



The Wesley Word

In the Midst of the Storm

Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"²⁶ Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm." (Matthew 8:24-26)

Someone recently described the national and global financial crises as a "storm". Most have felt the thunder and many have been struck exceptionally hard. Jobs have been lost and we're told more will be lost. Personal savings have declined. Homes are in foreclosure.

How can Christians respond in the midst of the storm? What can we do? Here are a few thoughts. First, we can choose to grow spiritually during the storm. Someone once said, "Never waste adversity." In other words, don't let storms keep us away from the Lord. Rather, allow them to draw us closer to Him. As the storm rages, let's pray, worship and spend time in His Word. Our faith can grow even if the stock market does not.

Second, let's live out our identity. Speaking to his disciples, Jesus said, "You are the light of the world...let your light shine before men..." (Matthew 5:14-16a). It is easy for us to get caught up in the darkness of doom and gloom; the darkness of self-preservation. We can be a Light of hope for those in darkness. During dark storms, our Light can lead people to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

And we mustn't overlook other important issues. Storms blind us to other crucial matters. The economy is undoubtedly important. Yet, we cannot lose sight of things such as virtue, justice, human suffering and the reality of evil. These matters have tremendous impact on our world and we must not forget about them.

Mostly, we are to keep our eyes on the Lord. Author Bruce Wilkinson recounts a memorable scene in John Steinbeck's, *The Grapes of Wrath*. Wilkinson writes:

*As a dust storm approaches, an Oklahoma farm family has gathered in front of their house to watch. The working men in the family are looking toward the horizon, silently pondering their chances of escaping disaster. The children hang onto their parents' knees and watch the horizon, too. **But the women watch only the men's faces. All that really matters to the women, they can find written there.**" (Secrets of the Vine, 121).*

Did you catch that? *"But the women watch only the men's faces. All that really matters to the women they can find written there."* What was written on Jesus' face during the storm in *Matthew*? I think confidence was written on His face. Let's keep our eyes on the One who doesn't worry and is not afraid. As the song goes, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."

Blessings,
Ed



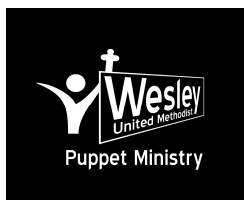
Jesus Invites Us Into His Presence

By Jayne Wolfe

Great and Holy God, we praise You for the gift of Your Word, the Bible. We are blessed each time we read or hear the message You have for us. May we open our hearts and spirits to receive the grace and peace You desire for us. We give thanks for the love Jesus has for each one of us, a love so great that He freed us from our sins by His blood and made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve God the Father-to him be glory and power for ever and ever. Praying Revelation 1:4-6

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100 Puppets Ready to Go to Mexico! Thank you to everyone who supported this mission with your prayers, your contributions, your helping hands and your enthusiasm. On Sunday, February 15th, we dedicated the 100 puppets which will be taken to the LaVid orphanage in Mexico. Please continue to pray for this mission while our puppeteers share God's word through these puppets and "pass the torch" on to the children in Mexico. God has truly blessed every step of this awesome project and we know his blessings will continue.

Let It Be: At February's Centennial Luncheon, the team shared a short message and song reminding us to "Let It Be". Proverbs 3:5 was our biblical inspiration; "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths."

Help Wanted: The Puppet Team has an urgent need for a Creative Director. Please pray for the person God will be sending us - is it you?!

Storage Needed: As the Puppet Ministry has grown, so has our inventory of puppets, props and costumes. We are looking for a large dresser to store these items in. If you have one you want to donate - we can pick it up. Call Stacey at 214-726-1000.

A note from the director...

It's all about the hands...The Lord sent hands to pray, hands that gave monetary support, hands that cut, stuffed, glued and sewed. Hands that loved, hugged and carried. Hands that will give and hands that will receive. Hands in mission, hands for the Lord! The Lord's hand has been on this mission from day one. The puppet team would like to thank all of you who lent their hands in making 100 puppets for Mexico...We could not have done it without you and your hands...Please be in prayer for the hands that will receive these puppets. It's all about the hands..



The preschool is currently enrolling for the fall program which begins September 8th.

We are excited to be offering a summer program for preschoolers. This will be a 5 week session beginning June 29th and going through July 31st. We will be offering weekly Christian themes and current WCP teachers will staff the classrooms. The program will run MWF 9:30-12:30. Enrollment is limited so please contact the preschool office to check for availability and tuition rates. We are thankful to the church for their support and prayers in starting a summer preschool ministry!



HEALING SERVICE

March 29, 6:00 p.m.

Prayer Room

Our Healing Service is always a blessing to everyone who comes and all who are lifted up in prayer! This is an informal service in which God is working to bring healing, peace, joy, grace and mercy to the Body of Christ lived out at Wesley. Join your sisters and brothers in Christ as we open ourselves to God's Holy Light.



NEW PRAYER OPPORTUNITY

March 15th

Prayer Room

It is not ours to worry about the state of our economy but to pray fervently. To help us with this mandate from God, the Prayer Ministry is offering a guided prayer opportunity on Sunday, March 15, during the Sunday School hour. Enter the prayer room before, during, or after Sunday School to pray for those who are seeking employment, those jobs that are unsecure, and for our state and national economy. A prayer guide will be available. The Prayer Ministry will pray for you as you pray for others.



*Happy March
Birthday's*

- 1st Candi Morris
- 4th Hannah Young
- 5th Liz Smith
- 6th Josh Kardos
- 6th T.J. Kerr
- 8th Tony Annett
- 9th Judy Brown
- 13th Dane Anderson
- 13th Brittany Crow
- 14th Barry Hines
- 15th Kyle Billings
- 15th Ed Lantz
- 15th Evan Mosley
- 15th Mason Webb
- 16th Carson Full
- 17th Johnny Garcia Jr.
- 20th James Kleker
- 22nd Tia Marie Pieratt
- 22nd Kelsey Priestley
- 23rd Gregg Dupree
- 25th Josh Crow
- 25th Corinne Hernandez
- 26th Brianna Turner
- 27th Lauren Brauen
- 28th Jonelle Jozwiak
- 29th Claire Hastings
- 30th Pat Chadwick
- 31st Craig Moorman

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
GRAND FINALE, MARCH 8, 2009**

100 Years of Faithful Service

There will be one Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday March 8th. In Attendance and helping lead this special Worship Service are: **Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe** (preaching), **Dr. Clara Reed**, (District Superintendent), **Rev. Van Lazaroff**, and **Rev. Leighton Bearden**.

Celebration Meal will follow.

Please mark you calendar for this special day and plan on being in attendance.



UMW'S MARCH MEETING

Saturday March 21

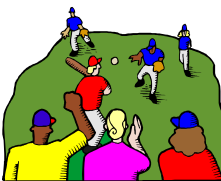
What: Wesley UMW Meeting
 When: Saturday, March 21
 Time: 9:30 a.m.—12:00 noon
 Where: Quilters Room

Come join us as we share our food, uplifting program and Christian fellowship. If you have questions, please feel free to contact one of the following officers:

Pat Chadwick countrymusicmemories@yahoo.com

Betty Bailey bettybailey@tx.rr.com

Carol Bichler cbichler@jcpenny.com



ADULT CO-ED SOFTBALL

Spring Leagues and teams are now forming for the Co-ed Church division.

McKinney Parks and Recreation will be starting its Spring Leagues. Play will be on **Tuesday evenings from March 23-May 25**. Wesley has a storied past in athletics, if you have not seen the team trophies in the education wing you should take a look! The team will be made up of a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 20.

If you are interested in playing or being the team manager please contact Andy Zappe at (214) 697-1315 or tamax-arandy@yahoo.com



*“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

Jordan Allen
Evan Mosley
Ashleigh Quinn
Natilee Quinn
Wesley Jozwiak
Emily Jozwiak

Our Newest Members

Michael & Nycol Mosley
Megan Mosley
Susan Quinn
Mark & Jonelle Jozwiak
Kristina Kaszowski

SHARING THE JOURNEY

By Rob Kelly

Shortly after I began to attend Wesley UMC, Paul Gould, the pastor at that time, approached me and invited me to a men’s “bible study” on Tuesday morning at 6:00 AM. Getting up early had never been a challenge for me so I accepted, more out of curiosity than for any other reason. I was deathly afraid I might be asked to pray aloud and, as a new Christian, I was not quite ready for that. The very first thing we did to get the “bible study” started was...to pray aloud in turn around the table. Paul in his graciousness offered that anyone not comfortable praying aloud could pass and did not have to feel obliged to participate in this tradition. That meeting took place back in 1996 and I still enjoy the men’s bible study and consider it one of the essentials of my walk today. I would have never thought there could be a forum where men could meet and digest a portion of scripture and discuss it under the direction of the Comforter, usually culminating in a real life application that would cause me to be in quiet contemplation, prayer or further research. I still attend that men’s bible study today and continue to endeavor to grow closer to Christ as I remain in awe of his love for me. The men’s morning bible study is only one of a myriad of reasons I love being a part of the body of Christ at Wesley. If you are a man that feels the need to grow in Him with brothers in a safe place, this is the place for you... and I can guarantee you won’t be asked to pray aloud. Blessings y’all, eh!

***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**



UP COMING EVENTS

- 1st Worship Committee Mtg
- 1st Youth Parent Mtg
- 1st Pretzel Sunday
- 2nd Trustees Mtg
- 3rd Women’s Bible Study
- 6th & 7th Youth/Dallas Battle Cry
- 8th Day Light Savings Time begins
- 8th 100 year celebration/Meal to follow
- 9th Finance Mtg
- 10th WCP Board Mtg
- 11th Prayer Service for the Mexico Mission Trip
- 12th Pre-school Directors Mtg
- 14th-21 Mexico Mission Trip
- 14th Samaritan Inn Meal/Hands and feet needed
- 16th-20th Spring Break/Preschool closed
- 16th Church Council Mtg
- 19th Prime Timers
- 21st Mexico Mission Team Returns
- 21st UMW Mtg
- 23rd SPRC Mtg
- 27th WCP Staff Meeting



March 8th

**MEXICO MISSION
PRAYER SERVICE
March 11, 7:00 p.m.**

A Prayer service for the 2009 Mexico Missionaries will be held Wednesday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. During this service the missionaries and prayer partners will be revealed.

It is a wonderful opportunity for worship, prayer and song. We look forward to seeing all whom God has called at this service.



Children's Medical Center

On behalf of the patients at Children's Medical Center, thank you for your recent donation of stuffed animals for our patients. These bears make a tremendous difference in children's hospital experience, and you have brightened the day for many patients through your kindness.

Sincerely,
Renee Hunte, Director Child Life
Dept.



MEXICO MISSION TRIP

By the time you receive this, it will almost be time to leave for this year's trip, which will be the church's 18th mission trip to Juarez, Mexico. With the current economy in a recession and the discouraging reports coming out of Juarez, you would think our numbers would be down this year but we currently have 61 missionaries signed up to make the trip. This will be the largest group from Wesley to even make the trip. God is truly amazing.

We continue to work with an organization based out of California called Amor Ministries. If you have a chance, visit their website <http://www.casadeamor.com/index-two.php?page=video.php> and then click on "All About Amor - Experience the Big Picture" and see for yourself what amazing things Amor Ministries is doing. There are over 600 groups that work with Amor each year building homes and churches in Mexico and more recently Africa. In 28 years of service, Amor has built over 12,000 homes.

I am sure many of you have heard or read about the violence that is occurring in Juarez. While we are going to great lengths to ensure the safety of everyone, the threat is still very real and we are asking you to lift us up in your prayers as we travel the week of March 14th-21st. Please also pray for the team, the Mexican families and the orphanage we visit. We will need provisions, protection, health, strength, and many unspoken needs. Our ministry will be useless unless, through prayer, God chooses to act.

With this many people making the trip, the cost of the trip has gone up significantly. We will once again visit an orphanage where the need is great. The orphanage houses 50 kids and is totally funded through donations. You can support this trip in a couple of ways. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex for many of the items we will need for the trip or you can simply place a check in the offering on Sunday. Please make sure you write a note on the check indicating it is for the mission trip. We thank you in advance for all your support and prayers.

Together in Christ,
Mission Team

SAMARITAN INN MEAL

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

Sign up now for 2009, call church office or David Coburn 214-726-0182

"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

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.



From **YOUR LIBRARY**

Many donations have been received lately. Here is a listing of some of them:

Women of Faith: Extraordinary Faith Conference 2005 DVD W O F
 Women of Faith: Contagious Joy Conference 2006 DVD W O F
 Women of Faith: Amazing Freedom Conference 2007 DVD W O F

If you did not get to go to the conference, you can experience **Amazing Freedom**, **Extraordinary Faith**, and **Contagious Joy** anytime with these 2-disc DVD sets of many Women of Faith speakers

Women of Faith: **Overcoming difficulties**: A light-hearted look at Joshua CD W O F
 4 CDs from Marilyn Meberg On God's Presence, God's Grace, God's Timing, and God's Provision

Women of Faith: **Overcoming Mistakes**: A light-hearted look at Jonah CD W O F
 3 CDs from Marilyn Meberg, Ever Been in a Whale Belly?, How Many Chances Do I Get?, Got Grace?

Other donated books are:

Rumors of Another World: What on earth are we missing? By Philip Yancey 248.4 YAN

The Giving Christian: Sowing Seeds for an Eternal Harvest by Kirk Nowery 248.4 NOW

Are you a giver? If you're a follower of Christ, there is no better nor higher way to be like Jesus than to be a giver. And we're not just talking about giving money. The Giving Christian is a giver of truth, a giver of help, a giver of encouragement and so much more.

The Sacred Romance: Drawing closer to the heart of God by Brent Curtis & John Eldredge 248.4 CUR

Raising a Modern-Day Knight: a father's role in guiding his son to authentic manhood by Robert Lewis 248.8 LEW

3 Fiction books by Beverly Lewis: The Covenant, The Englisher, The Postcard

The Vision of His Glory: finding hope though the Revelation of Jesus Christ by Anne Graham Lotz 228.06 LOT

Embrace Grace: Welcome to the Forgiven Life by Liz Curtis Higgs 248.8 HIG

A Heart Like His: The shaping of character in the choices of life by Rebecca Manley Pippert 248.4 PIP

Whispers from Yesterday (a novel) by Robin Lee Hatcher F HAT

We have on DVD the movie **Fireproof**: Never leave your partner behind
 How do we deal with anger and lack of forgiveness in marriage? What does God offer to a couple to bring healing and hope? And what does it mean to truly believe in Christ and be fully committed to him? If you did not get to see this movie, check out this DVD.

We have on DVD the movie **Amazing Grace**. If you saw this movie, you may want to see it again.

Thank You for using your library. Thank You for your donations. Thank you for allowing me to be your Librarian. I welcome your ideas and comments.

Sue Rominger



Our Paper Recycling Program is Underway!



Our bin has been in place for a couple weeks now. I know of several members that are bringing paper from work and also some that are collecting papers from their neighbors. Community involvement is key! This is such a great way to help the environment and help our church earn money at the same time!

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Shopping Catalogs
- Junk Mail
- Office & School Papers
- White Envelopes-
with and without windows

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- * **No** cardboard
- * **No** Cereal/Soda Cartons
- * **No** Food wrap/containers
- * **No** Tissue Products
- * **No** Phone Books
- * **No** Plastic
- * **No** Glass

*Shredded paper is accepted, but they would like it to be in a bag (plastic is fine).

If you have any questions, please call or email Michelle Gell.

972-542-5923 or micdar@prodigy.net

Join other Wesley women at the **WOMEN OF FAITH** conference “A Grand New Day” on **August 21 & 22nd** at the American Airlines Center.

At a Women of Faith weekend experience the people you’ll see and hear onstage (and in the audience) are like you. They’ve been through good times and bad – and they’ve learned a thing or two along the way.

You’ll have the opportunity these two days to:

Recharge your batteries,
Receive encouragement,
Relax and enjoy yourself,
Relish girl-time with your friends, and
Rest in the knowledge that God loves you just as you are.

Cost: \$99 for both days and even includes two box lunches!

Friday daytime features: Sandi Patty, Marilyn Meberg and Steve Arterburn.

2009 Women of Faith Team: Lisa Harper, Allison Allen, Shelia Walsh, Mandisa, Patsy Clairmont, Luci Swindoll, Nicole C. Mullen, Marilyn Meberg, and Lisa Whelchel.

Call Valerie Brinkman 972-540-6290 for more details. Once she receives your payment, she will reserve your spot! Let her know if you’d like to make monthly payments....even \$25/month for 4 months would be fine. Sign up list will also be in the Nar-thex.

Come join us for two days of fun and laughter! You’ll be blessed!

The Lord’s love never ends; his mercies never stop. They are new every morning. –Lamentations 3:22-23 NCV



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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



Enrolling for the 2009/2010 preschool year beginning Feb 9th

- ❖ 2,3, 5 day Classes available
- ❖ Must be aged 2, 3 or 4 by Sept 1 to be in respective class.
- ❖ Christian curriculum including weekly Spanish, Music/Movement and Chapel
- ❖ 5 day Transitional Kindergarten offered for older 4's or 5 year olds
- ❖ Hours Mon-Thurs. 9:15-2:15 Fridays 9:15-12:45
- ❖ Following MISD calendar holidays with the exception of the starting and ending dates. Starting date Sept 7th.
- ❖ Low ratios, qualified & caring staff
- ❖ Licensed by State of Texas

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