



Wesley United Methodist Church

972-542-2228-www.wumcmckinney.org

2705 Virginia Parkway. McKinney, TX 75071

January 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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MILE MARKERS ON THE NARROW WAY

Someone has said, "the unexamined life is not worth living." Taking a spiritual inventory of our life is vital if we are to grow as Christians. Jesus pointed out there are only two Roads in life; the Broadway, and the Narrow Way.

The Narrow Way is the Biblical Way to live. The Broadway is the way the Non Christian World lives. The Biblical Way is to live according to God's Word and Will. However, in this Biblical Way of living there are several descriptive ways to mark and chart our progress.

Each Christian may be attracted to certain biblical passages that we latch onto and may even memorize. These reflect our attempts to live as God would have us. They provide meaning to us. They describe our present walk with the Lord, our personal and present spiritual personality, or profile.

So, where in God's Word are you now living? To know how far we have progressed, we need to be aware of the spiritual signs, the mile markers on Christ's Narrow Way.

The Old Testament, especially Paul's Epistles, we find a number of descriptive terms such as hyphenated Christians that may describe our present state. St. Paul says there are Carnal Christians, Legalistic Christians and Judgmental Christians. Also, there are Christians who presume on God's Grace, as well as Spiritual Christians.

Also, Paul addresses all Christians as called to be Saints, called to live on this Narrow Road of Life, to grow and progress in our spiritual lives. Spiritual Inventories are never painless. We need to look into the mirror of God's Word and see where we are according to these mile markers and whether we are growing in our walk with the Lord.

Sad to say, many remain as Paul describe them, 'Babes in Christ.' They do not, or will not take the dare to be honest with God, with self, or with others. To do so requires courage, and studying God's Holy Map of Spiritual Pilgrimage; His Word. However, the rewards for doing so are peace, strength and blessings without end.

Take the leap. Begin today. God wants to have a dialogue with each of us. He speaks to us through His Word for the purpose of Salvation and Spiritual Growth. Are you listening?.

Rev. Bill Thomas,

A Fellow Traveler on the Narrow Road



“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**



Dear Wesley Friends,

Thank you so much for your support, your prayers, your calls, and cards and visits. I just appreciate it so much. And to the Prime Timers, for my great book. I know it's going to be great reading. It is wonderful to have so many people who care—Wesley has been a big part of my life for many years—I appreciate all of you and so does my family. Keep me in your prayers.

Doyle Williams

Thank you to my church family for all the prayers, cards, calls and love shared with me and my Mother during my illness. I am a living witness that prayers do work for we have an awesome God.

Ellen Chapman

Children's Bible in a Nutshell (He listened but didn't Understand)

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, “The Lord thy God is one, ‘but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, ‘Give me a light!’ and someone did. Then God made the world.

He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars.

Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check.

After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous

than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston.

Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti, then He gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town.

After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there

were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, ‘close the door! Were you born in a barn’ It would be nice to say, ‘As a matter of fact I was.’) During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. Jesus was a Great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyway's, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

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 12	Individual
February 9	Open
March 8	Open
April 12	Open
May 10	Open
June 14	Open
July 12	Open
August 9	Open
September 13	Open
October 11	Open
November 8	Open
December 13	Open

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

PRAYER VIGIL TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008 SANCTUARY



Let us join together on January 15th to quietly seek the face of God, praising Him for 99 wonderful years of service by all the saints who have lived, loved, and reached out through Wesley UMC. Praise God for a new year, for fresh opportunities, for blessings, and for our Lord and Savior. Let your heart be filled with the tears of God for the disenfranchised, the homeless, war-torn countries, people in need, God's world in need. Come, sit with God, let Him speak with you, and guide you as you tell the 'old story' in 2008. The sign-up board will be up Sunday, December 30th and prayer request forms will be in the bulletin starting the 30th.



MARK YOUR JANUARY CALENDAR

- January 1 New Years Day/office closed
- January 6 Worship Team
- January 7 Trustees Meeting
- January 12 Samaritan Inn Meal
- January 14 Finance Meeting
- January 15 Prayer Vigil
- January 17 Prime Timers
- January 19 UMW Meeting
- January 20 United Methodist 101 begins
- January 21 Church Council Meeting
- January 27 Confirmation Bake Sale
- January 28 SPRC Meeting



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.



**METHODIST MADNESS
BASKETBALL
3 ON 3 TOURNAMENT**

Benefiting “Nothing But Nets” that helps purchase bed nets in the hopes of protecting against Malaria.

Play will be on January 19th at 10am in Gainesville. Divisions will consist of 15—17 Youth boys or Girls and Men’s or Women’s Divisions 18 years of age and up. Each team may have a roster of 5 to allow for substitutes. If you are interested in playing please contact Andy Zappe (214) 697-1315 or email:



Mexico Mission Trip 2008

The church’s annual mission trip to Juarez, Mexico will be from **March 15th to March 22nd**. If you are interested in learning about this year’s trip, please contact Robert Camp at (972) 529-4453 or by email at rcamp@bankoftexas.com

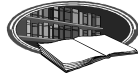
For those of you planning to come, I have good news. The United States has extended the passport requirement until July 31st, 2008. Please join us as we serve our neighbors to the south.

Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land. ~Isaiah 32:2

Happy Birthday

JANUARY

Audra Lambert 4th
 LM Polser 6th
 Yvonne Campbell 8th
 Zachary Balch 8th
 Paul Vizard 9th
 Kathy McClellan 10th
 Cavan Natal 11th
 Paul Anderson 14th
 Liz Jones 14th
 Gayle Wilks 16th
 Brian Peterson 22nd
 Alan Denniston 25th
 Charles Rominger 28th



News from your Wesley Library

by Sue Rominger

I have mentioned the book *The Ultimate Gift* to you recently. We now have *The Ultimate Life* by Jim Stovall in our library.

It is a novel again about Jason Stevens. When Jason Stevens found out he had to learn twelve lessons to maybe get an unnamed inheritance from his billionaire grandfather, he was not amused. By the time he'd finished learning the imposed lessons, he'd become a different man. Ready to tackle the duties of running a multibillion dollar trust, his plans for the year are derailed; this time by his pugnacious family. He accepts the challenge and pushes himself to prove not only to his family and the court but also to the world that with determination and the simple tenets of *The Ultimate Gift*, anyone can lead *The Ultimate Life*.

Jim Stovall weaves a first rate morality tale, riveting and inspirational!

Browse the shelves in your library. You may find some good Christian material to enjoy.

We have been blessed with many donations.

Thank You All very, very much



Shut Up!!

Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking.

"He who guards his lips guards his soul." Proverbs 13:3

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Count your blessings instead of your crosses, your gains instead of losses, joys instead of woes, friends instead of foes, smiles instead of tears, kind deeds instead of mean deeds.

Count on God instead of yourself.

Author unknown



WESLEY WRITERS



An Invitation to Join this Creative Writing Group

The Wesley Writer Creative Writing Group meets at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Library. All are welcome to join this creative group.

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.

We are taking a break for the holidays and will resume on January 9th, 2008. Come join us.

Preschool News



We had a wonderful time in December celebrating Jesus' birthday through Christmas Carol programs and classroom celebrations. A big "Thank you" to the church and preschool families for donating Christmas gifts for the families in need. Your generosity was tremendous and I know these families felt very blessed to have received such an outpouring of love during the Christmas season. The Whitney family also sends their sincere appreciation for your prayers and gifts as they recover and rebuild from their house fire.

Preschool enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year begins Jan 28th – Feb 1st for church members and current students. Open enrollment will begin Feb 4th. We will continue to offer two, three and five day classes for preschoolers ages 2- 5. Please stop by the office to receive our information packet, enrollment forms or take a tour.

We hope each family is blessed with peace and joy this new year as together we continue to serve our Lord.

Peace, joy and blessings in the New Year,

Karen Stein



The Fellowship Sunday School Class meets in Room 104 A. We will begin a winter course entitled "God's call to the Christian Community." Writers Branson Thurston and David Meade will cover various passages in the Gospel of Luke that deals directly or indirectly with the way that God calls the community of faith to live, to serve God with humility and to be dedicated disciples. You are invited to join in this study at 9:45 am each Sunday.

Puppet Team news



The Puppet Team celebrated it's first Christmas party and Cookie Swap. Five of our Puppeteers received their Apprentice Puppeteer Certification. Julie Brinkman, Coy Coburn, Liam Kelly, Vince Kelly and Chuck Schober. Congratulation! The Team is taking a break until January 16th. We will start our new time on Wednesday evening's from 4:30-6:00. Our first project in the new year will be prop building for the Confirmation class Puppeteers spring performance of "Little Root." Happy New Year everyone!



Piece Makers

FRIENDSHIP IS THE GOLDEN THREAD THAT TIES ALL HEARTS TOGETHER

Piece Makers meet on Thursdays in the Quilters Room at 9:30 AM with the exception of the 3rd Thursday, when they join the Prime Timers. Come join us for fellowship and fun.



Prime Timers



Prime Timers meet on the Third Thursday of every month for a potluck dinner and meeting in the Gym at Noon. They have scheduled speakers throughout the year. Come join this group for good food and fellowship. For more information call Yvonne Campbell (214-585-0083) or June Halpin. (972-529-3573)

Youth News

Jr./Sr. High Youth—known as "Fusion". The name for the group is based on Romans 6:5, which says, "If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection." (NIV). Fusion means coming together or uniting. Join us on Sunday mornings and evenings and Wednesday evenings.



United Methodism 101 begins January 20, for 6 weeks. We will meet from 9:45 to 10:45 Sunday mornings. This study gives a brief overview of the history, beliefs and ministries of the United Methodist Church. This study is helpful to the new member, inquisitive visitor or long time member wanting a refresher. Optional book: The United Methodist Member's Handbook—\$10. Teacher/Facilitator is Ed Lantz.

Class Schedule:
Jan. 20 Our Mission (UMMH p7-29)
Jan. 27 Our History, part 1 p31-41
Feb. 3 Our History, part 2 p42-59
Feb 10 Our Beliefs, part 1 p61-67,80-81
Feb 17 Our Beliefs, part 2 p68-79
Feb 24 Our Beliefs, part 3 p82-91



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.







Wesley United Methodist Church

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Church Staff

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Zachary Balch, Youth Director,
youthmin@wumcmckinney.org
Curtis Clark, Treasurer,
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Mario Major, Director of Music,
music@wumcmckinney.org
Sandy Ragland, Administrative Asst,
wumc@wumcmckinney.org
Terrilee Schober, Interim Children's Director,
kidstime@wumcmckinney.org
Karen Stein, Preschool Director,
Wcp_karen@wumcmckinney.org

We don't change the message, the message changes us.



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