretty wonderful.
- Time to experience gratitude for a spouse who loves me, even on my "harping days."
- Time to notice and appreciate the church staff and all people who do their jobs well and make our lives better.
- Time to see the good in the ones who serve us at the bank, the cleaners, the supermarket, the letter carrier, and even the newspaper deliverer.
- Time to say thanks to God for all of the above.

Will you try it with me?

Robert

New Members



Sidney Caywood

838-5325

2290 Liberty

Beaumont, TX 77701



Don & Betty Cobb

861-4984

1011 Green Meadow

Beaumont, TX 77706

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to and prayers for the families of

Cristal Johnsen's grandmother, Betty Hardy,

Patricia Fretz's sister, Evelyn, who passed away on December 8,

Jay McConathy's grandmother, Letha McConathy, who passed away on December 15,

Donna Rabalais' mother, Joy Spraggins, who passed away on December 15,

Joe Kirkland passed away on December 17,

Robert Emery Jones who passed away on December 24, 2006, and

June Ferrell who passed away on December 31, 2006.

Children's Ministry

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



Calling all 4th and 5th graders Ice Skating at the Galleria in Houston

Monday, January 15 (MLK Day)

8:00 a.m.-Leave the church
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Shop, Ice
Skate, & Eat at the Galleria
4:30 p.m.-Arrive back at church

\$8 for ice skating
??? to eat lunch
Extra spending money

Permission slips are required. If
your parents want to go and help
drive, please have them contact
Pam Besser at 892-7733, 790-3858
or pambesser@wesleyumc.com

Nursery Thank You

Thanks to Kathy Haskins for
painting the Sanctuary nurseries.
They are adorable. More items are
arriving and construction on the
doors will begin soon. I hope you
will take time to visit the two
Sanctuary nurseries.

Also, a special thanks to Erin
Bunch, Debbie Sims, Sally
McConathy, Rachel Dale, and
Aleta Gibbs for working on the
nursery project and being responsi-
ble for the nursery shower. We are
very appreciative of their hard
work. Thanks.

Next Children's Council (Children's Ministry Team)

meeting is Tuesday, January 9,
at 6:30 p.m. in Room 108.

Parents' Night Out

Parents' Night Out is an oppor-
tunity for your children, nursery
through 5th grade, to enjoy an eve-
ning at the church with their
friends while you enjoy an evening
out. Cost is \$5.00 for each child.
Come to the Praise Center entrance
and sign your children up for a
great evening.

If you have any questions,
please contact Kelli Reyes, at 782-
0234 or Pam Besser at 892-7733.

**January 5th
6:00-10:00 p.m.**

Other Dates in 2007:

February 9, March 2, April 13,
May 4, June 1, July 20, August 3,
September 7, October 5,
November 2, December 7

Student Ministry

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



Sundays in January

January 7 – Make & Deliver Cook-
ies to our local Fire Stations
January 14 – Winter Olympics
January 21 – UMARMY/
BIGHOUSE Meeting

Beginning January 7, we will
have a new schedule on Sunday
nights. We will begin at 5:00 p.m.
with a group meal, have a time for
hanging out or playing games, and
begin our program around 6:00
p.m. The evening will conclude at
7:00 p.m. Youth will be split into
Jr. High and Sr. High during the
program time.



Ski-Trip Meeting January 14th at 4:00 p.m.

We will be hav-
ing a meeting to up-
date the progress of our Spring
Break Ski Trip to Winter Park,
Colorado. Join us in the Student
Center before Sunday Night Live.



Wednesday Nights

Beginning in January, we will
be working our way through 1
Timothy.
January 10 – Prayer: Who's really
listening?
January 24 – Leaders: Are you
quiet enough?
January 31 – Truth: Isn't it all
relative?

January 17th we are taking a
break from 1 Timothy to talk about
Finances. Youth will be split up
by age, and participate in a series
of activities, led by associates from
DuPont Goodrich Federal Credit
Union, that will help students
make the best decisions with their
money. For more information,
please contact Drew.



Look for these Exciting New Programs in 2007!

A new year means some great new classes and groups here at Wesley.

Wednesdays at Wesley begins this week with another season of great meals for the whole family at 5:00 p.m. followed by these new studies. Pick the one that interests you and join the group at 6:00 p.m.:

- **Methodism 101**—Pastor Robert Besser will lead a study that answers the question “What does it mean to be a United Methodist?”
Room 103
- **Read the Bible in 90 Days**—Join Pastor Mark Bunch as he guides the group from Genesis to Revelation in an exciting and rewarding study meeting in Room 108.
- **Power of a Praying Woman**—The best-selling author Stormie Omartian now has a Bible study based on her book. This women’s class will meet in the parlor and discover the awesome power prayer can have in their lives.
- **Dynamic Marriages**—Though this class is full, a waiting list is already started. Take any marriage and make it better with the lessons learned in this interactive class. Contact Kristi to get your name on the list for the next class: 960-1709 or Kristi@gt.rr.com
- **Old-Fashioned Prayer Meeting**—Pastor Elvis Davis provides the message and this group meets in Room 101 and sings the hymns from the good old days.

*Wednesdays at Wesley
Resumes January 3*

Monday Evening Study Group: Starting on January 8 at 6:30 p.m., this fun group of talkers will gather in Room 104 for a new study called Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues. This great Adam Hamilton program will take on some of those challenging issues which we face in life in the 21st century: abortion, evolution, death penalty, euthanasia and others. All interested adults are invited to join the group for snacks and lively discussion.

A Bible Study About, For, and By Women! Don’t forget that “Women of the Bible,” the Brown Bag Bible Study on Thursdays, will continue through May. It discovers something special each week about a female hero from scripture and doesn’t require that you be there every class session to “keep up.” It’s a very casual discussion class with friends and sharing. Some bring their lunch routinely and some never do. All women are invited—working gals, stay-at-home-moms, retirees—to take a little break in your busy week to find out a little something about how God works in our lives right here and right now. Join the group in the Parlor each Thursday—gathering together begins at noon and class starts at 12:15 p.m. We’re finished before 1:00 p.m. If you’d like child care, please let me know in advance.

Special Gifts

Nursery Fund

In Honor of Baptisms of Oscar &
Isabella Gonzalez
By: Kathy L. Heiner

Choir Fund

In Honor of Denise DeSoto &
Eileen Smallwood
By: Mary & Betty Kovar

In Honor of Dolores Hall
By: Kathy Heiner

In Honor of Orvalee Husband and
Noel Turner
By: Gerry Kirkland and family

In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland
By: Gerry Kirkland and family

Building Fund

In Honor of Robert Besser, Mark
Bunch, & Elvis Davis
By: Friendship Bible Class

Budget Fund

In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland
By: Ken, Carolyn, Brent,
Rebecca, & Bryton Abney

In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland
By: Cleigh, Jodie, Jesse, &
Kyle Bushnell

In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland
By: Gerry Kirkland and family

In Honor of Robert Besser, Mark
Bunch, and Elvis Davis
By: Gerry Kirkland and family

In Honor of Sour Lake Elementary
Teachers
By: Chuck and Laurie Lewis

In Loving Memory of Jeff &
Mattie Porter, Wayne Scott,
Patsy Porter, & Port Ostitis
By: Barbara P. Scott

In Loving Memory of Gene Garcia
and Joe Kirkland
By: Joyce Fairchild

Calendar

Sunday, January 7:

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
2:00 pm UMW General Meeting, Parlor
4:30 pm Sunday Night Live, Student Center
5:00 pm Knitting Class, Room 102
5:30 pm Cub Scouts, Rooms 108, 112/114

Monday, January 8:

6:30 am **LISD Resumes**
7:00 am Crosstalk, BISD
8:30 am UMM Breakfast, DH
9:00 am Attendance Volunteers, Workroom
6:30 pm Counters, Conference Room
7:00 pm Children's Council, Room 104
Boy Scouts, Student Center Green Room

Tuesday, January 9:

10:00 - 11:00 am Staff Meeting, Conference Room
5:30 pm Congregational Care Team, Conf. Room
5:30 pm Health Care Ministries Team, Rm 108
5:30 pm Children's Ministries Team, Room 102
6:30 pm Adult Ministries Team, Rm 102
6:30 pm Youth Ministries Team, Conf. Room
7:00 pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Parlor
6:00 pm Girls Scouts, Dining Hall
7:30 pm Al Anon, Rm 101, AA Meeting, Rm 112

Wednesday, January 10:

7:00 am Crosstalk, HJISD, Day Break
9:00 am Circuit Rider Volunteers, Teacher's Lounge
9:30 am Day School Board, Room 102
12:15 pm Communion, Sanctuary
4:15 pm King's Kids Choir, Choir Room
Wednesday's @ Wesley
5:00 pm Dinner
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:00 pm Adventure Club studies for children, Student Ascent, Adult
Bible Studies, Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room
7:30 pm North Major AA Meeting, Room 101
7:30 pm N Major, St. Francis Women & Men AA, Rm 101,112,106
7:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous, Room 108

Thursday, January 11:

12:00 pm Brown Bag Bible Study, Parlor
12:30 pm Senior Games Day, Student Center Building
7:30 pm Al Anon, Rm 101, AA Meeting, Rm 112

Saturday, January 13:

7:00 am Church lawn maintenance (volunteers are appreciated)
7:30 pm St. Francis AA Meeting, Room 112
TBA Retreat Team Workday

Sunday, January 14

2:30—5:00 District Leadership Training (PB)
4:30 pm Sunday Night Live, Student Center
5:00 pm Knitting Class, Room 102
5:30 pm Cub Scouts, 108, 112/114

*If you have additions, deletions, or changes to the calendar, contact
Malana Hearn at mhearn@wesleyumc.com.*

Our Faithfulness

Our Attendance

Morning Worship December 24th
10:00 a.m. 611

Evening Worship December 24th
4:00 p.m. 605
6:00 p.m. 658
11:00 p.m. 186
Total 1449

Christmas Eve Total 2060

Our Gifts

2006 Church Budget \$1,252,431
(incl \$248,974 for debt service)

Needed Each Week 24,085
Received 12/24 30,525
Needed Year-to-date: 1,252,431
Received Year-to-date: 1,157,650
Difference (short) (95,081)

Non-Budgeted Gifts Received:

Building Funds \$2,495
Nursery Fund 270
Society of St. Stephen's 968
Parsonage Fund 2,000
Choir Fund 130

Monthly Debt Service: 23,300

Scouting News

Pack 65 Webelo Scouts will meet at the home of Glenn Cummings for an Outdoors Meeting on Friday, January 5, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting will feature outdoor cooking and scouting skills demonstrations, scouting games, and a campfire. The Webelos Leader is Travis Hefley. Youth members of Troop 65 will assist in showing the Webelos a "taste of Boy Scouting."

The Cub Pack and the Boy Scout Troop meet weekly at the church and welcome new members.

Thank You

Thank you for letting us use the Fellowship Hall for our District Banquet. All went well—so thanks again. May God Bless.

George Pate, District Executive

New Tax Law

During 2006 and 2007, the newly enacted IRA rollover provision permits individuals over age 70½ to make charitable donations from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs without having to count the distributions as taxable income. The IRA Charitable Rollover benefits donors and nonprofits.

How does the IRA Rollover Work? Taxpayers age 70½ and older are required to make annual distributions from their IRAs. The distributions are included in the taxpayers' adjusted gross income, and taxpayers pay taxes on them. The IRA Charitable Rollover permits taxpayers to make donations directly to charitable organizations from their IRAs without paying taxes on them. Call Renee in the church office with questions.



Welcome!

Congratulations to Jessica Purks in the birth of **Jasmine Alana Purks**. Her proud great grandparents are Jimmy and Patsy Purks.

Special Thanks to The PRINTery

We appreciate The PRINTery for donating the paper for our weekly bulletins and Circuit Rider and the printing of the Circuit Rider.

Staff

Rev. Robert Besser
Senior Pastor
rbesser@wesleyumc.com
866-1117 home

Rev. Mark Bunch
Associate Pastor
mbunch@wesleyumc.com
892-2534 home

Rev. Elvis Davis
Associate Pastor
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Kathy Haskins
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Rev. Pam Besser
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Renee Cash
Financial Secretary
rcash@wesleyumc.com

Reba Sonnier
Congregational Care Director
rsonnier@wesleyumc.com

Aleta Gibbs
Nursery Coordinator
agibbs@gt.rr.com
924-9987

Dwight Peirce
Orvalee Husband
Organists

Bruce Klumpp
Lynette Klumpp
Custodians

Preschool & Mother's Day Out
892-7012

Linda Carroll
Preschool Director
Kay Bender
MDO Director

News and Coming Events

Confirmation Communication:

Attention 6th Graders and
Anyone Older Interested in
Confirmation Class

The 2007 Confirmation Class will hold its orientation meeting Sunday, January 28, following the 10:30 a.m. service. We will meet in the Sanctuary. Confirmands, parents, and mentors will be briefed on plans for this year's Confirmation Series. Please call the church office if you are planning to participate.

Christmas Gift Thank You

Angel Tree Thanks



The youth of Wesley would like to thank you for helping out with our Angel Tree ministry. The Wesley community provided over 270 children with Christmas gifts this year. Thank you to all of the shoppers, wrappers, and deliverers, as well as those of you who donated non-designated toys and money. Sunday, December 17, our youth were able to shop and wrap presents for several angels that were left on the tree. Once again, Wesley has displayed Christ's Love in overwhelming fashion. Praise God!

Friendly Beast Thank You



Thanks to everyone who donated a stuffed animal for the Friendly Beasts project. We delivered 191 stuffed animals to the Garth House. Thanks.

Meeting Schedule for 2007

First Tuesdays:

- 5:30 pm Worship: Traditional, Room 104
- 6:30 pm Worship: Contemporary, Room 104
- 6:30 pm Children Ministries Team, Room 108

Second Tuesdays:

- 5:30 pm Congregational Care Team, Conference Room
(*Odd months—January, March, May, July, September, November*)
- 5:30 pm Parsonage Committee, Parlor
(*Even Months—February, April, June, August, October, December*)
- 5:30 pm Health Care Ministries Team, Room 108
- 6:30 pm Adult Ministries Team, Room 108
- 6:30 pm Youth Ministries Team, Conference Room
- 7:00 pm Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Parlor

Third Tuesdays:

- 5:30 pm Endowment Committee, Conference Room
- 5:30 pm Missions Ministry Team, Room 104
- 6:30 pm Finance, Conference Room
- 6:30 pm Outreach/Publicity Ministry Team, Room 104

Fourth Tuesdays:

- 5:30 pm Trustees, Conference Room
- 6:30 pm Administrative Board, Choir Room

For the months of January, February and March, nursery will be provided each Tuesday evening for the scheduled meetings. Beginning in April, a nursery will be provided only for those meetings where children have been present.

Scheduling An Event or Meeting?

If you would like to **schedule an event or meeting** at Wesley in 2007, please come by the church office and fill out a reservation form. This is very important. Please don't assume the meeting is already on the calendar. Please stop by and see Malana to make sure. THANKS!

Child Care Ministries are currently collecting information for the coming months. If your Church sponsored event will **require child care** over the next few months, please contact Aleta Gibbs, 924-9987 or agibbs@gt.rr.com, so that it can be scheduled. Please provide the name of the church sponsored event (Ex. "VBS set-up" or "District Meeting"), the starting time of the event, the expected ending time of the event, and how many children we might expect if known. Please remember that child care is not scheduled automatically, it must be requested. We would really appreciate as much notice as possible to ensure availability. Thank You, Child Care Ministries.



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(409) 892-8350 Fax
www.wesleyumc.com



Circuit Rider deadline is each Thursday.
Email articles to 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.

January 7

Mary Beuhler
Max Brown
Lindsey Erickson
Carly Lewis
Perry Mason
Jo Page
Jennifer Roebuck
Roy Scheets

January 8

Heather Caskey
Chris Mayfield
Sherry Wanca

January 9

Thomas Bunch
Jerry Gaspard
Katie Gilchrist
Jason Moses
Gladys Parrish

January 10

Mary Fox
Aleta Gibbs
Kirk McBride

January 11

Roy McLeod
Logan Morreale
Scott Walls

January 12

George Broussard
Glenn Hanson
Leslie Maddox
Ann McClanahan

January 13

Brandee Blakeney
Camren Corley
Jennifer Garza
Camren Moore
Cameron Robinson

