



The Wesley Word

March 1, 2010

www.wumcmckinney.org

To the saints of Wesley



JESUS INVITES YOU INTO HIS PRESENCE

God of journey, come with us as we walk toward the Jerusalem in our life. Guard us from the enemies—inside and out— that threaten to undo us. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Psalms 51: 10-11, NIV

Amen.

I hope and pray many of you were able to be at the Ash Wednesday worship service. If not, what you need to know is I told everyone there I am taking the membership roster during the Lenten season and praying for each person every day. That is one of my commitments during this time of reflection and sacrifice. I have also given up desserts for the Lenten season. The sacrifice of something I love, like dessert, reminds me of the precious sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Trivial as it may seem, it is a tangible reminder to me of what it means to give away something important. Taking on praying for each person by name, is a tangible and real reminder to me of how God cares for each of us. God never takes a vacation, God is never unavailable, God is never stingy with what God gives me, God is never too busy or unconcerned to care about and for me.

I want to challenge each of you to consider how you can remind yourself of sacrifice during this season of Lent. If you give up something, give something up which is a part of your everyday life, and then when that “something” comes up you’ll be reminded and humbled by the sacrifice God made for you. We should take every opportunity to remind ourselves of what sacrifice is all about. It’s not about merely giving up something, it’s giving up something that is truly precious to you. It’s the precious nature of what we give up which makes it holy unto God.

When you take on a new habit or ritual, like praying, you’ll be amazed at how God can use you to bless others. When we pray for one another, we seldom find it easy to gossip about who we pray for. When we pray for one another, we seldom find it easy to avoid interacting with who we’re praying for. The other attribute of praying is it puts us in conversation with God. God speaks to us in the quiet time of our prayers, that’s when we realize how much God truly cares for us and provides for us. How could we be stingy with our gifts to God, when we realize God has never been stingy with us.

My prayer is we realize Lent is a journey. We are walking with Jesus as he journeys toward Jerusalem, toward denial, toward betrayal, toward torture, toward certain sacrifice and death. But Jesus knew, as we know, the journey will not end at the cross. The journey only moves us through the cross event to the resurrection and new life. I hope and pray that each of us will be touched in special ways during our journey of Lent.

“May God bless you and keep you, may God’s face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, may God lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”

Your fellow traveler on the Way,
Tom Waitschies

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Happy March Birthday's

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Candi Morris | 1st |
| Hannah Young | 4th |
| Liz Smith | 5th |
| Josh Kardos | 6th |
| Tony Annett | 8th |
| Judy Brown | 9th |
| Mariah Cowley | 11th |
| Barry Hines | 14th |
| Evan Mosley | 15th |
| Carson Full | 16th |
| James Kleker | 20th |
| Tia Marie Pieratt | 22nd |
| Kelsey Priestley | 22nd |
| Gregg Dupree | 23rd |
| Matthew Kelleher | 26th |
| Brianna Turner | 26th |
| Jonelle Jozwiak | 28th |
| Claire Hastings | 29th |
| Pat Chadwick | 30th |
| Craig Moorman | 31st |



"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 2010
 Neoma Brewster
 Michael & Roseann Zammiello
 Ruth Dickson
 Dianne Beauchamp
 Nancy Washburne
 Mfon Akpabio



Flowers for the Altar

Flowers for the Altar may be purchased for \$35 to grace our sanctuary on Sunday mornings. There are sign up forms on the bulletin board outside of the Admin's office.

You may donate in honor or in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion.



UP COMING EVENTS

- March 1 Trustees Meeting
- March 7 Worship Committee
- March 7 Youth Parent Meeting
- March 8 Finance Meeting
- March 10 Mission Trip Prayer Service
- March 10 Weight Loss Support
- March 13 Samaritan Inn Meal Hands and Feet Oasis SS Class
- March 15 Church Council
- March 15-20th Mexico Mission Trip
- March 15-20 Spring Break
- March 18 Prime Timers
- March 20 First Day of Spring 
- March 20 UMW Meeting
- March 22 SPRC Meeting
- March 28 Palm Sunday
- March 29-April 3rd Holy Week
- April 4 Easter Sunday

Get in on the ACTI N

Would you like to be part of a ministry that makes a real difference in others' lives when they need it most—and in your own? Consider becoming a **Stephen Minister!** Training provided; Topics include:

- *listening, feelings, confidentiality, providing Christian Care, maintaining boundaries, crisis theory and practice, ministering to people experiencing grief, divorce, hospitalization, illness and more.*

Applications are still being taken Call Cathy Delisle 972-345-4919 or Church Office 972-542-2228

Everything With A Plan

How lovely to think about the way our Creator God planned everything so carefully and perfectly, everything with a plan. As His highest creation, "we are fearfully and wonderfully made." God's accuracy may be observed in the hatching of eggs. For example, the eggs of the potato bug hatch in 7 days. Those of the canary in 14 days. Those of the barnyard hen in 21 days. The eggs of ducks and geese hatch in 28 days. Those of the mallard in 35 days. The eggs of the parrot and the ostrich hatch in 42 days. (Notice, they are all divisible by seven). God's wisdom is seen in the making of an elephant. The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction. No other Quadruped is so made. God planned that this animal would have a huge body, too large to live on two legs. For this reason He gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily.

The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first. A cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first. How wise the Lord is in all His works of creation! God's wisdom is revealed in His arrangement of sections and segments, as well as in the number of grains. Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind. Each orange has an even number of segments. Each ear of corn has an even number of rows. Each stalk of wheat has an even number of grains. Every bunch of bananas has on its lowest row an even number of bananas, and each row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number and the next row an odd number. The waves of the sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the minute in all kinds of weather. All grains are found in even numbers on the stalks. The Lord specified thirty fold, sixty fold, and a hundredfold - all even numbers. God has caused the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day, so that Linnaeus, the great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture and temperature, he could tell the time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed! Thus the Lord in His wonderful grace can arrange the life that is entrusted to His care in such a way that it will carry out His purposes and plans, and will be fragrant with His presence. Only the God-planned life is successful. Only the life given over to the care of the Lord is safe. -- Author Unknown



SAMARITAN INN MEAL



The second Saturday of each month is the designated time for Wesley UMC to provide a monetary donation of \$200 to the Inn for purchasing groceries. Mission Coordinator will see that the check is delivered to the Inn by the second Saturday. Your donations to this mission are greatly appreciated!

Hands and Feet for 2010

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>January</i> | <i>Individual</i> |
| <i>February</i> | <i>Individual</i> |
| March | Oasis SS |
| <i>April</i> | <i>Individual</i> |
| <i>May</i> | <i>Open</i> |
| <i>June</i> | <i>Open</i> |
| <i>July</i> | <i>Fellowship SS & Tues Eve. Bible Study</i> |

August through December are open

Call Gregg Dupree to sign up 214-551-1901

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." Matthew 24:40

Dear Wesley Family,

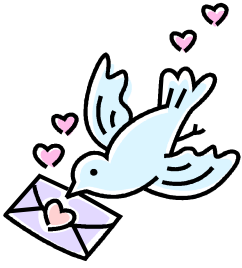
I was overwhelmingly touched by your generous Christmas gift. Thank you so much. You have passed on God's blessings to me. I praise God and thank Him for each of you. I am also thankful for all of the hearts and hands that support me in so many ways and for those

who labor alongside me; leading, teaching, and nurturing Children of God. All these gifts He will multiply and cause to bear God-ly fruit. Amen and Amen.

In His Love,
Terrilee



A NOTE TO WESLEY FROM HOWARD MAJOR OF AMOR MINISTRIES



Dear Friends,

Our groups often find themselves building for a family on a street

where other families live in the same or worse conditions. Overwhelmed and confused by the specter of poverty, they ask, "how do we pick the families?" The pastors we work with are members of our Mexican Ministry Planning Board. They live, work and pastor in the areas where we take our groups to build. They know their people and the needs of the community. When we give them a seasonal quota for the number of houses we can build, they bring in the applications for the families based on the greatest needs. They pick the families as a Board so that we can be assured that we are doing the right thing. At the same time we are giving our pastors a meaningful opportunity to reach out to their communities in witness to the love of God.

Last month, one of our groups walked in on an unusual set of circumstances as told by their Amor Field Specialist, T. J. Putman.

"Sometimes our pastors will bump a family to the top of the list because of extreme hardships such as a devastating fire or health and safety issues. One week before Christmas, Pastor Ponce, the head of our MMPB, bumped a family to the top of the list. Francisco, the 39 year old father of five, was in a car accident last April. He was in and out of the hospital for eight months. His wife, Silvia, regularly attended church. Francisco did not. When Silvia called on Pastor Ponce, he started visiting Francisco in the hospital. They became really close through the whole ordeal. One wish/dream Francisco shared with Pastor Ponce was, 'I always wanted to provide a house for my family.' Pastor Ponce was able to share his association with Amor Ministries and give Francisco the peace of mind that his family would have shelter.

I showed up to build the house the day after Christmas with Abiding Hope Lutheran Church from Littleton, Colorado. Step by step we learned the family's situation.

I wasn't aware of what was going on when we met the family on the first day. The mother broke down in tears when she shared the story with the group. I had trouble holding back the tears as I translated. When the group showed up the doctors had given Francisco seven days to live. His blood pressure dropped and he would slip in and out of a comma. The family spent each day of the build at the hospital. Francisco's two teenage daughters stayed home to answer our questions about the house and to baby sit the two year old daughter.

After three days of strenuous labor we got the house to a point where the family could move in. We needed one more coat of stucco to finish. As we were driving off after the third day, I saw Silvia and Francisco's sixty year old mother, Francisca, walking arm-in-arm like neither of them could stand without the support of the other. They came up to my truck with tears in their eyes. She grabbed my arm and said, 'My son died today. Silvia is on her way into the house to tell the girls. They don't know.'

We drove off and I made some calls. I called Pastor Ponce and told him that the house was at a place where the family could move in and that we could come back the next day and finish it. He went to visit the family later that night and explained everything. The family asked Pastor Ponce to pass along the message, 'This house is a gift from THE Father. We want to be here with the group tomorrow.' The group showed up on the last day to finish the house. After laughing and playing all week nobody really knew how to act or interact with Silvia or her family. They finished the house in a few hours. Before the group left they met with the family inside the house to pray and to share the love of God. Grandma Francisca told us the whole story about what had happened to her son. She shared how much she will miss him, but she knew he was a peace with God. He had accepted Christ the day before he died.

She gave each participant the most meaningful hug they had ever experienced. I am amazed each and every day at how God works and saves lives."

One of the group members shared how deeply they were affected. None of them had ever met Francisco, but they all loved him through getting to know his family. Praying with his family on the last day was an incredibly heartbreaking experience, but one of the beginnings of healing. Even though the group had been here before on trips that were meaningful and life changing, this one was special. It proved that God is not random, that He made everything line up so that Francisco could be at peace about his family having a place to live. It proved how we can all be a part of His perfect plan when we open ourselves to His grace, His invitation to serve someone in need. It also proves that we can't always know how much we will impact the life of the family, the local church, or the pastors' ministries for generations to come when we say yes to a mission trip. We don't just build houses. We build hope.

Peace,

Howie



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WESLEY CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL
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 A ministry of Wesley United Methodist Church

March 15– 19th WCP Spring Break/
 No School

March 31st—April 1st Easter
 Celebrations

April 2nd Preschool Holiday—
 Good Friday

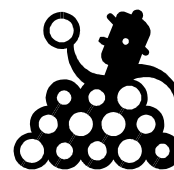
April 20th & 21st—Field Days

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

In February the Confirmation Class went on their re-treat. We all enjoyed the hour long drive to Lake Texoma. When we got there we discovered the ground was covered in snow. We had fun throwing snow at each other. We then went inside and got warm and unpacked. We played a game and learned more about each other. We had a lesson, snack break and supposedly went to bed. The girls stayed up late and played flash-light games, while the boys were snoring. The girls went down to the Cross while the boys were STILL sleeping. After the boys FINALLY woke up the girls FINALLY got to use the hairdryer, then we ate and had our final sessions after we read letters from our family and mentors. We said affirmations down at the Cross Point. We had our last snowball fight, and then sadly packed up to come home.

Thank you Pastor Tom for coming to teach us.

Confirmation Class— 2010.



JOKES THAT CAN BE TOLD IN CHURCH

A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Bible class. As she ran she prayed, 'Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!' While she was running, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting up, she brushed herself off, and continued praying 'Dear Lord please don't let me be late.. But please don't shove me either!'

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem and they give him \$50. The second says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$100.' The third says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'

AND THIS ONE FOR PASTOR TOM...

A police recruit was asked during the exam, 'What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?' He answered, 'Call for backup.'



UMW MARCH MEETING

Date: Saturday, March 20, 2010

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Quilters Room

- Potluck brunch followed by program, business meeting and prayer.
- Program by June Halpin entitled "Women at the Tomb."

For further information, contact officers:

Pat Chadwick—President, countrymusicmemories47@yahoo.com

Joyce Scalf—Vice President, joycescalf@sbcglobal.net

Betty Bailey—Secretary, bettybailey@tx.rr.com

Carol Bichler—Treasurer, cbichler@jcpenny.com

Tuesday evening Women's Bible Study



The Tuesday evening Bible study led by Shirley Clark will begin a new word study: James 3: 17-18 with an emphasis on **Wisdom.**

You are invited to join this group every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Room 104 A.

SHARING THE JOURNEY

Dr. Tom Waitschies

When I was approached about writing this article on sharing my journey that has brought me to Wesley United Methodist Church, I was a little taken aback. I thought this was the opportunity for persons to share how they were drawn to Wesley. I was thinking, I am an appointed pastor within the North Texas Conference, so my journey to this place was dependent on the cabinet and the bishop. What could I say about my journey other than the fact I am a part of an itinerant system which moves pastors as they are needed.

As I have reflected more on the request to share my journey, I have come to recognize that I do have a journey to share of how I came to Wesley United Methodist Church, and it's filled with the leading of the Holy Spirit. I was not born into the United Methodist Church, I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. I loved my growing up years in the church, and I loved going to church. As I grew older, into my teens and early adulthood, I began to feel as if the Church was not the place for me. It didn't excite me, it didn't reach me, it didn't make a difference in my life, consequently I dropped out of attending any form of worship. I was free to do my own thing, and just live my life. What I soon discovered was, living my own life without meaning was essentially "meaning-less". I knew something was missing, and I felt a void I couldn't seem to name.

I was living in Midland, Texas at the time, working for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, when I met a young man who was the pastor of a small African-American congregation. He was a student at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas during the week, and on the weekends he was back in Midland taking care of the pastoral needs of his congregation and sharing his faith with anyone who would listen. We became fast friends, I was intrigued by someone my age who was excited about the Church. He kept pestering me about coming to his church, until I finally relented. Even though I wasn't going to church, I still clung to my Lutheran identity and wasn't excited about going to a different denomination. I loved my friend and I was simply going to go as a favor to him. From the moment I walked through the door, I felt the presence of God in a very tangible way. I had the overwhelming sense God was saying to me, "Welcome Home."

It's been many years since that Sunday in Midland, Texas, but I know God was working on me in that place. Following that moment, it has been a whirlwind of activity on God's part in my life. I have opened myself to the leading of God's Spirit, and it has taken me from a person who didn't think they needed the Church, to a person who believes he couldn't live without the Church. I know and believe the Holy Spirit has been at work in my life, and in every move I have made within the Church. I know the Bishop and the Cabinet pray over every appointment, and they listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit. I haven't always agreed with the cabinet as to my particular gifts for ministry being a match for every appointment. Thank God I'm not in control of where I'm sent. Because every time I think I know best about where I can be used, I'm proven wrong.

I came to Wesley United Methodist Church here in McKinney, Texas this past July. I came because the Bishop and Cabinet of the North Texas Conference appointed me here. I know the Holy Spirit is infallible and I know the Holy Spirit spoke through the Bishop and Cabinet in my appointment. I have found this place of ministry to be a place filled with loving and caring disciples of Jesus Christ. I believe we have much ministry to accomplish together in this place, and if we will be open to the leading of the Spirit, God's work will be done. Our journeys have twists and turns, ups and downs, but always the journey is guided by the movement of the Spirit. And always, the journey continues, praise be to God!

WE CONFESS

Recently at our Tuesday morning men's Bible Study, during a discussion on Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the question as to the Bible's applicability to our modern times and, more especially, to our American way of life, came up.

I'm sure this is a question that exercises the minds of all Christians from time to time; and if it doesn't it should do. In large measure modern Christians fall into four categories regarding their knowledge of the Bible and its meaning and purpose:

There are the literalists. As the word implies they place a literal construction or interpretation on every word they read. By implication this means that in Mt. 5: 29 when Jesus says, *"If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away.."* (NIV), He means just that. Clearly they are not follow through with this otherwise one third of Christendom would be sightless. But by not being obedient to what they interpret as a clear directive they live under an incessant burden of guilt or give up altogether on a Faith which they believe to be unattainable because of its demands.

Secondly there are those who regard the Bible as **comforting moralistic literature** from antiquity. Although it is thousands of years removed from our times and seems to have little common ground with the modern age there is that something about it, most likely derived from tradition and our Christian ancestry, which makes us nominally loyal to it and its core teachings as we understand them.

Thirdly there are those whom I will refer to as **'Convenience Quoters'**. With some knowledge of Scripture they have the tendency to enlist quotations, themes, stories and parables, mostly taken out of context, in support of their life style and morality rather than having Scripture inform the way they live.

Finally there are those who regard the Bible as the **inspired word of God**; timeless in its relevance, unambiguous in its values and uncompromising in its truth, in short whether from the fourth century or the twenty first century a roadmap for life without equal.

Getting back to our Tuesday morning discussion we recognized a serious disconnect in the minds of many Christians between Paul's time and our own. Well there is nothing new here – in so many respects there are vast differences between then and now. The problem is we often allow such differences to color or altogether obscure the timeless relevance and inspiration of the Bible. So what's the answer? If I were to suggest that there is just one thing to be done to set this aright I could justly be accused of simplistic ignorance. Besides this is not something to be attempted in a short article. However there is something that is fundamental toward generating the right understanding of and attitude toward the Bible and that can be summed up in one word; **KNOWLEDGE**.

Today most churches have a teaching ministry however the importance and attention given to this ministry is, I believe, often inadequate.

In Hosea 4: 6 we read: *"My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge..."*

In writing to the Church at Rome Paul commends his readers with these words: *I myself are convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.."*

To the Church at Philippi in Phil. 1: 9 he writes: *"And this is my prayer, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.."*

At Wesley we have a variety of classes designed to meet different needs in ones quest for Biblical knowledge. If you don't already attend a Sunday School class or week day fellowship may I suggest you refer to the Church literature available in the Narthex each Sunday morning and become familiar what is being offered.

The aim of our adult educational ministry is to build each other up in the knowledge of the Lord.

Next month I will take this question further with some practical suggestions.

Barry Smith



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