



Wesley United Methodist Church

972-542-2228-www.wumcmckinney.org

2705 Virginia Parkway. McKinney, TX 75071

February 1, 2008

Prayer for Empowerment

By Jayne Wolfe

Creator and Healer, you dwell closer to us than the air we breathe, yet far surpass all we can know. We bless you for the stunning beauty of your cosmos, the gifts you unendingly give. Forgive us our failure to be grateful and to trust you. Fill our hearts with your courage, and our minds with your vision of what we might become. Free us from fear of the dark unknown spaces where you give birth to new possibilities. You are a God of adventure, and you took a great risk in creating us. Empower us to become the community of which your heart dreams.

Amen.

By Kathleen Fischer. Alive Now. Nov/Dec 2007

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“From the Cross”

The Church of Jesus Christ will soon begin Her journey through Lent. It is the forty days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Saturday before Easter. Historically, it is a time of self-reflection, prayer, penance and preparation for the awesome reality of the empty tomb.

Lent apexes with Christ’s passion and the cross. During worship each Sunday during Lent, we will reflect on Jesus’ words from the cross. Do you recall his words?

February 10 - **“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing?” (Luke 23:34)**

February 17 - **“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise” (Lk. 23:43)**

February 24 - **“Woman, behold your son!”...“Behold your mother”.**
(John 19:26-27)

March 2 - **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)**

March 9 - **“I thirst” (John 19:28)**

March 16 - **“It is finished” (John 19:30)**

I invite you to read and meditate on these words before coming to church each Sunday.

I also pray that you spend quality time each day in prayer and study of God’s word. There are many wonderful daily devotionals to help. You can find numerous online Lenten devotionals. As well, we have copies of *The Upper Room* in our church’s foyer. I also want to recommend a Lenten devotional called *Transforming Lives, Transforming Africa*. *TLTA* was written by laity and clergy from our annual conference. The daily readings will guide you into a deeper understanding of faith and faithfulness with a special emphasis on making a difference for the United Methodist Africa University and the people on the continent of Africa. Copies will be available at Wesley.

I pray that you have an enriching Lenten experience this year. May you experience God’s grace and truth.

Blessings,
Ed Lantz



**“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**

**Bryan & Nikki McDonald
Casey & Deana McGarr
Keith & Laura Smith
Judith Pearce**

Valentine Traditions

In Wales wooden love spoons were carved and **given as gifts** on February 14th. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favorite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant, "You unlock my heart!"

Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.



TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2008

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost.

**God whispers in your soul and speaks to your mind.
Sometimes when you don't have time to listen, He
has to throw a brick at you.**

**It's your choice: Listen to the whisper, or wait for the
brick.**



St Valentine' Story



There was a man named Valentine. He lived in Rome during the third century. That was long, long ago! At that time, Rome was ruled by an emperor named Claudius. Claudius wanted to have a big army. He expected men to volunteer to join. Many men just did not want to fight in wars nor did they want to leave their wives and families. As you might have guessed, not many men signed up. This made Claudius furious. So what happened? He had a crazy idea. He thought that if men were not married, they would not mind joining the army. So Claudius decided not to allow any more marriages. He made this a law.

Valentine was a Priest and one of his favorite activities was to marry couples. Even after Emperor Claudius passed this law, Valentine kept on performing marriage ceremonies -- secretly, of course.

One night he was caught marrying a couple and was thrown in jail and told that his punishment was death.

He tried to stay cheerful. And do you know what? Wonderful things happened. Many young people came to the jail to visit him. They threw **flowers** and notes up to his window. They wanted him to know that they, too, believed in love. One of these young people was the daughter of the prison guard. Her father allowed her to visit him. Sometimes they would sit and talk for hours. On the day he was to die, he left her a little note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. He signed it, "Love from your Valentine."

That note started the custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day. It was written on the day he died, February 14, 269 A.D. Now, every year on this day, we think about love and friendship.

Come Join Us!

*“Write down for the coming generation what the Lord has done, So
that the people not yet born will praise him.” ~Psalm
102:18~*



Wesley Writers

Wednesday Evenings 6:30—7:45
Wesley United Methodist Church Library

Wesley Writers is a creative writing group open to all ages, writing levels, genres, and interest who are seeking a nurturing writing community in which to explore their creativity.. Join us and explore:

- Creative journaling
- Family history
- Storytelling
- Stories behind your photographs
- Poetry
- Fiction
- Devotionals
- Mini-stories for your scrapbook

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!

Ken Hollingsworth-Chair

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

Sign up now for 2008, call church office or Ken Hollingsworth 972-547-0878

MEXICO MISSION PRAYER PARTNERS



HOW EXCITING!! The opportunity is here again to serve God and God's people by being a Mexico Mission Prayer Partner. The opportunity is ours to begin now to pray for all the behind the scene workers, the youth, parents, leaders, Wesley UMC, and the Community.....all of whom have a vital part in preparing for this trip. Sign-up sheets to pray for an individual will be on the Prayer Table in the Narthex and will be available in various groups within the church.

By signing up you will be partnering with God to bless others and will find yourself greatly blessed. We will need 40-50 prayer partners and you are one of them!



Up Coming Events

February 4 Worship Team Meeting
 February 4 Trustees Meeting
 February 6 Ash Wednesday
 February 8 Kids Night Out
 February 9 Samaritan Inn Meal(hands & feet needed)
 February 11 Finance Meeting
 February 12-15 WCP Book Fair
 February 16 UMW Meeting
 February 16 Youth fundraiser/Dance
 February 18 Church Council Meeting
 February 21 Prime Timers Potluck & Meeting
 February 24 Visitors Luncheon with Pastor
 February 25 SPRC Meeting



Mexico Mission Trip 2008

It is hard to believe it has already been almost a year since our last trip. The thought of having the opportunity to build another home makes me wish we were already there. Seventeen years have passed since the first group from Wesley faithfully stepped forward to journey to Juarez, Mexico to build a home for a family in need. While I know many of us are excited about the opportunity to once again serve our Lord, I can't imagine how much more excited the family in Mexico is who will receive the gift...a new home...a new beginning. The theme for this year's trip is **GLORY** as we seek to glorify God in everything we do. There are many needs for the trip and we will begin to bring those forward as the trip quickly approaches. None of these needs is greater than prayer. Will you please begin to pray for God's provision for the trip. If you are interested in participating in some way, please contact me at 972-562-6069 or by e-mail at rcamp@bankoftexas.com.

Together In Christ,

Robert Camp

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. 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.

2008 OLYMPICS IN CHINA

The eyes of the world will be on China leading up to the Olympic Games which will be held August 8-24, 2008, in Beijing. It's not too early for Christians to blanket China in prayer while counting down this historic event.

To help believers unite in prayer for China, Open Doors USA is sponsoring a special prayer campaign called "One Minute/One Year/One Country." Christians are asked to pray for China at least one minute each day, if possible at 8 p.m. Beijing time. The current time in Beijing as well as a countdown clock to the start of the Olympics are featured on the Open Doors USA website, www.openDoorsUSA.org.

Believers who register for the campaign will receive a monthly prayer email calendar and a brief daily email. Both will include updated information on China and specific prayer requests. "The Beijing Olympics present an awesome opportunity for believers in the West to unite in prayer...not only for our fellow Christians but for the Communist government of China to grant religious freedom to all worshipers, especially house church members," said Open Doors USA President and CEO Carl Moeller.

To register for the campaign, go to www.openDoorsUSA.org and click on the rotating banner on the upper right of the homepage.

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Happy Birthday

FEBRUARY

Katherine Hines	1st
Callie Moorman	2nd
Sara Tinsley	3rd
Ashley Schmidt	5th
Joy Short	8th
Dorothy McIntire	8th
Rachel Moorman	11th
Wilma Williams	11th
Don Furness	13th
Davie McBride	15th
Matthew DeLisle	15th
David Pratt	16th
Nikki McDonald	17th
Reece Jones	17th
Dana Dupree	19th
Christine Brauen	19th
Christian Clarke	19th
Francine Chehati	20th
Richard Billings	20th
Charles Schober	24th
Debbie Anderson	24th
Diane Hartnell	24th
Ken Hollingsworth	28th
Michelle Gell	28th

Stand Up!!... For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything..”Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good...” Galatians 6:9-10

God is Great in Two Thousand Eight!

What wonderful opportunities we have as God's church to minister to each other, grow in the Lord and reach out to be the hands and feet of the Lord. Please be in prayer that we will follow the Lord's will and He will draw us closer to him. Lord please use us and help us this coming year to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to McKinney and beyond.

Thankful? Thank you Lord for all our blessings. Psalm 3:8, Col 3:17

Want help? Pray! Pray alone, with a friend(s), ask a friend to be your prayer partner, pray for others. (Matt 11:28-30) The Lord can handle your load!

Not in a Bible Study? Join one, form one, have a family one, buy a study to do on your own. There are even studies all ready to check out in the church library.

Sunday School? Join one, form one, or teach one! And please be in prayer for our teachers and remember to thank them!

Mission Trip? You can join in! Go on the trip, be a prayer partner, give financial support, help with the planning, purchase items for the trip or even bake cookies.

What are you watching or listening to? Have you tried KCBI 90.9 FM, The Word 100.7 FM, KLTY 94.9 FM, 90.5 FM American Family Radio? 89.7 Power FM The Christian Rock Station. Can I cut out bad influences? What am I watching on TV, at the movies or looking at on the internet?

Are you listening to programming to help you grow in the Lord?

How about Focus on the Family? Kids Zone Radio on 90.9 FM Saturday mornings? Adventures in Odyssey weeknights. Just go to radio stations websites to check out the wonderful programming. kcbi.org, 897powerfm.com, ktxg.afr.net, klty.com

What your you reading? There are great Christian books in our church library. Recommend an inspirational book to a friend. Ask for a recommendation.

Want to be cheered up? Help someone else! Join the congregational care team to help bring meals, send cards and make phone calls. Join the choir!

Want to be a good steward of the gifts God has blessed you with? Am I using my time, talents, gifts and services for the Lord? Don't know what your gifts are? Ask someone. Out of time? Prioritize. WWJD?

Matt 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Luke 12:34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Betsy Cook, Church Council Chair



Preschool News

The Preschool began registration January 27-February 1st for current students. Registration for new students begins February 4th during preschool hours (9:00—2:00). Two, three and five day classes are available with weekly specials of chapel, music & movement and Spanish.

The preschool follows the MISD calendar and will begin school on September 8th.

Call the preschool office for more information or to set up a tour!

Karen Stein
Wesley Christian Preschool Director
972-542-4778



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, Feb 6th we will begin our Lenten journey by gathering in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm as a community of faith. We will come to the altar to be marked by the ashes of our 2007 prayer request and to remember that God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. We will offer praise to the One who so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that the world might know the unconditional love of Christ. Join us as we begin again this journey from repentance into God's abundant grace.



The Focus is Ministry

Not long ago you received a letter regarding the need to reduce Wesley's financial indebtedness. The Church Council would like to see more of our gifts to ministry and a way to do that is to reduce the Church's debt. By reducing debt we will be able to focus more money directly into ministry. Our focus is ministry and the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions please contact Betsy Cook at Betsy_Cook@sbcglobal.net or 972-542-1366

Puppet Team news



The puppet team is off to a great start for 2008. We have moved to our new day and time of Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 - 6:00. This may present an opportunity for those of you who may not have been available at our other time to explore the opportunities and fun of becoming a puppeteer. No prior skills are necessary as these are taught on an ongoing basis. Grades 6 and up are welcome and if working a puppet is not your thing, we have openings in set design and construction, audio/visual, writing and drama and many other talents and skills we could use.

There are a lot of things in store for our team this year. We will be performing for the Children's Moments each month with a new series on the teachings of "The Shepherd and His Sheep". We will be taking the Fall show on the road soon so preparations for that will be an ongoing endeavor. The Team is also working on the set design and construction of the Confirmation Class' performance of "The Little Root" this Spring. This is giving them a hands on view to all that goes into putting on a performance. We will be introducing an ancient skill in puppetry during this performance.

God is moving in mighty ways in this ministry and we are very excited with the possibilities that are presenting themselves. It is our hope that His hand is evident and that it blesses His people. Please contact Shana Kelly or Kathy Billings for further information on how to join this incredible Team!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW FEBRUARY MEETING

Wesley women and guests are invited to attend the UMW's February potluck brunch and meeting:

When: Saturday, February 16
Time: 9:30 a.m.—12 noon
Where: Quilters Room

Come join us. Barbara Miller will present a program on "introduction to the General Conference." You will be blessed by sharing in Christian fellowship.

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

2008-09 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



Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday Night Bible Study meets at 7 p.m. in the Oasis SS Classroom. Our new topic is **Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts** and is led by Liz Jones.

Contact any of the following members for more information: Yvonne Campbell, Sandra Graham, Terry Young, Liz Jones, Joann Cook, Shirley Clark, Pat Salas, Dana Dupree, Theresa Barker or Carol Boston.



Wesley United Methodist Church

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Church Staff

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Terrilee Schober, Interim Children's Director,
kidstime@wumcmckinney.org
Karen Stein, Preschool Director,
Wcp_karen@wumcmckinney.org

The will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.



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”

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Tuesday, Thursday classes available or Monday thru Friday combined classes available.
- 5 day programs available for 4 Yr. olds and Transitional Kindergarten
- Now Enrolling for 08/09 school year
- Christian Curriculum including Spanish, Chapel time, Music/Fitness class
- 9:00—2:00 Monday thru Thursday, 9:00—12:30 Fridays

Registration for new students begins February 4, 2008, 9:00—2:00 pm. School starts August 8, 2008. If you have questions, please see Karen or Nikki at the Preschool office.

Karen Stein (Director)

Nikki McDonald (Admin)

972-542-4778