

NEWS BRIEFS

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 who is a full-time college student, please turn in

STUDENT'S NAME
COLLEGE ADDRESS

Confirmation News:

For 6th Graders and Anyone Older Interested in Confirmation Class

The 2007 Confirmation Class will hold its orientation meeting Sunday, January 28, at 11:30 a.m. 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.

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SE District Lay Leadership Committee/ Ministry Team Training

Sunday, January 14 * 2:30-5:00 p.m.

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.

MOSAIC continues to grow...

The Spaghetti fundraiser was a HUGE success that can only be attributed to everyone who volunteered and purchased the dinners! The feedback has all been good but I promise next year we will pre-cook the pasta to cut down the wait. All indicators are that it should be repeated next year so I hope we can count on everyone's support again. We did receive a couple of large donations from individuals and Sunday school classes but the figures for our first fundraiser exceeded \$10,000!!!! This event has also brought in several other local businesses who have offered to underwrite future events so we can continue in the tradition of directing EVERY dollar to the orphanage. We still have arm bands for \$3.00 each available in the church office. Remember, each armband will purchase 15 bricks to build the orphanage!

As many of you know Rev. Mark Bunch and I traveled to Mexico in the beginning of December to actually visit the site and assess the need for ourselves. This trip was probably one of the most rewarding accomplishments I have ever done but it was also not without sadness and despair. We were blessed on our trip as we were able to meet the local Pastor and his wife along with several of the members of the local non-profit who are actually handling the construction and operation of the orphanage. Mark and I were able to sit in and participate in a planning meeting where we talked about our 2007 budgets and goals. Additionally, a representative from Child

Protective Services in Mexico (DIF) was present and she complimented everyone's efforts and brought with her the support from her agency in this project. This orphanage will be the only one in the entire area so the State is very excited to have it there as it will provide a great alternative to leaving abandoned children with family members who are unable or unwilling to care for them.

The local Methodist Church has been doing a monthly outreach to an area in Tuxpan, referred to as the "slums." They had set up a Christmas party for the local children and had expected only 150 children to attend. The members of MOSAIC had taken a special collection and sent the church \$400 to purchase small Christmas gifts for the children. Additionally one of our members purchased 25 soccer balls that Mark and I checked as our luggage. It was a beautiful event to see the children so excited as this would be their only Christmas. However, it was very sad to see that even with our efforts we had not done enough, because over 400 children showed up for the gathering! It was very sad to see children who had not received a gift because we had run out. We talked about getting more, but it is not like running to Walmart in the states. I committed to the Pastor right then that he would NEVER have that problem again. Every year on March 30th is children's day in Mexico. The Pastor asked if we could do another outreach to the slums for the children. I am working on a project to raise funds

to purchase small gifts and Spanish children's Bibles for EVERYONE!

We were blessed to meet the orphanage's first child. She is a 4 ½ month old little girl named Ximena (pronounced Hemana). The pastor in Mexico is keeping her in his home and his wife is her primary care giver until we can get the orphanage built. Her mother abandoned her with her grandmother, who was so poor she could not afford food for the little girl. Ximena has some small medical conditions and is under weight but with proper love and nourishment she should be just fine.

Our group concluded the visit by visiting the land that is in the process of being surveyed. The view from the mountain is beautiful, overlooking the valley and a distant town. Our hope is to finish the purchase within a couple of months and start construction in March or April. Due to the overwhelming support of Wesley, I was able to announce that our first construction installment of \$5,000 would be sent on April 1, 2007. The cost to build our first building will be around \$25,000 US dollars, and this first \$5,000 will fully fund the cost of the construction of the slab and walls.

May God bless the volunteers and our supporters and I personally thank each of you on behalf of the children.

Scott Gittinger

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade

The 3rd-5th graders will
participate in the
MLK Day Parade.

Saturday, January 13

Meet at the church at 7:30 a.m.
and we will travel in the church
vans to the parade route. We will
need to be in line at 8:00 a.m. and
the parade begins at 8:30 a.m.

For questions, contact Rev.
Pam Besser at 790-3858.



Loving Our Smallest Blessings

We are so blessed to have such a
loving and caring nursery staff to
care for our littlest members. Be
sure to stop by and thank these la-
dies for all they do.



Left to right: Renae Sweeney,
Amy Pearson, Aleta Gibbs, Abbi
Allen, and Rachel Dale

Not pictured: Paula Webb and
Penny Ferrell

Youth Ministry

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

SUNDAY NIGHTLIVE

January 14 – Winter Olympics –
Wear clothes that you don't
mind getting dirty 5:00–7:00
p.m.

January 21 – UMARMY/
BIGHOUSE Meeting
5:30–6:30 p.m. for students
(and parents) in 6th–8th grade;
6:00–7:00 p.m. for students (and
parents) in 9th–12th grade.
Adults desiring to volunteer are
welcome to join us, as well.

January 28 – District Coffee house
at First UMC in Beaumont.
Bring \$5, and meet at Wesley at
5:00 p.m. We will return at
7:00 p.m.

Youth Ascent Wednesday Nights

January 24 – Leaders: Are you
quiet enough?

January 17 – Financial Responsi-
bility for middle & high school
students

January 31 – Truth: Isn't it all
relative?

HOT HEARTS January 19 & 20

Join us for an amazing youth
conference, right here at Ford Park.
Along with guest speakers and co-
medians, we will be attending con-
certs by Newsboys and Jason
Morant. The cost is \$20.

Meetings::

Ski-Trip Meeting January 14th at 4:00pm

We will be having a meeting to
update the progress of
our Spring Break Ski
Trip to Winter Park,
Colorado. Join us in the
Youth Center before
Sunday Night Live.



Summer Mission Trip Meeting – January 21st

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. for middle
school students and
parents

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
for high school stu-
dents and parents



“Wednesdays at Wesley”

The great new classes and groups are starting here at Wesley. **Wednesdays at Wesley** started 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 104

Read the Bible in 90 Days—Join Pastor Mark Bunch as he guides the group from Genesis to Revelation in a rewarding study meeting in Room 108.

Power of a Praying Woman—The bestselling 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. Contact Kristi to get your name on the list for the next class: 860-1709

Old-Fashioned Prayer Meeting—Pastor Elvis Davis provides the message and this gang meets in Room 101 and sings the hymns from the good old days.

What Does the Bible Say About *That*?

Class started on this week with an introduction, so you can still join this fun group who gathers on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in Room 104 for the new study called Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues. This 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 discussion.



From The Heart, If Not the Pen

Notes from Kathy’s desk

Does this headline look familiar? For those of you who were always so kind and complimentary about my columns in the newsletter and have asked when I will start writing them again, there’s a new page on the website where I’ll be doing just that. Right now it’s called “Kathy’s Corner,” but I’ll change that when I come up with a catchier name. (Tim Beard suggested that I call it “Ramblings of a Madwoman.”) If you have any ideas, let me know! Just go to www.wesleyumc.com, the Adult Page, and click on “Kathy’s Corner.” I’ll recycle some old favorites, but most will be new. You can email me with comments, too.

Thank You

Dear Wesley,

Thank you so much for making Carter’s baptism so special!

The hand-stitched burp cloth with Carter’s name is beautiful.

We also really enjoyed opening the card with all the prayers and blessing from you all. That was such a surprise.

You all mean a great deal to us, and we are so thankful to have you.

Thanks again to all of you at Wesley, who helped make his baptism such a joyous celebration.

Blessings, *The Moutons*

Dear Rev. Besser,

Thank you for your extravagant hospitality and generosity in allowing our small team of fifty-six to stay at your beautiful church. You and your congregation have blessed many with your gift of hospitality. To God be the Glory,

Rev. Noel Denison,

Chapelwood UMC, Houston

To Our Wonderful Church Family,

It’s hard to find adequate words to tell you all how much you have blessed our lives. Our hearts are overflowing with the joy we feel from your prayers lifted up in our behalf and for all of the loving care and attention you’ve shown us.

During our special time of need for the cancer situation, we knew, without a doubt, that the Lord was sending us your strength. We have always leaned on Him, but to have our loving church family leaning also, made us even stronger in our faith.

And—WOW! When the 4th and 5th grade carolers visited our home to wish us a Merry Christmas, our joy was overwhelming.

Thank you all so very much! Within this card, we are sending you our prayers, love, and sincere gratitude.

May God bless you all with a wonderful New Year.

Tommy and Nona Butler

Memorials

Budget Fund

In Loving Memory of Mozelle Gillette

By: Marian Godwin

In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland

By: Jon & Patty Burmeister

In Loving Memory of Joy Spraggins

By: Jon & Patty Burmeister

In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland

By: Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Shirley

In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland

By: Bill & Donna Kent

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: George & Kaye Bryant

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Don & Deborah Hansen

In Loving Memory of Mark Reinhardt, June Ferrell, Robert

Jones, and Joe Kirkland

By: Mary & Betty Kovar

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Ann Conger

In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland

By: Dolores Hall

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Griffin & Matthews

Attorneys-at-Law

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

& Sandy Dutton

By: Lois M. Head

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: ERA Team Realtors

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Southeast Texas Title &

Port Arthur Abstract & Title

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Larry & Karen Easley

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Stewart Title of

Montgomery County

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Bart Stockton

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Ralph Woodward, Jr.

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Carolynn Moulder

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Eddie & Donna Schroeder

Calendar

Sunday, January 14:

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

2:30—5:00 pm

SE District Leadership Training, Church

5:00 pm

Knitting Class, Room 102

5:00 pm

Sunday Night Live, Dinner, Student Center

5:30 pm

Cub Scouts, Rooms 108, 112/114

6:00 pm

Sunday Night Live Programs, Student Center

Monday, January 15:

8:00 am—4:30 pm

BISD, LISD, HJISD out

Blitz 45 Ice Skating, Houston Galleria

8:30 am

Attendance Volunteers, Workroom

4:00 pm

Girls Scouts, Room 102

7:00 pm

Boy Scouts, Student Center Green Room

Tuesday, January 16:

9:00 am

Counters, Conference Room

10:00 - 11:00 am

Staff Meeting, Parlor

5:30 pm

Endowment Committee, Conference Room

5:30 pm

Missions Ministry Team, Room 104

6:30 pm

Finance Committee, Conference Room

6:30 pm

Outreach/Publicity Ministry Team, Room 104

7:30 pm

Al Anon, Rm 101, AA Meeting, Rm 112

Wednesday, January 17:

7:00 am

Crosstalk, HJISD, Day Break

9:00 am

Circuit Rider Volunteers, Teacher's Lounge

12:15 pm

Communion, Sanctuary

4:15 pm

King's Kids Choir, Choir Room

Wednesday's @ Wesley

5:00 pm

Dinner (Cowboy Stew)

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, Rms 101,112,106

7:30 pm

Overeaters Anonymous, 108

Thursday, January 18:

12:00 pm

Pre-School Trike-a-thon

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

Friday, January 19:

6:30 pm

Games Night, Youth Center

Saturday, January 20:

7:00 am

Church lawn maintenance (volunteers are appreciated)

7:00 am—1:00 pm

Pinewood Derby, Cub Scouts, Dining Hall

5:00 pm

Emmaus Gathering, WUMC Orange

7:30 pm

St. Francis AA Meeting, Room 112

Sunday, January 21:

5:00 pm

Knitting Class, Room 102

5:00 pm

Sunday Night Live, Dinner, Student Center

5:30 pm

Cub Scouts, Rooms 108, 112/114

6:00 pm

Sunday Night Live Programs, Student Center

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

Our Faithfulness

Our Attendance

Sunday Worship	January 7th
8:00 a.m.	131
9:15 a.m.	238
10:30 a.m.	395
Total	764

Sunday School

Children	126
Youth	45
Adults	200
Total	371

Adventure Club

	January 3rd
Total	99

Watch next week's *Circuit Rider* for a summary of our 2006 attendance and gifts.

Our Gifts

2007 Church Budget	\$1,257,029
<i>(incl \$274,884 for debt service)</i>	
Needed Each Week	24,174
Received 01/07/07	33,683
Needed Year-to-date:	24,174
Received Year-to-date:	33,684
Difference	9,509

Non-Budgeted Gifts Received:

Building Funds	\$2,345
Prayer Garden	50
MOSAIC	175
Society of St. Stephen	805
Scout Fund	25
Parsonage Fund	225
Bell Choir Fund	150
Missions Fund	50

Monthly Debt Service: 23,300

Guests

Joshua Amos
 Arthur Baize
 Jason & Chris Black
 Lynn Callas
 Joann Cherry
 Sami Clubb
 Jan Coyle
 Clay & Karen Cunningham
 Loretta & James Davis
 Mr. & Mrs. Blaine Duplecion
 Vivian Emmert
 Mary Gordon
 Bubba Haney
 Ian, Darcie, Vincent, & Colette
 Hunter
 Cynthia Johnson
 Slena LeBlanc
 Caren, Rob, & Alyssa LeMaster
 Elmer & Kay Long
 Lou Ann Lott
 Lawrence & Chase Marshburn
 Rick & Lynn McLain
 Stephen & Lexie Mouton
 James & Karen Parsley
 Tom & Lisa Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. Pope
 Tonya Pruitt
 Robby & Leah Raykovich
 Earl, Sharon, Seth, & Shaya
 Richardson
 Ann Sandefur
 Sophie Soto
 Paul & Connie Szuch
 Sybil Taylor
 Cathy Tucker
 Timothy, Ann, & Makenna Vincent
 Harry & Ann Williams
 Chris, Patricia, & Christopher
 Windham
 James & Marilyn Wren
 Chris & Peggy Yetman
 DeAnn Young

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

Staff

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

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 Associate Pastor
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 892-2534 home

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 892-2595 home

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 mhearn@wesleyumc.com

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

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.

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.

Memorials

Prayer Garden Fund

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Phyllis, Joe, Jane, Eddie, Huiwen, & Guy Venable & Sandra Womack

Building Fund

In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland

By: Charles & Elaine Canady

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Sam & Melody Fazio

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Doris Waldron

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Sheila Burrell

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell,

Bob Jones & Joe Kirkland

By: J.E. & Betty Jo Ray

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: George & Liz Holliday

Parsonage Fund

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

Given By: Fidelis SS Class

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Milton & Pat Lane

Scout Fund

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell

By: Red & Barbara Mattison

Society of St. Stephen

In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland

By: Roy & Lynda Follmer

Meeting Schedule

First Tuesdays:

5:30 pm Worship: Traditional, Room 104

6:30 pm Worship: Contemporary, Room 104

6:30 pm Children's 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.

Looking For Fun?

If you are a senior citizen, come on to Games Day in the church Youth Center on Thursday. There is lots of laughing, game playing, and visiting with friends. Or, bring you embroidery or other hand work and just hang out. We guarantee you will feel better for the effort. There are usually snacks, coffee, and plenty of love to go around. Bring a friend with you. You need not be a member of Wesley to be a part of this group!



Game time is 12:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing YOU!

Calling All Button Pushers

Do you use a remote control at your house? Would you say that you can change channels as well as most people? Then you are qualified to come join the multimedia team. We run sound, lights, computers, and cameras for the services. We need you!

Join us in the Sanctuary, Tuesday, January 23, at 6:00 p.m. to be introduced to pushing buttons for Christ. No experience of any kind is necessary. If you can you

use a light switch, you can help us! If you have any questions, call Gary Hay at 363-9557.



Missing Bible Dictionary

The Bible Study Class is missing their Bible Dictionary. If you borrowed it or have seen it please return it to their classroom. Thank you.



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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 14

Dylan Bailey
Martha Foster
Della Freeze
Samuel Guidry
Martha Hale
Judy Holden
Todd Joosten
Karen Linn
Allene McAnulty

January 15

Kurt Hay
Amber Hennigan
Bill Jenkins
Erin McClung
Patrick Sutton
Kathy Walters

January 16

Charles Beard, Jr.
Patsy Benoit
Barry Bryant
Stephanie Fox
Joshua Gibbs
Trent Kimery
Freddie Smith
Michelle Stewart
Mike Stewart

January 17

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

January 18

David Colson
Ross Fox
Tom Jones
Bruce Nobles
David Samaha
Logan Smithey
Catherine Withers

January 19

Bill Ayers
Lisa DeHart
Holly Eshliman
Patty McKinley
Billie Sue Stanmire

January 20

Amber Allen
Ashley Jones
Lauren Loeb
Ronnie Nobles
Dolly Rush