



Wesley United Methodist Church

972-542-2228-www.wumcmckinney.org

2705 Virginia Parkway. McKinney, TX 75071

December 1, 2008

Jesus Invites Us Into His Presence

By Jayne Wolfe



Holy God, fill us with attentiveness. Keep us watchful; keep us awake that we might bear witness to the One who bears witness to you. We bless the One who overcame the powers and principalities of this world with love and calls us to do the same. Unite our minds and spirits with your love and stay with us as we wait, as we prepare [for the Incarnational birth of Jesus in the messy stables of our hearts]. In the name of the Child we pray. Amen.

Jesus is the Reason for the..... (I didn't say it)

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

I've always said that I would never title a sermon or article, "Jesus is the Reason for the Season". It's not that I disagree with the statement. It's just so over-used. We see it on bumper stickers, websites, t-shirts and billboards. Well, I've kept my promise. I didn't fully use the title.

But I am thinking it! As over-used as it is, the saying is sound. We cannot speak the word Christmas without calling the name of Christ. Christmas and Christ, the Season and Jesus, are completely interwoven. The season of Christmas makes no sense apart from the birth of Lord Jesus.

Recently I've been preaching through some of the biblical names of God. The final sermon, December 21st, is on the name "Jesus". The name is a transliteration of the Hebrew "Joshua" meaning "God is Salvation". The angel told Joseph to "give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." First and foremost, this Season reminds us that we are sinners in need of a savior. We often refer to Jesus' message as the gospel or the good news. The reason Jesus is good news is because he saves us from our sins. He is our Savior who offers forgiveness, redemption and new life. The angel was speaking to each of us. We all need to be saved from our sins.

Matthew's account continues, "...they will call him Immanuel – which means, 'God with us'" (v.23). Not only is Jesus our Savior, he is God with us. By his Spirit he is present with us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. Perhaps this holiday season is difficult for you. I pray you experience his presence this year.

The Poet E. C. Baird writes: I am the Christmas Spirit—

I enter the home of poverty, causing palefaced children to open their eyes wide, in pleased wonder.

I cause the miser's clutched hand to relax and thus paint a bright spot on his soul.

I cause the aged to renew their youth and to laugh in the old glad way.

I keep romance alive in the heart of childhood, and brighten sleep with dreams woven of magic.

I cause eager feet to climb dark stairways with filled baskets leaving behind hearts amazed at the goodness of the world.

I cause the prodigal to pause a moment on his wild, wasteful way and send to anxious love some little token that releases glad tears—tears which wash away the hard lines of sorrow.

I enter dark prison cells, reminding scarred manhood of what might have been and pointing forward to good days yet to be.

In a thousand ways, I cause the weary world to look up into the face of God, and for a little moment forget the things that are small and wretched. I am the Christmas Spirit.

(E.C. Baird, "Christmas Spirit" *Illustrations Unlimited*. James L. Hewett, ed. Tyndale. 1988, pg.81.) Truly, he is the reason for the.....

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Blessings,
Ed Lantz



*Happy December
Birthdays*

- Derick Kardos 1st*
- Jerry Johnson 4th*
- Pat Salas 5th*
- Teresa Barker 9th*
- Josalyn Mutchler 10th*
- Coleen Parkman 13th*
- Colby Natal 17th*
- Sylvia Munoz 18th*
- Kyle Turner 21st*
- Holly Malone 24th*
- Andrew Brinkman 26th*
- Amy Sweeney 28th*
- Hulion McClellan 29th*
- Carter Camp 31st*
- Matthew Stein 31st*



Up Coming Events



- 1st Trustees
- 3rd WFN Ends with Advent Workshop
- 5th Kids Night Out
- 6th Texoma Emmaus Group/potluck & worship
- 7th Worship Team Meeting
- 7th Youth Parent Meeting
- 8th Finance Meeting
- 13th Samaritan Inn Meal
- 14th Cantata 11:00 service
- 14th Sunday Lunch Bunch celebrating the S. Wilcox Church as part of the Centennial
- 14th Youth Caroling
- 15th Church Council Meeting
- 21st Youth Pie Bake Sale
- 22nd SPRC Meeting
- 24th & 25th Office Closed
- 24th Candlelight Services, 6:00 pm and 11:00 pm



“Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice”

Let us rejoice as we present ourselves before our loving creator.

Welcome to Wesley, Welcome to this house of God.

Our New Baptized Members

- Jenna Shae Williams
- Stella Mae Jones
- Johnny Ray Garcia
- Emma Frances Dulworth
- Tyler Trinh Young
- Mason Webb
- Sarah Hernandez
- Corinne Hernandez
- Samuel Houston Adams

Our Newest Members

- Tom Tolbert
- Denise Tolbert
- Sylvia Munoz
- Jessica Dulworth
- Jerad Warick
- Jourdan Brauen
- Hannah Clarke
- Savannah Ehman
- Cayleigh Kardos
- Camille Moorman
- Michelle Mullens
- Cooper Natal
- Madelynn Schober
- Mitchell Wells
- Coleen Parkman
- Betty Jo Miller
- David & Lynnea Webb
- Jordan Hopps
- Robert & Karon Nelson
- Mike & Leslie Rumsey
- Alex & Dana Hernandez
- Leigh Price
- George and Carla Gilbert



UMW CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENT



What: Wesley UMW Christmas Brunch and Ornament Exchange
When: Saturday December 6, 2008
Time: 10:00 a.m.—12 noon
Where: Home of Sue Rominger
 1311 West Street, McKinney 75069
 972-542-6144

Bring your favorite brunch food, Christmas ornament, and join us for this special time with Christian women.

If you have questions, please contact one of the following officers:

- Barbara Miller President bamiller1234@yahoo.com
- Pat Chadwick Vice President - dillwick@juno.com
- Betty Bailey Secretary - bettybailey@tx.rr.com
- Carol Bichler Treasurer - cbichler@jcpenny.com



Drop off your kids for a fun time at the church while you get your Christmas Shopping done!!

Friday December 5th

Kids Night Out is here! This is a time for parents to drop off their kids for a fun time at the church while the parents get to go out on a date or do something fun as well...just by themselves!

When: The first Friday of every other month. **Dec 5th** Feb 6th, April 3rd

Time: The evening will run from 6:00 to 10:00 PM.

Cost: The cost will be \$10.00 (one child), \$15.00 (two children), \$20.00 (three+ children).

Limit: 20 children total. Reservations HIGHLY recommended.

Who: Children walking age thru 5th grade

Where: Fellowship Hall – Wesley UMC

Sponsored by: The Confirmation Class of 2008-09

Come and have some fun!

Call Valerie Brinkman 972-540-6290 to make your reservation.



In 1828, the American Minister to Mexico, Joel R. Poinsett, brought a red and green plant from Mexico to America. As its coloring seemed perfect for the new holiday. The plants which were called poinsettias after Poinsett, began appearing in greenhouses as early as 1830. In 1870 New York began selling them at Christmas, by 1900 they were a universal symbol of the Christmas holiday.

France: Christmas is called Noel from the French phrase les bonnes nouvelles, which means “the good news” and refers to the gospel.

Italy: Christmas is called Il Natale, meaning “the birthday”

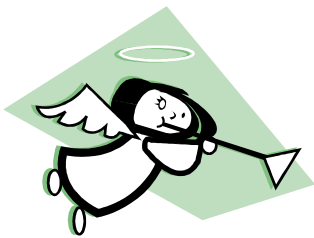
Central America: A manger scene is the primary decoration in most Southern European, Central America, and South American nations. St. Francis of Assisi created the 1st living nativity in 1224 to help explain the birth of Jesus to his followers.



MEXICO MISSION TRIP

For all of you considering or planning to attend the mission trip to Juarez, Mexico this next

March, you **do not** have to have a passport. The government has once again delayed this requirement until June 1st of 2009. If you do not have a passport, you will have to have a government-issued ID, such as a driver's license, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or naturalization certificate. If anyone has any questions, please contact Robert Camp at 214-662-7496.



Be an angel, help a child

We have adopted 8 families this year with the opportunity to purchase items to assist with Christmas wishes. The angel

boards are placed in both buildings with a variety of wishes to choose from. Please choose an angel, purchase the gift, and return it unwrapped in box provided with the angel tag attached. We would like these gifts no later than December 15th. These are local and church families that we have the wonderful opportunity to serve. Thank you for blessing others this Christmas season.

Sincerely,

Karen Stein



Prime Timers

The Prime Timers will meet off site in December for our Christmas Luncheon. The place, time, and date will be announced later so watch the Sunday bulletin for more information.



Library

The library staff would like to wish you all a very blessed Christmas. May your holidays be filled with peace and joy!!



The Church Council, at the recommendation of the Finance Team, has requested that a special **2008 Christmas/ year end offering** be collected to go towards paying off our parsonage mortgage. Over the past two years we have reduced the parsonage debt significantly and hope to eliminate it soon.

Please prayerfully consider this special designated gift.

Your Church Council



The preschool is having our first ever Christmas play this year. It is entitled, "Someone has a Birthday." The children are acting out the Nativity scene as wise men, shepherds, angels, stars, Mary, Joseph, and the chorus. Our program will be December 18 and 19th at 10:00 followed by our class Birthday parties for Jesus.



We look so forward to sharing the Christmas story with our parents.

The preschool will be closed for the holidays from Dec 22- Jan 4th. We wish each family a Merry Christmas and God's blessings in the new year.

No One Works



Unless Someone Prays

A Prayer for our Nation

Affirm the Lordship of Christ over all elected and appointed officials, their advisors, staff and associates. (Psalm 2:1-6; Rev. 1:5). Intercede for an orderly transfer of authority, and for the appointment of godly men and women into all Cabinet and White House staff and advisory positions. Pray that security clearance procedures be followed. Intercede for your U.S. Senators and Representatives. Pray that the Lord grant grace, wisdom, and moral courage to them. Pray that the Lord direct them in their selection of staff and committee assignments. Ask that all newly elected officials be shielded from terrorism, bribery, the occult, and immoral influences, and intercede for newly elected officials in (our) state and area.

Intercessors For America, Vol. 35, No. 11.



SHARING THE JOURNEY

By Jayne Wolfe

What a journey it is!! My first visit to Wesley was one of joy and being welcomed. By the time I moved to McKinney, I knew this was where God wanted me to put down spiritual roots. God has blessed at every stage of this journey at Wesley: through teaching children, youth, college students, adults, and VBS; in choir, special events, Easter Sundays, Christmas cantata's, Christmas Eve Services, and weekly worship. Wesley has always been supportive each time a request was made to use the church facilities for the special needs population, i.e., Parents Night Out, Support Group for Parents, and Christian Education Experience, an after school gathering to learn about Jesus. As we moved into a day habilitation program in the early '90's, we were blessed through Wesley's providing some financial support and the UMW choosing us as their Christmas project each year. God blesses me with dear friends made each year while serving and worshipping at Wesley, including the person I met last Sunday. Each year of service has been rich and rewarding. I see God at work in the good times and in the times of struggle. God always has a plan and is always at work. God teaches me so much through my Wesley family. Great blessings to each of you; child, youth, adult, who has enriched my life by your graciousness and the love of God I see in each of you.

Grace, with great joy in Christ,

***This column is a new addition to the monthly newsletter and will appear regularly. How have you been blessed by a ministry or an individual at Wesley UMC? Will you consider sharing your story? Please email our Lay Leader, Carol Boston, at carolboston@swbell.net**



Devotional Books for the 100 days to 100 years are here!

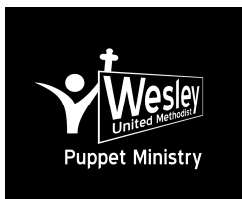
Pick up a Devotional Book and be a part of the 100 days to 100 years. The big celebration will take place March 8, 2009 with a Meal to celebrate 100 years of Faithful Service at Wesley United Methodist Church

Commemorative Plates

December 14, January 11, February 8, and March 8 you will be able to purchase a beautiful commemorative plate in celebration of the 100th year of Wesley United Methodist Church.

Centennial T-Shirts for Sale

T-shirts will be on sale soon. You will all want to purchase one so that you can be a part of this great Centennial Celebration. 100 Years of Faithful Service, March 8, 2009.



We've been busy: Several members of the team attended the One Way Street Fall Workshop in Waxahachie. Cooper, Kelsey, Eric, Ryan & Christina attended performances from other churches and enjoyed workshops on character development, human video and hands & feet. It was inspiring to see the wide variety of creative ways we can take God's Word into our church and community.

We also had a wonderful opportunity to share God's message with our community during McKinney's Dickens of a Christmas event. Our puppet team performed outside of The Cup Filler to an appreciative audience of kids and adults. We hope to continue participating in more community events like this.

Mexico Mission Puppet Project: Put this date on your calendars! **January 24, 2009** -

We will be meeting at the church for a Puppet Creation Day. We need all the hands we can get, if we are going to make 100 puppets. No special skills are necessary! More details will be coming.

Sounds of the Season: Our puppeteers will be sharing some of their favorite Christmas Carols during the Advent Season. We will be in the narthex before, between and after services in December. Don't be afraid to join in and sing along!



A note from the director...

One of my favorite Puppet Team God moments happened back in 2006. That summer I started to think about what the team would do for Christmas. I wanted to write a really cool Christmas skit and I told the Lord so. Several times over the next few months I sat down with a note book, a pen and a prayer. I was asking the Lord to help me write this really cool Christmas skit. He had always showed up in the past but for some reason every time I would sit for *this* skit...nothing, nada...zilch! I became very frustrated and panicked; thinking that we would not have enough time to pull this really cool skit together in time. I began to wonder if the Lord even wanted me to do a skit about the most important birth ever!! Gasp, how could this be? Out of complete frustration I cried out loud (literally) to our Father and said "Lord, do you not want me to write this skit?" I immediately I heard the words come back to me ... "I'm sorry, haven't I already written this story!" Being corrected or chastened by the Lord isn't always comfortable but in this instance my heart leapt and I immediately opened my Bible!! "Yes I answered, you mostly certainly did and what a beautiful story it is...lets not change a thing Lord, I like it just the way it is!" I believe we laughed together...my favorite moment! The puppet team is wishing for all of you that your celebrations of Christ's birth be filled with moments that will become your favorites.



December 24, 2008

6:00 pm & 11:00 pm

Join us for our Candlelight & Communion Services

SAMARITAN INN

1710 N. McDonald Street, McKinney, TX 75071

The Samaritan Inn is the only homeless shelter in Collin County. The Inn is helping individuals and families regain independence through Homeless Prevention, Emergency Shelter, Case Management and Supported Transitional Living.

The second Saturday of each month is the designated time for Wesley UMC to provide groceries to the Inn. The ingredients are purchased based on a list provided by the kitchen and delivered to the Inn by 6:00 PM. The ingredients will be used for a future meal to be prepared by the Inn's personnel. The cost of the groceries is approximately \$200.00.

Serving the residents for the Saturday night meal is a wonderful opportunity to fellowship and to share your faith.

The body of Wesley has continually supported the Inn through the years. Please consider participating in service to your brothers and sisters that are less fortunate. A Sunday School class; Youth group; Children's ministries; Bible Study class; Men's Prayer Group; Prime Timers; Piece Makers; any of the administrative or programmatic committees or individuals are encouraged to be the "Hands and Feet of Christ".

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me". Matthew 25:40

Blessings!

<u>DATE:</u>	<u>HANDS AND FEET</u>
<u>January 12</u>	<u>Individual</u>
<u>February 9</u>	<u>Individual/Youth Served</u>
<u>March 8</u>	<u>Oasis SS Class</u>
<u>April 12</u>	<u>Quest SS Class</u>
<u>May 10</u>	<u>Fellowship SS Class</u>
<u>June 14</u>	<u>UMW</u>
<u>July 12</u>	<u>Church Council</u>
<u>August 9</u>	<u>Individual</u>
<u>September 13</u>	<u>Individual</u>
<u>October 11</u>	<u>Individual</u>
<u>November 8</u>	<u>Open</u>
<u>December 13</u>	<u>Open</u>

Sign up now for 2009, call church office or Ken Hollingsworth 972-547-0878

SUPPORTING MISSIONS AT WESLEY



FOOD PANTRY DRIVE



Please bring any kind of canned goods (regular size cans) and or dry goods to the church to be delivered to the McKinney Community Food Pantry. This is an on going need. Items donated go to needy families in the McKinney area. They also prefer the smaller jars of peanut butter. Thanks so much for helping with this Mission.



Wesley United Methodist Church

2705 Virginia Parkway
McKinney, Texas 75071
Return Service Requested

Phone: 972-542-2228
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PRST STD.
Non Profit Org.
PAID
Permit No. 228
McKinney, Texas

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Karen Stein, Preschool Director,
Wcp_karen@wumcmckinney.org



Now enrolling for fall 2008/2009 school year

- 2 ,3, 5 day classes available
- Must be 2, 3 or 4 years old by Sept 1st.
- Christian Curriculum including Spanish, Music & Movement and Chapel
- Hours: 9:15-2:15 Monday- Thursday
- 9:15-12:45-Fridays
- Follows MISD calendar with the exception of start and end dates
- Preschool year begins Sept 8/9th and ends May 21/22nd.

Licensed by the state of Texas

Karen Stein, Director
Nikki McDonald, admin
972-542-4778