



Wesley United Methodist Church

972-542-2228-www.wumcmckinney.org

2705 Virginia Parkway. McKinney, TX 75071

December 1, 2007

HAVE A VERY BARBARIAN CHRISTMAS

Living in the Present with God

By Jayne Wolfe

Holy God of Israel, it is with great joy that we enter into the Season of Advent. We watch from the East window, looking for the sign you promised; the child whose name is Immanuel. As people who are walking in darkness, we see during our Eastern vigil a great light. The light of one whose name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. God of Incarnation, we praise you that authority rest upon His shoulders. Grant that we may have a foretaste of peace and experience your righteousness now and forevermore. Amen

Adapted in part from Alive. Nov 07

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Typically, my December newsletter article will include warm thoughts on peace, family, joy, love and “The Babe in the manger”. These are the things of Christmas.

This is not my typical December article, though. I’ve been reading a fairly short, but rich book called *The Barbarian Way*. The author, Erwin McManus, prefaces chapter one with a quote from Rocky III. If you recall, Mick was Rocky’s gritty trainer who knew him long before he was the champ. Speaking honestly and pointedly about Rocky’s current physical condition, mental toughness and passion for fighting, Mick says, “But then the worst thing happened that could happen to any fighter. You got civilized.” Mick’s quote illustrates the essence of the book: Christianity has become too domesticated; too tame.

Even though *The Barbarian Way* was not written as a Christmas book, I think it is applicable to this time of the year. Our modern interpretation of Christmas is sometimes soft, sentimental, and safe. Yet the Christmas story—the true Christmas story—is not about a soft, sentimental God who plays it safe. Consider Jesus’ birth. The Holy Family was not chauffeured to Bethlehem as honored guests. No, the pregnant Mary and dedicated Joseph traveled by foot or donkey and they were compelled to go by the Roman government. The King of Kings was not born in a five-star hotel with an endless line of servants. In fact, there was no room for the King in the inn. Instead, he was born in a stable and placed in a feed trough. After his birth he was not taken to a throne. Rather, he and his family fled to Egypt to escape the murderous Herod. The true Christmas story isn’t safe, cozy, domesticated or tame.

Neither are Christmas people—those who follow Christ. Consider the Virgin Mary. After the angel told her that she would give birth to the Son of God she said, “May it be to me as you have said.” Mary’s submission

was risky to her reputation, dangerous to her life and would ultimately lead her to tears at the foot of the cross. Consider Joseph. Believing he had heard from God, he surrendered pride, released personal goals and sacrificed the rest of his life. Consider Jesus’ cousin, John the Baptizer. John was conceived not long before Jesus was divinely conceived. He later became the herald for Jesus’ public ministry. He lived in the desert, wore clothes that were made of camel’s hair, ate wild locusts and honey and boldly called people to repent because the Messiah was coming. No one would call him civilized or tame. Consider the disciples. They were risk takers and adventurers. They left safety and security to follow the Lord. They followed to their deaths.

That brings us back to Christmas. Christmas is the season of faith, hope and love. Faith, hope and love are the weapons of the barbarian. McManus says:

The invitation of Jesus is a revolutionary call to fight for the heart of humanity. We are called to an unconventional war using only the weapons of faith, hope and love... This is the simplicity of the barbarian way. If you are a follower of Christ, then you are called to fight for the heart of your king.... The barbarian way is about love, intimacy, passion and sacrifice. Barbarians love to live and live to love. For them God is life, and their mission is to reconnect humanity to Him. Their passion is that each of us might live in intimate communion with Him. (p.5,13).

In other words, barbarians courageously love God and people. They are convinced that being significant is more important than being safe. May our faith, hope and love courageously shine forth this Christmas. Have a very barbarian Christmas.

Blessings,

Ed



You are a child of God, His treasured possession. He created you in His own image. He chose the day for you to be born. He has a plan and a purpose for your life. Cherish your birth verse.



Derick Kardos	12-1	Hebrews 12:1
Cindy Harper	12-2	Hebrews 12:2
Jerry Johnson	12-4	Isaiah 12:4
Pat Salas	12-5	Isaiah 12:5
Carole Avallone	12-8	1 Corinthians 12:8
Jeri Hooker	12-8	1 Corinthians 12:8
Teresa Barker	12-9	2 Corinthians 12:9
Josalyn Mutchler	12-10	Job 12:10
Mary Geissinger	12-16	Romans 12:16
Colby Natal	12-17	Romans 12:17
Ronnie Fisher	12-18	Matthew 12:18
Shannon Sides	12-18	Matthew 12:18
Kyle Turner	12-21	Romans 12:21
Holly Malone	12-24	1 Samuel 12:24
Andrew Brinkman	12-26	1 Samuel 12:26
Amy Sweeney	12-28	Hebrews 12:28
Huilon McClellan	12-29	Mark 12:29
Carter Camp	12-31	Luke 12:31
Matthew Stein	12-31	Luke 12:31



“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.
New Members 2007

- James Sweeney
- Amy Griffin
- Simmie Belonga
- Roy and Pat Salas
- Donna Thomas
- Teresa Barker
- Carole Avallone
- Zachary Balch
- Jody Jones
- Eric Large
- Florabelle Livingston
- Sue Hudson
- Haley Barr
- Allen Breor
- Eric Brinkman
- Ryan Brinkman
- Dustin Encizo
- Roger McClellan
- Andy Peterson
- Kelsey Priestley
- Lauren Redden
- Dylan Schutte
- Gayle Wilks
- Wilma Williams
- Jeff, Janie & Lucy Breor
- Earl & Karly Jandoc
- Bryan & Shannon Williams
- Jarred & Melissa Dreher
- Dorothy McIntire
- Kelli Mullens



CARE BEARS

Beginning the first Sunday of Advent (Dec. 2) and continuing through Christmas Eve, you are invited to bring new stuffed animals to the sanctuary and leave them in the pews. After loving on them for several weeks the animals will be distributed to agencies and organizations to help comfort children in crisis.



Dress Up!!

The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. “The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7

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 \$125.00.

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!

Ken Hollingsworth-Chair

DATE: HANDS AND FEET

January 13 Oasis SS Class

February 10 Koinonia SS Class

March 10 Anonymous individual

April 14 Anonymous individual

May 12 Fellowship SS Class

June 9 Tuesday Night Women's BS

July 14 Prime timers & Piece Makers

August 11 Oasis SS Class

September 8 UMW

October 13 Open

November 10 Tuesday Night Women's BS

December 8 Open



Wesley Hand's in Puppetry Team would like to wish our Wesley family a very Merry Christmas. May you be reminded of the true reason for the season and may the Lord our Father bless you in a new way this special time of year. Many thanks for supporting our team in 2007.

The Puppet Team will be having our first Christmas party Saturday December 1, and some of our Puppet family will join Wesley Choir and Mario Major's in the upcoming Christmas Cantata December 16th. We hope to see you all there!!



The Piece Makers wish to thank everyone for their participation and contributions to the "Kuntry Store" and "Kids Korner" in our recent Stew Luncheon & Auction.

The proceeds from the sale of the Wind Mill Quilt and stores enabled the quilters to make a sizeable donation to our church.

Thanks again to the Quilters and our Church Family.



In Touch Ministry

Our ministry is that every Senior will know that they are a vital part of Wesley UMC. They are a valuable asset in the guidance of both children and adults. If you know of anyone, whether home-bound or an active member who would like a visit or phone call please call the church office, 972-542-2228, or June Halpin 972-529-3573. Home communion is available to those unable to come to church.





MARK YOUR DECEMBER CALENDAR

- December 1 WCP Holiday Fundraiser
- December 1 UMW Meeting (date change)
- December 2 Sunday Lunch Bunch (date change)
- December 2 Church Conference
- December 3 Trustees Meeting
- December 8 Samaritan Inn Meal/ Hands & Feet Open
- December 10 Finance Meeting
- December 13 Prime Timers (date change)
- December 16 Cantata
- December 17 Church Council Meeting
- December 24 Christmas Eve/Office closed
- December 25 Christmas Day/Office Closed



United Methodist Women
 Saturday, December 1st
 11:00 AM at the home of
 Betty Bailey.
 (2409 Hogans Hill, McKinney)

The meeting and date have been changed due to holiday conflicts. This will be our Christmas Party so bring your favorite brunch dish and a tree ornament to exchange (cost not to exceed \$5).

Everyone is also asked to bring paper goods or cleaning products for Samaritan Inn.

DATES FOR KIDS NIGHT OUT



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 second Friday every other month. Oct 12, Dec. 14, Feb 8, April 11

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

Cost: The cost will be \$10(one child), \$15(two children), \$20(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 2007-2008
 Come and have some fun!

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



Prime Timers will meet for our Christmas luncheon at Steak Kountry on Thursday December 13 at 11:30 am.

Please note change of date, time and place.

Join us as we begin this holiday season in celebration of the birth of Jesus with Christian fellowship





Wesley Christian Preschool is having a fundraiser on December 4—7th in the gym area. We will be hosting a Christmas store with decorative items, home business items and silent auction baskets and gift certificates. The store is open during preschool hours on Tuesday—Friday 9:00—2:00. All are welcome!

Our Christmas carol programs will be held in the sanctuary on December 13th and 14th at 10:30 a.m. with class parties immediately following.

We wish each family a Merry Christmas and many blessings in the new year.

Karen Stein, Director
Nikki McDonald, Admin

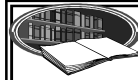


WESLEY WRITERS

Wesley Writers meets Wednesday Evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Church Library.

Our purpose is to encourage and support each other in our creative writing. Creative Writing covers a wide range of subjects from short stories, poetry, and essay on some subject, a novel, or just your personal view about something or some character.

Sharing our writing with each other on a voluntary basis allows us to receive feedback and constructive help. If interested, just show up, or call Anna or David Evans at 469-556-3003, or William or Donna Thomas at 972-548-7280.



News from your Wesley Library

by Sue Rominger

Are you checking out your Library for good books to read?

New donations recently are:

Sister Freaks: Stories of Women Who Gave Up Everything for God by Rebecca St. James call # 270 STJ

Twelve Extraordinary Women by John MacArthur

How God shaped Women of the Bible and What He Wants to Do with You Call # 220.9 MAC

A Life God Rewards: Why Everything You Do Today Matters Forever by Bruce Wilkinson Call # 236.2 WIL

Hope from My Heart: Ten Lessons for Life by Rich Devos

Your Heritage: How to Be Intentional About the Legacy You Leave by J. Otis Ledbetter And Kurt Bruner Call # 248.8 LED

Love for a Lifetime: Building a Marriage that will Go the Distance by Dr. James Dobson Call # 248.8 DOB

One Home at a Time: Restoring the Soul of America through God's Plan for Your Marriage and Family by Dennis Rainey Call # 277.3 RAI

The DVD - The Ultimate Gift from the novel by Jim Stovall-Life is how you live it...not how you spend it.

Coming Soon - the film version on DVD the Case for Christ-Just like the book, the Film documents Jim Stobel's journey from atheism to faith through what is coined as the "investigation of a lifetime."

Thank You so very much for supporting your library.

Thank You so very much for checking out books from your library

Thank You so very much for your contributions to the library

And the contributions could also be cash to buy books for young readers

Library Ministry

Sue Rominger





Wesley United Methodist Church

2705 Virginia Parkway
McKinney, Texas 75071
Return Service Requested

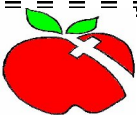
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Church Staff

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Karen Stein, Preschool Director,
Wcp_karen@wumcmckinney.org

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.



Wesley Christian Preschool

A Ministry of Wesley United Methodist Church

Licensed by the Texas Dept. of family and protective services

“Tending God’s Orchard with Love and Learning”

- 2 & 3 day programs available—low ratios
- 5 day programs available for 4 Yr. olds and Transitional Kindergarten
- Enrolling for 07/08 school year
- Christian Curriculum including Spanish, Chapel time, Music/Fitness class
- 9:00—2:00 Monday thru Thursday, 9:00—12:30 Fridays

Registration will continue throughout the summer, please stop by if you have not already done so and pick up a new enrollment packet. All new and currently enrolled students, if attending next year, will have to submit new forms. If you have questions, please see Karen or Nikki at the Preschool office.

Karen Stein (Director)

Nikki McDonald (Admin)

972-542-4778