



Wesley Circuit Rider

united methodist church

Volume XXXXI, Issue 8

March 1, 2007

NEWS BRIEFS

Lenten Tree Addition for March 4: The Money Bag

The account of Judas' betrayal can be found in all four Gospels. However, only Matthew 26:14-16, Mark 14:10-11, and Luke 22:3-6 tell of the payment Judas received for his act. The money bag symbolizes the thirty pieces of silver.

Lenten Reflections

Watch each week's Circuit Rider for Lenten Reflections sharing what our children think about our church and Lent. This week, find the reflection on Page 7.

Parents of 5th Graders

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

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Showing Radical Hospitality During Lent

Are you planning on "giving something up" this Lenten season? I used to give something up each year. Then a couple of years ago a pastor told me that when you give something up you should replace it with something – prayer, meditation, good deeds. Now I look at Lent in an entirely different way. John Wesley said it well: *"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."*

Perhaps instead of giving up something this year -- coffee, candy, cold drinks, gossiping – you could commit to helping someone in need. It's been 18 months since Hurricane Rita devastated 22 counties in Southeast Texas. We have completed repairs on **193** homes – PRAISE GOD! But we still have more than **700** families on our list and we continue to receive **new** calls for assistance **every day**. **We need volunteer teams!**

We have two volunteer teams staying here at Wesley in March – St. Luke's UMC, Kilgore (3/11-3/18) and University UMC, San Antonio (3/22-3/25). Perhaps you could show "radical hospitality" to these servants by sharing a meal that you prepare for them one evening, sharing worship with them, sharing fellowship time with them – you could invite your Sunday School class, your youth group, or your family to join you.

Grand expressions of generosity are wonderful, but I believe the small acts of goodness we do each day impact the world in a much greater way. One person at a time, one day at a time, one life at a time, we can bring kindness to those around us. And when we finish our day's work, God will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (*Matthew 25:21*)

Blessings, peace and love,
Angela Baker
Director, Rita Recovery

The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

To help show hospitality to volunteer teams or to volunteer yourself or your family, contact Angela Baker in the Rita Recovery office at 892-0140. Watch next week's *Circuit Rider* for ways you can "adopt" a visit-

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



From the Pastor

"Stuck At the Bottom of a Riverbed?"

Methodist Bishop Gerald Kennedy once described the construction of a bridge near his home. "At one point," he said, "workers were blocked by a sunken barge that was immovable, even with five tugboats in action. At low tide, they attached cables from the sunken barge to a large flatboat floating on the river. When the tide came in, it lifted the sunken barge. The bridge building went forward."

Folks, God lifts people the same way--through the influence of others. There are people in my life and in yours who need God's influence in their lives. There are folks who are hurting because of their past, hurting because of what choices a child or spouse has made, hurting because they are alone, hurting because of the ill health of a family member, or hurting because of any number of different situations. In other words, they are literally stuck in the bottom of a river bed, with the waters overwhelming them, with life passing them by.

God calls us to be the one who lifts others out. During this time before Easter, let us lift others and invite them to God's House of worship. Who knows, you may be the deciding factor in someone's life.

See you Sunday,
Robert

Preschool & Mother's Day Out

Our Preschool has been very busy! In January we held our annual St. Jude's Trike-A-Thon. We raised \$2,904.10 for the children in this cancer treatment center.

During February we enjoyed Valentine activities and we had a visit from "Mother Goose." Mother Goose came to us from Spring, Texas, dressed in costume, and told the children stories and nursery rhymes.

The month of March will bring us our annual "Dudes 'N Dogs" Day! The dude is the dad who joins his little cowpoke for western relays and a feast of "dogs" (hot dogs, that is)! This event is a culminating activity for our study of Texas.

Registration Open

Registration for Wesley members and those presently enrolled is open now. Registration for the public will open Tuesday, 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.

Teacher Needed!

Wesley Preschool needs a teacher for a three-year-old class for the 2007-2008 school year. We would like a certified teacher who enjoys small children. If interested, please contact Linda Carroll at 892-7012 or 866-8956.

Scouting News

A sea of red, white, and blue welcomed worshipers on Sunday, February 18. Fifty large American flags lined Folsom and Major in celebration of President's Day. Wesley now owns the flags which will be displayed at various holidays throughout the years. Troop 65 purchased 20 of these flags and will dedicate them to past and present scouters who have had an impact on the scouting movement in our area. Anyone wanting to help defray the cost of the remaining flags is welcome to make a donation in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$50.00.

The Troop is asking for help in setting the flags out on 6 holidays during the year. The scouts will remove and store the flags properly. Anyone interested in helping can call John Smithey.



Sympathy

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

Steve Breaux's father, Albert Breaux, who passed away on February 17, 2007.

Priscilla Craft's father, N.A. Smith, who passed away last week.

Roy Scheet's brother, Howard Scheets, who passed away February 16, 2007.

Gail Doss' mother, Ida Defrances passed away.

Janet Hill's uncle, Bill Oliver, who passed away February 16, 2007.

Children's Ministry

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

Why do you Like Adventure Club?

A Lenten Reflection by Adventure Club 2nd Grade Class
Teachers: Juliana Reese & Shawn Collier

- "I learn with the children! Teaching the class has helped me reinforce the verses." – Shawn Collier, Teacher
- "I like music and art." – Samuel Gillette
- "I like going on stage. I also like art." – Lauren Gillette
- "I love art and crafts and music." – Caleb Zurita
- "I like to learn about Jesus and God. Doing art and going on stage." – Morgan Weiblinger
- "I like learning about Jesus. Art and music are fun." – Kaitlen
- "I like art and music because my mom works in art!" – Gracie Lewis
- "I like learning about Jesus and God." – Sydney Maddox
- "I like art, music, and going on stage." – Cory Cash
- "The experience to do stuff without my family and to do stuff with my friends." – Tabitha Ferguson
- "Chapel, art, and music. I like to say the Bible verses in chapel." – Reid Yentsen
- "I like music." – Alec Hain
- "I enjoy seeing the kids learn things about Jesus..... and I'm figuring out a few things myself!" - Juliana Reese, Teacher
- "I like going to art because I can draw." - Jesse Adams

Parent's Night Out

Friday, March 2 - 6:00–10:00 pm

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. The cost is \$5 per child for the entire evening. Come to the Praise Center entrance and sign your children up for a great evening. If you have any questions, contact Kelli Reyes at 782-0234 or Pam Besser at 892-7733.

Safe Sanctuary

Safe Sanctuary training will be held for all those working with children or youth at Wesley. Please make plans to attend one of these trainings in the Dining Hall:
Sunday, March 25, at 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 2, at 6:00 p.m.

Youth Ministry

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



Sunday Night Programs

Dinner at 5:00 p.m.
Program at 6:00 p.m.

March 4 – Baking cookies for
Prison Ministry

March 18 – Trading Spaces-
Wesley Style

March 25 – Sports Connection &
Pizza



Confirmation Class Has Begun!

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

NO ACTIVITIES MARCH 11-17

We will begin
again on
March 18.



Youth ASCENT

Wednesday Night Studies

6:00–7:15 p.m.

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

February 28 – Suffering: We Can Overcome

March 21 – Called To Do Good

March 28 – Truth, Will You Follow It

How's Your Blood Pressure?

Starting on March 18, Wesley is offering a new service to its church family (including guests, of course). On the third Sunday of each month, free blood pressure checks will be done after each worship service. Each person who has their pressure checked will receive documentation of the results and told when a visit to their personal physician is recommended.

Nurses will be in the Parlor after the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services, and in the Preschool Office after the 9:15 service. Everyone is welcome to come and have their blood pressure checked on third Sundays.



United Methodist Women News

Our United Methodist Women's unit furnished vegetable trays and dips for the Wesley Student Center's Rededication Service in February.

On March 2, we will host the Church Women United's Celebration for the World Day of Prayer. A luncheon will follow. Sunday, March 4, will be our regular General Meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Rev. Pam Besser will speak to us about Sharing Our Faith, our capital funds drive. Also, Rev. Clay Whitaker from First United Methodist Church in Vidora will talk about the UMCOR Depot at Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana. We will assemble health kits at this time. Sounds like a busy day!!

Our prayers are still for Francis Hennigan.

Elizabeth Pittman, President of the Southeast District, will be at Lakeview for the Resurrection Women Celebration.

All women of the church are United Methodist Women and we would love to have you join our group. For more information about UMW contact Lynda Follmer.

Deborah Circle meets on March 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Mary Martha Circle meets on March 21 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 104.

"What does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Spring Overnight Field Trip Being Organized!

For the "Grown Up Field Trip" overnight journey this year, we are planning a tour of some plantation homes over in the River Parishes of Louisiana and the zoo in Baton Rouge! It will be great fun and is always a wonderful way to spend time with friends and to get to know some new ones!

I know there is no way to make it perfectly timed for everyone, but we want to try to include as many as possible. Please let me know which days of the week are best for you *if you're interested in joining the trip*. Right now I am looking at the weeks following Easter (mid-to-late April). All adults are welcome to come along. Ask anyone who has gone before and they will tell you...it's a great time.



To the Astros Game or Bust!

This year's trip to watch the Houston Astros "PLAY BALL!" is scheduled for Saturday, August 25, for the 6:00 p.m. game. We have reserved seats at Minute Maid Park and chartered a bus. The Astros will take on Pittsburgh and our seats are in the bullpen area near the team. It is close enough to marvel at the speed of those major league pitches. Cost for the trip (bus and game tickets) will be \$40 each. Call or email Kathy early to be sure you're on the list!

Devotional Books

If you haven't already picked one up, there are Lenten Devotional books available outside of each worship area. There are readings and writings from members of your church family which will inspire and lift your spirits during this wonderful and important season of the Christian year. It also includes some ideas for activities to do each week to make this time even more meaningful for you and your family.

A Quick Note of Thanks!

Printing and assembling the Lenten devotional book was an all-day event and it could never have been done on time without some help! Thanks to Kim Dolan, Jenny Haskins, Chris Dolan, Sarah Timaeus, and William Lucas for all their help with stuffing and stapling. Gracias!



Thank You

Thank you Elvis, Robert, & Mark for the prayers and hospital visits, cards, and flowers.

The memorial gift given for my mother, Mary Richardson, from the Senior Game Day friends was so very thoughtful and appreciated. I was truly blessed with a loving Mother.

In Christian Love,
Judy and Jerry Arnold & Family

To the Staff and Church Family,

We are so grateful for all the prayers during Ryan's two year battle with sarcoma cancer. He is now resting in peace with Jesus.

Thanks so much for your kindness.

Gerri and Jerry Barnes

Thank you Wesley pastors and friends for your visits, prayers, cards, flowers, and phone calls.

My time at the hospital was made lighter because of you.

Charlene Stough

New Members



Kurt & Brenda Laser
603 South 4th St.
Nederland, TX 77627
(409) 550-1416

Dorothy Habegger
6280 Daisy Dr.
Beaumont, TX 77706
(409) 866-3076

Calendar

Sunday, March 4

8:00 am
9:15 am
9:15 am
10:30 am
10:30 am
2:00 pm
3:00 pm
4:00 pm
5:00 pm
5:00 pm
6:00 pm
6:00 pm

Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
Contemporary Worship, Praise Center
Sunday School, Classrooms
Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
Second Hour Sunday Classes, Classrooms
United Methodist Women, Parlor
VBS Directors Meeting
Parent Meeting for current 5th graders, Room 112/114
Knitting Class, Room 102
Sunday Night Live, Dinner, Youth Center
Cub Scouts—Wolf Cubs, Room 108
Sunday Night Live Programs, Youth Center

Monday, March 5:

6:30 am
7:00 am
8:30 am
9:00 am
7:00 pm

Crosstalk, BISD—Burger King
United Methodist Men Breakfast, Dining Hall
Attendance Volunteers, Workroom
Counters, Conference Room
Boy Scouts, Youth Center Green Room

Tuesday, March 6:

10:00 - 11:00 am
5:30 pm
5:30 pm
6:30 pm
6:30 pm
6:00 pm
7:30 pm

Open Preschool Registration
Staff Meeting, Conference Room
Congregational Care Homebound Shepherds, Conf Rm
Worship Ministry Team: Traditional, Room 104
Children's Ministries Team, Room 108
Worship Ministry Team: Contemporary, Room 104
Girl Scouts Leaders, Dining Hall
Al Anon, Rm 101, AA Meeting, Rm 112

Wednesday, March 7:

7:00 am
9:00 am
12:15 pm
3:30 pm
4:15 pm
4:15 pm

5:00 pm
5:45 pm
6:00 pm

7:00 pm
7:30 pm
7:30 pm
7:30 pm

Crosstalk, HJISD, Day Break
Circuit Rider Volunteers, Teacher's Lounge
Communion, Sanctuary
Prayer & Card Ministry Meeting, Parlor
Confirmation 4 (Sessions 7 & 8), Youth Center
King's Kids Choir, Choir Room
Wednesdays @ Wesley
Dinner (Tamale Surprise, Salad, and Dessert)
Handbell Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Adventure Club studies for children, Youth Ascent, Adult
Bible Studies, Old Fashioned Prayer Meeting
Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room
North Major AA Meeting, Room 101
N Major, St. Francis Women & Men AA, Rm 101, 112, 106
Overeaters Anonymous, Room 108

Thursday, March 8:

12:00 pm
12:30 pm
7:30 pm

Pre-school Dudes and Dogs 11:00 am, PWC
Brown Bag Bible Study, Parlor
Senior Games Day, Youth Center Building
Al Anon, Rm 101, AA Meeting, Room 112

Saturday, March 10:

7:00 am
7:30 pm

Youth Ski Group leaves for Colorado
Church lawn maintenance (volunteers are appreciated)
St. Francis AA Meeting, Room 112

Sunday, March 11: Daylight Savings Time Begins, Spring Forward 1 Hour

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

Our Faithfulness

Our Attendance

Sunday Worship	February 25th	
8:00 a.m.	137	
9:15 a.m.	249	
10:30 a.m.	377	
Total	763	
Sunday School	February 25th	
Children	162	
Youth	33	
Adults	221	
Total	426	

Our Gifts

2007 Church Budget	\$1,257,029
<i>(incl \$274,884 for debt service)</i>	
Needed Each Week	24,174
Received This Week	15,365
Needed Year-to-date:	193,389
Received Year-to-date:	195,636
Difference	2,247
Non-Budgeted Gifts Received:	
Building Funds	\$1,105
Budget Fund Memorials (YTD)	2,100
Society of St. Stephen	1,115
MOSAIC	1
Flag Ministry	350
Choir Fund	20
Scout Fund	125
Sanctuary Candle	20
DVD Fund	70
Prayer Garden Fund	20
Missions Fund	25

Monthly Debt Service: 22,907

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

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Orvalee Husband
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Preschool & Mother's Day Out
892-7012

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Communications Director
ebunch@wesleyumc.com

Linda Carroll
Preschool Director
Kay Bender
MDO Director

Guests

Joshua Amos
Bob Austin
Arthur Baize
Denise Batschauer
Juanell Beckham
Sharon Boldt
Webb & Lisa Broughton
Lynn Callas
Joann Cherry
Nancy Crawford
Damon & Heather Davis
Lee Decuir
Vivian Emmert
Joe Fisher
Tinnie & Cindy Gillard
John Griffin
Terry & Alicia Hain
Henry & Virgie Harper
Rachel Harrington, Jr.
Joe & Shawna Henderson
Christopher Hubbard
Sylvia Hughes
Elizabeth Keyes
Alyssa LeMaster
Debbie Lene
Royce & Susan McConathy
Mary McFarland
Curtis, Diana, Steven, & Tayna McGuirt
Sue McNeely
Mike & Kim Miller
Blaine, Emily, & Jacob Morris
Lisa Peterson
Ginny Pope
Wilma Reinhardt
Ann Sandefur
Connie Schroeder
Nancy Scott
Wendi & Max Shiff
James, Courtnei, Alexander, & Maddie Skoruppa
Claire Smith
Justin & Leslie Springer
Tom & Beverly Taylor
Timothy & Ann Vincent
Ryan White
Ann & Karey Williams
Wanda Winderwood
Chris & Peggy Yetman
DeAnn Young

For more information about joining Wesley United Methodist Church, contact Rev. Mark Bunch at 892-7733.

Memorial Gifts

Building Fund

In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland
By: Keith & Sue Quinn

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: Ted & Mary McCall

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: Beatrice Buller

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: George & Kaye Bryant

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: Roy & Jennifer Taylor

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: Charles Tobola

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: Kitchen Class

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: David & Catherine Wood

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: Marilyn Roop

Youth Fund

In Loving Memory of Albert
Breux

By: James & Wendy Carrell

Choir Fund

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
& Yevonne Allardyce

By: Dolores Hall

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: Charlene & Marcus Stough

Parsonage Fund

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: Lue Irvine

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: George & Liz Holliday

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: Doris Waldron

Society of St. Stephen

In Loving Memory of Pappa Dee
Mattar

By: Danny, Pam & Daniel
Beard

Scout Fund

In Loving Memory of Kitty Garrett
By: Red & Barbara Mattison

Budget Fund

In Loving Memory of Yevonne
Allardyce

By: Robert, Lynda, Amanda, &
Matthew Minick

In Loving Memory of June Ferrell
By: David & Catherine Wood

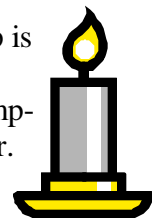
In Loving Memory of Joe Kirkland
By: David & Catherine Wood

In Loving Memory of Yevonne
Allardyce

By: Terri, Dean & Jesse Adams

Sanctuary Gifts

The Sanctuary Lamp is
burning this week in
memory of Rosie Thomp-
son and Renee' Sonnier.



Special thanks to
Carl Johnsen Florists for donating
the altar flowers for worship each
week.

Items Needed

* **Small Boxes** (such as checkbook 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.

* **Eggs & Candy**-Easter is fast approaching. The Children's Ministry needs donations of individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs for this year's Easter EggsraVaganza (Parade, Games, and Egg Hunt), which will be April 7, at 10:00-11:30 a.m. Eggs and candy may be dropped off by the church office or placed in the big containers in the worship Welcome Centers.

Thank you for your support.

Sharing Our Faith



Just a Moment...

I know there is something that I can do to make a difference, and I want to make a difference. I just don't know what it is. It's hard for me to commit to something because I don't have much time. I'd like to give more money, but I have bills to pay. I really don't feel capable of volunteering because all those other people

seem to know "how to do it".

Father, what is it that I can do? Please help me find the purpose that You have for me and give me the courage to take the next step.

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.



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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.

March 4

Andy Anderson
Emma Armstrong
Nancy Finnegan
Jimmie Galloway
Corky Lane, Jr.
Rachel Orwig
Christi Richardson
Josh Stewart

March 5

Patrick Love
Kristen Leigh Still
Mark Stough
Clint Talbot

March 6

Stacey Ramer
B. Terrell

March 7

Madilyn Christian
Gary George
Nelda Hicks
Jared Wright



March 8

Brenden Adair
Claire Cleveland
Travis Hare
Michelle Hobbs
Katie Hudson
Mildred McMahan
Jennifer Scarborough
Evan Smithey
McKenzie Stauffer
Sarah Summers

March 9

Heather Elise Holden
Carole Marsh
Ross Simmons
Barbara Smith
Alyce Spell
Lynette Taylor
Noel Turner

March 10

Christine Monkhouse